

VOLUME 44, NUMBER 7 — SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

APRIL 2014

NEXT MEETING

John Gaglione

DATE:

Tuesday, April 8, 2014

TIME:

7:30 P.M.

PLACE:

Freeport Memorial Library

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

SPEAKERS: Rich Sanlangelo & Kerri Dikun

TOPIC: Be a Good Egg

The "Be a Good Egg" program's goal is to create public awareness about threatened beach-nesting bird species and the simple precautions that can be taken to help protect local nesting sites. It provides opportunities for people to help protect, learn about, and survey these species. In SSAS's territory, the program has been used in Jones Beach, Lido Beach, and Point Lookout.

Rich Santangelo is the "For the Birds!" Education Coordinator at the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary and Audubon Center in Oyster Bay; he has led bird walks in New York, New Jersey, Florida, and China (where he served in the Peace Corps). Kerri Dikun is the Long Island Bird Conservation Coordinator for Audubon New York and has held a number of positions focused on endangered species, including Piping Plovers and Least Terns, as well as species of concern such as Wilson's Plovers and American Woodcock. Join us for an interesting slide presentation.

Pre-Meeting Book Discussion. Arrive a half-hour early to participate in a discussion led by R. U. Abyrdar II (aka Paul Stessel) of the book that he reviewed in the previous *Skimmer*. This month's book is *The Ardent Birder: On the Craft of Birdwatching* by Todd Newberry and Gene Holtan.

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 RAINFORESTSI

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Spring and Earth Day: Enjoy, Celebrate, Study, and Act

Jim Brown

Winter is passing; I can feel it. Even though most of the local groundhogs predicted a long winter, I believe it is coming to an end and that it will snow no more. I dream on, perhaps deluding myself with undue optimism! Spring begins (began?) officially on March 20 this year and the first *full* day of spring will, of course, be the following day, the 21st. Similarly, the first full *month* of spring will arrive with April and that — for us here on Long Island — usually moderately warm and rainy month will bring us Earth Day on April 22.

The first Earth Day celebrations took place in 1970, 44 years ago. In 1969, peace activist John McConnell proposed a day to celebrate peace and the earth to take place on March 21, 1970, the time of the northern hemisphere's spring equinox. It is now known as Equinox Earth Day and is still celebrated internationally each

March. Another Earth Day was established in 1970, for April 22, by U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson. The April 22 date was picked primarily for its convenience for students, as the date did not conflict with springtime

exams or holiday breaks. The first April Earth Day was a nationwide teach-in at thousands of colleges, primary and secondary schools, and hundreds of communities across the United States. The earth was celebrated through a national conversation on the importance of ecology and environmental protection. April 22nd's Earth Day, like the March event, is now an international celebration as well.

Earth Day focuses attention on our planet, now significantly more threatened and at risk than it was in 1970. The extreme dangers presented by global warming and climate change were not viewed at that time with the alarm we feel now. The loss of habitat necessary for birds and other wildlife has proceeded at an accelerated rate. Many more

1

species of animals and plants face extinction today. Environmental health and diversity have declined since Earth Day celebrations were inaugurated by that optimistic group of environmentally conscious pioneers who organized those early Nixon-era ecology teach-ins.

We have advanced on some issues since the first Earth Day. The damage to the environment posed by DDT was recognized — the role played by Long Islanders in that battle was critical — and Bald Eagles, Osprey, and Peregrine Falcons were brought back from near extinction. Important laws to preserve the environment — the Endangered Species Act, Coastal Zone Management Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, Clean Water Act, and others — have been passed and are still in force today, though these living documents are often threatened like the environment they seek to conserve. It cannot be denied that our environment, and birds, which we Audubon members perhaps most treasure, are currently under extreme stress as we confront the environmental crises of the 21st century.

But a new season is arriving; spring begins! Let us enjoy the March equinox, the month of April, and the eventual return of the migrating warblers. As we appreciate the arrival of spring, let's celebrate Earth Day and make sure we capture and maintain the optimism of those 1970s ecologists, as we study our current environmental problems, formulate solutions, and act to preserve and protect our earth!



EARLY SPRING BIRD WALK AT JAMAICA BAY WILDLIFE REFUGE (Sat., March 29, 10 A.M. to 1 P.M.). Meet at refuge center and join naturalist Don Riepe for hike around ponds and gardens to look for egrets, ibis, osprey, oystercatchers, and many other early migrants, as well as wintering birds. Contact Don to reserve (with NYC Audubon).

SPRING MIGRATION BIRD WALK AT JAMAICA BAY WILDLIFE REFUGE (Sat., April 26, 10 A.M. to 1 P.M.). Meet at the refuge center and join Don for hike around ponds and gardens to look for spring migrants. Contact Don to reserve. HORSESHOE CRABS AND SHOREBIRDS AT JAMAICA BAY WILDLIFE REFUGE (Sat., May 17 and May 31, 10 A.M. to 1 P.M.). Meet at refuge center and carpool to Broad Channel beach site to see the annual mating ritual of the horseshoe crab and shorebirds feeding on their eggs. Contact Don to reserve either date.

JAMAICA BAY SUNSET ECOLOGY CRUISE (Sat., May 17, 4 P.M. to 7 P.M.). Join naturalists Don Riepe and Mickey Cohen on a special 3-hour cruise into backwater marshes of the bay. Learn about the history & ecology of the bay and see nesting peregrine falcon, osprey & many other bird species. Cost: \$55 incl. narrated tour, wine & cheese, drinks, fruit, snacks.

For information and free field trip brochure, call/write Don Riepe, (718) 474-0896, donriepe@gmail.com, 28 West 9th Road, Broad Channel, NY 11693; www.littoralsociety.org.

♣★ WELCOME NEW MEMBERS ♣★

Wendy Murbach

Our new members since the last Skimmer are: Bethpage Carmela Roscigno Cedarhurst Shalom Maidenbaum East Meadow Laura J. Lopez Farmingdale Patricia Mocia Floral Park Linda F. Chiesa, Arlene Malone Franklin Square Kathryn Bruchhauser Garden City Taylor Hare, Werner T. Ziermann Glen Oaks Dorothy Camporale Hempstead Georgia S. Laudani Lawrence Annegret Schoell Lido Beach Bernard & Judith Weitz Malverne Judith Alesse, Bette J. Herrmann Massapequa...... James Stubenrauch Merrick Lisa A. Tarricone, Jane Weisbrot Oceanside Anne Weinlich Miltenberg

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.

Wantagh Doris J. Nolan, Mary A. Weiss

Seaford Vinay Hathiramani

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.

MUTE SWAN MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

On February 28, the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation announced that it was considering changes to the original draft plan that sought to eliminate Mute Swans throughout the state. The DEC will schedule a second public comment period when the revised plan is released.

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PROPOSED REVISIONS TO OUR BYLAWS

Marilyn Hamelz

The last major review and revision of the South Shore Audubon Society bylaws was completed in March 2008. In the intervening 6 years, the financial relationship of the chapters to National Audubon has changed, as have the activities and programs of South Shore Audubon. Below are bylaw changes that have been discussed and approved by our Board of Directors. At the May 13 general meeting, these amendments will require approval of a majority of members in good standing to become part of our bylaws.

Article I: Membership is completely revised since there is now a South Shore Audubon chapter-only membership.

In Article III: Board of Directors, Section 7, the proposed revision allows more flexibility in situations where board members cannot attend meetings. Under the current bylaws, missing three meetings for other than physical disability leads to an automatic forfeiture.

In Article IV: Officers, Section 7, the time frame for the annual report has been altered to comply with practicality and reporting deadlines. The availability of this full report to members is made explicit.

In Article VII: Committees, revisions provide greater flexibility for the changing roles of chairmanships and committees. With the continuing role of management of Brookside Preserve and the pending addition of the Brooklyn Water Works Property, the Brookside committee has been made a standing committee. The revisions also recognize the importance of research, special events, and electronic communications, in addition to the other suggested committees in the current bylaws.

A copy of the current bylaws will be provided to members upon request to me at marilynexpl@yahoo.com or 799-7189. The proposed revisions are italicized below.

ARTICLE I: MEMBERSHIP

SECTION 1: Any person interested in the purposes of the Society is eligible for membership.

SECTION 2: Classes of membership shall be as follows:

- (a) Chapter-Only Member: Membership in South Shore Audubon Society chapter with a subscription to the Skimmer newsletter
- (b) National Audubon Member: Membership in National Audubon Society plus membership in South Shore Audubon Society with a subscription to the Skimmer newsletter.

SECTION 3: Annual dues of chapter-only membership shall be set by the Board of Directors of the South Shore Audubon Society.

SECTION 4: Membership dues shall be payable at the time of application and yearly thereafter. *Membership begins at time of application*.

SECTION 5: Should renewal of dues not be paid within six months after the date of expiration, the member in default shall be dropped from the rolls of South Shore Audubon Society membership.

ARTICLE III: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

SECTION 7: Any elected Board member or Standing Committee Chairperson who, unless physically unable, shall fail to attend three (3) consecutive Board meetings, shall forfeit his/her post at the discretion of the Board. A notice of this provision shall be sent to the

individual after the second consecutive meeting is not attended. In the event of such forfeiture, the President, with the advice and consent of a majority of the remaining members of the Board, shall appoint a replacement to serve until the next annual election.

ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS

SECTION 7: The Treasurer shall have custody of the Society's funds. He/she shall disburse the funds as may be ordered by the Board. He/she shall report to the Board of Directors at their regular meetings or as requested. An annual report for the period of July 1–June 30 on the financial condition of the Society shall be prepared by November. Such report will be provided to members upon request. A copy shall be forwarded to the National Audubon Society.

ARTICLE VII: COMMITTEES

SECTION 2: The President, with the approval of the Board of Directors, may establish any other committee or special task force. Such a committee or task force's term of existence may be terminated by the President with the approval of the Board of Directors or their term of existence will be the same as the Standing Committees, but the President and the Board of Directors must approve their existence annually at the September meeting. Any committee or special task force Chairperson may have the right to vote at Board of Directors meetings with the approval of the President and the members of the Board of Directors. Such voting privileges shall be renewed annually by a majority vote of the Board of Directors, excluding the votes of any appointed committees or special task forces. Such committees may include but not be limited to: hospitality, publicity, finance, research, special events, and electronic communications.

SECTION 3: Standing Committees of the Society shall be as follows: [Editor's note: Paragraphs regarding Membership, Program, Conservation, and Field Trip Committees are unchanged and omitted for space.]

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE: The President shall appoint a Publications Chairperson. It shall be the duty of this Committee to publish a bulletin or newsletter for the members of the South Shore Audubon Society. *The Chairperson will participate in the preparation* of any other publications helpful to the ongoing programs of South Shore Audubon Society.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE: The President shall appoint an Education Chairperson. It shall be the duty of this Committee to further the educational services of the South Shore Audubon Society and the National Audubon Society.

BROOKSIDE COMMITTEE: The President shall appoint a Brookside Chairperson. It shall be the duty of this Committee to provide the lead in the South Shore Audubon Society management of the Brookside Preserve

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JAMAICA BAY WEST POND PETITION

SSAS has signed a petition created by the Birders' Coalition for Gateway that urges the Director of the U.S. Department of the Interior and other officials to have Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge's West Pond "restored promptly to its original (pre-Sandy) freshwater state, so that its value to wildlife and the viewing public is preserved in this urban environment for current and future generations." You can view and sign the nine-point petition at https://www.change.org/petitions/sally-jewell-restore-the-west-pond-at-jamaica-bay-wildlife-refuge-new-york.

NATURE TALES FROM A WANDERER Ruddy Turnstones Earn a Living Turning Stones

Joe Grupp

Having an early morning appointment in Glen Cove, we decided to put binoculars in the car so we could spend an hour or so birding before returning home. It was an early March day but the weather was blustery like midwinter, with the temperature well below freezing. We knew of a few local beaches in the area of our appointment where the waters of Long Island Sound and/or the waters of a bay were visible and could be birded from a car.

The last stop of our exploration was on the side of a road, where we looked down, from a height of eight to ten feet, onto a stretch of beach along Long Island Sound. The wind was strong, blowing at us from across the water, and cold, which did not bother us as we sat in the heated comfort of our car. Gulls, a few ducks, and some shore-birds seemed to be just as comfortable as we were, as they rested, foraged, bobbed up and down in the rough water, or glided on the air currents provided by the wind that struck our small height of land.

Through our binoculars, we spotted a few Ruddy Turnstones among a scattering of Sanderlings near the water's edge. A few of the Turnstones were foraging, turning over stones and small bits of debris left behind by the last high tide or even small pieces of ice, as they searched for whatever food might have been hidden there.

We were just about losing interest when a nearby Turnstone caught our attention as it moved toward a dark round object, a little larger than a large marble, while it continued to flip stones, etc., along the way. Reaching the object, a strong flick of the bird's bill caused the object to fly a very short distance through the air and land upside down in the sand. An opening on the object's now-ex-



posed underside had a slightly orange, fleshy, slowly moving appendage centered in it and we then knew that the object was a fair-sized snail. The bird stood motionlessly for a few moments

before stepping toward it. Standing next to the snail, motionless again for a few moments, it then thrust its bill into the opening between the fleshy appendage and the snail's shell. It probed there awhile before removing its bill. After a pause, it repeated the process. Waiting for it to repeat the process again, we were surprised when instead of thrusting the bill into the snail's shell, it used its bill to flick the fleshy morsel out of the shell and through the air, where it landed a short distance away. Once again, the bird paused motionlessly for a short time before walking over and devouring the morsel of food that it extracted from the shell. A few moments later, it returned to the shell, probing its interior, most likely devouring whatever was left inside.

We then watched the bird continue its walk down the beach, turning over stones, etc., one by one. We thought the bird had just devoured a pretty large meal but apparently it was looking for more. Perhaps it was just looking for dessert. Regardless of the reason, Ruddy Turnstones do earn a living turning stones.



Lorraine Bondi

New York Agent/East Coast Agency Director We specialize in travel to Southern Africa. Contact me for your dream birding safari, photographic safari and the trip of a lifetime.

> lorraine@ntabatours.com; (917) 653-8430 www.ntabaafrica.com

SSAS COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS

Betsy Gulotta

Thanks to the much-appreciated support of longtime 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 email to betsy.gulotta@ncc.edu. Applications are due by April 30. Please help us spread the word.

BROOKSIDE PRESERVE SPRING CLEANUP

On **Sunday, April 13**, starting at 1 P.M., SSAS will have its spring cleanup at Brookside Preserve, rain or shine.

Brookside is a 20-acre freshwater wetland, woodland, and upland area owned by Nassau County that was rescued from oblivion and is managed by SSAS; the adjacent Brooklyn Water Works property, which was purchased by the County in 2012, is still in the process of being for-



mally added to it. PDF files of the trail guide and freshwater wetland guide for children that we published can be downloaded from ssaudubon.org.

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 or clippers if possible, and friends of all ages.

BOOKS FOR BIRDERS

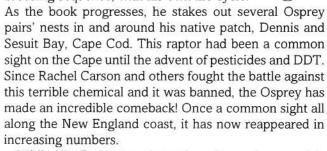
R. U. Abyrdar II

Did you know the official bird of Nassau County is the Osprey? In honor of this fact, I'll be reviewing the fascinating *Return of the Osprey: A Season of Flight and Wonder* by David Gessner. April is the time of year when the Osprey return from their winter sojourn in Central or South America, so this review is totally fitting.

This book describes a glorious six months of Ospreys nest building and raising their young on Cape Cod, the author's home territory. The Osprey is sometimes called the "fish hawk" or "sea eagle," and ekes out its living totally from the sea.

This very informative book is part memoir and part homage to a bird that almost became a casualty of DDT. The author focuses on the human collision over our

natural world. He writes with passion, humor, and respect for our pristine (not despoiled by human conduct) environment. He attempts to connect the lives of these Osprey, as he observes them in breeding sequence, with his own life cycle.



While Mr. Gessner explores the salt marshes near his home, he is fascinated with the fertility of these unique birds. He supplements this focus with citations from his own environmentally heavy reading. This book clearly illustrates how the Osprey commits to a single place, season after season. We humans have increasingly tried to interfere with this majestic avian commitment.

This book is a welcome addition to the natural history of these "sea eagles" of the New England coast. The author is quite adept at using textured anecdotes and graphic details to delve into the life and history of these raptors of the sea. The book is beautifully written, not only for learning about the Osprey, but also for learning about the human condition itself. As he trudges through the marshes, backwaters, and beaches of the Cape, he is all the while observing Osprey in their great recovery from the ravages of DDT. He teaches us how to "taste" nature and makes us want to take a very long walk in a very wild place. These messages are strung together using these Ospreys as glue. His overall message makes us want to know more. David knows his Osprey! Read it and ENJOY!



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 lists of what we've seen may be found at ssaudubon.org.

Mar. 23	Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
Mar. 30	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
Apr. 6	Point Lookout Town Park, S.E. corner
Apr. 13	Mill Pond Park (Wantagh/Bellmore, north
	side of Merrick Rd.)
Apr. 20	Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
Apr. 27	Marine Nature Study Area, Oceanside
May 4	Hempstead Lake State Park (Southern
200 mm	State Parkway Exit 18 south, Field #3)

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OUR FOURTEENTH ANNUAL CENTRAL PARK WALK

On **Saturday, May 3**, SSAS is planning to be in Central Park for our annual (weather permitting) early May morning bird walk, organized as usual by Joanne Del Prete (433-0739) and led as usual by Chris Cooper. In all previous years except last year, we've recorded 45 to 70-plus species in under three hours (31 last year, including an unusually low 6 warbler species). Save the date and check next month's *Skimmer* for details.

SSAS BIRDATHON

This year, SSAS is scheduled to conduct its 27th annual Birdathon. SSAS raises funds through the Birdathon by having members get cash pledges for each species of bird identified during a 24-hour period in May, when the spring migration is at its peak. Birding expertise and big pledges are not necessary; anyone can join an SSAS team locally for all or part of the time, sponsor themselves, and have fun while helping us find species, or you can do your own Birdathon anywhere.

Mark the dates on your calendar — **Friday, May 9** from 5:00 P.M. until **Saturday, May 10** at 5:00 P.M. The rain dates are one week later at the same time. Details will be in the next *Skimmer*.



South Shore Audubon Society's 43rd Annual Dinner Tuesday, June 10, 2014

At

Pompei Restaurant and Caterers
401 Hempstead Avenue
West Hempstead, NY 11552
(516) 485-8620
Cocktail Hour 6:30 PM
Dinner 7:30 PM

*

Honoring Mike Farina, Town of Hempstead Conservation Biologist

*

Scholarship Awards, Raffles and 50/50 Raffle

*

Dinner price \$38.00; deadline June 1

*

Hot and cold hors d'oeuvres during cocktail hour. Wine and soda, salad, penne alla vodka, Entrees: chicken, fish, beef or eggplant rollatini, dessert, coffee and tea. Cash bar.

Mail your dinner registration and check payable to South Shore Audubon Society, to South Shore Audubon Society, P.O. Box 31, Freeport, NY 11520.

Directions: Southern State Parkway t	exit 17N, north on Hempstead Ave. (1½ miles).						
×							
Dinner Registration Form							
Name	Phone						
Address							
Number of people	Amount enclosed						

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.

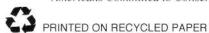
Please do not hesitate to submit your observations, even if you have been able to make only very few. WE NEED YOUR INPUT! **Town of Hempstead residents who feed birds should contact the Town about its new ordinance.**

Dates: Fi	rom	to					
Date		Species	No.	Date	Time	Species	No.
4							
				Submi	tted by:		
				Addres	e.		
				17			
				Phone	number:		
		44		Please	send to: Mr	. J. Grupp, Research Chairperso	on
					660	Edgemere Ave., Uniondale NY or	11553
					79	E-mail: Birdstudyjoeg02@aol.co	om

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

A CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Americans Committed to Conservation



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Sim Brown, rresident & Conservation	0-1440
Marilyn Hametz, Vice President & Publicity 79	
Joe Landesberg, Treasurer 53	
Arlene Rawls, Recording Secretary 71:	2-9514
Therese Lucas, Corresponding Secretary	
& Greening of Long Island	1-3921
Emma Carpenter, Director (6/16) 63	7-4901
Richard Kopsco, Director (6/16) & Brookside	
Preserve Co-Chairperson 82	
Mary Colway, Director (6/15) 88	7-0153
Paul Stessel, Director (6/15) & NAS Liaison 29	5-1137
Steven Schellenger, Director (6/14), Field Trips,	
Brookside Preserve Co-Chairperson	
& NYSOA/Young Birders Liaison 98	
Don Temple, Director (6/14)	0-1244
Betty Borowsky, Education 764	1-3596
Gail Brown, Hospitality	2-8156
Anne-Marie Conn, Electronic Communications 67	
John Gaglione, Programs	
Joseph Grupp, Research	
Betsy Gulotta, College Scholarships 546	
Wendy Murbach, Membership 546	
James Remsen, Jr., Birdathon 631-957	
Dolores Rogers, Welcoming 599	9-1224
great 01 (956)	

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 by joining Audubon through us for the same price that it costs if you join through NAS (we get \$0 from these dues 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.

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Yes, I'd like to join: ☐ SSAS only	☐ National Audubon too
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	(Zip+4
PHONE NO.:	
E-MAIL:	
Chapter Code C4ZR150Z (South Si	hore Audubon Society)
