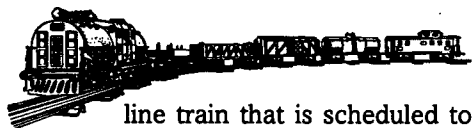


to: Joanne Del Prete, 20 Ceil Pl., Bethpage NY 11714-4503. Registration is required by *Friday, April 27*. If you meet us on the train or in the park and have not previously registered, your cost will be \$8 if you're a member and \$10 if not, so register early!

Per the SSAS Field Trip Guidelines published in the *Skimmer* three years ago, if you find that you cannot make the trip, please cancel at least 24 hours in advance to have your fee refunded. If the trip is canceled by the leaders or due to weather, all fees will be refunded. Since Joanne does not expect to be able to join us, contact Michael Sperling at mssperling@optonline.net or 221-3921 if you need to cancel or have any questions.

For train schedule information, you can contact the Long Island Rail Road at (516) 822-5477 or <http://lirr42.mta.info/index.asp>; there are a group of members that will be in one of the front cars of the local Babylon line train that is scheduled to depart from Massapequa at 7:28 and arrive in Penn Station at 8:27. Please note that at many of the LIRR stations, including Massapequa, ticket windows are now closed on weekends. Regardless, a penalty fare of \$4.75 to \$5.50 is charged by the conductor if you do not purchase a ticket at a window or using the machines located at the stations. A \$4 MetroCard is required for the subway to and from Central Park; it too can be purchased from the LIRR's ticket agents or machines. You can save 5% if you order WebTickets at www.lirrticket.com (the tickets are sent, postage free, via the U.S. Postal Service).



We plan to depart from Penn Station's LIRR waiting room at 8:45 to meet our leaders in Central Park around 9:30. The walk usually ends around noon. You can bring lunch or buy it in the Park, or head back home after the walk if you prefer. We look forward to seeing you!

BIRD WALKS
Elliott Kulner

All walks start at 9:30 A.M.; no walk if it rains. Any questions? Call Elliott at 486-7667. Directions and summaries may be found at ssaudubon.org.

- Apr. 22 & 29 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- May 6 Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
- May 13 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- May 20 Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
- Aug. 5 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- Aug. 12 Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
- Aug. 19 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- Aug. 26 Norman J. Levy Park and Preserve
- Sep. 2 *Labor Day Weekend — No Walk*
- Sep. 9 Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
- Sep. 16 Marine Nature Study Area (Oceanside)

(516) 887-1541

Fax: (516) 887-1553

ARTHUR C. SNOW
Certified Public Accountant

29 Broadway, Suite 200
Lynbrook, New York 11563-2520
e-mail: ACSnowCPA@verizon.net

SSAS'S FLEA MARKET IN JUNE

For this year's flea market, we have gratefully accepted an offer made by SSAS members and flea market veterans Nancy & Bill Youngfert to use their house as the location. The Youngferts are inviting their neighbors to participate, which should give us some additional driveway and sidewalk space if needed.

We need stuff to sell and whatever you donate can be claimed as a tax deduction. So, please keep us in mind if you have items that you no longer need. Highly recommended items include books (except encyclopedias), glassware, camping equipment, jewelry, knickknacks, toys, curtains, gardening tools, plants, blankets, and records. Clothing accessories are welcome, but clothing itself (i.e., anything that comes in many sizes) and large furniture are not. You can price items by yourself or leave that to us. If there are any donated items that you want back in the event that they're not sold, please let us know; otherwise, they will be donated to other organizations.



As mentioned in recent *Skimmers*, the date is **Saturday, June 2**, with a rain date of Sunday, June 3 (call the Youngferts if the weather is questionable or call Michael Sperling the night before). The sale will take place from 9 A.M. to 4:30 P.M., with setup beginning at 7 A.M. If you can't be there that morning, there are several other options:

- ☺ You can bring items to our May 8 general meeting.
- ☺ You can arrange to drop off items at the Youngferts' house beginning on May 26.
- ☺ Flea market chairperson Maureen Rube (352-4327) and Nancy Youngfert (352-8376) have offered to pick up items during the two weeks leading up to the sale.

Directions: The Youngferts' house is at 258 Roosevelt Avenue in Franklin Square. Directions and maps will be available at our May meeting. From Hempstead Turnpike (Route 24), take New Hyde Park Road north for a few blocks and turn left onto Tulip Avenue. Make the second right onto Roosevelt Avenue; the house is on the right on the second block. [From the Southern State Parkway, Franklin Ave. (Exit 16 north) becomes New Hyde Park Road when it crosses Route 24.]

PLOVER VOLUNTEERS WANTED

John Zarudsky

The Town of Hempstead's Department of Conservation and Waterways needs your help in insuring the protection and survival of Piping Plovers, Least and Common Terns, and Black Skimmers that nest between Point Lookout and Atlantic Beach. In New York State, Piping Plover is listed as endangered, Least Tern and Common Tern as threatened, and Black Skimmer as a species of special concern. The Piping Plover is a threatened species nationwide.

Audubon volunteers will help prevent disturbances to nesting areas, will record the presence of plover chicks and any incidents of predation, and can give beachgoers educational literature pertaining to Piping Plovers (pictured) and terns. Help is particularly needed on evenings, weekends, and holidays from May through August.



If you're interested and are able to volunteer regularly, please contact SSAS member John Zarudsky, Conservation Biologist, at 897-4126 (work) or 486-5272.

BACKYARD SURVEY DATA NEEDED!

Joe Grupp

For several years, SSAS's Research Committee has been conducting a study to document the bird species found in the SSAS area and to estimate their numbers. We greatly appreciate input from anyone that feeds and/or observes birds in their yard or neighborhood. Please do not hesitate to submit your observations, even if you make only very few.

Simply record the date, time, and the number or approximate number of each species. At the end of each month, please mail or e-mail your record to me at the appropriate address listed below, or hand it to me at our monthly meeting. Survey sheets are available at SSAS events and at ssaudubon.org or you can create your own.

Please mail your data to Mr. J. Grupp, Research Chairperson, 660 Edgemere Ave., Uniondale NY 11553 or e-mail Birdstudyjoeg02@aol.com.

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP APPLICANTS NEEDED!

Thanks to the continuing generous support of longtime member Evelyn Bishop, South Shore Audubon Society will again be awarding two \$750 Jerry Bishop Environmental Scholarships this spring to college juniors, seniors, or graduate students who are continuing their studies toward a degree in an area of biological or environmental science, such as wildlife management, forestry, animal behavior, ecology, marine biology, oceanography, mammalogy, or ornithology. For information, call Betsy Gulotta at 546-8841 or e-mail gulotte@ncc.edu. Applications are due by April 30 and we typically receive only a few (none so far), so apply!

NOMINATIONS FOR 2007-2008 SSAS BOARD

At South Shore Audubon Society's general meeting on May 8, officers and directors will be elected for our next fiscal year. All members attending that meeting may nominate candidates from the floor and vote. The SSAS nominating committee (chaired by Wendy Murbach) has recruited the following candidates:

- President – Michael Sperling
- Vice President – Wendy Murbach
- Treasurer – Laurie Raisher
- Recording Secretary — Ruth Aptacker
- Corresponding Secretary – Alice Blaustein
- Director — Joe Landesberg (through June 2010)
- Director — Theresa Perez (through June 2010)



- Seed – Feeders (516) 694-2180
- Houses – Baths
- Books – Gifts



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- OUR E-LIST http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ssas_list
- OUR WEB SITE (incl. online store) www.ssaudubon.org

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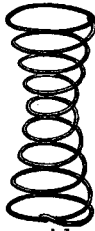
Audubon Members: Enter the name of your Audubon chapter in our store's checkout comment box and we will refund the shipping fee!

MAKE A RESERVATION FOR OUR ANNUAL DINNER!

On **June 12**; form and details on enclosed sheet!

SPRING CLEANUP TIME AT BROOKSIDE PRESERVE

On **Sunday, April 29**, from 1 P.M. until whenever (there's lots to do), SSAS will have its annual spring cleanup at Brookside Preserve, rain or shine. Brookside is a 20-acre freshwater wetland, woodland, and upland area owned by Nassau County and managed (and rescued from oblivion) by SSAS. With help from a state grant (we're seeking another one and funds from the county's Environmental Bond Act Program), we published a trail guide, educational freshwater wetland guide, and video; we continue to add plantings for wildlife. Scanned pdf files of the guides can be downloaded from ssaudubon.org.



The Preserve is located on the Freeport-Baldwin border, along Milburn Creek; park at the main entrance on Brookside Avenue just north of Sunrise Highway (turn north at the traffic light that's just east of Freeport High School). Please bring gloves, rakes, bags, and/or friends of all ages. You can arrive and depart anytime.

NATURE TALES FROM A WANDERER A Weekend at a Catskill Mountains Inn and a New Bird for Our List

Joe Grupp

For many years, my wife Dolores and I have spent a "get away from it all" weekend at the Alpine Inn, in the heart of the Catskill Mountains, early each spring and fall. This Nature Tale, however, begins on a Thursday in March, the day before we left for the inn and while doing a formal survey of bird populations at Valley Stream State Park along with a small group of other SSAS birders. It was there, during the small talk that usually accompanies such ventures, that Steve Schellenger, a participant in the survey, learned of our plans.

Steve frequently tracks down the rarer species of birds that have been reported, such as a Scott's Oriole in Pennsylvania, a concentration of Short-eared Owls in Fort Edward in upstate New York, Bald Eagles along the Hudson River, a Smith's Longspur at Jones Beach, a Western Tanager at a backyard feeder in Baldwin (adjacent to Brookside Preserve), and a Bullock's Oriole in the heart of the Catskills. Steve told me that the Bullock's Oriole had been regularly frequenting feeders in a backyard in the village of Phoenicia, which is only a 20-minute ride from the inn where we were spending the weekend. Serious birding was not in our plans for that weekend, but the longer he and I talked about the bird and the directions to that backyard, the more I knew that our plans would not really change but I was sure we would alter them enough to allow us to attempt to find the Bullock's Oriole. The task

even seemed easy, as I was familiar with the area where the bird was found. Steve also mentioned that the bird was so regular that if you walked down the streets in town with binoculars hanging from your neck, any resident you passed would tell you where the bird could be found without even having to be asked.

On Friday, our usual three-hour trip to the inn took six hours as a mix of freezing rain and sleet made the driving treacherous, and it remained so even as the precipitation changed to snow as we traveled north. About a half-foot of snow was on the ground when we arrived at the Alpine Inn, but there was more to come. By morning, the snow depth grew to a foot and a half. The window of our room provided a frame for a beautiful winter scene as daylight fell upon a thin, lichen encrusted, tall, double-trunked sugar maple tree that was backed by a stand of large dark hemlock trees that had snow piled high on their branches. It was the type of scene that one might find on a Christmas card. Relaxed in our warm, dry room, we simply enjoyed it.

By late morning, the roads had been cleared and were safe to travel on. So, with boots on our feet and binoculars in hand, we headed for the village of Phoenicia to try and find the Bullock's Oriole. A winter of snow and the previous day's foot and a half resulted in large piles of snow, from shoveling and plowing, distorting some of the town's landmarks. Seeing an obviously local man carrying a snow shovel, I stopped to ask him if we were headed toward the yard the rare bird frequented. Of course, in spite of Steve telling me that any local person in town could tell me where the bird was located, the gentleman did not even know there was a rare bird around. Sharing Steve's statement with him, we all got a good-natured laugh out of it. While chatting with him for a minute or two, I realized that the yard we were looking for, which is boarded on one side by a small firehouse's parking lot, was less than a block away.

Parking in the lot, we trudged about ten yards to a split-rail fence and stood in snow over our boots. It was a cold, but thankfully not bitter cold, day. The yard had a number of feeders in it. All of them looked empty, even as a number of Dark-eyed Juncos (pictured) seemed to be getting food from one or two. The snow in the yard had not been broken, which made me wonder if the feeders were still being filled. What I was really wondering, especially as minutes passed with no sign of the oriole, was did it abandon the area for lack of a food supply? What gave me hope, though, was there were three half grapefruits mounted on feeders. Two looked mostly eaten and one was not touched. Orioles love grapefruit and that gave me some confidence that the bird was still around.



After standing in the snow for a good length of time, we began to feel the cold seep into our boots and I turned to head back to the car, planning to come back later. As I

