

SOUTH SHORE SKIMMER



VOLUME 33, NUMBER 7 — SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

APRIL 2003

NEXT MEETING

DATE: Tuesday, April 8, 2003
TIME: 8:00 P.M. ☉
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 backyards.

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.

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

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  north of Sunrise Highway (turn north at the traffic light that's just east of Freeport High School). Please bring gloves, rakes, bags, and/or friends (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!

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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.
 ◆◆◆◆◆

✪ 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

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
 Hermit 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... Which-ever 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.



NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

AMOUNT OF CHECK: _____

NUMBER OF PEOPLE: _____

NUMBER OF EACH MENU CHOICE:

- Chicken Marsala _____
- Grilled Chicken _____
- Filet of Sole _____
- Roast Beef _____
- Eggplant Rollatini _____



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!**

<i>Dates:</i> From _____ to _____							
Date	Time	Species	No.	Date	Time	Species	No.

Submitted by: _____

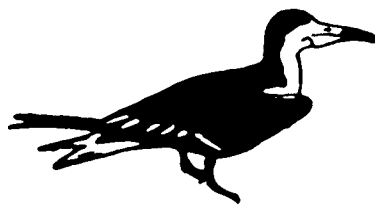
Address: _____

Phone number: _____

Please send to: Mr. J. Grupp, Research Chairperson
660 Edgemere Ave., Uniondale NY 11553
or
E-mail: Birdstudyjoeg02@aol.com

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

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Americans Committed to Conservation



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 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

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Michael Sperling, <i>Skimmer</i> Editor	541-0805

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

Option 1. 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 a first-year bonus for recruiting you). If you'd like to become a member of National Audubon and your all-volunteer local chapter, please mail the following form and your check payable to **National Audubon Society** to us at South Shore Audubon Society, P.O. Box 31, Freeport, NY 11520-0031. The special rate for the first year is \$20 per household; \$15 for students and seniors. Gift memberships help too; we will ask that non-local recipients be assigned to their own local chapter if you prefer.

Option 2. You can subscribe to the *Skimmer* for a year by sending \$10 payable to **South Shore Audubon Society** to us at the address above.

Renewing? Please send NAS renewals directly to NAS.



NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NO.: _____

E-MAIL: _____

Chapter Code R15 7XCH (South Shore Audubon Society)

