OUTH HORE KIMMER

VOLUME 33, NUMBER 5 — SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2003

NEXT MEETINGS

Tom Torma

DATE: Tuesday, January 14, 2003

TIME: 8:00 p.m. 4

PLACE: Freeport Memorial Library

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

SPEAKER: Sarah Meyland

TOPIC: Long Island's Groundwater

All of Long Island's drinking water comes from the aquifers beneath the ground. During an average year, about 44 inches of rain falls on Long Island. About half of the water percolates into the aquifers; the rest evaporates, is taken up by plants, or runs into creeks. Eventually the water works its way into our bays, estuaries, and into the ocean. Each year, Nassau and Suffolk Counties use 138 billion gallons of water. This program will discuss the effect this usage has on Long Island's residents and our environment.

Sarah Meyland is the Executive Director of the Citizens Campaign for the Environment, which was formed in 1985 by a small group of concerned citizens who recognized the need for public involvement in the course of advancing a stronger environmental policy. Today the CCE has 80,000 members.

Pre-Meeting Bird ID Class at 7:30. Arrive early at our general meetings and join Scott Oglesby as he helps us expand our birding horizons.

DATE: Tuesday, February 11, 2003

TIME: 8:00 p.m. ②
PLACE: Same as Above

TOPIC: Membership Participation Meeting

Hosted as usual by Freeport/Meadowbrook Camera Club president John Brokos, our annual (except last year) members' night is your chance to find out where your fellow members have been and what they've seen. Please bring up to ten of your best slides and share them with us. Last time we were treated to slides of birds, coyotes, mule deer, damselflies, snakes, sunsets, scenery, and more at

such places as Massapequa Preserve; Jones Beach; Florida's Sanibel Island, St. Augustine, Fort Myers, and Cape Coral; New Mexico's Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge; Oregon's coast; and Mexico.

Pre-Meeting Bird ID Class at 7:30. See left column.

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, and preserve and restore our environment, through responsible activism, for the benefit of both people and wildlife.

ALUMINUM TABS & STAMPS

If you've attended SSAS's general meetings in recent years, you know that we collect aluminum can tab tops

and postage stamps cut (not soaked) from envelopes.

The tabs are brought to Seaford Beverage on Merrick Road by Dolores Rogers and others, and are used to support the Camp for Kids Campaign. The campaign, sponsored by members of the transplant team of the Division of Transplantation Services at University Hospital and Medical Center in Stony

Brook, allows a few underprivileged children with kidney disease to spend two weeks in 4500 acres of wilderness at the Frost Valley YMCA Camp in the Catskills.

The stamps are sent to England by Mike Higgiston and are sold by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds to British stamp collectors. The proceeds are used for various RSPB activities, particularly land acquisition.

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Elliatt Kutner

All walks start at 9:30 A.M. except for Pelham Bay; no walk if it rains or snows, or temperature is below 25°F. Any questions? Call Elliott at 486-7667. Directions may be found at ssaudubon.org.

Dec. 29 Jan. 5 Jan. 12 Jan. 19 Jan. 26	Season's Greetings — No Walk Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot) Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner Hempstead Lake State Park (Exit 18, first lot south of Southern State Parkway,
Feb. 2	south end of lot) Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Feb. 9	Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner
Feb. 16	Norman J. Levy Park and Preserve*
Feb. 23	Pelham Bay for Owls (hiking shoes
	recommended; pull over to street on extreme right after going through Throgs Neck Bridge toll; meet at 9 A.M.)
Mar. 2	Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
Mar. 9	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Mar. 16	Norman J. Levy Park and Preserve*
Mar. 23	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
Mar. 30	Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner

*Directions: From the Meadowbrook Parkway, use the Merrick Road M9 east exit. Enter the Department of Sanitation entrance immediately on right (if you're driving west on Merrick Road, make a U-turn after Central Blvd. and before the Meadowbrook Parkway). Look for signs to Levy Park and Preserve parking lot.

★★ 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 8–10 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 led by Elliott Kutner, birder extraordinaire. Check out the special events that are mentioned in the *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 last month's Skimmer are:

Bellmore	Charles W. Raftery
Hempstead	Edward Bowser
Long Beach	Lindy Goodman
Massapequa	Mrs. Debbi Brown
Massapequa Park	
Merrick	Tia Jordan, Gail Volk
Seaford	Jennifer George

VISIT SSAS'S ONLINE NATURE STORE!

South Shore Audubon's Web site (www.ssaudubon.org) includes an online store run by WithoutBricks.com. Our chapter receives a portion of all purchases, so please pay our store a visit and look at some of the 7000 items,

There are thousands of books about birds, animals, insects, trees, natural history, geology, astronomy, gardening, etc., typically available at a 20% discount. You can also purchase videos, CD-ROMs, software, bird and squirrel feeders, birdseed, discounted nature jewelry, birdfriendly coffee, and more in over 20 departments, including: Animals; Art & Photography; Audio, Video & CDs; Best Selling Items; Bird Baths, Clocks, etc.; Bird Books; Bird Feeders; Bird Food; Bird Houses; Bird Songs; Butterflies & Bugs; Children's Books; Clothes; Earth & Space; Environment; Field Guide Series; Gardening; Gifts & Coffee; Jewelry; Magazines/Membership; Natural History; Plants; and Recreation Guides.



Explore the coast with the

AMERICAN LITTORAL SOCIETY

NEW YEAR'S DAY BEACH WALKS (Jan. 1), Honor the longstanding tradition of hiking the beaches in NY and NJ to start off the New Year. Meet at 11 A.M. at one of the following locations: Fort Tilden, Breezy Point (free champagne, cookies, and coffee); call Don. Jones Beach West End 2; call Jeff Gottlieb at (631) 423-2169. Fire Island Lighthouse (Field 5); call Steve Finn at (631) 821-2160. Sandy Hook, NJ; call ALS at (732) 291-0055. MONTAUK WINTER WEEKEND (Jan. 10-12). See thousands of waterfowl, including loons, mergansers, eiders, scoters, and goldeneye, as well as lots of seals. Cost: \$295 includes 2 nights at the luxurious Manor House (heated pool, jacuzzi), 5 meals, 5 guided hikes, 2 evening programs, and star watch. Leaders include Mickey Cohen, Robert Villani, Don Riepe, Steve Finn. FIRE ISLAND HIKE (Sun., Jan. 26). Join ranger Steve Finn for a brisk hike in the Otis Pike Wilderness. Meet 10 A.M. at Smith Point Ranger Station. Cost: \$10; bring lunch & binoculars. Call Steve evenings at (631) 821-2160.

NY AQUARIUM (Sat., April 5). Meet 10 A.M. at aquarium entrance in Coney Island, Brooklyn for a 2-1/2 hour "Behind-the-Scenes" tour. See walrus, sea otter, penguins, sharks, sea turtles, beluga whales, and local & tropical fishes. Cost: \$15 (\$8 kids). Call Don.

For information and free field trip brochure, call/write Don Riepe, (718) 634-6467, donriepe@aol.com, 28 West 9th Road, Broad Channel, NY 11693; www.alsnyc.org

OCEAN PARKWAY BIKE PATH

Once again, the NYS Department of Transportation has proposed a bicycle path through an environmentally sensitive area. The proposed path will run along the north side of Ocean Parkway from Jones Beach to Captree State Park, and will be 13.3 feet wide plus 4 feet for shoulders. South Shore Audubon Society is opposed to this project.

From the West End of Jones Beach east to Overlook Beach (owned by the Town of Babylon), several endangered and threatened species, as well as species of concern, nest. The birds that nest along this stretch of beach include Piping Plover, Least Tern, Common Tern (pic-

catcher. While these birds nest on the open beach, the bike path on the opposite side of Ocean Parkway would still pose a threat. Bicyclists will be able

to stop anywhere along the path, cross the highway, and intrude upon the nesting areas of these birds.

This is a real possibility; in fact, it is happening already! At three locations along Ocean Parkway, people are crossing the highway through the dunes into restricted areas where these birds nest. This occurs at Gilgo State Park, Gilgo Town Beach, and the east end of Jones Beach. At Gilgo State, boaters cross the highway from the bay and surfers are dropped off from vehicles. In either case, these individuals ignore access paths designed to keep people away from nesting areas and take the shortest way to the beach.

These shortcuts often damage fragile dunes. They also bring these people dangerously close to nesting birds. People also cross the highway from the cottages at Gilgo Town. Last year, two Piping Plover nests and exclosures were vandalized, and four valuable eggs were destroyed at this location. The problems at the east end of Jones Beach are mostly from people being dropped off by vehicles, but also from people crossing the highway from boats anchored in Zach's Bay.

In all these cases, law enforcement has been unable and/or unwilling to stop these people from intruding into the restricted areas. If they cannot stop this problem in three small areas, how will they be able to stop this problem along a 20-mile stretch of bike path and highway? This bicycle path project requires a thorough Environmental Impact Study, along with a realistic, workable plan that will prevent individuals from crossing the highway and intruding on restricted endangered and threatened species' nesting areas.

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

RESEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT

Joe Grupp

Phase three of the Research Committee's expanded data-gathering research project involves the gathering of data in a formal manner at specific locations within prescribed time limits. Since April, four locations have been surveyed consistently at no greater than four-week intervals: Hall's Pond in West Hempstead (surveyed by Mike Higgiston), Norman J. Levy Park and Preserve in Merrick (by Doreen and Jim Remsen), Mill Pond in Wantagh (by Doreen and Jim Remsen, Ann Marie Pozzini, my wife Dolores, and me), and the section of Massapequa Preserve between Merrick Road and Sunrise Highway (surveyed by me).

Mill Pond was formally surveyed for the first time on April 13. Eleven surveys have been completed as of this writing. Here's a summation of some of the data gathered at Mill Pond:

4/13: 25 species observed 5/4: 40 species observed 5/25: 32 species observed 6/15: 31 species observed 7/6: 24 species observed 25 species observed 8/2: 8/24: 29 species observed 9/14: 36 species observed 10/5: 31 species observed 10/27: 26 species observed

11/23: 22 species observed



Total number of species seen at least one time: 91

In the above, the term *species* includes domestics and birds whose exact species could not be determined (such as yellowlegs). This research is ongoing and additional locations will be added as time progresses.

SSAS BIRD WALK DRIVER NEEDED

SSAS's best-known nondriving birder, Stephen Janko of East Rockaway, is in need of a new source of Sunday morning transportation due to the imminent relocation of his chauffeur, SSAS's Arthur Ziegler. If you can help, please call 596-0194 or e-mail sjanko@optonline.net.



"NEW YORK'S LARGEST WILD BIRD SPECIALTY STORE"
621 Fulton St. (Rt. 109), Farmingdale, NY 11735
Located between McDonald's & Dunkin' Donuts

AUDUBON'S REVISED WATCHLIST

Editor's note: The following comes from an October 23 NAS press release and www.audubon.org/bird/watchlist.

Despite the exciting recovery of endangered birds like the Bald Eagle and Peregrine Falcon, more than onequarter of America's birds are in trouble or decline. In a report released today, entitled "WatchList 2002," Audubon identifies 201 species that show either significantly decreasing numbers or restricted range, or are under other threats.

"Audubon WatchList 2002 is a warning system that shows us where to focus our attention and resources if we want to help the survival of a vast number of bird species," says Frank Gill, Audubon's chief ornithologist and senior vice president for science. "It is also a powerful tool that policy makers, businesses, and the general public can use now to take positive conservation action."

Based on a stoplight model, WatchList places selected bird species in green, yellow, or red categories, depending on the danger they face. WatchList serves to underscore some disturbing trends; since 1970, many songbird species have declined by as much as 50 percent or more. The California Thrasher and the southeast's Painted Bunting both show declines in excess of 50 percent, while the Cerulean Warbler of the eastern U.S. has declined by more than 70 percent and the Henslow's Sparrow from the Midwest has dangerously dropped by 80 percent.

"WatchList is preventative medicine," continued Gill. "It will be used first and foremost to enlist federal, state, and local governments to focus their resources towards protecting these birds before they become endangered or threatened — when they would demand more serious action and major taxpayer support to recover."

Audubon WatchList is a unique project that filters information on bird populations compiled by field scientists in the U.S. and overseas. The final product recognizes three levels of concern:

RED [identified with an asterisk (*) in the lists below]: Species in this category of global conservation concern are declining rapidly, have very small populations or limited ranges, and face major conservation threats. Audubon identifies several red-listed species as probable candidates for inclusion on the Federal Endangered or Threatened Species Lists.

YELLOW: This category includes the majority of species identified. Yellow-list birds are declining, but at slower rates than those in the red category. These typically are birds of national conservation concern, and those that can be saved most cost-effectively.

GREEN: Species in this category are not declining, have unknown trends, or have very large population sizes. These species are not included on the Audubon WatchList.

For the first time in 2002, the Audubon WatchList includes birds of Hawaii and Puerto Rico, in addition to the birds of mainland North America.

"The reasons for identifying species on the WatchList is not entirely altruistic," concluded Gill. "Like the proverbial canary in the coal mine, birds are primary indicators of environmental health, and what hurts birds also hurts the people who share the same space. We should in no way take WatchList birds for granted; we should rather listen to what their declines are telling us about the ecosystems we both inhabit."

Audubon's WatchList Species by Family

Seabirds: *Ashy Storm-Petrel, *Bermuda Petrel, *Black-capped Petrel, *Black-footed Albatross, *Black-vented Shearwater, *Craveri's Murrelet, *Hawaiian Petrel, *Kittlitz's Murrelet, *Marbled Murrelet, *Newell's Shearwater, *Pink-footed Shearwater, *Red-faced Cormorant, *Red-legged Kittiwake, *Short-tailed Albatross, *Tristram's Storm-Petrel, *Xantus's Murrelet, Black Storm-Petrel, Buller's Shearwater, Laysan Albatross, Least Storm-Petrel, Whiskered Auklet

Herons, Egrets, and Allies: Reddish Egret

Waterfowl: *Emperor Goose, *Hawaiian Duck, *Hawaiian Goose, *Laysan Duck, *Spectacled Eider, *Steller's Eider, *West Indian Whistling-Duck, *Yellow-billed Loon, American Black Duck, Brant (pictured), Mottled Duck, Trumpeter Swan

Birds of Prey: *California Condor, *Hawaiian Hawk, Ferruginous Hawk, Harris's Hawk, Swainson's Hawk

Gallinaceous Birds: *Greater Prairie-Chicken, *Gunnison Sage-Grouse, *Lesser Prairie-Chicken, Blue Grouse, Greater Sage-Grouse, Montezuma Quail, Mountain Quail Rails: *Black Rail, *Caribbean Coot, *Hawaiian Coot, Yellow Rail

Cranes: *Whooping Crane

Shorebirds: *Bristle-thighed Curlew, *Buff-breasted Sandpiper, *Elegant Tern, *Eskimo Curlew, *Heermann's Gull, *Long-billed Curlew, *Mountain Plover, *Piping Plover, *Snowy Plover, American Golden-Plover, American Oystercatcher, American Woodcock, Bar-tailed Godwit, Black Oystercatcher, Black Turnstone, Hudsonian Godwit, Marbled Godwit, Pacific Golden-Plover, Purple Sandpiper, Red Knot, Rock Sandpiper, Short-billed Dowitcher, Surfbird, Whimbrel, Wilson's Phalarope, Wilson's Plover, Yellow-footed Gull

Pigeons and Doves: *Plain Pigeon, Band-tailed Pigeon, White-crowned Pigeon

Parrots: *Green Parakeet, *Puerto Rican Parrot, *Redcrowned Parrot, *Thick-billed Parrot

Owls and Nightjars: *Puerto Rican Nightjar, *Spotted Owl, Antillean Nighthawk, Elf Owl, Flammulated Owl, Short-eared Owl, Whiskered Screech-Owl

Swifts and Hummingbirds: Allen's Hummingbird, Black Swift, Buff-bellied Hummingbird, Calliope Hummingbird, Costa's Hummingbird, Lucifer Hummingbird, Rufous Hummingbird, White-throated Swift

Woodpeckers: *Arizona Woodpecker, *Ivory-billed Woodpecker, *Nuttall's Woodpecker, *Red-cockaded

Woodpecker, Gilded Flicker, Lewis's Woodpecker, Redheaded Woodpecker, White-headed Woodpecker

Flycatchers and Songbirds: *'Akekee, *'Akepa, *'Akiapola'au, *'Akikiki, *'Akohekohe, *'Anianiau, *'Elepaio, *'I'iwi, *'O'u, *Audubon's Oriole, *Bachman's Sparrow, *Bachman's Warbler, *Baird's Sparrow, *Bell's Vireo, *Bendire's Thrasher, *Bicknell's Thrush, *Blackcapped Vireo, *Brown-capped Rosy-Finch, *California Gnatcatcher, *Cerulean Warbler, *Colima Warbler, *Elfin-woods Warbler, *Five-striped Sparrow, *Florida Scrub-Jay, *Golden-cheeked Warbler, *Golden-winged Warbler, *Hawaii Creeper, *Hawaiian Crow, *Henslow's Sparrow, *Island Scrub-Jay, *Kama'o, *Kaua'i 'Amakihi, *Kirtland's Warbler, *Lawrence's Goldfinch, *Laysan Finch, *Maui 'Alauahio, *Maui Parrotbill, *McCown's Longspur, *McKay's Bunting, *Millerbird, *Nelson's Sharptailed Sparrow, *Nihoa Finch, *Nukupu'u, *O'ahu 'Alauahio, *O'ahu 'Amakihi, *Oloma'o, *Oma'o, *Palila, *Po'o-uli, *Puaiohi, *Rufous-winged Sparrow, *Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow, *Sprague's Pipit, *Swainson's Warbler, *Yellow-shouldered Blackbird, Abert's Towhee, Bay-breasted Warbler, Black Rosy-Finch, Black-capped Gnatcatcher, Black-chinned Sparrow, Blue-winged Warbler, Botteri's Sparrow, Brewer's Sparrow, Brown-headed Nuthatch, California Thrasher, Canada Warbler, Curvebilled Thrasher, Dickcissel, Grace's Warbler, Gray Vireo, Harris's Sparrow, Hermit Warbler, Kentucky Warbler, Le Conte's Thrasher, Lucy's Warbler, Oak Titmouse, Olivesided Flycatcher, Painted Bunting, Pinyon Jay, Prairie Warbler, Prothonotary Warbler, Red-faced Warbler, Rusty Blackbird, Seaside Sparrow, Tamaulipas Crow, Thick-billed Kingbird, Tricolored Blackbird, Virginia's Warbler, Willow Flycatcher, Wood Thrush, Worm-eating Warbler, Wrentit, Yellow-billed Magpie

New York's WatchList Birds. At least 31 National WatchList species occur in New York as breeders, winterers, or migrants. Cerulean Warblers are found in the remaining fragments of bottomland forests and oak-hickory forest. Subalpine forests of the Adirondacks and Catskills support a large proportion of the world's breeding Bicknell's Thrushes. Agriculture has made this one of the last strongholds for grassland habitat in the northeast, providing habitat for Henslow's Sparrow. Shrub habitats support breeding American Woodcock and, in the St. Lawrence Valley, Golden-winged Warblers. Long Island's coastal wetlands are vitally important nesting areas for Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrows and Seaside Sparrows, are key feeding areas for migrant Short-billed Dowitchers and other shorebirds, and wintering habitat for large numbers of American Black Ducks.

GET YOUR FREE ANNUAL PERMITS

SSAS's Mike Higgiston reminds everybody that obtaining the free permits required for access to John F. Kennedy Memorial Wildlife Sanctuary (just east of Jones Beach) and Connetquot River State Park Preserve (in Oakdale) is an easy way of letting Town of Oyster Bay and New York State officials know that you care about these places and wildlife habitat in general.

To obtain a JFK Sanctuary permit request form, write to or call the Department of Parks, Town of Oyster Bay, 977 Hicksville Road, Massapequa, NY 11758; phone 797-4110.

The Park Use Permit for Connetquot is available by sending a letter to NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation; Long Island Region; Belmont Lake State Park; P.O. Box 247; Babylon, NY 11702-0247.

SIXTH ANNUAL GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

Editor's note: The following is excerpted from a National Audubon press release. If you participate in this, please also send your data to SSAS's Joe Grupp (see page 7).

All across North America, our birds face survival challenges ranging from loss of habitat to introduced predators and diseases such as West Nile Virus. The Sixth Annual Great Backyard Bird Count (**February 14–17**) promises to add important new information to our understanding of birds' movement and overall health by focusing on common birds as well as on birds of special concern.

Once again, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society call on birders of every age and skill level to make the count possible. The GBBC combines high-tech Web tools with an army of citizen-scientist

bird observers. The GBBC asks families, individuals, classrooms, and community groups to count the numbers and kinds of birds that visit their feeders, local parks, school yards, and other areas during any or all of the four

count days. Participants enter their sightings at BirdSource, www.birdsource.org/gbbc.

The Great Backyard Bird Count provides a way for citizens to help us determine which birds are where and in what numbers, so we can take steps to protect those that need protecting.

The site invites beginners and experts alike to participate, providing useful information to make participation easy and enjoyable. There is a vocabulary section, birdwatching and bird-feeding tips, bird vocalizations, and more, including information about House Finch eye disease. Educators will find the bibliography and geography sections especially handy, as well as suggestions on how to conduct the count with groups of kids. For those tired of winter and ready for spring, there will be tips about planning and preparing for the spring bird garden.

AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS

Wendy Murbach

Many of our members have expressed their confusion about the different types of Audubon memberships that are possible and what each type of membership means financially for our chapter, South Shore Audubon.

We now have two different types of memberships:

One membership category is that of South Shore Audubon chapter member. A chapter member is a member of South Shore Audubon Society, receives the *Skimmer*, and is a full participant in South Shore Audubon's meetings, bird walks, and events. Dues for this type of membership are \$10 annually. South Shore Audubon Society receives the full amount of these dues to use for our chapter's educational and environmental mission.

The other membership category is that of National Audubon member. A National Audubon member is a member of the national organization (and receives the *Audubon* magazine quarterly) and is a full-fledged member of South Shore Audubon Society (and receives the *Skimmer*). Dues for this type of membership are \$20 minimum annually; \$15 annually for seniors and students.

National Audubon will give our chapter \$20 or \$15 for each NEW member that we enroll as a National Audubon member. But National Audubon gives our chapter NOTH-ING when a member RENEWS his/her membership in National Audubon. In the past, National Audubon gave our chapter a share of the renewal fee, but this policy has ended. What this means for our chapter is that when our members send in their renewals for another year's membership to National Audubon, we receive no money for their renewals, yet these people are still members of SSAS and we will send them their Skimmers for the whole year.

Now that you are aware of the financial implications of the two differing types of Audubon membership, take some time to think about your course of action when the time comes to renew.

You can always talk with the Membership Chairperson (me), and I'll help you to decide what is in your and our chapter's best interests.

Editor's postscript: As first mentioned in the November 2000 Skimmer, a three-year "safety net" was established then by National, under which chapters are currently getting 50% of the funding they received in the final year of the old system. So, we're getting \$2.75 this fiscal year for each of the members we had in 2000–2001. As Wendy indicated above (see "NOTHING"), we'd receive the exact same total from NAS if nobody renewed as a National Audubon member; renewals don't count (and neither do new members who National enrolls without our assistance).

COMMENT PERIOD FOR CERULEAN WARBLERS

Editor's note: The following arrived via e-mail from one of National Audubon's Grassroots Coordinators, Desiree Groves.

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) has opened a 90-day comment period to allow the general public to provide information on listing the Cerulean Warbler as "threatened" on the Endangered Species List. This is a positive step towards getting this songbird the protections it needs to survive! The Cerulean Warbler - a small woodland songbird known for its bright blue plumage and distinctive song — was once common in eastern forests. But over the last 30 years, the species has declined more than 70%, and 80% in the core of its range! Cerulean Warblers range across eastern North America, from the Great Plains, north to Minnesota, east to Massachusetts, and south to Louisiana. They breed primarily in the Ohio and Mississippi River basins - and spend winter months in the Andes Mountains of South America. Unfortunately, due to habitat destruction in both its breeding and wintering ranges, primarily because of development, logging, road building, and, more recently, mountaintop-removal mining, the Cerulean Warbler has become one of the fastest disappearing birds in the United States.

Now the general public has until January 21 to provide additional information to the USFWS as to why the Cerulean Warbler should be included as "threatened" on the Endangered Species List. If you have information on present or threatened destruction or modification of Cerulean Warbler habitat, or other information illustrating the need to protect the species, please do not miss this opportunity to share it with the USFWS! Comments and any supporting materials should be directed to: Field Supervisor, Ecological Services Field Office, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, 608 East Cherry Street, Room 200, Columbia, MO 65201. For more information, log onto the USFWS Web site at: http://midwest.fws.gov/Endangered/birds/cerw find.html.

15th ANNUAL WINTER WATERFOWL SURVEY

The remaining dates of SSAS's 2002–2003 Waterfowl Survey are as follows, rain or shine:



January 4
February 1
February 22

March 22



Volunteers are welcome to participate in the main team's surveys; identification expertise not required. If you are interested, call Joe Grupp, Research Chairperson, at 481-4208, and spend a full or half day visiting 28 locations from Valley Stream to Massapequa Park. JOIN US!

SSAS BACKYARD BIRD SURVEY

The Research Committee is conducting a study to document the bird species found in the SSAS geographical area and to make some estimates as to their numbers. We request input from anyone that feeds and/or observes birds in their yard or neighborhood. If you would like to participate in this program, we would greatly appreciate it.

To participate, simply record the birds that you see in your yard, neighborhood, or at your feeder; the date, time, and the number or approximate number of each species; and fill in the table provided below. If you have more recordings than lines in the table, please attach an additional piece of paper to the table and submit the additional recordings in the same manner. 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. Double-sided survey sheets are available at SSAS events.

Please do not hesitate to submit your observations, even if you have been able to make only very few. WE NEED YOUR INPUT!

Dates: Fron	n	to					
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				Please ser	nd to: Mr. 660 I	J. Grupp, Research Chairpers Edgemere Ave., Uniondale NY	on ′ 11553
						or	
					E	-mail: Birdstudyjoeg02@aol.c	om

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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Betty Borowsky, Conservation Education	764-3596
Sandy Brenner, Publicity	249-4919
Joan Butkereit, Conservation Legislation	
Paul Butkereit, Wild Bird Feed Savings Day	
Michele DeCaprio, Youth Representative	
Joseph Grupp, Research	
Betsy Gulotta, Brookside Preserve	
Marge Jaeger, Fund-raising	
Elliott Kutner, Birding / Field Trips	
Therese Lucas, Environmental Festivals	
Annie F. McIntyre, Educational Media	
Wendy Murbach, Membership	
Doreen Remsen, Birdathon	
James Remsen, Jr., Birdathon (pager)	
Dolores Rogers, Welcoming	599-1224
Mary Jane Russell, Armchair Activist	
Marcia Specht, Publicity	
Michael Sperling, Skimmer Editor	
Tom Torma, Programs & Electronic Commun	378-4723

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