

VOLUME 34, NUMBER 6 — SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

MARCH 2004

NEXT MEETING

Enid Klein

DATE: Tuesday, March 9, 2004

TIME: 7:30 p.m. 🕗

PLACE: Freeport Memorial Library

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

SPEAKER: Fred Drewes

TOPIC: Hiking the Appalachian Trail

In 1998, this month's guest speaker spent six months on a 2100-mile journey from Georgia's Springer Mountain to Maine's Mount Katahdin. He "viewed innumerable natural splendors, enjoying the solitude and peace of the mountains, valleys, and forests, and experiencing many memorable times with fellow Appalachian Trail hikers." Fred, a retired biology and environmental science professor who taught at Suffolk Community College, is eager to share his slides and story with SSAS. Join us!

P

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.

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.

APPLY FOR A COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP!

Betsy Gulotta

Thanks again to the generosity of Evelyn Bishop, South Shore Audubon Society will be awarding two \$500 Jerry Bishop Environmental Scholarships to students who are college juniors, seniors, or graduate students and who are continuing their studies towards a degree in an area of biological or environmental science, such as wildlife management, forestry, animal behavior, ecology, marine biology, oceanography, mammalogy, or ornithology. For information, call me at 546-8841 or e-mail gulotte @ncc.edu (yes, that's spelled correctly). Applications are due by **April 15** and should be sent to Professor Betsy Gulotta, Dept. of Biology, Nassau Community College, 1 Education Dr., Garden City, NY 11530.

PROSPECT PARK SPRING BIRD WALK

Ann Marie Pozzini

On **Saturday, April 17**, we will be traveling into the wilds of 526-acre Prospect Park in Brooklyn with hopes of viewing early spring migrants. Leading us around this new location for SSAS will be Steve Nanz, a longtime birder and photographer of Prospect Park. Final details (starting time and meeting location) are still under discussion, but you can plan for a start time of around 8:30 or 9:00 A.M.

The cost for this trip will be \$5 for SSAS members and (space permitting) \$6 for nonmembers. We are limited to 25 participants, so if you are interested, please register early (and read the field trip guidelines in this *Skimmer*). Sendyour check, payable to South Shore Audubon Society, to me at 93 Weaving Lane, Wantagh, NY 11793. Please include your phone number *and* e-mail address so I can send you all the details of the trip as soon as they are confirmed. My e-mail address is rockgeek56@yahoo.com. Please put "Prospect Park" in the subject line so I won't delete your e-mail. Don't miss out on this great birding destination; register now!

Editor's note: According to the bird checklist available at the Audubon Center in the boathouse, "Prospect Park has been recognized by Audubon New York as an Important Bird Area because many different kinds of migratory songbirds live in or use the park and because it is an important stopover location for migrating land birds. More than 240 species have been recorded in the park."

Annual Central Park Trip! Save Saturday, May 1; details to come.

PLOVERS AND TERNS AND AMARANTH, OH MY!

Annie McIntyre

Each summer, Jones Beach is home to several protected species — Piping Plover, Least and Common Terns, and the globally rare plant, seabeach amaranth. We invite you to help us in our various protection efforts.

Symbolic Fence String Day: Saturday, March 27, 10 A.M. Each year, the nesting areas for the plovers and terns are protected by about 7 miles of symbolic fencing, which is comprised of fence posts, twine, and flagging. We need volunteers to install the string and flagging. Even if you can spare only a few hours, it would be a great help. If you know of any service groups that are looking for a project, please give them our number (679-7254). There's lots to be done, and the more, the merrier!



Explore the coast with the

AMERICAN LITTORAL SOCIETY

EARLY SPRING MIGRANTS (Sun., March 28). Meet 11 A.M. at Jamaica Bay Refuge visitor center. Slide program on signs of early spring, followed by hike to look for phoebes, oyster-catchers, egrets, ibis, osprey, and other early returning birds. Call leader Don to reserve. Free.

NEW YORK AQUARIUM (Sat., April 3). Meet 10 A.M. at entrance for a 2-1/2 hour "Behind-the-Scenes" tour of indoor/outdoor exhibits. See sea otters, walrus, penguins, sharks, beluga whales, local & tropical fishes, and, of course, "Squirt, the Wonder Clam." Cost: \$15 (kids \$10). Call Don.

ASSATEAGUE WEEKEND (May 20–23). Hike Chincoteague Wildlife Refuge trails and Assateague National Seashore beaches during peak spring bird migration. See nesting eagles & osprey, migrating shorebirds & herons, butterflies, Sika and white-tailed deer, river otter, red fox, black rat snake, Chincoteague ponies. Cost: \$325 includes 3 nights at Refuge Motor Inn (heated pool, jacuzzi), marsh boat tour, bus tour of back dune areas, guided hikes, evening lectures, and Saturday night seafood buffet. Leaders: Mickey Cohen & Don Riepe.

JAMAICA BAY SUNSET CRUISES (May 29 and June 12, 5:30 P.M.). Three-hour tours of marshes on 96' boat. Cost: \$35.

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

★X WELCOME NEW MEMBERS ★X

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 led by Elliott Kutner, birder extraordinaire. 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:

Baldwin..... Lorraine Bunce

Bethpage Blanche & Guido Lari

East Meadow Mark & Sharon Chernoff, Ida

Mulle, ? Neidle, ? Rupert

Elmont Sarah Welker

Farmingdale...... William Hanley, Joan Shedel

Hicksville Regina Kane Island Park Harry Zink

Levittown Stanley & Carol Bergman, Sharon

Powers, Mr. & Mrs. Gerhard

Rothermel

Lynbrook Robert Florio, Evelyn Henn,

Gerda Weber

Malverne Ms. Carolyn Lynch

Massapequa Ingrid DeMilo, Esther Erklund,

Ian Hambrecht, Miss Juliette Liebov, William Smith,

Catherine M. Zieniewicz

MerrickJohn Taft

Oceanside Marvin Schifrin

Plainview? Ferrara, Jerome Klein,

Morton J. Sperber

Rockville Centre...... Joseph Landesberg

Valley Stream..... Edward Clifford, Jeff Davis,

Rena & Lou Dworkin, Martin S. Ganzer

Woodmere Edyth Birnbaum

AUDUBON REACTS TO BUSH ADMINISTRATION'S 2005 BUDGET

Editor's note: The following is a press release from National Audubon Society. You can view more releases and/or sign up to receive them via e-mail at www.freelists.org/list/audubon-news.

Budget Rewards Special Interests at Expense of America's Great Natural Heritage

Washington, DC, Wednesday, February 4, 2004 — The Fiscal Year 2005 budget released earlier this week by the Bush Administration weakens environmental protections and cuts programs critical to protecting America's great natural heritage. Though there is some good news, it is outweighed by provisions that weaken environmental protections and reduce the security that our drinking water, air, and natural habitats remain safe.

"This Administration and some in Congress are out of touch with the American people on environmental issues, and this budget is part and parcel of that fundamental disconnect," said Bob Perciasepe, Chief Operating Officer for National Audubon Society. "Drilling for oil in our natural treasures like the Arctic Refuge and slashing funding for the Environmental Protection Agency is no way to provide the environmental leadership this country needs."

There is a small amount of good news: The Administration's proposal offers modest increases for critical conservation programs in the states, including a \$28 million increase in funding for the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Project in Florida, and an \$8 million increase for ongoing efforts to restore the Upper Mississippi River in Minnesota, Missouri, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Iowa.

However, this is outweighed by provisions that damage the environment, including slashes in funding for America's National Wildlife Refuge System — just one year after a 100th Anniversary celebration in which the Administration touted its commitment and pledged its.

tion touted its commitment and pledged its support to protecting these bird and wildlife havens. The Administration also cuts funding for implementing the Endangered Species Act by more than \$7 million.

When President Bush was elected in 2000, he pledged to fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund program. This budget fails to live up to his promises; despite statements to the contrary, funding for LWCF land conservation projects is actually almost \$600 million shy of full funding — a huge shortfall.

The budget incorporates revenue generated from oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to give gifts back to election-year contributors, including big oil companies. This is also out of step with political reality, as the Senate has voted down drilling in the Arctic Refuge twice in the past two years.

The budget continues to follow Administration precedent of slashing the Environmental Protection Agency's budget, and hamstrings EPA from carrying out its respon-

sibility of holding industry accountable for blatant Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act violations.

Lastly, the budget continues to fund the misleadingly labeled "Healthy Forests Initiative" — a program that offers far more for the health of timber companies and loggers than it does for the health and safety of neighboring communities and the forests.

The Administration's proposal now moves to Congress, where the U.S. House and Senate will review the President's funding requests, and make the final determinations for the country. "Our challenge now is to work with members of Congress to ensure that programs that protect our environment and our country's natural heritage are not sacrificed to special interests," Perciasepe concluded.

FOOD NEEDED FOR STARVING WILDLIFE

Former Skimmer editor Gayle Wertz, who for many years has been an incredibly dedicated volunteer wildlife rehabilitator, has asked us to help support her efforts to feed wildlife that has been facing starvation due to our prolonged cold snap and the resultant frozen ponds. She needs romaine

lettuce for Brant and other donations for other species. If you're interested, please call her at 798-4215.



"NEW YORK'S LARGEST WILD BIRD SPECIALTY STORE"

621 Fulton St. (Rt. 109), Farmingdale, NY 11735
Located between McDonald's & Dunkin' Donuts

Therese Lucas

"Not outside my window!" you respond? Try Hicks Nurseries' free indoor Horticultural Fair on **Saturday, March 20** and **Sunday, March 21**. Once again, South Shore Audubon Society has been invited to participate. The time to visit the environmental organization displays and see the wide variety of floral presentations is 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. Hicks Nurseries is located at 100 Jericho Turnpike in Westbury. See you there!

FIRE ISLAND WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT PLAN TO BE REVISED

Jae Zysman

The Fire Island National Seashore was established in 1964, but an overall General Management Plan (GMP) for it was not promulgated until the late 1970s. Part of that plan proposed fairly extensive federal developments in the eastern part of the island, which had been set aside to be left in its natural state. Local and national environmental groups opposed this plan, and then mounted a campaign to secure permanent protection for the area by its inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

After a yearlong campaign, in 1980 Congress designated 1363 acres on Fire Island as the first and only Federal wilderness area in New York State. Most of the Long Island Audubon chapters actively supported the designation, as did National Audubon. A Wilderness Management Plan followed in 1983 and this plan has worked well for the area for over 20 years.

The National Park Service has now been promised funding for a revision of its GMP, which will also involve a revision of the Wilderness Management Plan. This is a major process that will take place over a period of several years and will involve an initial draft, public hearings, and an Environmental Impact Statement. These plans will determine how the Seashore and the Otis Pike Fire Island High Dune Wilderness within it are governed for the next 20 or 25 years. Once approved, the plans are difficult to change.

This process does not come at a propitious time. The National Wilderness Preservation System has been under attack on many fronts under the Bush Administration. At the same time, the National Park Service, while generally an effective steward of our parks and historic sites, has not always been supportive of the major restrictions and prohibitions placed on their management by the Wilderness Act. The best plan for this small area, which contains the highest ocean-fronting dunes on the Atlantic Coast and the largest extent of salt marsh on Long Island, and is an important stopover on the Atlantic flyway, would be to simply leave it alone.

While we (the Fire Island Wilderness Committee, an organization independent of SSAS) expect preliminary aspects of the process to commence this winter, as yet we do not have a timetable. Space permitting, there will be updates in the *Skimmer*. The best way to stay informed is to write to Mr. David Spirtes, Superintendent, Fire Island National Seashore, 120 Laurel St., Patchogue, NY 11772 and request that you be placed on the mailing list and sent any documents, hearing notices, etc., related to the plan

review.

NEW SSAS FIELD TRIP GUIDELINES

Ann Marie Pozzini

Note: These guidelines were approved at our February board meeting and pertain to special field trips only (such as to Prospect and Central Parks), NOT to the regular free Sunday morning bird walks.

- ⇒ A fee will be charged for all field trips coordinated by SSAS, including those trips led by members of SSAS.
- ⇒ Non-SSAS members are permitted to attend field trips, but will pay a small fee in addition to the member price for the trip. SSAS members have priority when signing up for a trip in which the number of participants is limited.
- ⇔ All participants should register for the trip at least 2 days before the trip is to take place. This will allow the Special Field Trips Chairperson ("Chairperson") to have a good idea of the number of participants. This will also enable us to let the trip leader know the number of participants he/she can expect.
- ⇒ All field trip fees must be paid prior to the day of the event. This will allow the Chairperson to also enjoy the program, rather than collecting fees on the day of the trip. Accepted forms of payment are cash and checks payable to SSAS.
- ⇒ A participant that has not registered for a trip, but shows up at the field trip location, will be charged an additional fee above the advertised fee, whether they are an SSAS member or not. However, if the trip has a limited number of spots and the limit has been reached, they will not be able to participate in the trip.
- ⇒ If a participant does not show up for the trip and has not contacted the Chairperson 24 hours before the trip is to start, no fees will be refunded.

SAVE THESE DATES FOR FAHNESTOCK

Ann Marie Pozzini

SSAS's Mary Jane Russell has made arrangements to spend a rustic fall-foliage weekend at Clarence Fahnestock Memorial State Park, **October 9 & 10**. The cost of this outing will be \$60 for SSAS members and \$65 for nonmembers. The park and its Taconic Outdoor Education Center (where we'll stay) are located off the Taconic Parkway in the highlands of Putnam County, about 90 minutes from Long Island. Three meals pre-

pared by students of the Culinary Institute of America will be provided for all registrants (lunch and dinner on Saturday, breakfast on Sunday). We will be bunking in large rooms, so be ready to share your sleeping space with

so be ready to share your sleeping space with your fellow SSAS members and friends.

A \$10 deposit, payable to South Shore Audubon Society, will hold your reservation. Please call Mary Jane at 766-7397 if you're interested.

We must have 35 hardy registrants for this trip to occur, so check your calendars, round up a few of your birding/

hiking/leaf-peeping/outdoorsy friends, and plan on joining us!

Editor's note: Fahnestock is part of an Audubon Important Bird Area and consists of 11,000 acres of oak, hickory, and hemlock forest, with lakes and ten miles of trails. SSAS's first weekend there was in October 1998, which was before they added indoor plumbing to the heated/ electrified cabins. The official bird checklist says the following species and more are abundant or common in fall: Ring-necked Duck, Bufflehead, Turkey Vulture, Sharpshinned Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Ruffed Grouse, Wild Turkey, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Swainson's Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Cedar Waxwing, Yellow Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Blackthroated Green Warbler, Prairie Warbler, American Redstart, Ovenbird, Chipping Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Whitethroated Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, and American Goldfinch.



Elliott 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 summaries may be found at ssaudubon.org.

Feb. 22	Norman J. Levy Park and Preserve
Feb. 29	Hempstead Lake State Park (Exit 18, first
	lot south of Southern State Parkway,
	south end of lot)
Mar. 7	Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner
Mar. 14	Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
Mar. 21	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
Mar. 28	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Apr. 4	Norman J. Levy Park and Preserve
Apr. 11	Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner
Apr. 18	Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
Apr. 25	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)

VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR MONITORING OF BEACHED SEABIRDS

Editor's note: I received the following from Audubon New York's Legislative Assistant and Grassroots Advocacy Coordinator, Sean Mahar.

The NPS Gateway National Recreation Area (Jamaica Bay Unit), Coastal Research and Education Society of Long Island (CRESLI), and the Riverhead Foundation are teaming up with SEANET (The Seabird Ecological Assessment Network) to help perform important research via beached bird surveys. These surveys are being carried out to identify and record information about bird mortality along the northeastern U.S. coast. Data collected by

SEANET volunteers are used to examine the spatial pattern of bird carcass deposition and how it varies across time. Because regular monitoring of beached birds has not been done in this region, these surveys will provide baseline information about bird mortality, as well as help detect mass mortality events such as oil spills.

Seabirds are especially sensitive to petroleum and other pollution, because the physical properties of oil degrade

the insulating and waterproofing properties of feathers, and ingestion or inhalation of oil can also poison birds. Because there is a large amount of shipping traffic offshore, there is a great risk to seabirds from both large spill events

and small-scale discharges of waste from boats on a daily basis. Numerous other threats, such as contaminants, diseases, and offshore development, threaten coastal and marine birds, which can serve as indicators of ecosystem and human health.

Working with numerous nonprofit organizations and agencies, SEANET will be starting volunteer-based beached bird surveys throughout the NJ-NY coast this winter/spring. Volunteers walk a designated stretch of beach, generally a mile or two, at approximately the same time every month, once or twice per month. We provide a kit for each volunteer, including data sheets, a ruler, calipers, and latex gloves. Volunteers record location information, date, conditions, and, if they find a bird carcass, as much detail on the specimen as possible, including basic measurements and condition. Trainings on identification, measurement technique, and general protocol will be held for those interested in volunteering. If possible, volunteers take photographs of specimens they find, for confirmation of identification and for possible use in an Atlantic coast guide to beached birds that we are producing. If specimens are fresh enough, and we have identified a nearby collaborating facility, specimens can be collected for necropsy. We also encourage those volunteers with bird ID skills to keep track of live birds seen while doing the surveys.

If you might be interested in volunteering, contact Becky Harris (becky.harris@tufts.edu, 508-887-4933) for more information. Please tell your friends. The SEANET training workshops are listed below. If you or anyone you know are interested in attending, please let me (Becky) know which session will be good for you. You will be contacted to confirm the date shortly.

► Jamaica Bay Unit of Gateway National Recreation Area (NPS Headquarters): Saturday, March 13 at 10 A.M. or Monday, March 15 at 2:30 P.M.

► Dowling College, Oakdale Campus: Saturday, March 13 at 2:30 P.M. in Kramer Science Center, room 022 or Sunday, March 14 at 9:30 A.M. in room 027 (if necessary)

► Riverhead Foundation for Marine Research & Preservation, Aquarium: Sunday, March 14 at 3:30 p.m. or Monday, March 15 at 10 a.m.

NATURE TALES FROM A WANDERER A Stream of Guils

Joe Grupp

The second day after a big, ten inch, January snowfall, I pulled into the well-plowed parking area at the boat basin by the Coast Guard Station at Jones Beach. Dressed for the weather, I had come to see whatever there was to see and enjoy the cold, slightly windy, winter day; the inlet; and the snow-covered beach. Although there was not a single vehicle around, wide tire tracks in the snow allowed me to walk comfortably west along the inlet, until they gave out and then wind-cleared stretches of beach served the same purpose.

I looked for loons and found none, Long-tailed Ducks and found none. I searched the snow-covered dune area for anything alive and again found nothing. I pulled my hood a little tighter while letting my eyes scan the play of light on a beach that looked like arctic tundra. I felt the comfort of my own body heat that was trapped by my layers of clothing. The wind on my face reminded me that the day was cold.

I was not too far along when a seal popped up not far from shore. It held its head above the water and we looked at one another, or I assume it looked at me, and then in an instant it slipped under the water, not to be seen again.

A few gulls passed across my line of sight during my short observation, but

I didn't pay much attention to them.

The snow squeaked a bit as I walked, each of my steps producing a pleasant sound. I occasionally looked out over the inlet and began to realize that many gulls were passing by. It took another few minutes to realize that the movement of gulls was just about continuous and I stopped to observe them. They were flying very close to shore and most of the time very close to the water, so close to the water that I was looking down on the vast majority of them, and all were going in the same direction.

They appeared from around a small bend in the shoreline and they just kept coming as singles, in twos, threes, tens, twenties, even thirty at a time, forming a continuous narrow stream of gulls flying by close to shore. Occasionally, small groups were blown upward to two or three times my height by the wind they were flying against. Those birds rocked side to side a few times to gain control and then, with wings set, glided forward and down until close to the water again, using the force of gravity to their advantage on their descent. Their close-to-the-water and close-to-shore flight seemed geared to making their forward progress against the wind more efficient. From what I observed, there was probably a small updraft created as the wind encountered the shore at a slight angle and the birds were using it to their advantage.

I walked on. The birds continued to stream by. I stopped again, interested in their identification, and found them to

be almost all Ring-billed Gulls, with only a very few Herring Gulls mixed in. As they continued to stream by, their numbers began to intrigue me. I did a haphazard count of the birds that passed me in a five-minute interval while I walked and looked for other things to observe. Repeating the count three times, with some time between each count, and then doing a little math, I found that just about three birds passed me every two seconds.

The sun had dropped towards the horizon and its light had a slightly yellow tinge. The undersides of the few birds that I had to look up to see were a bright creamy white, as they were illuminated by the sunlight reflected from the snow. The sunlight falling directly on the top of the birds that I looked down on seemed to soften the grays of the upper wing and mantle, and brighten the leading edge of the wing.

I do not know where the birds were going. Perhaps they were headed for an evening roost farther down the beach. Perhaps they were being forced farther south by the stretch of below-freezing weather that we were having. I do not know if they pass by here daily in those numbers or the numbers this day were just a unique occurrence. I do know that while walking that beach for well over a half-hour that except for all but the last few minutes, when the sun was just about at the horizon, the gulls just kept coming from the east in a moving living stream as the light from a setting sun enhanced their appearance.

SIXTEENTH ANNUAL WATERFOWL SURVEY

The remaining dates for SSAS's 2003–04 Waterfowl Survey are/were **Saturday**, **February 21** and **Saturday**, **March 20**, rain or shine. Volunteers are welcome to participate. If you are interested in spending a full or half-day visiting 28 locations from Valley Stream to Massapequa Park with the main team, call Joe Grupp, Research Chairperson, at 481-4208.

Michael Sperling

As all but our newest members know, NAS slashed chapter funding in the 2001–2002 fiscal year and established a so-called "safety net" that was scheduled to be jettisoned this summer. In last month's *Skimmer*, we reported that the grassroots Take Back Audubon effort, which SSAS's board asked you to support, hadn't received enough proxy votes to achieve its goals at the December meeting of Audubon's Board of Directors. However, there's now a bit of unexpected good news — at its January meeting, the NAS Board voted to extend the safety net for another year, which means chapters will once again receive 50% of the funding they received three years ago. That still leaves the all-volunteer SSAS with more than a \$4000 shortfall from NAS and we will continue to receive \$0 for member renewals, but we were expecting to fare even worse.

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. Additional 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: From to							
Date	Time		No.	Date	Time	Species	No.
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				Submitted	l 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

A CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Americans Committed to Conservation

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED





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2003–2004 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

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; \$15 for students and seniors. Gift memberships help too; we can ask that non-local recipients be assigned to their own local chapter.

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

Donations to SSAS are always welcome!

NAME:
ADDRESS:
PHONE NO.:
E-MAIL:
Chapter Code R15 7XCH (South Shore Audubon Society)