Shawangunk Grasslands
National Wildlife Refuge

Represented by Members of Congress:
Senator Charles E. Schumer (D)
Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton (D)
Rep. Maurice D. Hinchey (D-22nd)

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Shawangunk Grasslands National Wildlife Refuge and Wallkill River National Wildlife Refuge are administratively complexed under Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge.

Purpose
The refuge is managed for breeding grassland birds and wintering raptors. It has opportunities for wildlife-dependent outdoor recreation and scientific research.

Public Use Notes
- Wildlife observation
- Wildlife photography
- Environmental education

Management Activities
- Restoring and managing 450 acres of grasslands
- Invasive species control
- Biological inventories conducted since 1999
- Developing partnerships with state agencies and non-government organizations to improve habitat, scientific investigations and public use

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March 2006

USFWS

Wood thrush

Highlights
Designated by Audubon New York as an "Important Bird Area."

Largest intact and protected grassland in southeastern New York; supports large numbers of breeding grassland birds and wintering raptors.

Visitors come from the tri-state area to view short-eared owls and other grassland birds.

Refuge opened for public use in spring 2000.

Issues
Comprehensive conservation plan (CCP) in final stages

Having no permanent staff hinders environmental education and public use opportunities

Illegal all-terain vehicle use and illegal hunting

Unauthorized land clearing and hunting by refuge neighbors

Model airplane flying was found to be incompatible in February 2002. Model airplane proponents continue to request congressional intercession to allow model airplane flying.

Impacts from soon-to-be developed town park may reduce grassland bird breeding success and reduce the quality of visitor experiences.

Development threatens the area's ecological integrity.