PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
Jonathan Staller

To quote a line or two from a 1979 song by The Kinks, a rock & roll band, “now I'm calling all citizens from all over the world, this is Captain America calling. I bailed you out when you were down on your knees, so will you Catch Me Now I'm Falling...” Now I'm not saying that you're down on your knees or that I'm falling, but I'm calling out to you, the newer members of the South Shore Audubon Society, to come out to our events, join a committee, volunteer, and become active. There are great programs that SSAS offers every year and some new ones: duck surveys, the Fall Bird Festival, Brookside Preserve, Greening of Long Island, annual dinners, cleanups, and many more.

South Shore is 30 years old and it took many years of teamwork from the board members and other active volunteers throughout the membership to make us grow into a healthy, well-respected environmental organization. We've accumulated vast amounts of information over years, which is used to help educate our children and reach out to the public of southern Nassau County, especially those stubborn elected officials. If you ever have a question on something, anything, don't hesitate to call. The phone numbers on the back of the Skimmer are there for a reason, not just to occupy valuable space.

Reminder: Earth Day is (was?) April 22nd and will be celebrated at Jackapausha Museum and Preserve on Washington Avenue in Seafood from 10 A.M. to 3:30 P.M. Please volunteer to lead a bird walk, or to lend a hand at the arts and crafts table or our information display. Please tell your friends and families to attend and let’s make this a wonderful day.

P.S.: Thanks to all my friends at SSAS for making my first year as president a great success. I couldn’t have done it without all of your support.

WEB PAGE www.audubon.org/chapter/ny/southshore

NEXT MEETING
Tom Torna

DATE: Tuesday, May 9, 2000
TIME: 8:00 P.M.
PLACE: Freeport Memorial Library
44 W. Merrick Rd. [at S. Ocean Ave.]
SPEAKER: Patricia L. Pelkowski
TOPIC: The Caribbean Connection

Our last monthly meeting till September will feature a program focusing on neotropical migrants, their wintering habitat in the Dominican Republic, and the effects that natural resource depletion in that country is having on its avian and human populations. Many of the wood warblers that are now returning to our area, including Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, and Cape May Warblers, wintered in the Dominican Republic. Tonight’s slide program was inspired by a trip organized by National Audubon Society of New York State and will also include some of the island of Hispaniola’s 26 endemic bird species.

Trish Pelkowski is the president of Smithtown-based Four Harbors Audubon Society and the newly hired Research Coordinator at National Audubon’s Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary in Oyster Bay. She’s been a field naturalist and environmental educator since 1989, and is the co-author of A Seasonal Guide to Bird Finding on Long Island, a spiral-bound 246-page book published last year by ECSS: Sweetbriar Nature Center. Join us!

Pre-Meeting Birding ID Class. Scott Oglesby’s topics for May’s 7:30 P.M. birding class will be vireos and warblers. Please bring your favorite field guide.

IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE WASTE, PLEASE
BRING COFFEE MUGS TO OUR MEETINGS

RARE BIRD ALERT (212) 979-3070
AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP STATUS (800) 274-4201
THIRD ANNUAL BOAT TRIP

Our ever-popular boat trip to the bay side of Jones Beach will be back on **Sunday, August 20th**, unless there is severe weather. Last year, according to a partial list compiled by Vince Puglisi, we saw dowitcher; Mute Swan; Ring-billed, Laughing, and Great Black-backed Gulls; Common Tern; Great and Snowy Egrets; American Oystercatcher; Double-crested Cormorant; Osprey; Black Skimmer; Glossy Ibis; Tricolored and Green Herons; and Semipalmated and Spotted Sandpipers. Your editor saw a boat named the *Executioner*, complete with pirate flag.

We have already reserved two boats this time. The *Spray* holds 49 passengers and has an air-conditioned cabin; the *Princess Evelyn* is about the same size but its cabin isn’t air-conditioned. The cost is $25 per person (including gratuity), and a portion of the proceeds will go toward South Shore Audubon’s many programs.

Departure time is 8 A.M. sharp and we will return by 2 P.M. Take Merrick Road to Guy Lombardo Avenue (one full block east of the Freeport Memorial Library) south to the Freeport Boatmen’s Association, 540 Guy Lombardo Avenue; allow a few minutes to find a parking spot in the neighborhood. For information and reservations, call Scott Oglesby at 798-4871 by June 30th. There will be no refunds for no-shows; please call in advance if you’re unable to attend so that we can invite someone on the waiting list.

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CONSERVATION REPORT
Threat to the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Betty Barowsky

You may be aware of the plan to create the “Rockaway Gateway Greenway,” a multiple-use road that would extend from Queens into the Rockaways. The “Greenway” would have passed through the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, introducing bicycles and other vehicles into this protected area. Not only would this have destroyed habitat, but it would have introduced additional traffic and noise into the heart of the refuge. A consortium of conservation organizations, with the New York City Audubon Society (NYCAS) prominent among them, persuaded the National Parks Service, which administers the refuge, to modify its plans, and to propose to construct a bicycle path that would follow the one that now exists on Cross Bay Boulevard. Unfortunately, their proposed path would still extend into the refuge (albeit along its edge). This is certainly an improvement over the original plan, but it would still destroy priceless wildlife habitat.

The Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge has been in the making for over 40 years. Most of it is not natural habitat (the entire bay is really *Spartina* marsh), but has been painstakingly developed by planting trees and shrubs known to be attractive to wildlife. At present, it has saltwater, freshwater, and woodland areas. In addition to its diversity, the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge is unique in being one of the few protected areas for native species in a large metropolitan area. So it offers spectacular birding experiences to millions of people within minutes of their homes. In addition, it is strategically sited along the Atlantic flyway and offers an important stopover for hundreds of bird species.

Who knows how many hundreds of thousands of birds pass through the refuge each year? We have seen seemingly endless numbers of Snow Geese (pictures) land; rafts and rafts of Northern Shovelers and Ruddy Ducks — and I will never forget being completely surrounded by hundreds of Tree Swallows dipping and swooping around us, even at waist level — all in total silence. It is a national treasure.

For heaven’s sake — there are bicycle paths all over the place; there is only one Jamaica Bay. So: we cannot accept the Park Service’s modified plan either. NYCAS has proposed an alternative plan. It has agreed to the construction of a multiple-use pathway on a portion of what is now the southbound Cross Bay Boulevard. This pathway would not intrude past the outer edge of the sidewalk that now exists, and so would leave all habitat intact. We believe that this proposal should satisfy everyone — create a safe bicycle path into the Rockaways for bicyclists and pedestrians, while saving the habitat of the refuge. We urge you to write to the Superintendent of Gateway National Recreation Area in support of NYCAS’s proposal.

Write to: Mr. Billy Garrett, Gateway National Recreation Area Headquarters, Building #69, Floyd Bennett Field, Brooklyn, New York 11234.

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BIRD WALKS
Elliott Kulner

All walks start at 9:30 A.M.; no walk if it rains. Any questions? Call Elliott at 486-7667.

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<td>Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)</td>
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<td>Aug. 13</td>
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**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

SSAS welcomes this month’s new members and again welcomes last month’s new members, whose names also appear below. We hope that you’ll become active members of our very active chapter — join us at a meeting, weekly bird walk, or special event.

[To receive an application for membership in National Audubon Society and SSAS, please call Skimmer editor and interim membership chairperson Michael Sperling at 541-0805 after 7:30 p.m., or send e-mail to msp@compuserve.com. Introductory membership is $20; $15 for students and senior citizens.]

Atlantic Beach ......... Edas Babusis
Baldwin .................. Ms. Carolyn Carroll, Ms. Agnes Fazzolare, Arthur Croeling, Mr. & Mrs. Simon Rosenzweig, Sharon Sjogren
Bellmore .................. Vic Ackerman, Gustavo Alford, N. A. Oihland, Joseph A. Senzatimore, Patricia Sheehan, Alberta Steiner, David Taylor
Bethpage .................. Ada Turnino
East Meadow ............ Elizabeth A. Peacock, Mr. Herman Tillem
East Rockaway ........... Lynn A. Friedman, Marianne Pearsall
Elmont ..................... Eileen Doyle, Mr. Michael Weber Farmingdale ............ Mr. George Bombard, Ms. Felicia Haran, Ms. Mary Jeavons, Jeffrey Mansfield, Phil Poynor, Mark G. Tynan
Floral Park ............... Isaac Bloch, Katherine Cocoaol, Jack Croake, Ralph & Carol M. Foster, Phillip Gribbins, Kathie Lovett, Robert P. Lynn
Franklin Square .......... Sylvia Jacobowitz
Freeport .................. Ms. Beatrice Zschocke
Garden City .............. Timothy Brosnan, Ms. Ruth S. O'Connor, Ms. Ellen Sackstein
Hewlett .................... Ms. Natasha Wood
Hicksville ................ Mr. K. Rice, Mr. Kurt Spiegel
Inwood ..................... Jack Leff
Levittown ................ Betty Hallbert
Long Beach ............... R. Fischer, Paul Garcia, Ms. R. Kaleko, Mr. Stuart S. Tremayne
Lynbrook .................. Mr. Jeff Allen, Alex & Evan Greif, Fred Shworn
Malverne .................. Mr. John L. Risedorf
Massapequa ................ Mr. Abid Ali, Laura Andracchi, Pamela J. Jatsko, Eleanore O'Sullivan, Edward L. Phippard
Massapequa Park ... Linda Lefkowitz
Merrick .................... Elizabeth Brannan, Stanley V. Cohen, Mrs. D. Dramer, Terry A. Sawyers

Oceanside ................ Mr. Howard E. Rubin
Old Bethpage ............ Linda Sarnow
Plainview ............... Copeland Bershader, Dorothy Biondo, Mr. Linga Raju, Mrs. Dominick Scotto, Mr. Jeffrey Tepper
Point Lookout ............ Robert Dorsee
Woodmere ................ Eugene Sanders

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PLOVER STEWARDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL INTERPRETERS WANTED AT JONES BEACH

The following comes from two flyers given to your editor by SSAS’s Annie McIntyre:

**Plover Steward Positions Available**

**Location:** Theodore Roosevelt Nature Center (soon to be opened at West End 1)

**Duties:** Monitor and protect state-endangered Piping Plovers, record data, install protective fencing and signs, seek voluntary compliance with rules and regulations through public education

**Minimum Qualifications:** Genuine interest in the protection of endangered species, good communication skills

Send Resume or Contact: Annie McIntyre, Theodore Roosevelt Nature Center, Jones Beach State Park, P.O. Box 1000, Wantagh, NY 11793; phone 516-679-7254

**Environmental Interpretation Positions Available**

**Location:** Theodore Roosevelt Nature Center

**Duties:** Conduct guided tours, marine programs, and nature walks

**Minimum Qualifications:** Demonstrated knowledge of marine environment ecosystem, good communication skills, ability to work with people of all ages

Send Resume or Contact: Gary Lawton or Inge Becker, Regional Environmental Education Office, P.O. Box 247, Babylon, NY 11702; phone 631-581-1072

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Seed - Feeders
Houses - Baths
Books - Gifts

**FEED & SEED 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

(516) 694-2180
SUMMER DAY CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS FOR DISADVANTAGED YOUNGSTERS
Betty Boalsky

This is the third year we will be sending children from low socioeconomic families in our area to the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary's summer day camp program. Our objective is to expose the children to nature and to the environment, and maybe have them learn a little about conservation. We are assisted by the Old Navy Company, which provides us with a bus and excellent driver at no charge; by the staff at the Sanctuary, which accommodates our time constraints; and by the school districts with whom we work, who identify qualified candidates.

I wrote about our experiences last year, but when | think
back on it, the thing that sticks with me most is the
enormous fascination and great interest that one little girl
had in the animals that the Sanctuary is rehabilitating. She
was fascinated by the big snake; she was especially fas-
cinated by the fox (and its pungent odor). She asked
question after question, and I knew
she was absorbing the answers.
But she already knew a great
deal about foxes and was sort of
expanding information in the fox-facts folder in her mind.
I do think she felt sorry for the caged fox; this is what we
want to foster, too. The other people who escorted the
children last year have other, similar good stories to tell.

On the other hand, another little girl who attended last
year did not like being wet or dirty, and had no use at all
for bugs. That’s OK. We’re not aiming at instant converts.
We’re aiming to intensify some children’s natural love of
the outdoors and perhaps prime the others to develop a
greater enjoyment as they get older.

This year we are expanding the program and hope to
send as many as 25 children. I already have received 12
permission slips. But the program needs help. If you can be
a chaperone for a few days at the end of August, or
assist us in any other way, we welcome the contribution.

Call me at 764-3596 to discuss this further. In any case,
have a great summer.

THE TENTH ANNUAL THANK-YOU COLUMN
Michael Spirling

I’d like to thank very much everyone who contributed
articles and info for this year’s eight issues (sorry, no room
for all your names), made trips to the printer (Sue Coppola,
Marna Harshorn, Brendan Kelly, Doreen Renssen, and
Dolores Rogers), brought Skimmers to Nassau Library’s
distribution center (Betsy Gulotta) and the post office (Sal
Navasarti), printed labels (Jackie Richichi), lent their non-
Macintosh computer so I could print dot-matrix labels
(sister Vicki & brother-in-law Evan Goldstein), printed
Skimmers (F&B Printers), and stuck labels on Skimmers
(mom & dad).

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR ELAINE BUTKEREIT
Gloria Cohen

There will be a memorial service for Elaine Butkereit at
the Freeport Memorial Library on Tuesday, May 23rd
at 7:00 P.M. Elaine and her husband Paul were long-time
members of SSAS. Elaine’s children include Peggy, Bobby,
and Paul T.; Paul T. and his wife Joan are past presidents
of SSAS and are still very active members.

In the late 1970s, when Elliott Knter was president
of SSAS, he asked Elaine to be education chairperson. She
took the responsibility on willingly and with me (present
member of SSAS) introduced ecology to the students and
teachers of the Freeport Public Schools.

We wrote an environmental curriculum and presented
our program to many teachers in Nassau County through
in-service training. The program was also presented at an
Audubon conference in Cape Cod.

Elaine had a love of literature and children, as well as the
environment. SSAS will be donating
environmental books for adults and
children in her memory. Donations
for additional books can be designated
for the Elaine Butkereit Memorial.

Please send checks made out to South Shore Audubon Society to Gloria Cohen, 905 Maple Lane, East Meadow, NY 11554 or call me at 489-2006.

Explore the coast
with the
AMERICAN LITTORAL SOCIETY

FIRE ISLAND “SUNKEN FOREST” (Saturday, May 20). Meet
at 10 A.M. at the ferry in Sayville for day trip to unique marine
forest on Fire Island. Hike the mile long boardwalk trail during
spring peep bird migration. Cost: $20 includes round trip ferry
and guided hike. Bring lunch and binoculars. Leaders: Nancy
Corona and Steve Finn. Call Nancy at (718) 318-8827.

ASSATEAGUE NATIONAL SEASHORE (May 18-21). En-
joy a wildlife bonanza on the Virginia coast. Hike trails of
Chincoteague Refuge and beaches of Assateague National
Seashore during peak spring bird migration. See wild ponies,
Sika deer, river otters, bald eagle, shorebirds, and many
species of waders and other songbirds. Cost: $275 includes
3 nights at Refuge Motor Inn, Safari Bus Tour of back dune
flats, boat tour of marshes, guided hikes, evening programs,
and “All-you-can-eat” seafood buffet on Saturday night.

MONTAUK SUMMER WEEKEND (June 2-4). 2 nights at
luxurious Manor House, 5 meals, 5 guided hikes, 2 evening
programs, canoeing, seining, LIRR pickup, more. Cost: $250.

JAMAICA BAY SUNSET CRUISE (Sat., June 10, 5-8 p.m.).
Cruise marshes & backwaters of wildlife refuge on 96' vessel
Dorothy B VII. See herons, egrets, ibis, oyster catcher, osprey
& many shorebirds. Cost: $35 includes guide, wine & cheese.

For information and free field trip brochure,
call/write Don Riepe. (718) 634-6487.
28 West 9th Road, Broad Channel, NY 11693
REMINDER: SSAS 13TH ANNUAL BIRDATHON!

James Remsen, Jr.

This year, SSAS will conduct its thirteenth 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 height.

Mark the dates on your calendar if you haven’t already — **Friday, May 12th** from 5:00 P.M. until **Saturday, May 13th** at 5:00 P.M. Rain dates will be one week later at the same times. See last month’s *Skimmer* for full details about joining our teams or doing your own Birdathon. (Need a *Skimmer*? Call or e-mail Michael Sperling.)

**IMPORTANT! PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING!**

First, in the event of questionable weather, I will decide whether or not to cancel the Birdathon by **3:00 P.M. on Friday, May 12th.** If you have any uncertainty about whether it will be postponed, please call me no later than 3 o’clock on May 12th. This may save unnecessary trips.

Second, **WE STILL NEED BIRDATHON PRIZES!** As we have done in the past, we wish to make everyone who brings in at least one pledge (spending yourself counts) eligible for a prize drawing to be held at our annual dinner. However, as of now we have very few prizes and we may not have a drawing at the dinner! If you would like to donate a prize, please contact me. Let’s reward as many of our hard-working participants as we can!

Birdathon Chairperson: James Remsen, Jr., 3264 Park Avenue, Oceanside NY 11572; phone 764-5168 after 8 P.M. Please note that I’m in the process of moving to a new address. However, all messages left for me at the above number will reach me. I can also be paged at (516) 517-7538 and a voice mail message left, if you have trouble reaching me by phone.

Mosquitoes, Birds, Encephalitis, and You

This part’s from Betty Borowsky: *Culex pipiens* is a household mosquito species that likes small, fresh bodies of water, and does very well in water in tires and bird baths. Birdaths should be rinsed out thoroughly every seven days to be sure to kill the larvae before they hatch into adults. See the “Nassau County Mosquito Control Program 2003” booklet for more tips; call them at 571-8707 for information or to report mosquito problems or dead birds.

This part comes from Jonathan Staller (whose article I’ve seriously condensed due to lack of space): Notify Dr. Tracy McNamara of the Bronx Zoo Research Unit, 718-220-7105, if you know of any communal crow roosting sites. If you come across any dead birds, use gloves, ice pack or cooler, and plastic bags and send them to the NYS DEC’s pathology unit, attention Ward Stone; include exact site and your name, address, and phone number.

THANKS TO THE HICKS VOLUNTEERS

We’d like to acknowledge the SSAS members who helped our chapter recruit new members by volunteering for table duty at the Hicks’ Nurseries Flower and Garden Show on March 18th & 19th: Gloria Berkowitz, Bill Boccio, Joanne Del Prete, Janice Howard, Theresa Lucas, Scott Oglesby, George Peters, and Michael Sperling.

BREEDING BIRD ATLAS VOLUNTEERS WANTED

The breeding distribution of all New York State’s birds will be mapped during the next five years by thousands of people surveying 5,335 blocks measuring 9.65 square miles (25 square kilometers) apiece. If you’re interested in helping to update 1988’s *The Atlas of Breeding Birds in New York State*, contact Regional Coordinator Ken Feustel at 631-669-0951 (in Babylon) to volunteer or visit www.dec.state.ny.us for details (click on Fish, Wildlife & Marine; then click on Wildlife).

SSAS Mission Statement — The mission of South Shore Audubon Society is to promote environmental education, and preserve and restore our environment, through responsible activism, for the benefit of both people and wildlife.

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.

FAHNSTOCK 2000: OCTOBER 14TH & 15TH

Mary Jane Russell

11,000 acre Fahnstock State Park in Putnam County is about a 2 hour drive from Long Island, just off the Taconic State Parkway. Maps and directions will be provided to those of you who need them and carpooling is encouraged.

The $65 cost for the SSAS weekend described in last month’s *Skimmer* includes five meals, a warm place to sleep (a cabin), outstanding scenery on the eastern side of the Hudson River, and great hiking trails. Call me in the evening at 766-7397 if you have any questions.

Please make checks for our return to Fahnstock payable to South Shore Audubon Society and mail them along with the following form to Mary Jane Russell, 2470 Foxdale Avenue, Oceanside, NY 11572-1727.

Name:__________________________________________
Phone Number:________________________________
Amount Enclosed/Number of People: $____ for ____
MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSON NEEDED!
Michael Sperring

SSAS needs someone to come forward and take over one of the most important positions in our all-volunteer chapter. The basic requirements are that you have a computer and that you can attend our board meetings (normally on the first Tuesday night of September through June); database and proofreading skills are a plus. The chapter will provide a dot-matrix printer (but our newsletter printer might start printing addresses directly on the Skimmers) and will pay for labels, toner, envelopes, etc.

Duties include responding to the occasional phone call asking "How do I join SSAS?" or "My membership didn't expire, right?" SSAS currently has about 1950 names on our mailing list, you'll receive monthly semi-proofread Chapter Change Reports from National Audubon that will list new members, address changes, and renewals, so be prepared to donate a significant amount of time in return for our gratitude, friendship, and recognition in the Skimmer. For more info or to volunteer, please contact me at 541-0805 after 7:30 P.M. or at msperring@compserv.com.

PLOVERS & Terns Need Volunteers
John Zandisky

Last spring and summer, the Town of Hempstead Department of Conservation and Waterways (TOH C&W) worked in cooperation with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Nassau County to help insure the protection and survival of Piping Plovers, Least Terns, and Black Skimmers along our local barrier beaches.

Nesting sites were identified and plover or tern signs with string flagging were established around each area from Point Lookout to Atlantic Beach. Where necessary, protective exclosures were erected around certain plover nests to exclude avian and mammalian predators. Conservation and Waterways also helped control cats through trapping, with those captured sent to the Town's Animal Shelter in Wantagh. The shelter's assistance was also sought in keeping dogs off the beach during the nesting season with patrolling and issuing of summonses for violations. Additionally, TOH C&W and DEC were able to have the dog runs established on the beach by Nassau County removed; they were inadvertently located near plover-tern nesting areas.

During the entire breeding season, nesting sites, especially for Piping Plovers (picted), were regularly monitored by state and town biologists to determine the number of pairs, nest success and productivity. Nest locations were plotted on Nassau County base maps using the Global Positioning System (GPS).

Audubon volunteers were particularly helpful on weekends to ensure that nesting areas were not disturbed and to record the presence of plover chicks and any incidences of predation. Educational literature pertaining to Piping Plovers and terns was distributed when necessary.

The results of the 1999 nesting season along the barrier beach from Point Lookout to Silver Point were as follows:

- Point Lookout/Malibu: 3 pairs of Piping Plovers produced 5 young, there were 265 pairs of Least Tern and 1 pair of American Oystercatchers.
- Lido/Nassau Beach: 4 pairs of Piping Plovers produced 3 young; there was 1 pair of American Oystercatchers.
- Town House: One pair of Piping Plovers produced 2 young.
- Atlantic Beach/Silver Point Cabanas: 3 pairs of Piping Plovers produced no young, there were 43 pairs of Least Terns and 1 pair of American Oystercatchers.
- Atlantic Beach/Silver Point Jetty: 4 pairs of Piping Plovers produced 2 young; there were 395 pairs of Common Terns, 34 pairs of Least Terns, a maximum of 79 pairs of Black Skimmers (152 nests), and 1 pair of American Oystercatchers.

Volunteers are requested to assist in monitoring and protecting these species in the Lido Town Park/Nassau Beach area and at Silver Point in Atlantic Beach again this year. Help is particularly needed on evenings, weekends, and holidays from May through August. If you're interested and are able to volunteer fairly regularly, please contact John Zarudsky, Conservation Biologist (and active SSAS member), at 897-4126 (work) or 486-5272 (home). In New York State, Piping Plover is listed as endangered. Least Tern and Common Tern are threatened, and Black Skimmer is a species of special concern.

REMINDER: SSAS WALK IN CENTRAL PARK
Joanne Del Prete

On Saturday, May 6th, SSAS members will meet NYC Park Ranger Bob DeCandido at Belvedere Castle in Central Park at 9 A.M. (unless it rains) to explore the lakes, ponds, meadows, forests, and the diversity of spring-migration species. I will meet you at any of the following locations:

- LIRR station in Massapequa (Broadway and Sunrise Highway). We will take the 6:58 A.M. train — which is scheduled to arrive in Penn Station at 7:55 and makes local stops through Rockville Centre;
- before 8:10 A.M. at Penn Station (LIRR Waiting Area); we will take the 8th Avenue subway's C Train;
- Belvedere Castle (mid-Park at 79th Street) by 9 A.M. I suggest you call me at 433-0739 if you want to join us at Massapequa or Penn Station so I can look for you.

Belvedere Castle can be reached at 212-772-0210.
**BROOKSIDE UPDATE**  
Michael Sperling

On March 22nd, after much negotiating and five drafts, SSAS and John Fischer, president of the Long Island chapter of Trout Unlimited, reached an out-of-court settlement in our lawsuit (our chapter's first-ever) against Water Works Realty Corp. and Nassau County.

We sued to protect Nassau County's 20-acre Brookside Preserve, which is managed by SSAS and is on the Freeport—Baldwin border just north of Sunrise Highway, from damage to be caused by a nursing home project on the preserve's border. Last fall, over our objections, the lameduck County Legislature sold an emergency access right-of-way through Brookside for $750 without an environmental impact statement or the State Legislature's approval for its alienation of parkland.

Although we were unable to change the dimensions and placement of the nursing facility (which means there'll be a 72-foot-high wall right on the preserve's southern border), we did gain the following:

1. reconfiguring of the parking lot so that it is no closer than 58 feet from Milburn Creek (rather than the originally planned 20 feet);
2. $70,000 ($20,000 followed by $5,000 per year for a decade, personally guaranteed by developer Gary Melius) for SSAS to use "solely for the mitigation of damages to the preserve as a result of the actual construction of the facility, and to repair damage to the preserve resulting from the artificial light, noise, and increase in shade caused by the completed structure, as well as to generally maintain the preserve, Milburn Creek, and the surrounding wetlands";
3. a conservation easement protecting 8,732 square feet between Milburn Creek and the parking lot (equal to the size of the right-of-way sold by Nassau County; however, the easement ends when Water Works Realty Corp. sells the property to another developer, which they were already under contract to do when we filed suit);
4. a commitment from Water Works Realty Corp. to entertain reasonable suggestions from us as to the location of waste receptacles and lighting.

**MAIN CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS**

Education Committee chairperson Suzanne Lancer and the rest of the SSAS board wish to congratulate SSAS member Mr. Peter Martin of Bellmore, a science teacher in the Oceanside School District, who is the winner of our adult scholarship to the Audubon Camp in Maine.

For the first time in the many years we've offered a full scholarship to the Youth Camp in Maine (for ages 10–14), there were no applicants and thus no winner.

**NASSAU COUNTY POLLUTION HOTLINE 739-6666**

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**NOMINATIONS FOR 2000–2001 OFFICERS**

At South Shore Audubon Society’s general meeting on May 9th, officers will be elected for our next fiscal year. All members attending that meeting may nominate candidates from the floor and vote. The SSAS Nominating Committee, chaired by Dolores Rogers and including Jim Remsen, has recommended the following candidates:

President — Jonathan Staller  
Vice President — Michael Goldsmith  
Treasurer — Nancy Frame  
Recording Secretary — Christine Schmitt  
Corresponding Secretary — Alice Blaustein  
Director (to June 2003) — George Peters  
Director (to June 2003) — Doris Pirosky

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**OUR 29th ANNUAL DINNER**

Shirley Kutner and Diane Singer have once again reserved a room at Pompeii Restaurant & Catering in West Hempstead for SSAS’s annual dinner, to be held on Tuesday, June 13th, starting with cocktails (open bar) and an hour of hors d'oeuvres at 6:30. Smoking will be prohibited. Pompeii is at 401 Hempstead Avenue (take Southern State Parkway Exit 17 north about 1½ miles).

Advance registration is required for this celebration of our chapter’s 30th anniversary (limit of 150 people); please enclose the following form with your $25/person check payable to South Shore Audubon Society and mail them by June 1st to Diane Singer, 118 Kent Road, Valley Stream, NY 11580-3316.

(NAME: ____________________________)

(ADDRESS: ____________________________)

(AMOUNT OF CHECK: ____________________________)

(NUMBER OF PEOPLE: ____________________________)

(NUMBER OF EACH MENU CHOICE:

Chicken Parmigiana ____________________________

Eggplant Rollatini ____________________________

Filet of Sole Arreganata ____________________________

Roast Beef ____________________________

or, if you prefer:

Broiled Chicken ____________________________

Broiled Fish ____________________________

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1999-2000 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Jonathan Staller, President .................................................. 516-482-7963
Michael Goldsmith, Vice President ........................................ 516-822-5272
Nancy Frame, Treasurer ...................................................... 516-520-9016
Christine Schmitt, Recording Secretary .............................. 516-887-7713
Alice Blaustein, Corresponding Secretary ..................... 516-221-1870
Sandy Brenner, Director (6/02) .............................................. 516-249-4919
Scott Oglesby, Director (6/02) .............................................. 516-798-4871
Therese Lucas, Director (6/01) & Environmental Festivals Coordinator .......................... 516-221-8654
Marcia Specht, Director (6/01) (to 9 P.M.) ......................... 516-694-8229
Michael Higgiston, Director (6/00) .................................. 516-538-8376
Judy Hoyer, Director (6/00) ................................................... 516-775-0159
Mike Andersen, Youth Representative ............................... 516-546-5352
Betty Borowsky, Conservation Legislation Chairperson ... 516-764-3596
Paul Butkeriet, Wild Bird Feed Savings Day ................. 516-599-0395
Joanne Del Prete, Special Trips Chairperson .................... 516-433-0739
Joseph Grupp, Duck Survey ................................................. 516-481-4208
Betsy Gulotta, Brookside Preserve Committee Chairperson .......................... 516-546-8841
Janice Howard, Hospitality Chairperson ................................ 516-420-9468
Marge Jaeger, Fund-raising Chairperson ......................... 516-536-9166
Elliott Kutner, Birding / Field Trips Chairperson ........... 516-486-7667
Joseph Lancer, Binocular / Book Sales (7 to 9 P.M.) ........ 516-536-6574
Suzanne Lancer, Education Chairperson (7 to 9 P.M.) ... 516-536-6574
Annie F. McIntyre, Educational Media Chairperson ........ 516-379-2206
Doreen Remsen, Past President ........................................... 631-472-6830
James Remsen, Jr., Birdathon Chairperson ....................... 516-764-5168
Dolores Rogers, Welcoming Committee Chairperson ........ 516-599-1224
Mary Jane Russell, Armchair Activist Chairperson .......... 516-766-7397
Diane Singer, Publicity (5 to 8 P.M.) ............................... 516-561-6118
Michael Sperling, Skimmer Editor ...................................... 516-541-0805
Tom Torma, Program Chairperson ..................................... 516-223-7947

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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