# OUTH HORE KIMMER

VOLUME 41, NUMBER 3 — SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

**NOVEMBER 2010** 

#### **NEXT MEETING**

John Gaglione

DATE:

Tuesday, November 9, 2010

TIME:

7:30 p.m.

PLACE:

Freeport Memorial Library

144 W. Merrick Rd. (at 5. Ocean Ave.)

SPEAKER:

Andrea Ward

TOPIC:

From Ballet to Biology: A Young

Scientist's Trek to Understand Form

and Function

Our November program will be presented by Andie Ward, an Assistant Professor in the Biology Department at Adelphi University. While presently working on fish anatomy and movement, her early research was focused on how raptorial birds use their legs to catch prey. She will discuss how her career began as a young child in dance class and has led to studying movement in a number of interesting creatures, such as owls, hawks, eels, and lungfish. In addition to slides, she will be bringing some bird skins to better illustrate how form and function are linked.

Andie Ward received her Ph.D. from the University of Massachusetts Amherst and completed a 2-year postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Chicago prior to joining the faculty at Adelphi in 2007. Her current research is focused on the effects of temperature during development on anatomy and behavior in adult fish and salamanders. Join us!

**Pre-Meeting Program on Birds.** Starting at 7 P.M. most months, Scott Oglesby expands our birding horizons in the room beyond our coffee-break tables. Topic suggestions for future talks are welcome.

**Parking Lots.** In addition to the parking lot adjacent to the library, there's a lightly used, well-lit, and fairly close municipal lot on the east side of S. Ocean Ave., on the near (south) side of the gas station that borders Sunrise Highway.

 IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE WASTE, PLEASE
BRING COFFEE MUGS TO OUR MEETINGS.
SHADE-GROWN COFFEE PROTECTS RAINFORESTS!

SSAS Mission Statement — The mission of South Shore Audubon Society is to promote environmental education; conduct research pertaining to local bird populations, wildlife, and habitat; and preserve and restore our environment, through responsible activism, for the benefit of both people and wildlife.

#### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Wendy Murbach

Much of an animal's body weight is made of water. All plants contain large amounts of water. All that we eat contains water and all that we are is mostly water. Water is the go-to fluid in our lives. We wash clothing, dishes, walls. We cool our houses, car motors, picnic coolers with water. Industrial cooling during manufacturing is water intensive. We water our grass and shrubs. And we drink water all day, au naturel from the tap or in bottles, in teas and coffees, soft drinks, beer, and fruit drinks. We use water on Long Island to the tune of more than 3.75 million gallons a day according to the U.S. Geological Survey and that figure is from ten years ago.

Where does all this water come from? Most water in the United States is from rivers, lakes, and reservoirs but Long Island's water comes from a different source; we have an aquifer system that lies beneath the earth that we live upon.

An aquifer is simply an underground layer of unconsolidated material (dirt, sand, rock, silt, clay) that allows water to sit between the particles and accumulate there. Generally there is a nonporous layer underneath the aquifer so that the water is trapped in the area.

Long Island has four aquifers. There are three large aquifers—the Upper Glacial, the Magothy, and the Lloyd—plus a smaller aquifer lodged between two rock formations—the Jameco. Nassau County's and half of Suffolk County's water is pumped from the Magothy Aquifer.

How did the water get into the aquifers? The three main aquifers are porous from above, which means that rainwater not used by the plants can seep down and accumulate in those aquifers. Astonishingly, depending upon where the rainwater enters the soil, the transit time of any water molecule from the surface of the land until it arrives in the aquifer will be from 25 to 1000 years.

Much of the water in our aquifers has been there for a long time. In the past, rainwater did absorb some of the minerals in the soil while it passed through. However, for the past 100 years we have been doing some activities which permit fluids other than rainwater to seep into the soil. We use fertilizer and pesticides on crops and lawns, our oil tanks and gas tanks corrode and drip oil and gas into the soil, and we manufacture things that have byproducts which we stockpile directly on the soil, causing leachate. We are polluting our drinking water of the future right now.

Our water supply is our lifeline. At this moment our water is still, compared with other drinking water in the USA, very fine and healthy. Our water is pristine compared with water sources in the developing world. It is our job to keep it that way.

What we can do, right now, is to stop adding pesticide and fertilizer to our lawns. The nitrate in the fertilizer causes organisms to grow in the water. The pesticide is a neurotoxin, a toxic substance that will adversely affect nervous systems of animals and humans, plus it is an estrogen-like substance which can affect our bodies badly.

In addition, we can conserve water with shorter showers, full washers and dishwashers, turning off the faucet while brushing our teeth, planting drought-tolerant plants in our yards. And I am sure you can find other ways to hold down the amount of water that you use.

Most of us think Long Island is a grand place in which to live. Let's help to keep it that way.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL QUOTATIONS**

From A Dictionary of Environmental Quotations, compiled by Barbara K. Rodes and Rice Odell (published by Simon & Schuster, copyright 1992):

"When the well's dry, we know the worth of water." — Benjamin Franklin, *Poor Richard's Almanac*, 1746

"The frog does not drink up the pond in which he lives."
— American Indian proverb, quoted in David Zwick, Water Wasteland, 1971

"[Water is] the one substance from which the earth can conceal nothing; it sucks out its innermost secrets and brings them to our very lips." — Jean Giraudoux, *The Madwoman of Chaillot*, 1946

#### **GREENING OF LONG ISLAND DONATION**

Therese Lucas

The most recent Greening donation by SSAS went to the Marine Nature Study Area in Oceanside. Greening donations are always native plantings.

Black Tupelo, American Elderberry, Bald Cypress, Purpleleaf Sand Cherry, Pagoda Dogwood, Blackberry, Dense Blazing Star, Bearberry, and St. John's Wort were planted in late September with the help of volunteers from Girl Scout Troop 924 and Boy Scout Troop 192 of Bellmore, Girl Scout Troop 2426 of Long Beach, Woodmere Middle School Class 7 of the Hewlett-Woodmere School District, and the Oceanside High School Special Education Department. Mike Farina, Conservation Biologist at the Marine Nature Study Area, scheduled the plantings for September 24–26 to coincide with National Public Lands Day. The Public Lands Program aims to engage local communities to help care for our public lands.

The plantings are visually pleasing but most importantly are a benefit to the wildlife within the preserve. SSAS appreciates the time and effort extended by all of the students and troop members, who will now have a special connection with the preserve whenever they visit.

#### **BIRD-FEEDING CARTOON**

Your editor found this in the June 1978 issue of the *Skimmer*, where it was reprinted from the May 5, 1978 issue of *Audubon Leader* (presumably a newsletter that was sent to chapters by National Audubon Society).



#### **★★ WELCOME NEW MEMBERS ★★**

Wendy Murbach

One of the wonderful perks that you get from an Audubon membership is the chance to be a part of your local Audubon chapter, South Shore Audubon Society.

You are automatically a valued member of this active and friendly chapter, so please come out to the next meeting at the Freeport Library from 7:30-9:30 P.M. on the second Tuesday of the month to hear what you can do to help preserve your local environment's health and viability, to hear about local issues that you can help to solve, and to see an interesting program.

Whether you are a beginning birder or someone with a large life list, you will enjoy our weekly Sunday bird walks. Check out the special events that are mentioned in this Skimmer. Attend them yourself, and bring your family and friends too.

You are warmly invited to be an active participant in this vibrant all-volunteer organization comprised of persons who, like you, care about the earth we live on, about our local environment, and about the creatures that live alongside us.

Our new members	since the last Skimmer are:
Atlantic Beach	Gladys P. Ward
Baldwin	Adele N. Harris, Barbara Hornung
	Matthew McElwee, Joey Miksits
Bethpage	
	Dorothy G. Gomez, Ben Haskel
East Rockaway	
Farmingdale	Geraldine Mc Cue
Floral Park	Karen Haas
Franklin Square	Harold Deion, Ruholah Yazdpour
	A. C. Churchill, Rainer Martin,
-	Joseph Tromba
Hempstead	
Hicksville	William D. Sharkey
Island Park	Eleanor Hughes-Minks
	Stephanie Blumlein, Betty Glandt
	Mona Goodman, Jo Ann Zawalski
Lynbrook	Lynda Augente, Miriam Feffer,
	Joseph Greene
Malverne	Miguel Cruez, Maria Ibanez
Manhasset	Diane SanRomán
Massapequa	Lois Bentivenga, Margaret Pleta
Massapequa Park	Donald Houser, Nancy Sceback
Merrick	Lisa Hentze
Oceanside	Eileen A. Kelly
Old Bethpage	Jonathan Nessinger
Plainview	Susan Corrente, Anna M.
	Micovsky
Point Lookout	Steven & Josie Rashkin
Seaford	Marie Cronin, Dustin Montuoro
Valley Stream	Lorna Bartsch, Clarence Crasto,
	Austin Edman, Gabriel
	Wiesenthal

Wantagh Carla Bellofatto, Linda A.
Boniello, Holly Riordan
West Hempstead Margaret M. Dimartino, Lynne
Mongell

#### THE VALUE OF PARKS AND OPEN SPACE

On September 28, the Trust for Public Land garnered some local news coverage when it released a 48-page report entitled "The Economic Benefits and Fiscal Impact of Parks and Open Space in Nassau and Suffolk Counties. New York," which is available at www.tpl.org/ content\_documents/LongIsland lowres final.pdf. Its conclusions are as follows:

• Long Islanders have long valued their parks and open space, but many have wondered just how much they are worth. This study shows that Long Island's parks and protected open space are major economic drivers that contribute at least \$2.74 billion annually in economic benefits. In addition, Long Island's parks and protected open space save local governments money when compared to residential development. When both property tax revenues and expenditures for services are taken into account, it becomes clear that residential development is more costly to local governments than are parks and protected open space (except in second-home communities). For the first time, parks and open space can be assigned the kind of numerical underpinning long associated with transportation, trade, housing, and other sec-

 Never has this information been more necessary than in these current economically challenging times. Difficult public policy debates that will affect the future of Long Island are occurring, and decision makers must make informed choices by considering not just the costs of preservation but also the real economic and fiscal benefits provided by these lands. This report demonstrates that preservation of parks and open space is not a luxury to put on hold, but rather a key economic driver vital to the economy of the Long Island region.

• Further research is necessary. This report documents the extensive natural benefits from protected parks and

open space. This analysis demonstrates the considerable benefits to business and residents of protecting water quality, farmland, parks, open space buffers around our lakes, harbors, bays, ponds, and much more. However, we still do not know what happens to the natural value of Long Island as private open space and



farmland are developed. Further research is needed on the cost to the public and the economy if the remaining natural areas and farmland are lost. Clearly, for each acre of mature forest, productive farmland, or undisturbed wetland lost, there is a measurable economic consequence.

# SOMETHING SPECIAL FOR YOU... AND SSAS TOO!

Therese Lucas

Effective through November 30th, the **Nature's Museum Store** in Bellmore is offering a 10% discount to South Shore Audubon Society members on all items purchased in their store or online. Just enter the code "SSAS" when you order online or mention South Shore Audubon Society when you make your purchase at the store. During this time, 10% of the proceeds will come back to SSAS; anytime after November 30th that you shop in their store and mention South Shore Audubon Society or shop online (www.naturesmuseumstore.com) and use the SSAS code, our chapter will always receive the 10% donation from the store. We are pleased that the Nature's Museum Store is supporting the environmental and conservation efforts of SSAS through this fundraiser.

The store, located at 2400 Merrick Road, Bellmore (south side, just west of Newbridge Road), carries a beautiful assortment of jewelry and giftware. Their products include museum and nature reproductions, small sculptures, and tabletop products. They are the producers of Erté "Art to Wear" jewelry. These limited edition pieces are made of 14k gold and sterling silver. Items in all areas are available in a wide range of price points. They also buy gold, silver, and diamonds, and offer expert jewelry repair.

Their studio is attached to the store and tours of the manufacturing facility are available. Free tours are given Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays at 11 A.M., 1 P.M., and 3 P.M. Call 781-6872 to schedule a tour. Store hours are Tuesday through Saturday 10 A.M. – 6 P.M. and Sunday 11 A.M. – 5 P.M. The web site displays are excellent should you choose to shop online or you can use the site as a preliminary experience before visiting the store. When shopping in the store, free gift wrapping and shipping are available. When shopping online, gift wrapping is \$2.25 and shipping is free.

# ENVIRONMENTAL LITERATURE LIST

Last year, Dr. Christine Moseley at the University of Texas at San Antonio, in collaboration with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, put together a downloadable 82-page list of literature readings with annotations for all

levels that align to Project WILD activities. Project WILD (Wildlife in Learning Design), introduced in 1983, is one of the most widely used conservation and environmental education programs among educators

of children in kindergarten through high school. The list, organized by 122 topics, is at the web site of the North American Association for Environmental Education: www.naaee.org/photos/news-images/gettingwildaboutenvliterature.doc.

#### 114642331928682

Kerry Da Silva

SSAS is now represented as a "page" on **Facebook!** "Like" us, and tell your friends about it too. It's a great way to stay connected and keep up on all of our events and news!

Editor's note: We thank Kerry for creating our Facebook page. I'm responsible for this article's title; even if you're not already a Facebook member, you can view our main pages at www.facebook.com/pages/South-Shore-Audubon-Society/114642331928682.

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Steve Schellenger

All walks start at 9:30 A.M.; no walk if it's raining. Any questions? Call Steve at 987-8103. Directions and summaries may be found at ssaudubon.org.

Oct. 24	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Oct. 31	Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner*
Nov. 7	Hempstead Lake State Park (Southern
	State Parkway Exit 18 south, Field #3)
Nov. 14	Point Lookout Town Park, S.E. corner
	(and Lido Preserve afterwards)
Nov. 21	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
Nov. 28	Mill Pond Park (Wantagh/Bellmore, north
	side of Merrick Rd.)
Dec. 5	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

\*Note: State budget cuts have closed Jones Beach's West End during toll season except for birding and fishing. Show your binoculars or field guide at the booth for access.

# REMINDER - NATURE WALK AT HEMPSTEAD PLAINS

On **Saturday, October 23**, SSAS will be having a special field trip, led by Betsy Gulotta, to view the flora and fauna of the Hempstead Plains. We will meet at 9:30 A.M. for a walk that we expect will end at around 11.

Directions. Take the Meadowbrook State Parkway to Exit M4 (also used for Hempstead Turnpike/Nassau Coliseum). Continue on the exit road to Charles Lindbergh Blvd. west. Go a short distance on the boulevard to the first exit on the right, which is for Nassau Community College's East Campus parking lots. At the first intersection (Perimeter Road intersecting itself), you'll see a sign and parking for Hempstead Plains.

# SSAS TACKAPAUSHA PARTIES

In case you're wondering: Due to unpredictable renovation work at Tackapausha Museum in Seaford, SSAS's annual wildlife-themed Halloween and December holiday parties for children will not take place this year.

#### TAKE THE BIRD CHOW CHALLENGE

Birds can have funny eating habits, just like we do. The Celebrate Urban Birds project at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology would like you to submit your observation of interesting or unusual bird feeding behavior for its Bird Chow Challenge contest. The deadline is November 1.

"Take a walk outside — you might see pigeons trying to snag a piece of pizza in the park or a flock of Cedar Waxwings scarfing up berries from a bush," says project leader Karen Purcell. "Maybe a gull will steal your sandwich! Look for a horde of grackles going nuts at a feeder,

or an American Robin tagging along after a farmer plowing his field." Entries can be digital photos, artwork, or video — even a story or a poem. Just show or describe an avian food folly and e-mail your entry to urbanbirds@cornell.edu.

Prizes include bird feeders, nest boxes, sound CDs, guides, books, posters, and much more. Visit the Celebrate Urban Birds web site (www.birds.cornell.edu/celebration) for more information.

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SSAS Post Office Statement — South Shore Skimmer is published monthly from September through December and February through May by South Shore Audubon Society, P.O. Box 31, Freeport, NY 11520-0031.

#### "TRUMP ON THE OCEAN" - CALLS NEEDED!

**^** 

Jim Brown

You may be aware that a recent opinion of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court of New York has given a victory to Donald Trump in his attempt to build his huge complex (restaurant, catering hall, souvenir shop) along the boardwalk of Jones Beach. Nevertheless, the Attorney General can appeal this latest ruling, and stop this project from going forward. As we've been writing in the Skimmer for three years, "Trump on the Ocean" is just too big for what is needed at Jones Beach - a simple boardwalk restaurant that can be enjoyed by all the people, not just the wealthy clientele that Mr. Trump is courting. Mr. Trump has not proven that a smaller, publicfriendly restaurant would not be economically viable. The original Review Board (including an architect, a businessman, a fire prevention expert, and a Building Code expert) that denied his variance application was acting with the best interests of the public in mind.

I urge everyone who wants to preserve our beautiful and publicly owned Jones Beach to call the Attorney General's Long Island office at 516-248-3302 or 516-248-3300. Urge Andrew Cuomo to appeal this most recent decision. Our State Park at Jones Beach was created for all of us, not just for the wealthy few!

#### **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.

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Phone: (516) 931-1445 Fax: (516) 931-1467 E-Mail: lgk1cpa@aol.com

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# CHECKLIST OF NYS AMPHIBIANS, REPTILES, BIRDS, AND MAMMALS

A 26-page New York State Department of Environmental Conservation checklist of vertebrates found in our state, updated this past April, can be downloaded from www.dec.ny.gov/docs/wildlife\_pdf/vertchklst0410.pdf. It lists 32 species of amphibians, 39 species of reptiles, 375 species of birds, and 92 species of mammals, including their protection status under federal and state laws and regulations.

## ADVERTISING IN THE SKIMMER

Michael Sperling

We publish eight newsletters per year, with about 1700 copies per issue. Advertising helps pay for the cost of printing and mailing the *Skimmer*. A single-issue business card ad (or anything that size) costs \$30 or you can get a discount and pay South Shore Audubon Society \$200 for eight consecutive issues. Similarly, a quarter-page ad (such as that of the American Littoral Society) costs \$75 or eight for \$550. For details (some types of ads are prohibited under our mailing permit), please e-mail or call your editor at mssperling@optonline.net or 221-3921.

#### NATURE TALES FROM A WANDERER Where Forest Meets Prairie

Joe Grupp

We rode down a dirt road that was wide, well maintained, relatively high speed, and frequently used. It serves as a thoroughfare between main highways that pass through the Sheyenne National Grasslands in North Dakota. As we looked from east to west, large swaths of woodland seemed to dribble out into smaller areas of trees separated by greater and greater areas of grass and associated plants. It is an area where the Eastern Forest gives way to the Midland's Prairies.

Parking the car at an access point for the North Country National Scenic Trail, we walked through an elaborate gate made of a combination of springs and counterweights that made the opening of it easy and the closing of it automatic. The trail took us into a terrain of rolling hills covered by prairie grasses and associated plants, interspersed with a few small areas of trees. The hills were not very high and their slopes gentle. They were just high enough so that when we were at the low point between hills only the slope of the next hill could be seen, and when we were on top of a hill we could see a fair distance. We found it a pleasant place to walk, the uphill slopes required little effort to climb, and before very long any road sounds, made by the occasional passing car, were muted and were replaced by the sound of a gentle but gusty breeze and the infrequent song of a distant Western Meadowlark.

A hill that we were approaching was mostly covered by trees at its higher point and many fairly thin snags rose among their leaved branches. Birdlife was pretty sparse as we were walking and when it was there it was only for a split second or two. Our surroundings were pretty quiet when out of nowhere a fair-sized woodpecker swooped into the trees and settled on a snag partly hidden from our view. Taking a few steps forward and looking through our binoculars, we had an impressive Pileated Woodpecker in view. Its red crest was standing at attention; a white stripe ran down the side of its outstretched black neck as its sturdy stifftail helped hold it in its now motionless position against the snag.

Just as I began to study the Pileated through the binoculars, a white flash burst into the lower left-hand portion of

the glasses' field of view and the woodpecker whose plumage created it settled on a snag that was close to but lower than the Pileated's. It had its back to us but the two large white patches served as a beacon as to its location and made its identification as a Red-headed Woodpecker (pictured) easy without ever having to

notice the color of its head. The two birds remained motionless for a good period of time, making it an outstanding and exciting observation.

We followed the trail a bit further, then on the upper part of the slope of another hill we just stopped and looked around. The grasses and other vegetation were slightly deep green in color and small yellow flowers bloomed among them. My eyes followed that green carpet of vegetation that extended away from us in all directions as it rolled over the hills. At different spots, the infinite number of small yellow flowers, buried among the other vegetation in the carpet, made it seem stained in different shades of yellow. The greens of the taller plants dominated, while the yellows of the flowers seeped through.

We just stood silently for a few minutes under a blue sky. We felt the pleasant breeze as we watched it ripple the grasses. Occasionally we again heard the song of the distant meadowlark. Standing there, we knew that for us this was a special time in a special place.

Editor's note for new members: Joe's first article about the Sheyenne National Grasslands appeared in last month's Skimmer, which will be available at ssaudubon.org starting in November.

#### Enid R. Klein

Attorney and Counselor-at-Law 132 ALBERMARLE AVE. Valley Stream, NY 11580

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#### MASSAPEQUA CREEK WATERSHED PLAN AVAILABLE

A 136-page Massapequa Creek Watershed Management and Corridor Restoration Plan has been prepared for the Town of Oyster Bay and the New York State Department of State's Division of Coastal Resources. This plan will serve as a blueprint for actions that government agencies and non-governmental organizations can utilize to protect the natural resources of the Massapequa Creek watershed. Most of the creek is within Massapequa Preserve. The plan is a key component of the South Shore Estuary Reserve Comprehensive Management Plan. You can view or download the plan at www.estuary.cog.ny.us.

#### **GET 'EM WHILE THEY LAST!**

Therese Lucas

There are still a limited number of Audubon calendars available for sale at reduced rates and without tax. The assortment includes Songbirds, Audubon Birds of America, Wildflowers, Nature, and Engagement, and can be purchased at bird walks and general meetings.

#### MID-ATLANTIC OFFSHORE DRILLING

Jim Brown

Editor's note: The following letter was sent to President Barack Obama last May, after the May-August issue of the Skimmer was published. On October 6, Shell Oil announced that it had applied for an exploratory well permit in Alaska's Beaufort Sea, with plans to apply for a second permit shortly. The temporary permit suspension that was implemented during the Deepwater Horizon disaster is at risk of being lifted.

#### Dear Mr. President:

The Audubon chapters attending the Long Island Audubon Council meeting held on April 10, 2010 voted to strongly oppose your administration's plans to reopen oil and gas exploration and drilling off several important and environmentally sensitive areas of the United States' coastline. The official Long Island chapters of the National Audubon Society cover both Nassau and Suffolk Counties, comprising approximately 7,000 households islandwide. Chapters constituting the Long Island Audubon Council are Eastern Long Island Audubon Society, Four Harbors Audubon Society, Great South Bay Audubon Society, Huntington—Oyster Bay Audubon Society, North Fork Audubon Society, North Shore Audubon Society, and South Shore Audubon Society. All local Long Island Audubon chapters approve the following statements:

We are very disappointed in your recent announcement that will lift the ban on offshore drilling off the mid-Atlantic coast, the eastern Gulf of Mexico, and waters off the Arctic coast of Alaska. There is no need to open up these areas to unnecessary and environmentally risky oil exploration and drilling. Offshore oil and gas drilling is bad for the climate, bad for our coastal areas, and will not solve our problem of energy dependence.

Exploration and drilling for oil and gas in the Arctic region threaten already endangered marine life such as whales and polar bears. Oil spills could devastate this

region and its fragile environment.

Beaches and coastal estuaries off the Atlantic and eastern Gulf coasts would also be needlessly placed in danger. Recent events in

the Gulf of Mexico off the coast of Louisiana dramatically and painfully demonstrate the extreme danger of coastline drilling. An explosion occurring on April 20, 2010 on the rig Deepwater Horizon has claimed human lives and placed areas of the Gulf Coast in danger of ecological disaster. This oil spill is leaking over 200,000 gallons of oil per day. Its effects on wildlife, the environment, and the economy of the Gulf region might well eclipse the damage caused by other horrific spills we have suffered in the past, including that of the Exxon Valdez.

Seismic surveys, used during the exploratory phase of petroleum drilling, have a huge impact over an area of at least 100,000 square nautical miles. These surveys negatively impact the ability of marine life to navigate, mate, hunt, avoid predators, and communicate. Surveys taken off the coast of Virginia, for example, could negatively impact numerous animals, including endangered marine species, off the coast of New England. Our coastal tourism and fishing industries, from Alaska to the North Atlantic coast of our nation, will be placed at risk if this proposed drilling is permitted.

Please ensure the safety of our coasts, protect our clean shores, and enact a smart energy policy by reversing this decision and investing in clean energy and efficiency instead. We need to make sure that any climate bill before the Congress mandates at least 25% of our electricity come from renewable sources by 2025 and that we move away from polluting industries like coal and oil. These are promises you made during your presidential election campaign, and they should be honored.

Again, we urge you to reverse your ill-advised decision to lift the ban on offshore drilling — our nation must instead pursue a clean energy policy based on renewable energy sources and energy conservation. Please, no more unnecessary and polluting drilling!



Explore the coast with the

## AMERICAN LITTORAL SOCIETY

ALS ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY (Sun., Dec. 5, 5–9 P.M.). Join us for an informal fun party including "Ugly Auction," Flamenco Dance performance, Exotic Dancer, door prizes, and good food. Cost: A mere \$45 incl. lots of food, beer & wine, entertainment. Nature walk at 3 P.M. at Jamaica Bay Refuge. ASSATEAGUE NATIONAL SEASHORE/CHINCOTEAGUE REFUGE (Nov. 4–7). A great wildlife weekend along the Virginia coast. See many waterfowl species, raptors incl. bald eagles, river otter, endangered Delmarva fox squirrel and wild ponies. Best crab cakes anywhere. Cost: \$375 incl. 3 nights at Refuge Inn, guided hikes, bus tour of backwater flats, plus an "all-you-can-eat" seafood buffet.

WINTER WATERFOWL WORKSHOP. (Sat., Nov. 20, 10 A.M. to 1 P.M.). Meet at the Jamaica Bay Refuge for a program and hike along the West Pond with naturalist Don Riepe to look for wintering ducks, snow geese, raptors, and other bird species. Call (718) 318-4340 to reserve. Free.

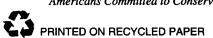
MONTAUK WINTER WEEKEND (Jan. 7-9, 2011). Visit Montauk during quiet time and peak birding & seal viewing season. Stay at luxurious Manor House and hike bluffs, beaches and woods. Cost: \$365 incl. 2 nights lodging, 5 meals, 5 guided hikes, 2 evening programs, and star watch.

For information and free field trip brochure, call/write Don Riepe, (718) 318-9344, driepe@nyc.rr.com, 28 West 9th Road, Broad Channel, NY 11693; www.alsnyc.org.

### South Shore Audubon Society P.O. Box 31 Freeport, NY 11520-0031

A CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Americans Committed to Conservation



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Long Island 221-3921		
Betty Borowsky, Education		
Anne-Marie Conn, Electronic Communications 671-7685		
Joseph Grupp, Research 481-4208		
Betsy Gulotta, College Scholarships &		
Brookside Preserve Co-Chair 546-8841		
Marilyn Hametz, Publicity 799-7189		
Elliott Kutner, Birding Consultant		
James Remsen, Jr., Birdathon 631-957-0949		
Dolores Rogers, Welcoming 599-1224		
Mary Jane Russell, Hospitality 766-7397		
Michael Sperling, Skimmer Editor 221-3921		
- <del>-</del>		

#### BECOME A MEMBER OF SSAS Think Globally, but Join Locally!

Option 1. You can join SSAS for a year by sending \$15 payable to **South Shore Audubon Society** using the form below. Our address is P.O. Box 31, Freeport, NY 11520-0031.

Option 2. To join NAS and your all-volunteer local chapter, you can help SSAS survive NAS's major dues-share cutbacks by joining Audubon through us for the same price that it costs if you join through NAS (we get \$0 unless you join through us). Mail the form below and your check payable to **National Audubon Society** to SSAS at the address above. The special rate for the first year is \$20 per household.

**Renewing?** Please send NAS renewals directly to NAS (we now get \$0 for all NAS renewals).

<b>&gt;&gt; ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ </b>		
Yes, I'd like to join: 🗆 SSAS only 🗅 National Audubon too		
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