

MEADOWLARK

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President's Message

Another interesting and busy migration season is upon us. But before we get too busy in the field, I would like to ask you to take some time to investigate several important effects on our avian and other fish and wildlife resources. When Congress returns from its summer recess, it will be working to develop language for a landmark federal funding bill that may provide, for the first time, dedicated funding for nongame fish and wildlife. The objectives are to help restore our coastal areas including the Great Lakes, acquire additional open space, and provide funds for wildlife conservation and management as well as public education. Section C of the bill incorporates concepts proposed over a year ago in the Teaming with Wildlife initiative. Money for these initiatives will come from royalties produced from off-shore petroleum production — money already going to the treasury. Language that would prevent further expansion of off-shore gas and oil production has been included in the bills.

In the House, the bill will be titled HB 701, The Conservation and Restoration Act of 1999. In the Senate, it is called the Reinvestment and Environmental Restoration Act of 1999 SB25.

You have heard me encourage you to investigate similar funding proposals before. Again, I want to encourage you to take the time to review these proposal and let your Congressmen and Senators know your views. Several of our Congressmen and Senators hold key leadership positions and serve on committees that must approve these measures.

If you need more information, please call me at 847-428-6331 during the day or Email Bmontey@aol.com. Please take the time to get informed and to write. In my view, these measures could yield great results for birding in the future.

Until next time, good birding, and thank you.

Bob Montgomery

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Black Skimmer illustration by Denis Kania.

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