

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Wendy Murbach

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

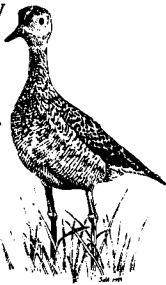
You are automatically a valued member of this active and friendly chapter, so please come out to the next meeting at the Freeport Library from 7:30-9:30 P.M. on the second Tuesday of the month to hear what you can do to help preserve your local environment's health and viability, to hear about local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

Whether you are a beginning birder or someone with a large life list, you will enjoy our weekly Sunday bird walks 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 the last *Skimmer* are:

- Baldwin Ms. Barbara Lotz, M. J. Segelken
- Bellmore Michael Vezzuto
- Bethpage Mary Lou Duckert, Marie Ernst
- East Meadow Daniel Pawul, Mr. Kenneth Pepe, Amand Widrig
- Elmont Keith Greco
- Farmingdale Robert J. Krapp, Ms. Diana Patterson, David Sundholm
- Floral Park Harriet Li, Gary Mc Avoy
- Franklin Square Carol C. Cassa
- Freeport Ms. Beatrice Zschocke
- Garden City Frank Verdone
- Great Neck Jacqueline Lucille Staller
- Hicksville Mr. Leon Gish
- Levittown Stanley Bergman
- Lido Beach Mrs. Muriel Tribble
- Long Beach Jill Friedman
- Lynbrook Paul M. Alexander
- Massapequa Mr. Edward Ostner, Barbara Richardson
- Massapequa Park ... Vera Bucalo, Eric Castiglia, Ms. Carolyn DeSoucey, C. Furness
- Merrick Mrs. Lorraine E. Davies, Justin Schwartz
- Oceanside Mr. & Mrs. Fanwick, Mr. Wilfredo R. Garcia, Wayne Garel, Mrs. Mary Vanderhoof
- Plainview Debra Silverman
- Rockville Centre Dolores R. O'Brien, William G. Schneider
- Stewart Manor Joan M. Bumstead
- Valley Stream Ms. Anna Borzuchowska, Ms. Dolores Eisenbraun, Helene Simnowitz
- Wantagh Paul Anthony Mazotta, Mr. Paul Rivadue
- West Hempstead Angela Bossone



AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP STATUS (800) 274-4201

Seed – Feeders
Houses – Baths
Books – Gifts

(516) 694-2180



WILD BIRD FEED BARN
WILD BIRD CENTER

"NEW YORK'S LARGEST WILD BIRD SPECIALTY STORE"

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



NATURE TALES FROM A WANDERER
Mental Wanderings and NYS Endangered Species

Joe Grupp

While doing some work pertaining to local population numbers of waterfowl, I came across a listing for the Pied-billed Grebe as I transferred numbers from my field notes to a more permanent record. The small, compact Pied-billed Grebes spend most of their time on the water and are usually found in very small (single digit) numbers, if at all, on the small ponds and estuaries in the SSAS area. Those small numbers caused my mind to wander to the fact that the species is listed as threatened on the New York State Endangered Species List by the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.

That list is divided into three groups: Endangered, Threatened and Special Concern. The Endangered and Threatened groups consist of ten species each and are as follows:

<i>Endangered</i>	<i>Threatened</i>
Spruce Grouse	Pied-billed Grebe
Golden Eagle	Least Bittern
Peregrine Falcon	Bald Eagles
Black Rail	Northern Harrier
Piping Plover	King Rail
Eskimo Curlew	Upland Sandpiper (pictured)
Roseate Tern	Common Tern
Black Tern	Least Tern
Short-eared Owl	Sedge Wren
Loggerhead Shrike	Henslow's Sparrow

In the SSAS area, in season, it is not unusual to see the Peregrine Falcon, Piping Plover, Short-eared Owl, Pied-billed Grebe, Northern Harrier, Common Tern, and Least Tern of the above two lists. From the nineteen birds on the Special Concern list, the Common Loon, Osprey, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, and Black Skimmer are also not all that unusual to see in season in the SSAS area.

My mental wanderings draw two conclusions. The first is not to take observations of these and the other listed birds for granted and really appreciate that which we are privileged to experience and see, even as we are actually observing the birds. The second is the need to be vigilant in the protection of the environment so that future generations may be able to make those same observations and more. It would be easy to let it all slip away.

BIRD WALKS
Elliott Kulner

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 and summaries may be found at ssaudubon.org.

- Jan. 29 Point Lookout Town Park, S.E. corner
- Feb. 5 Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner
- Feb. 12 Pelham Bay for *Owls* [pull over to street on extreme right after going through Throgs Neck Bridge toll (Pennyfield Ave.); meet at 9 A.M.; hiking shoes recommended]
- Feb. 19 Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner
- Feb. 26 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- Mar. 5 Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)



(516) 594-0300, Ext 11 Fax: (516) 594-0801

ARTHUR C. SNOW
Certified Public Accountant

41 Front Street, Suite 5 (Second Floor)
Rockville Centre, New York 11570
e-mail: mrblizrd@ix.netcom.com



*Explore the coast
with the*
**AMERICAN
LITTORAL SOCIETY**

NEW YORK AQUARIUM "BEHIND THE SCENES" TOUR (Sat., March 25). Meet 10 A.M. at entrance for 2-1/2 hour special indoor/outdoor tour. See sea otter, walrus, penguins, sharks, stingrays, sea turtles, seals, octopus, etc. Cost: \$20 adults, \$12 kids. Call Don to reserve.

FIRE ISLAND "SUNKEN FOREST" HIKE (Sat., May 20). Join naturalist Steve Finn for a hike along the boardwalk, maritime forest, dunes & beach. Cost: \$20 incl. round-trip ferry from Sayville & guide. Call Steve 631-821-2160 or Don.

JAMAICA BAY SUNSET CRUISE (Sun., May 28 and Sat., June 3, 5 P.M.). Join us for a special 3-hour narrated tour of the backwater marshes aboard 96' boat "Dorothy B VIII" out of Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn. Learn about the bay's history & ecology and see peregrine falcon, osprey, herons, egrets, ibis, oystercatcher, etc. Cost: \$35 incl. tour, wine & cheese, fruit, snacks. Call Don. Rain dates May 29 & June 4.

MONTAUK SPRING WEEKEND (June 9-11). Explore beaches, bluffs & "Walking Dunes" during peak orchid & heather blossom time. Activities incl. birding, botanizing, seining, tidepooling, star watching. Cost: \$325 incl. 2 nights at luxurious Manor House (heated indoor/outdoor pools, jacuzzi), 5 meals, 5 guided hikes, 2 evening programs, pickup at LIRR station.

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

PHOTOS WANTED

SSAS's publicity chairperson, Marilyn Hametz, has been receiving requests from newspapers for photos to accompany announcements of SSAS's upcoming events. So, if you have photos of local birds, SSAS events, or places where we have bird walks, please contact her at 799-7189 or marilynexpl@yahoo.com; you are likely to see your name and work in local papers. Digital photos (JPEG files) are preferred but not required.

PHONE (516) 541-2531

JERROLD AXINN, D.D.S., F.A.G.D., P.C.

*Member of SSAS since 1997
Special discount for Audubon members*

92 OCEAN AVENUE
MASSAPEQUA, N.Y. 11758

SSAS THANKS ITS YEAR-END HELPERS & DONORS

We'd like to thank the members who made year-end donations to us, two of whom held onto last spring's annual fund-raising letter for the purpose: Mary J. Ortlani and someone who preferred to remain anonymous.

Also, we'd like to acknowledge our Tackapausha volunteers who helped out at the tables at our annual holiday party for children on December 10: Alice Blaustein, Helen Buckley, Louise Leonard, Therese Lucas, Wendy Murbach, Chris Schmitt, and Michael Sperling. The live raptor program by Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary educator Corey Niederhauser that we sponsored was enjoyed by all.

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

The Great Backyard Bird Count, a joint project of the National Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, returns for its ninth season February 17-20, 2006. Bird enthusiasts of all ages can share their love of birds with a friend, child, scout troop, class, or coworker — opening new eyes to the joy of birding and the fun of creating a unique snapshot of winter bird abundance and distribution across the continent.

Everyone can participate, from beginning bird-watchers to seasoned experts. During the count, bird-watchers can tally up birds for as little as 15 minutes or for as long as they like, keeping track of the highest number of each bird species they see together at one time. People are encouraged to report birds from public lands and local parks, as well as from their own backyards. Participants enter their numbers online at www.birdsource.org/gbbc and can explore sightings maps, lists, and charts as the count progresses.

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

A CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
Americans Committed to Conservation

WWW.SSAUDUBON.ORG



U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 Permit No. 1181
 NONPROFIT
 Freeport, NY

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED



DATED MATERIAL

**2005-2006 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND
 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

- Michael Sperling, President & *Skimmer* Editor 221-3921
- Wendy Murbach, Vice Pres. & Membership 546-6303
- Laurie Luxner Raisher, Treasurer 378-4025
- Christine Schmitt, Recording Secy. & Educ. 887-7713
- Alice Blaustein, Corresponding Secretary 221-1870
- Jim Brown, Director (6/08) 432-8156
- George Peters, Director (6/08) 868-5480
- Kathy Asmus, Director (6/07) 631-205-1163
- Joe Landesberg, Director (6/07) 536-4808
- Betty Borowsky, Dir. (6/06) & Conservtn. Ed. 764-3596
- Doreen Remsen, Director (6/06) & Birdathon 764-5168
- Joan Butkerei, Conservation Legislation 593-1994
- Paul Butkerei, Wild Bird Feed Savings Day 593-1994
- Anne-Marie Conn, Electronic Communications ... 671-7685
- Joseph Grupp, Research 481-4208
- Betsy Gulotta, Brookside Preserve 546-8841
- Marilyn Hametz, Publicity 799-7189
- Enid Klein, Programs 561-0004
- Elliott Kutner, Birding / Field Trips 486-7667
- Therese Lucas, Environmental Festivals 221-3921
- James Remsen, Jr., Birdathon 631-957-0949
- Dolores Rogers, Welcoming 599-1224
- Mary Jane Russell, *Armchair Activist* & Hospitality ... 766-7397

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.

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

Donations to SSAS are always welcome!



Yes, I'd like to join: SSAS only National Audubon too

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NO.: _____

E-MAIL: _____

Chapter Code R15 7XCH (South Shore Audubon Society)

