OUTH HORE KIMMER

VOLUME 42, NUMBER 6 — SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

MARCH 2012

NEXT MEETING

John Gaglione

DATE: Tuesday, March 13, 2012

TIME: 7:30 p.m.

PLACE: Freeport Memorial Library

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

SPEAKER: Shai Milra

TOPIC: Bird Migration on Long Island

Long Island is an exceptional place to study bird migration, owing to its diversity of habitats and geographic position. This month's guest speaker will survey some of the many places on Long Island where migrating birds can be seen, with special attention devoted to shorebirds during spring, pelagic birds seen from land during summer, and the migration of hawks and many other species during fall. Bird migration occurs throughout the year on Long Island, and birders can deepen their appreciation of birds and their insight into avian ecology by looking for seasonal movements at unexpected times and in unexpected places.

Shai Mitra has studied birds in the northeastern U.S. and around the world for more than 30 years. He received a B.A. in biology from Cornell University and a Ph.D. in evolutionary biology from the University of Chicago. From 1996 to 2000 he operated a bird-banding station near the Fire Island Lighthouse. Currently, he is an Assistant Professor of Biology at the College of Staten Island, with research interests in the areas of avian ecology, evolution, and conservation. Shai is editor of *The Kingbird*, the quarterly publication of the New York State Ornithological Association; co-compiler of bird records for the New York City and Long Island region; chair of the Rhode Island Avian Records Committee; and co-compiler of three Christmas Bird Counts on Long Island and Rhode Island. Join us!

Pre-Meeting Program on Birds. Starting at 7 P.M. most months, Scott Oglesby expands our birding horizons in the room beyond our coffee-break tables. Topic suggestions for future talks are welcome.

Parking Lots. In addition to the parking lot adjacent to the library, there's a lightly used, well-lit, and fairly close municipal lot on the east side of S. Ocean Ave., on the near (south) side of the gas station that borders Sunrise Highway.

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; conduct research pertaining to local bird populations, wildlife, and habitat; and preserve and restore our environment, through responsible activism, for the benefit of both people and wildlife.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Social Turmoil and the Environment

Jim Brown

In recent columns I have addressed a number of environmental issues: hydraulic fracturing, global warming, bird collisions with buildings, and the possible closings of Tackapausha Museum and Preserve and Garvies Point. All of these issues really relate to human impacts on the physical environment and wildlife. Our needs for energy, and the ways we procure it, can negatively impact our environment. The way we build our homes and offices can adversely affect birds, especially the migrants. And the way we manage, or mismanage, the economy has a direct impact on our parks, natural history museums, and preserves. Human activity cannot be separated from the whole ecological matrix. It is always very complex. To illustrate this complexity: Our actions bring species to the verge of extinction. Other actions of ours attempt to save these very species that we have endangered. For example, we heavily use our beaches but at the same time create programs to save the plovers that compete with us for the sand. There are innumerable examples of environmentalists attempting to remedy problems created by us humans.

Tackapausha Museum and Preserve, a natural history museum and wetlands environment, has been impacted by human decisions. Nassau County, in economic receivership, placed under scrutiny by a finance authority (NIFA), has decided to back away from properly maintaining parks in general and Tackapaushain particular. The economy is bad and the environment seems to be the first thing that is abandoned. During the Great Depression of the 1930s, the national government created jobs that helped the environment. The Civilian Conservation Corps



was created to put people to work and create access to the natural environment for our people.

Not so today — instead, good people are laid off and the public suffers, as do our parks, preserves,

and museums. Where is FDR when we need him?

Citizens of Nassau County, many of them long-standing environmentalists, are now attempting to remedy the problems created by the current recession and the so-far lackluster attempts by government at all levels to solve the crisis. A fellow Nassau County resident and environmental educator recently used the word "apocalypse" to describe the current situation. The Friends of Tackapausha and the South Shore Audubon Society, always a "friend" of this beloved south shore institution, are now confronting this apocalypse.

The South Shore Audubon Society supports efforts to preserve our environment, and to bring environmental education to all of Nassau County, especially to the young. Tackapausha Museum and Preserve has long been key to the realization of these goals in the County, and we call upon our County government to continue full support of this important institution. During the turmoil of the 1930s, our environment and those hardworking people who took care of it received special attention because it was important to do so. We should do the same today!

ENVIRONMENTAL QUOTATIONS

Editor's note: Keeping Tackapausha in mind, I found the following in A Dictionary of Environmental Quotations by Barbara K. Rodes and Rice Odell (published by Simon & Schuster, copyright 1992).

"The conservationist's most important task, if we are to save the earth, is to educate." — Peter Scott, founder chairman of World Wildlife Fund, quoted in *Sunday Telegraph*, November 6, 1986

"In the end, we conserve only what we love. We will love only what we understand. We will understand only what we are taught." — Baba Dioum, Senegalese poet

★★ 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. 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.

O'Leary

Bellmore Vivian Devens, Karolyn Hertzberg, Deborah Tuccio

The Vozzo Family
Massapequa Park A. Mirtha Rodrigue
Merrick Suzanne Weinstein

Rockville Centre Judith Crane, Rosemary Lago Valley Stream Bertha Ballou, Jeffrey R. Smith Wantagh Kerri Dikun, Maryann Laronga

Woodmere..... Melvin Winkler

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COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP TIME

Betsu Gulotta

Thanks again to the much-appreciated support of long-time member Evelyn Bishop, South Shore Audubon Society is offering two \$750 Jerry Bishop Environmental Scholarships this spring to college juniors, seniors, or graduate students who are continuing their studies toward a degree in an area of biological or environmental science, such as wildlife management, forestry, animal behavior, ecology, marine biology, oceanography, mammalogy, or ornithology. Our annual college scholarship program began in 1994 and was named in memory of Jerry two years later. For information, call Betsy Gulotta at 546-8841 or send e-mail to gulotte@ncc.edu. Applications are due by April 30. Please help us spread the word.

PROPOSED COUNTRY POINTE AT PLAINVIEW

Five years ago, SSAS was part of the successful opposition to the proposed Old Plainview development on the largest piece of unprotected open space in Nassau County (over 90 acres of woodlands on a 143-acre parcel). The land is still owned by Charles Wang but the latest proposal comes from the Beechwood Organization, which owns Meadowbrook Pointe in Westbury, Arverne By the Sea in Queens, etc., and would buy the property from Wang. The following positive declaration appeared in the January 25 issue of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's Environmental Notice Bulletin:

The Town Board of the Town of Oyster Bay, as lead agency, has determined that the proposed Country Pointe at Plainview may have a significant adverse impact on the environment and a Draft Environmental Impact Statement must be prepared. The action involves a proposal by the applicant to develop the 143.25 acre subject property with 890 units of multifamily housing and 114,330 square feet of commercial space. The subject premises are situated in Office Building (OB) and R1 1A One-Family Residence districts, and currently contain quasi-municipal, not-for-profit, and recreational uses. In order to accommodate the proposed uses, the applicant has petitioned for rezoning to RMF 16 Multi-Family Residence, RSC 25 Multi-Family Senior Residence, and General Business (GB) districts. Relief from the dimensional requirements of the proposed multifamily zoning districts would be needed with respect to building height, maximum number of units per building, minimum distance between buildings, and minimum garage setback. Approximately 44 acres of the site would be dedicated to the Town of Oyster Bay for park and recreation use. The proposed development plan also requires modification of restrictive covenants which were established when the zoning of a portion of the property was changed to OB district in 1997. The project is located on the southwest corner of the intersection with Old Country Road and Round Swamp Road in Plainview.

NATURE WALK SCHEDULED AT MORTON NWR

John Gagllone

On **Saturday, March 31** from 9 to 11 a.m., SSAS will visit the Morton National Wildlife Refuge. Black-capped Chickadees and Tufted Titmice (pictured) greet visitors

year-round along the trail, with the **possibility to hand-feed** these curious resident birds. Black-oil sunflower seeds are a good source of food for



these beautiful birds. Northern Cardinals, White-breasted Nuthatches, and Blue Jays make themselves known by song and call, hoping for signs of spring. During spring and fall migrations, warblers and hawks can often be seen. Wood Ducks and Mallards use the freshwater pond we'll pass along the trail.

Established on December 27, 1954 through a donation by the Morton family, the 187-acre Elizabeth A. Morton National Wildlife Refuge boasts exceptionally diverse habitats, including bay beach, a brackish pond, a freshwater pond, kettle holes, tidal flats, saltmarsh, freshwater marsh, shrub, grasslands, maritime oak forest, and red cedar.

Join us! Wear comfortable shoes and bring binoculars to get better views of the wildlife we come across.

Directions: The Refuge's address is 784 Noyack Rd., Sag Harbor, NY 11963; phone number 631-286-0485. There is a small entrance fee (\$4 per car) for all visitors. Take Sunrise Highway (Route 27) to Southampton and turn left onto North Sea Road (County Road 38) toward North Sea for 2.6 miles. Turn right onto Noyac(k) Road and continue for 5 miles. The refuge entrance is on the left.

BIRD WALKS
Sieve Schellenger

All walks start at 9:30 A.M.; no walk if it rains or snows or temperature is below 25°F. Any questions? Call Steve at 987-8103. Directions and summaries may be found at ssaudubon.org.

| Feb. 26 | Massapequa Lake* |
|----------------|---|
| Mar. 4 | Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge |
| Mar. 11 | Hempstead Lake State Park (Southern |
| | State Parkway Exit 18 south, Field #3) |
| Mar. 18 | Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner |
| Mar. 25 | Mill Pond Park (Wantagh/Bellmore, north |
| | side of Merrick Rd.) |
| Apr. 1 | Point Lookout Town Park, S.E. corner |
| | (and Lido Preserve afterwards) |
| Apr. 8 | Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot) |
| *For Massa | apequa Lake (the southern end of Massapequa |
| Preserve), use | e street parking on westbound side of Merrick |
| Road, west o | f Lake Shore Blvd. |
| 040404040A | <u> </u> |

RARE BIRD ALERT (212) 979-3070

NATURE TALES FROM A WANDERER Corpus Christi, Texas Part I: A Few South Texas Birds

Joe Grupp

Wings brought us to Corpus Christi, Texas, but not wings with feathers on them. We were there for the ceremonial presentation of wings to a grandson of ours who had just completed flight training qualifying him as a pilot in the Air National Guard. In spite of ceremonies and subsequent celebrations, etc., there was the better part of one afternoon when there was nothing going on and that became our time to bird.

Having done our homework, we knew of a Blucher Park, a small park in the center of the city, and one of the parks on the Coastal Texas Birding Trail. Its bird list included a few species whose northern limit of their ranges is south Texas. Hopeful of finding one or more of those species, we found our way there.

The park was only $4\frac{1}{2}$ acres in size and surrounded by city. A deep vegetated gully had a sluggish stream flowing through it. The park's vegetation was mostly small trees, shrubs, and thickets, with significant open areas between groups of them. My first impression was not too favorable but by the time we left and having birded for only a bit more than an hour, we had a fair but small list of birds. The list contained four species whose ranges were far from home. Two of the four were new birds for me.

Two of the four species look very similar to species we see on our Long Island bird walks. One of those was a new bird to me, the Long-billed Thrasher. It is very similar to the Brown Thrasher (pictured) found in the summer on Long Island. I spotted it in a thicket where my attention was attracted to some leaves being scattered about; the

bird just jumped up from its foraging among those leaves and perched on a downed branch in the thicket, doing so most likely because it became aware of me. Immediately, even as the light in the thicket was poor, I knew it was a thrasher and it was different from the Brown Thrasher of

home. The color of its upper body was a deeper brown than the more rusty hue of the Brown Thrasher, and the stripes on its body were darker and their background whiter. The bill from which it gets its name appeared longer, but not excessively so, and heavier than that of the Brown Thrasher. As a species it has a rather limited range that extends into Mexico and whose northern limit does not extend much farther north than where we observed it.

Our second similar-to-home bird was also foraging on the ground in a thicket, and then flew up and perched on a nearby head-high branch where we got a good view of it. There was no doubt that it looked almost identical to the Eastern Towhee we see during the summer at home. A closer look revealed that it had a number of small white spots on its wings that identified it as a Spotted Towhee. The Eastern Towhee's wings are all black except for a single white mark on the edge of the folded wing. It is easy to see how, not too long ago, the Spotted Towhee, which ranges over a good portion of the west during the summer, and our Eastern Towhee were considered to be the same species, named the Rufous-sided Towhee. Today they are considered to be separate species that are known to occasionally breed together where their ranges overlap, producing hybrid offspring.

I got a second new bird that we occasionally heard call a number of times before we finally saw it. The call was distinctive and unfamiliar to us. Eventually we found it to come from the Great Kiskadee. This species is common over much of its range. That range extends south into Central America and beyond into all but the far western portion of South America, but only extends north into south Texas. The bird finally revealed itself by flying in and perching on the end of a branch of a tree on the slope of a deep gullied stream. Alert, it remained there for a while in true flycatcher fashion. Its colors were bright, and its black-and-white striped head, somewhat rusty brown back and wings, and bright yellow underparts made for a dramatic observation, especially as it was our first-ever look at the species. We had ample time to observe it as it went about its business, occasionally flying to yet another branch and even foraging on the ground for a time. Its diet is varied and includes insects, small fruits and seeds, and even small fish, frogs, and tadpoles for which it dives into water similarly to the way the Belted Kingfisher does. Unlike the Belted Kingfisher, it does not completely submerge itself when doing so.

A small flock of five Inca Doves was the last of our four species that are not native to our home area. They are small doves, light brown in color, and have a real scaly appearance due to feathers that have a narrow dark-brown tip. Having seen them before, I knew that a chestnut color on both sides of the wings and a long tail with white outer feathers give them an eye-catching appearance in flight. They are not flushed easily, however, and are tolerant of humans. I walked into the tangle they were in and they never took to the air, but in a lazy flutter of wings they just moved from branch to branch or waddled along the ground away from me as I got almost an arm's length from them. They showed no obvious fear of me at all.

We had seen other, more-familiar birds during our exploration, including a small flock of Field Sparrows, a Yellow-rumped Warbler, three or four American Crows, numerous Northern Mockingbirds, a Northern Cardinal, and a few others. There were also a few active smaller birds that were gone before we could observe enough of their field marks to identify them. It would have been nice to have identified them also but we left the park with a feeling of satisfaction, having gotten quality observations of the four species mentioned above, especially as two of them were new birds for me.

VOLUNTEERS FOR WILDLIFE (516) 674-0982

HORSESHOE CRAB MONITORING WORKSHOP

With funding from a grant from Audubon New York, New York City Audubon and Huntington-Oyster Bay Audubon Society will be co-hosting a horseshoe crab monitoring workshop on **Wednesday**, **April 11** from 7 to 8:30 P.M. The workshop will take place at the Cold Spring Harbor Library and Environmental Center, 95 Harbor Road, Cold Spring Harbor.

New York State's Department of Environmental Conservation has been systematically monitoring horseshoe crabs at various sites on Long Island for several years and is very keen to have Audubon members participate in this program. NYC Audubon has been coordinating the monitoring in Jamaica Bay for DEC since 2009, as part of its efforts to understand how shorebirds use the bay and to improve stopover habitat there. The workshop will cover all aspects of the monitoring on Long Island, including where additional assistance is needed. Horseshoe crab monitoring starts up in early May and ends in late June or early July.

All participants are asked to register for the workshop to ensure the room setup is appropriate and for catering purposes (a light dinner will be provided). The workshop is open to all Audubon members. Please direct all questions and send your registration information (name, phone number, e-mail address, and the name of your chapter) to John Rowden at New York City Audubon, jrowden@nycaudubon.org, 212-691-7483.

2012 GREEN PLAYBOOK

The 16-page 2012 Green Playbook: Advice from New York State's Environmental Organizations for the Governor & State Legislature consists of ten memos, six of which were endorsed by Audubon New York. It's posted at www.eany.org/images/Reports/greenplaybook_final_web.pdf. Fifteen organizations provided input into the Playbook. The memos' titles are as follows:

- 1 Protect New York from the Dangers of Fracking
- Invest in Solar Energy
- ③ Cut Climate-Altering Pollution
- Strengthen the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative
- **5** Invest in Public Transit
- 6 Rebuild New York's Environmental Agencies
- ⑦ Restore the Environmental Protection Fund
- Reduce Disposable Bag Use
- Fix the Brownfield Cleanup Program
- Require the Disclosure of Toxic Cleaning Product
 Ingredients

24TH ANNUAL WATERFOWL SURVEY DATES

The remaining dates for our 2011–2012 Waterfowl Survey, rain or shine on Saturdays, are **February 25** and **March 24**. Volunteers are welcome to participate in the surveys. If you are interested in spending a full or half day visiting up to 28 locations from Valley Stream to Massapequa Park, call Joe Grupp, SSAS's Research Chairperson, at 481-4208. A second team, led by Paul Butkereit, surveys the freshwater ponds in the Five Towns area.

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Steven W. Schellenger

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Explore the coast with the

AMERICAN LITTORAL SOCIETY

EARLY SPRING BIRD MIGRATION HIKE AT JAMAICA BAY REFUGE (March 31, 10 A.M. to 1 P.M.). We'll look for great egret, laughing gull, American oystercatcher, phoebe, osprey, more. Leader: Don Riepe. Free (with NYC Audubon). Contact Don. SHORELINE CLEANUP AT PLUMB BEACH, BROOKLYN AND DUBOS POINT, QUEENS (Earth Day --- Sun. April 22, 10 A.M. to 1 P.M.). Contact Don for details. Groups welcome. SPRING MIGRATION BIRD WALK AT JAMAICA BAY REFUGE (April 28, 10 A.M. to 1 P.M.). Hike around refuge trails

REFUGE (April 28, 10 A.M. to 1 P.M.). Hike around refuge trails to look for migrating warblers, orioles, tanagers, and many other species. Leader: Don Riepe (with NYC Audubon).

HORSESHOE CRABS & RED KNOTS (May 20, 8:30–11 A.M.). Meet at the Jamaica Bay Refuge visitor center. Hike along shoreline to view horseshoe crabs and shorebirds. Leaders: Mickey Cohen & Don Riepe. Free. Contact Don for reservation.

JAMAICA BAY SUNSET CRUISES (May 27 and June 17, 5–8 p.m.). Leave from Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn for narrated tour aboard the "Golden Sunshine." Learn about the history, ecology, wildlife & management of the refuge; see egrets, herons, osprey, peregrine falcon, terns, shorebirds, and waterfowl. Cost: \$55 incl. wine & cheese, fruit, drink, snacks.

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

UPCOMING SSAS EVENTS - SAVE THE DATES!

Saturday, April 21 (9–11 A.M.): Nature Walk at Sunken Meadow State Park

Saturday, May 5 (9:15 A.M.): Annual Central Park Bird Walk

Friday, May 11 (5 P.M.): Annual SSAS 24-hour Birdathon Tuesday, June 12 (6:30 P.M.): Annual Dinner

NEWS FROM FRIENDS OF JAMAICA BAY REFUGE

Editor's note: The following comes from the December 18, 2011 newsletter from Friends of Jamaica Bay Refuge, a coalition including SSAS that was started by Don Riepe of the American Littoral Society in 2010.

East Pond Update. Dave Avrin (Chief of Resource Management for Gateway National Recreation Area) informed me that a new duckbill valve has been put on the end of the pipeline and that they are currently working on replacing a corroded section of pipe. He expects that work will be completed before snow flies. Better hurry as we need to have it ready for next year's shorebird season. The tentative date for the annual "Shorebird Festival" is Saturday, August 25.

Marsh Restoration Update. The Army Corps of Engineers is moving forward with a plan to restore Yellow Bar Hassock, Black Wall, and Ruler's Bar Hassock marshes this coming year (2012). Sand placement is expected to be done this winter. If all goes well, I'll be looking for volunteers to go out on my boat (Jamaica Bay Guardian) to assist the Corps with planting of Spartina marsh grass on the new site. So far, the restored sites at Elder's Point east and west seem to be doing very well and it is hoped that these projects will slow down the relentless net loss of marshes in Jamaica Bay. As the DEP [NYC Department of Environmental Protection] upgrades the four treatment plants around the bay over the next decade, the amount of nitrogen coming into the bay is expected to be reduced by more than 50% (less than 20,000 lbs/day). This will greatly improve water quality and hopefully stem the tide of marsh dieback.

JFK Airport Expansion. I believe that this [mentioned in the April 2011 Skimmer] is pretty much a dead issue, as there is almost total opposition to it from environmental and other stakeholder groups around the bay as well as the National Park Service. It would take an act of Congress to push through any proposal to fill in parts of the bay, and it seems Congress can't agree on anything these days. The other airport issue is concern over the discharging of deicing fluids into the bay in winter. The father/son team of Dan Mundy, Sr. & Jr. (Jamaica Bay EcoWatchers) are taking on the state DEC over granting permits to the Port Authority for continuing this practice without knowing what the consequences are to the bay's water quality and marine life.

Gateway Management Plan. Gateway NRA will be undertaking a revision of the Gateway Management Plan

and we must make sure that our voices are heard when it comes to protecting and enhancing habitat. There are too many special interests out there seeking to develop Floyd Bennett Field and other areas of Gateway for active "recreational" purposes that may degrade natural areas and disturb nesting birds and other wildlife. This past summer, NPS management announced that it plans to put in 600 campsites at Floyd Bennett Field. We must insist that all natural habitats be protected and that any development be restricted to the area bordering Flatbush Avenue – as was voted on by the public attending the last meeting hosted by Gateway at the refuge visitor center.

To Mow or Not to Mow. That is the question... and the NPS needs to take a hard look at what, where, how & when they mow areas of the park. My view is that they need to allow much of the mown lawn areas to grow into wildflower meadows, thus providing wildlife habitat and saving them a lot of money, time & effort by maintenance staff who spend countless hours sitting on mowers, making the park look "managed," neat & clean (i.e., like a sterile suburban lawn). Since my last newsletter, the park has finally mowed areas around the West Pond, as they were rapidly turning into shrub thickets. Much more needs to be done, however, in order to keep the West Pond area open for wildlife viewing as is outlined in the refuge habitat maintenance plan.

Chimney Swifts. I'm concerned about these little wonderful insectivorous birds with specialized nesting sites. I'm going to suggest to the NPS that they put a Chimney Swift tower on top of the refuge visitor center or another good vantage point that may attract the swifts. It's really a nobrainer... I'll even pay for it!

South Garden Pond Proposal. In an effort to increase habitat and species diversity, a "Pond Suitability Study" conducted by Dr. Raul Cardenas of Polytechnic Institute for the NYC Audubon Society and Gateway NRA listed this area as a candidate for placing a small freshwater pond. A paper entitled "Management Strategies for Increasing Habitat and Species Diversity in an Urban National Park" (Cook, R. P., and Tanacredi, J. T., 1990) extols the importance of freshwater habitats to species diversity. Over the years, the East and West Ponds have become brackish and many species, such as Pied-billed Grebe, American Coot, and Common Moorhen, no longer breed there. The only true source of fresh water on the west side of Cross Bay Boulevard is the little artificial bird blind pond near the visitor center. This is fed entirely by a hose connected to the water fountain nearby. About year 2000, I wrote a proposal to dig out a low-lying area of Phragmites and create a 1-2 acre freshwater pond similar to Big John's Pond. I would like to push this project, as I think it would greatly enhance birding opportunities in the South Garden area, which is currently overgrown and neglected. ************************************

OUR WEB SITE (incl. online store) www.ssaudubon.org

SSAS BACKYARD BIRD SURVEY

For several years, SSAS's Research Committee has been conducting a study to document the bird species found in the SSAS area and to estimate their numbers. We greatly appreciate input from anyone that feeds and/or observes birds in their yard or neighborhood.

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.

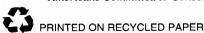
Please do not hesitate to submit your observations, even if you have been able to make only very few. WE NEED YOUR INPUT!

| Dates: Fr | om | to | | | | | |
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A CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Americans Committed to Conservation



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| Wendy Murbach, Membership | 546-6303 |
| James Remsen, Jr., Birdathon 631 | -957-0949 |
| Dolores Rogers, Welcoming | 599-1224 |
| Michael Sperling, Skimmer Editor | 221-3921 |
| | |

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

Option 1. You can join SSAS for a year by sending \$20 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.

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

| Yes, I'd like to join: 🗖 SSAS only 📮 National Audubon too | | | | | | |
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| Chapter Code C2ZR150Z (South Shore Audubon Society) | | | | | | |