OUTH HORE KIMMER

VOLUME 33, NUMBER 7 — SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

APRIL 2003

NEXT MEETING

DATE: Tuesday, April 8, 2003

TIME: 8:00 p.m. ②

PLACE: Freeport Memorial Library

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

SPEAKER: John E. Potente

TOPIC: Native Plantings in Your Backyard

This month, John E. Potente, the director of Native America, will give a presentation on the native bushes and wildflowers of Long Island, and their benefit to birds, bats, and butterflies. John has brought about a three-acre meadow restoration in Hauppauge and has helped Long Islanders create bird-friendly habitat in their own backvards.

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.



JOIN OUR BROOKSIDE PRESERVE CLEANUP!

On **Sunday, April 6**, beginning at 1 P.M., 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 published a trail guide, educational freshwater wetland guide, and video; we continue to add plantings for wildlife.

The Preserve is located on the Freeport-Baldwin border, along Milburn Creek; park at the main entrance on Brookside Avenue just (turn north at the traffic Freeport High School).

bags, and/or friends

The Preserve is located on the Freeport-Baldwin border, along Milburn Creek; park at the main entrance on north of Sunrise Highway light that's just east of Please bring gloves, rakes, (young and old).

SSAS BIRDATHON SET FOR MAY 9-10, 2003!

Jim Remsen

The sixteenth annual SSAS Birdathon is set for 5:00 P.M. on Friday, May 9 until 5:00 P.M. on Saturday, May 10.

Since 1988, our chapter has raised funds for our conservation programs by tallying the number of species seen by observers in 24 hours at the peak of spring migration. For each species identified, our members obtain a pledge in any amount from donors who want to support our cause.

The rain dates for the Birdathon are May 16–17, 2003, same time frame. Full details will appear in the next *Skimmer*. To sign up sponsors, please use sponsor sheets available at our meetings and bird walks. Mark your calendar for the second weekend in May! See you there!

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.

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

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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 Ms. Ellen Fetnet, Mr. & Mrs.
Andrew Murphy
Baldwin Heidi Mauricio
Bellmore Steve List, Mr. Richard Warnik,
Carol Yerushalmi
Bethpage Mrs. Christine Ambrose
Cedarhurst Jean Bosick
East Meadow Stephen Aitken
East Norwich Lola R. Hoche
Floral Park Ned Johnson, Aline Jones, Gary
McAvoy
Franklin Square Ms. Nancy Griffiths
Garden City Joseph A. Alfiero, Gertrude
Brechbuhl, Mr. Robert A. Mazur,
Nancy Mone, Mrs. Ellen Ripp
Long Beach Sidney Lerner
Massapequa Park Debbie Mussbaum
Oceanside Harvey G. Aronson
Old Bethpage Lesya Sofia Horyn
Rockville Centre Ms. Marilyn Fisher
Seaford Mr. William Jones
Valley Stream Evelyn Leach
Virginia Beach Jessica Rodriguez
Wantagh David J. Mezzardi
West Islip Victoria & Tim Kirkup
Woodmere Janet Schneider, Barbara
Tanenbaum

RESEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT

AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP STATUS (800) 274-4201

Joe Grupp

The research committee has been recording the observations made on the Sunday SSAS bird walks since February 2002 in order to build a database of species and their numbers found at various locations. The data below is a summary of the observations from Massapequa Preserve.

Number of visits: 8

Distribution of visits: 2/24/02 to 1/12/03

Number of species: 79

Species observed 5 or more times: Canada Goose (8), Mallard (8), Mute Swan (7), Green-winged Teal (7), Blue Jay (7), Northern Cardinal (7), Red-bellied Woodpecker (6), Downy Woodpecker (6), Carolina Wren (6), Herring Gull (5), Northern Mockingbird (5), Gray Catbird (5), and American Robin (5).

BUSH ADMINISTRATION'S PROPOSED BUDGET

Editor's note: The following are all the paragraph headings and part of the introduction from National Audubon's online article, "Administration Releases FY 2004 Budget: Few Bright Spots for Wildlife." If you can, please visit www.audubon.org/campaign/budget.html for all the de-

On February 3rd, the Bush Administration released its budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2004, initiating the process in which the U.S. Congress determines how to fund the federal government from October 1, 2003, through September 30, 2004. Our challenge is to work to increase the funding levels for birds and wildlife.

Overall, the needs of birds, wildlife, and environmental protection continue to outstrip the funding levels advocated by the Administration. In this budget proposal, there are a few rays of conservation sunshine, and there are significant holes and omissions, and a few bad ideas.

Rays of Sunshine: Increased funding for wildlife refuges: full funding for Upper Mississippi River Environmental Management Program; zero funding for Yazoo Pumps, Devils Lake, and New Madrid projects; slight increase for North American Wetlands Conservation Fund; tax incentives for private landowners; increase for Department of Agriculture's conservation funding; and new money for international family planning.

Holes and Omissions: Inappropriate use of Land and Water Conservation Fund; huge cuts in land acquisition accounts; State Wildlife Grants reduced \$25 million; Everglades funding; cutbacks in key Environmental Protection Agency programs (total funding, water quality, and enforcement); Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act funding falls flat; more money needed for research on West Nile Virus.

Bad Ideas: Assumed revenues from oil drilling in the pristine Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

********************************** COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS REMINDER**

Betsu Gulotta

Thanks, in part, to the continued generosity of Evelyn Bishop, South Shore Audubon Society will be awarding two \$750 Jerry Bishop Environmental Scholarships to students who are college juniors, seniors, or graduates and who are continuing their studies towards a degree in biological or environmental sciences, such as wildlife management, forestry, animal behavior, ecology, marine biology, oceanography, mammalogy, ornithology, etc.

For information, call me at 546-8841; applications are due by April 30 and should be sent to me at Dept. of Biology, Nassau Community College, 1 Education Dr., Garden City, NY 11530. We have two applicants as of early March.



Ellintt Kutner

All walks start at 9:30 A.M.; no walk if it rains or snows or temperature is below 25°F. Any questions? Call Elliott at 486-7667. Directions and lists of the species seen on our recent walks may be found at ssaudubon.org.

March 23	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)		
March 30	Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner		
April 6	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge		
April 13	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)		
April 20	Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner		
April 27	Norman J. Levy Park and Preserve		
May 4	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge		
May 11	Norman J. Levy Park and Preserve		
May 18	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge		
June 1 & 8	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)		

SIGN UP FOR OUR CENTRAL PARK WALK

Ann Marie Pozzini has booked Chris Cooper to once again help lead us through Central Park during spring migration and is trying to make arrangements for a second leader on the morning of **Saturday**, **May 3**.

This year, each participant must pay a \$5 fee in advance and there will be a maximum number of people in our group. Registrations should be postmarked no earlier than April 10. Send your check payable to "South Shore Audubon Society," along with your name and phone number, to Ann Marie at 93 Weaving Ln., Wantagh, NY 11793-1238. She will contact you regarding meeting time and place.

AUDUBON SUPPORTS WETLANDS PROTECTION BILL

Editor's note: After you've written to the EPA to express your strong opposition to the Bush Administration's rewriting of the Clean Water Act (see p. 5), you can also write to your three Congressional delegates and urge them to support the bill that's discussed in the following press release excerpts.

Washington, D.C., February 27, 2003 – Audubon today hailed proposed legislation that would restore federal protection for millions of acres of wetlands that provide crucial habitat for birds and other wildlife.

The Clean Water Authority Restoration Act seeks to remedy a 2001 Supreme Court decision that removed federal protection for so-called "isolated" wetlands across the United States. That decision said federal officials could not rely on the Migratory Bird Treaty Act – or the presence of migrating birds – as the sole factor when acting to protect wetlands that are separated from navigable waterways or other wetlands.

"The phrase 'isolated wetlands' masks the fact that these wetlands are directly connected to birds and people," said Bob Perciasepe, Audubon's Senior VP for Policy. "Isolated wetlands provide critical nesting and habitat for birds while providing water purification and flood control benefits for people."

More than half of the duck population produced each year in North America comes from breeding in isolated wetlands known as "prairie potholes," for example. Prairie potholes provide vital habitat for hundreds of thousands of migratory shorebirds and endangered species, including Piping Plovers and Bald Eagles. These wetlands are in danger of disappearing as more land is used for agriculture and development.

"At a time when 40% of our nation's waters are still polluted, we should be working to make our country's waterways cleaner and healthier, not questioning whether some need to be protected. This legislation is a recognition that most Americans feel this debate ended over 30 years ago and that we should be getting on with the work to finish the job," said Perciasepe.

Other types of isolated wetlands, such as bogs and playas, provide crucial habitat for shorebirds, raptors, cranes, and other migratory birds. Isolated wetlands, which are connected hydrologically to navigable waters, also filter pollutants from surface runoff, removing pollutants before the water is taken up by animals, birds, and plants.

The legislation was introduced today in the Senate and in the House, and is cosponsored by Sens. Russ Feingold (D-WI), Barbara Boxer (D-CA), and James Jeffords (I-VT), and Reps. James Oberstar (D-MN), John Dingell (D-MI), Jim Leach (R-IA), and Sherwood Boehlert (R-NY).

Editor's extras: The Senate and House bills are S. 473 and H.R. 962. When the legislation was actually introduced, Senator Joseph Lieberman (D-CT) and 18 more Representatives were also listed as cosponsors.

EARTH DAY AT HECKSCHER

Therese Lucas

For the second consecutive year, South Shore Audubon Society will be celebrating Earth Day by participating in the always well-attended Heckscher Spring Festival, which will be held at Heckscher State Park in East Islip on **April 26 and 27**.

The festival will be at Fields 1 and 4 between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. It is a weekend of varied demonstrations and entertainment. Why not come down, partake in the celebration, and volunteer an hour or two of your time at the SSAS table? To volunteer, contact me at 221-8654 or TKLWingsII@aol.com.

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT RESULTS

For those of you who don't have access to the www.birdsource.org Web site, here are the totals for only New York State in the February 14–17, 2003 Great Backyard Bird Count that was announced two *Skimmers* ago and sponsored by National Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. NY's 3124 participants were allowed to count birds anywhere and counted 144 species. They reported the largest number of birds of each species that they saw at one time during the weekend.

We've listed the birds in order by how many people reported seeing them; the second number is the number of individual birds counted during our cold and snowy winter (e.g., 2155 New Yorkers saw 10,024 Black-capped Chickadees). When the numbers for a species differ greatly from those of a year ago, the old stats are in parentheses.

Black-capped Chickadee 2155/10,024

Dark-eyed Junco 2024/15,242 (1505/8024 in 2002)

Northern Cardinal 1977/7391, Blue Jay 1889/8440

Mourning Dove 1758/12,494, Downy Woodpecker 1742/3614

Tufted Titmouse 1365/3640

American Crow 1344/102,727 (1756/14,909)

American Goldfinch 1272/10,233 (pictured)

White-breasted Nuthatch 1255/2188 (1702/3197)

House Sparrow 1128/12,366

European Starling 1071/12,833 (1025/33,606)

Red-bellied Woodpecker 994/1290

House Finch 945/6424 (1165/7449)

American Tree Sparrow 896/5666 (598/3418)

Hairy Woodpecker 785/1195

White-throated Sparrow 712/3853 (469/2257)

Song Sparrow 481/1663 (281/1064)

Carolina Wren 357/502 (207/292), Rock Dove 332/6937

Red-breasted Nuthatch 292/558 (626/994)

Red-tailed Hawk 245/341 (446/685)

American Robin 201/1324 (304/2807), Purple Finch 187/909

Wild Turkey 186/2706, Northern Mockingbird 145/184

Canada Goose 145/22,761 (494/52,930)

Mallard 142/4816 (302/8016), Northern Flicker 138/171

Cooper's Hawk 112/116, Sharp-shinned Hawk 109/113

Herring Gull 101/1740 (204/11,539), Brown Creeper 97/121

Pileated Woodpecker 96/126

Ring-billed Gull 83/6106 (203/10,167), Cedar Waxwing 69/1263

American Black Duck 65/1335 (100/1849)

Fox Sparrow 58/127 (32/62), Monk Parakeet 57/778 (5/38)

Eastern Bluebird 53/205 (128/390), Common Raven 52/164

Common Grackle 48/830 (89/1577)

White-crowned Sparrow 46/150, Field Sparrow 46/159 (25/76)

Brown-headed Cowbird 45/368 (60/688)

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 41/49 (24/28)

Great Black-backed Gull 40/338 (81/1059)

Red-winged Blackbird 39/393 (223/2057)

Winter Wren 37/64 (18/31), Mute Swan 37/195 (72/299)

Common Merganser 33/1192 (69/2694)

Great Blue Heron (blue form) 31/47 (58/82)

Peregrine Falcon 30/41 (4/5), Bald Eagle 30/39 (40/85)

Pine Siskin 29/313 (65/437), Rough-legged Hawk 28/42

Ring-necked Duck 28/663 (22/335), Ring-necked Pheasant 27/61

American Kestrel 27/33, Bufflehead 26/335 (54/620)

Eastern Towhee 25/29, Turkey Vulture 22/97 (59/207)

Northern Harrier 22/24 (36/102), Great Horned Owl (22/27)

Common Redpoll 22/80 (273/6261)

Eastern Screech-Owl 20/29 (6/10)

Red-breasted Merganser 18/215 (38/425)

Northern Goshawk 17/18, Common Goldeneye 17/482 (47/2640)

Snow Bunting 16/335, Wood Duck 15/72 (8/18)

Red-shouldered Hawk 15/23, Hooded Merganser 15/57 (41/251)

Greater Scaup 14/601, Belted Kingfisher 14/14

Ruddy Duck 13/154 (16/1186), Lesser Scaup 13/219 (16/490)

Rusty Blackbird 12/51 (7/23), Ruffed Grouse 12/29 (33/77)

Redhead 12/9169 (8/498), Evening Grosbeak 12/102 (94/1933)

Pine Warbler 11/28 (1/2), Horned Lark 11/688 (12/64)

American Wigeon 11/41 (15/145)

Yellow-rumped Warbler 10/17 (10/59)

Swamp Sparrow 10/44 (16/24), Gray Catbird 10/20

American Coot 10/144 (31/1536)

White-winged Scoter 9/78 (8/5106), Tundra Swan 9/295 (10/1723)

Northern Shoveler 9/267 (11/180), Merlin 9/13

Long-tailed Duck 9/298 (8/380)

Lesser Black-backed Gull 9/27 (6/7)

Golden-crowned Kinglet 9/23 (24/43), Barred Owl 9/14

Canvasback 8/102 (13/694), Gray Jay 7/9 (3/4)

Gadwall 7/34 (21/233), Fish Crow 7/19 (13/37)

Common Loon 7/18 (17/103), Snow Goose 6/222

Herrnit Thrush 6/19 (8/9)

Double-crested Cormorant 6/62 (21/192), Brant 6/90 (8/301)

Northern Saw-whet Owl 5/8, Boat-tailed Grackle 5/18

Bonaparte's Gull 5/72 (10/912)

American Green-winged Teal 5/55 (4/8), Chipping Sparrow 5/6

Ruby-crowned Kinglet 4/5, Pine Grosbeak 4/5 (10/59)

Pied-billed Grebe 4/12 (21/42), Northern Shrike 4/4

Golden Eagle 4/10, Eastern Phoebe 4/6

Black Vulture 4/39, Snowy Owl 3/4

Savannah Sparrow 3/13, Sanderling 3/32 (6/610)

Northern Hawk Owl 3/3, Horned Grebe 3/14 (9/43)

Glaucous Gull 3/6, Lapland Longspur 3/5

Trumpeter Swan 2/4, Red-throated Loon 2/4 (8/35)

Red Crossbill 2/10, Northern Pintail 2/6

Killdeer 2/9 (pictured), Greater Yellowlegs 2/4

Great Egret 2/5, Black Scoter 2/5

Black-crowned Night Heron 2/3, Wilson's Snipe 2/4

Rose-winged Parakeet 2/6, Boreal Chickadee 2/7

Surf Scoter 1/2, Short-eared Owl 1/1

Razorbill 1/5, Northern Gannet 1/6

Long-eared Owl 1/2, King Eider 1/8

Iceland Gull 1/1, Great Cormorant 1/2 Eurasian Wigeon 1/7, Dunlin 1/4

Common Eider 1/2, Bohemian Waxwing 1/1

Black-bellied Plover 1/2, Red-necked Grebe 1/20

Egyptian Goose 1/1, Brown Thrasher 1/1

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.

NOMINATIONS FOR 2003–2004 OFFICERS

At South Shore Audubon Society's general meeting on May 13th, officers 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 Jim Remsen, will provide a list of recommended candidates in next month's *Skimmer*.

CLEAN WATER ACT IN TROUBLE

Editor's note: The following (starting in two paragraphs) is from an Audubon Armchair Activist Issue of the Month letter, distributed by South Shore Audubon's Mary Jane Russell (call her at 766-7397 to sign up) and also available at www.capitolconnect.com/audubon. The comment period has been extended to April 16, so there's still time to write if you haven't already. A sample letter is online.

According to the Clean Water Network (which includes NAS): "The Administration's proposal seeks to define a new category of waters that they are calling 'isolated,' even though the streams, ponds, and wetlands they are referring to are not hydrologically isolated at all... Whichever of these so-called 'isolated' waters are cut out of the jurisdiction regulations would no longer be protected from unrestricted toxic discharges by industrial polluters, oil, timber, and mining companies, and dredging or filling by developers. If the Administration succeeds, an estimated 60% of stream miles and more than 20% of wetlands in the United States could be polluted, filled, or destroyed without a federal permit."

Take Action Now! On January 10, the Bush Administration, through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, announced two proposals that could roll back critical provisions of the Clean Water Act, long considered one of our nation's premiere environmental laws.

First, the Administration issued a "guidance" to Corps and EPA staff on how to determine which waterways receive protection under the Clean Water Act. Staff must now get permission from their respective agencies before extending Clean Water Act protections to isolated wetlands. The "guidance" came as a result of the 2001 U.S. Supreme Court ruling (Solid Waste Agency of Northern Cook County vs. the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers) which concluded that Clean Water Act protections do not extend to certain "isolated" ponds and wetlands. These small waterways play a critical role in human and natural health, and provide critical habitat for migratory birds. The guidance took effect immediately, and basically gives a green light to developers to fill and drain isolated wetlands at will, since the easiest path for field staff is to not claim jurisdiction over them.

Second, the Administration seeks to make a significant change to the Clean Water Act with regards to which waters should be protected. In order for them to do so, they must: (1) publicly announce their proposed change, and (2) obtain the public's written support, in order to execute the change. So they've opened up a comment period, by which they will accept letters, faxes, and e-mails from the general public, which closes April 16, 2003. This means we have little time to weigh in on the proposed change and urge the Administration to reinstate protections for all of America's waters!

It's imperative the EPA hears from as many people as possible regarding the need to protect all of America's waters, as that's our best chance to ensure they do so. Write to: Water Docket, Environmental Protection Agency; Mailcode 4101T; 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW; Washington, DC 20460; Attention: Docket ID No. OW-2002-0050.

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YOU'RE INVITED TO SSAS'S ANNUAL DINNER!

An enjoyable evening awaits everyone at our 32nd annual dinner, which will be held at Pompei Restaurant and Catering in West Hempstead on **Tuesday, June 10**, starting with cocktails (open bar) and an hour of hot hors d'oeuvres at 6:30 p.m. Smoking will be prohibited, wine and soda will be unlimited, we're planning a raffle, and our musician will be back. Pompei is located at 401 Hempstead Ave. Take Southern State Parkway Exit 17 north about 1-1/2 miles. Join your fellow South Shore members and bring your friends.

Advance registration is required; the cost is \$27 per person, which also includes salad, cake, and coffee. Please mail the following form and your check, payable to *South Shore Audubon Society*, to: Diane Singer, 118 Kent Road, Valley Stream, NY 11580-3316.

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NAME:	
ADDRE	ESS:
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NUMBI	ER OF PEOPLE:
	ER OF EACH MENU CHOICE: Chicken Marsala

NATURE TALES FROM A WANDERER Endangered Species Act

Joe Grupp

The end of April and the month of May are, as every birder knows, a time when there is a change in the bird species that we normally see. The great migration has begun and birds that we have not seen since last summer or fall, or we have never seen, begin to appear. Some will stay and breed, and others are just passing through as they travel to their breeding grounds. If we prowl the beaches and waterways on SSAS bird walks, during the Birdathon, or on individual walks, we will, sooner or later, most likely, come across the Piping Plover and, if we are really lucky, the Roseate Tern. They are two of the many birds that we, as a nation, have chosen to protect from the finality of extinction.

The law to protect not only birds, but all living things, is the Endangered Species Act of 1973. The main thrust of the law is to list and protect species threatened by extinction and the habitat necessary for their survival, and to develop a plan that will increase their population to the extent that the species is no longer facing the possibility of extinction. The Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is responsible for implementing the act for all terrestrial organisms and freshwater fish species. The Department of Commerce's Marine Fisheries Service is responsible to do the same for the marine species. The act itself was due for reauthorization in 1993 and while it has not been reauthorized by Congress, it has been funded and still acts as the law of the land. Groups and individuals having other interests would like to see changes in, or even the elimination of, the law.

The Endangered Species List has two components. One is the designation *endangered*, which represents a species

facing the possibility of extinction in the immediate or near future. The second is threatened, which represents a species that is approaching endangered status. For birds alone, the list stands at 78 endangered and an additional 14 threatened species in the United States and its territories. For all plants and animals, there are 986 listed as endangered and an additional 276 as threatened. Without the Endangered Species Act, 1262

plants and animals would face a much more uncertain future than they do now.

Birds such as the Whooping Crane (pictured), Northern Spotted Owl, and Bald Eagle are among the birds on the list that have made the news over the years and are somewhat publicly known. Other listed birds are not as well known. The Mississippi Sandhill Cranes that now number less than 100, most of them at the Mississippi Sandhill Crane National Wildlife Refuge in Mississippi; the Black-capped Vireo, a bird of Kansas, Oklahoma, Texas, and Mexico; and the Yellow-shouldered Blackbird of Puerto

Rico may be known by only a few people, even only a few birders unless they live in or near the range of the particular bird. All of the species mentioned, whether well or poorly known, are in a battle for existence, as are all the other plants and animals on the list. There has been some success as the result of the act. The fact that the status of the Bald Eagle has recently, but not without some controversy, been down-listed to threatened and the Peregrine Falcon has been removed from the list as its population increased to a safe level are examples of that success.

We birders spend time and effort and even travel distances to seek out and observe the various species of birds. We are pleased when we have the opportunity to observe an endangered species. We enjoy observing birds and other wildlife. Let us remember as we observe that endangered and threatened birds are struggling for existence and are being helped by the protection of the Endangered Species Act. When National Audubon or other reputable environmental organizations indicate that there is a need for letters or e-mails to be sent to protect the Endangered Species Act itself, let us be sure that we act accordingly. That action may save many species. Extinct cannot be the final word.



Explore the coast with the

AMERICAN LITTORAL SOCIETY

ASSATEAGUE SPRING WEEKEND (May 8–11). Enjoy a wildlife bonanza on the Virginia coast. Hike trails of Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge and Assateague National Seashore during peak spring bird migration. See nesting eagles, osprey, and hawks; migrating herons and shorebirds; butterflies; deer; turtles; snakes; and Chincoteague ponies. Cost: \$295 covers three nights at Refuge Motor Inn, guides, lectures, boat tour, and seafood buffet on Sat. night. FIRE ISLAND SUNKEN FOREST (May 18). Hike the milelong boardwalk during peak spring bird migration. Learn about the ecology, wildlife, and unique flora. Bring lunch and binoculars. Cost: \$20 includes ferry from Sayville.

JAMAICA BAY SUNSET CRUISE (May 31). Leave Sheepshead Bay at 5 p.m. on the "Dorothy B VIII" for a three-hour narrated tour. Learn about the history, wildlife, and ecology of the 9,000 acre wildlife refuge. Cost: \$35 incl. wine, snacks.

MONTAUK SPRING WEEKEND (June 6–8). Visit Montauk during peak orchid & heather blossom. Cost: \$295 includes 2 nights at luxurious Manor House, 5 meals, 5 guided hikes, 2 evening programs, star watch, and free LIRR pickup.

FREE HORSESHOE CRAB WALKS AT JAMAICA BAY.

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

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: Fro	m	to					•
Date	Time	Species	No.	Date	Time	Species	No.
							
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				Please sen	ıd to: Mr	J. Grupp, Research Chairpers	son
					660 E	dgemere Ave., Uniondale N' or	Y 11553
					E-	or mail: Birdstudyjoeg02@aol.c	com

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

A CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

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