


SSAS will be contacting local civic organizations in an effort to create coalitions within our communities. Coalitions that will hopefully work to protect the open space that remains. If you belong to a civic organization that you believe will work with SSAS to preserve open space, please call or e-mail us with the information.

BIRD WALKS
Elliott Kulner

All walks start at 9:30 A.M.; no walk if it rains or snows or temperature is below 25°F. Any questions? Call Elliott at 486-7667.

- Feb. 25 Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
- Mar. 4 Hempstead Lake State Park (Exit 18, first lot south of Southern State Parkway, south end of lot)
- Mar. 11 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- Mar. 18 Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner
- Mar. 25 Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
- Apr. 1 Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
- Apr. 8 Hempstead Lake State Park (see above)
- Apr. 15 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- Apr. 22 Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner
- Apr. 29 Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)

Directions to Jamaica Bay: Southern State Pkwy. to Belt Pkwy. Exit 17 South (Cross Bay Blvd.). Go 4 miles and turn right at traffic light at Refuge's entrance. Meet in parking lot.



*Explore the coast
with the*
**AMERICAN
LITTORAL SOCIETY**

NEW YORK AQUARIUM (Sat., March 31). Meet 10 A.M. at entrance for a 2-1/2 hour "Behind-the-Scenes" tour of this Coney Island facility. See walrus, sea otters, penguins, sharks, sea turtles, stingrays, local & tropical fish, plus "Sparky" the Electric Eel! Total cost: \$15/person (\$10 kids). Call Don.

SUNKEN FOREST HIKE (Sun., May 20). Enjoy a springtime nature hike along the 1.5 mile boardwalk trail at Fire Island during peak songbird migration time. Cost: \$20 includes ferry and guided tour. Call Steve Finn evenings at (631) 821-2160.

ASSATEAGUE NATIONAL SEASHORE (May 24-27). Visit the Virginia coast and Chincoteague Refuge. See "wild" ponies, sika deer, river otter, Bald Eagles, shorebirds, many species of migrating birds & butterflies. Cost: \$280 includes 3 nights at Refuge Motor Inn, Safari bus tour, boat tour of marshes, guided hikes, evening slide programs & star watch, plus "All-Ya-Can-Eat" seafood buffet on Sat. night.

JAMAICA BAY SUNSET CRUISE (Sat., June 2, 5-8 P.M.). Learn about the history, ecology, management, and bird life of this 9,000 acre wildlife refuge. See herons, ibis, oyster-catcher, osprey, peregrine falcon, many shorebird species. Cost: \$35 incl. guided narrative aboard 96' "Dorothy B VIII."

For information and free field trip brochure, call/write Don Riepe, (718) 634-6467, donriepe@aol.com, 28 West 9th Road, Broad Channel, NY 11693

SSAS NEEDS HICKS HELPERS

Hicks Nurseries' Spring Flower and Garden Show and Horticultural Fair is a free indoor gathering of plant and gardening clubs, societies, schools, and organizations who share a common interest in plants, gardening, wildlife, and the environment. The annual event at Hicks (1000 Jericho Turnpike in Westbury) is attended by thousands of Nassau County residents and is an excellent opportunity to greet the public, share information about our chapter and its goals, and recruit new members for Audubon while enjoying the beautiful display gardens.

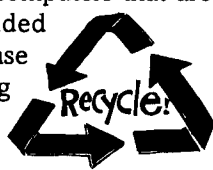
South Shore Audubon has accepted Hicks' invitation to once again have a table at this event. The dates are Saturday and Sunday, **March 17th and 18th**, from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. We need volunteers throughout the weekend. If you can do a half day or just an hour or two, it will be greatly appreciated! There will be a sign-up sheet at our general meeting, or you can contact SSAS director Therese Lucas (221-8654 or TKLWings@aol.com) and let her know which dates and times you can be there.

EARTH DAY AT TACKAPAUSHA

Tom Torma & Michael Spurling

Join the South Shore Audubon Society on **Saturday, April 21**, from 10 A.M. to 3 P.M. in a celebration of Earth Day. Some of the activities planned are fish printing, nature tees for children, nature and wildlife programs, and a recycle sale. The first 1000 visitors will receive a free white pine seedling from SSAS. Other activities will be announced. The usual admission, \$2 for adults and \$1 for children ages 5 to 12, will be charged to enter the museum. Tackapausha Museum is on Washington Avenue in Seaford, south of Sunrise Highway and just north of Merrick Road; from Sunrise Highway, Washington Avenue is three traffic lights east of the Seaford-Oyster Bay Expressway.

Items and Volunteers Needed for SSAS's Recycle Sale. Weather permitting, we will hold a garage sale in front of Tackapausha during Earth Day. All proceeds will be used to help replace the antique computers that are used by the chronically underfunded museum's youthful visitors. So, please start collecting items that you're willing to donate/recycle and bring them to Tackapausha on Earth Day. We also need people to help us run the sale; tables will be appreciated too. If you have any questions, please call Chris Schmitt at 887-7713 or Joan Butkerei at 599-0395 (leave a message even if Joan's answering machine just says something about business hours).



RARE BIRD ALERT (212) 979-3070

LOCAL BIRD SPECIES LISTS NEEDED

Michael Sperling

The drive-through-for-a-fee holiday lights show that was installed at Jones Beach's West End at the end of last year was a very unpleasant surprise to SSAS and everyone else who treasures the area's unspoiled and important wildlife habitat. Our Elliott Kutner was interviewed by *Newsday* and on the radio and voiced our displeasure, but we knew that we'd have to focus our efforts on ensuring that this won't become an annual event. We've obtained a copy of the contract signed by NYS Parks and the company that produced the display, and are filing a Freedom of Information Act request for details on the environmental review that was supposedly done.

While we were discussing this at a recent SSAS board meeting, Tom Torma pointed out that in order to prove that the light show discouraged birds from staying in the West End area, we need data on the bird populations that were there in previous Decembers. Unfortunately, such data doesn't seem to be available.

Therefore, **SSAS wants your data and wants everyone to start keeping records**, by date, of what they've seen whenever they go birding in undeveloped areas in our chapter's territory. If you have any data to share with us, please speak to Tom (378-4723) or send e-mail to me (mssperling@compuserve.com). Your data could help protect an area from being exploited by the state government, local governments, and/or developers.

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Betsy Gulotta

Thanks to the continued generosity of Evelyn Bishop, South Shore Audubon Society will be awarding two \$750 Jerry Bishop Environmental Scholarships to students who are college juniors, seniors, or graduates and who are continuing their studies towards a degree in biological or environmental sciences, such as wildlife management, forestry, animal behavior, ecology, marine biology, oceanography, mammalogy, ornithology, etc. For information, call Betsy Gulotta at 572-7575 (daytime) or 546-8841; applications are due by mid-April.

WE THANK THE HOLIDAY PARTY VOLUNTEERS

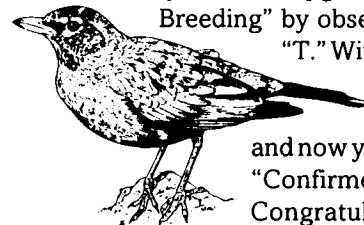
South Shore Audubon's perennial wildlife-oriented children's holiday party was held on December 16 and was quite successful. Drinks, snacks, and take-home mugs were donated by Stop&Shop's Peapod delivery service. Our volunteers included Alice Blaustein, Helen Buckley, Carole Jacobelli, Louise Leonard, Therese Lucas, Wendy Murbach, Scott Oglesby, Doris Pirodsky, Chris Schmitt, Marcia Specht, Michael Sperling, Tom & Jeanne Torma, and Karen Weinstein. Thanks everyone!

BREEDING BIRD ATLAS VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Starting last spring and continuing through 2004, the breeding distribution of all of New York State's birds will be mapped 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 more details. The web site includes lists of species that were reported in each block for the first Atlas.

The following comes from the first issue of the Atlas 2000 newsletter and was written by Valerie Freer of the Federation of New York State Bird Clubs (which includes SSAS):

Once you have your assignment, look over the map for your block, and select a place to go birding. Take your binoculars, bird book, Atlas Field Card, and Handbook for Workers. Find any bird, identify it, and check the Handbook for Workers to see if it is the breeding season for that species. Then just watch the bird. If it is a Robin pulling a worm on your lawn in May, you can record an "X" in the "Possible Breeding" category for Robin. If you watch for a little longer, you may see it vigorously chasing other Robins. Now you have upgraded Robin to "Probable Breeding" by observing territoriality, code



"T." With further observation you may see the bird carrying food for its young, and now you can record "FY" in the "Confirmed Breeding" category. Congratulations! You have confirmed breeding for one species. No further observations on Robins are necessary, although if you later see young in a nest, you can upgrade the code to "NY." The goal of your atlasing is to record the highest level of breeding for as many species as possible in your block(s).

Can you work on the Atlas if you are a beginning birder? Absolutely! Atlasing is an excellent way to improve your birding skills. There is nothing that says you have to know all of the birds in your block when you begin. You just have to be willing to make careful identifications and ask for help if you are uncertain. Please join us in this great project and see how much YOU can learn.

Seed - Feeders
Houses - Baths
Books - Gifts
(516) 694-2180



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Located between McDonald's & Dunkin' Donuts

GET YOUR FREE PERMITS

SSAS's Mike Higgiston reminds everybody that obtaining the free permits required for access to John F. Kennedy Memorial Wildlife Sanctuary (just east of Jones Beach) and Connetquot River State Park Preserve (in Oakdale) is an easy way of letting Town of Oyster Bay and New York State officials know that you care about these places and wildlife habitat in general.



To obtain a JFK Sanctuary permit request form, write to or call Edward J. Kennedy, Commissioner, Department of Parks, Town of Oyster Bay, 977 Hicksville Road, Massapequa, NY 11758; phone 797-4110.

The Park Use Permit for Connetquot (good for up to eight people) is available by sending a letter to NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation; Long Island Region; Belmont Lake State Park; P.O. Box 247; Babylon, NY 11702-0247.



BROOKSIDE PRESERVE HAPPENINGS

At press time, the Brookside Preserve Committee's next meeting was tentatively scheduled for **Tuesday, February 27** at 7:30 P.M. in Merrick (one week after this newsletter was expected to be mailed). At the meeting, we will schedule our annual spring cleanup, which will most likely take place on a Sunday afternoon before you receive the next *Skimmer*. For details on the meeting or the cleanup, please call Betsy Gulotta at 546-8841.

Brookside is a 20-acre freshwater wetland, woodland, and upland area owned by Nassau County and managed (and rescued from oblivion) by SSAS. 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). Bring gloves, rakes, bags, and/or friends (young and old) to the cleanup.



HOW TO AVOID UNWANTED NAS MAIL & CALLS

The following appeared in *Chapter Networker*, the quarterly newsletter sent by NAS to chapter leaders:

Did you know that several membership mailing options are available to chapter members? Members may request that: their name and contact information not be shared with outside organizations, no NAS mailings other than the magazine and one renewal notice be sent, no phone calls from NAS to solicit donations be made to them, and/or no magazine be included with their membership.

Members may request these options by contacting the Membership Dept., National Audubon Society, 700 Broadway, New York, NY 10003, or e-mailing chadd@audubon.org ("chadd" is "change of address").

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

Option 1. 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 a first-year bonus for recruiting you). If you'd like to become a member of National Audubon and your all-volunteer local chapter (that's us), please mail the following form and your check payable to *National Audubon Society* to South Shore Audubon Society, P.O. Box 31, Freeport, NY 11520-0031. The special rate for the first year is \$20 per household; \$15 for students and seniors.

Option 2. Brand new! If you're already a member of NAS and another chapter, or if for some other reason you don't want to pay NAS dues, then you can get on the *Skimmer's* mailing list for a year by sending \$10 payable to *South Shore Audubon Society* to the address above.



NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____



E-MAIL: _____

Chapter Code R15 7XCH (South Shore Audubon Society)



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 will be published in March, May, September, November, and January by South Shore Audubon Society, P.O. Box 31, Freeport, NY 11520-0031.*



UPCOMING SSAS WALK IN CENTRAL PARK

Early last May, several dozen SSAS members met at Belvedere Castle in Central Park for a spectacular bird walk led by NYC Park Ranger Bob DeCandido. Soon afterwards, Joanne DelPrete booked Bob for an encore that's scheduled for **Saturday, May 5**. We're hoping for a repeat of our luck last year, when we caught part of what was said to be the best weekend spring migration show in several years (over 130 species in two days; SSAS saw 20 warbler species, Scarlet Tanager, and lots more). As this *Skimmer* went to press, we were waiting for confirmation from Bob that the date's still okay, so please check our next newsletter for details and join SSAS's e-list in order to get those details sooner.

SHOW AUDUBON THAT THE GRASSROOTS MATTER

Michael Sperling

In recent months, there has been a series of decisions made by National Audubon's senior staff and Board of Directors that reflect a profound lack of support for its chapters and grassroots activists. Unless this is your first *Skimmer*, you already know that the chapters' dues share (previously \$5.50 per household per year) will be slashed by 25% this July and 50% the following July (under a "safety net"), after which NAS expects it to be \$1.30. And you already know that all chapter web sites were kicked off of NAS's server last fall. New to this equation is that in early February NAS killed dozens of issue-oriented and statewide-communication e-mail lists without notifying participants (including its own staff in some cases).

Also new is that NAS did not oppose President George W. Bush's nomination of Gale Norton as Secretary of Interior. On January 10, the following organizations sent a letter to U.S. Senators urging that they oppose the nomination: Natural Resources Defense Council, League of Conservation Voters (see www.lcv.org for full details on Norton's history), Defenders of Wildlife, The Wilderness Society, Alaska Wilderness League, Community Rights Counsel, Earth Justice Legal Defense Fund, Endangered Species Coalition, Friends of the Earth, Great Old Broads for Wilderness, National Environmental Trust, Sierra Club, Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance, and U.S. Public Interest Research Group. Both NY Senators (Hillary Clinton and Charles Schumer) did indeed vote against Ms. Norton, but she was confirmed anyway.

So why didn't NAS take a stand? It appears that NAS is trying to maximize corporate and foundation contributions to support its plans for state field offices and educational centers by minimizing support of environmental activism.

I've been subscribing to the Audubon Wetlands Campaign's free newsletter, which is being discontinued. The Winter/Spring 2001 issue has the following invitation:

"Audubon's Policy Division is improving our communication with our advocates. In 2001, we will have the following easy ways for you to stay on top of what's happening in conservation:

"Audubon Action — our new bimonthly newsletter with the latest information on legislation and other Audubon conservation efforts will be available via mail and e-mail.

"Audubon Advisory — our twice-monthly legislative update providing the latest news and information on all of our conservation efforts. In order to conserve paper and postage, it will be available via e-mail and FAX only.

"Population & Habitat News — our bimonthly newsletter focusing on population and its effect on the environment. It is available by mail and e-mail.



"All publications are free... Please call 800-659-2622 or e-mail audubonaction@audubon.org."

This is an easy way of reminding NAS that environmental activism is important to its members even if it's no longer a priority of its management. Please sign up.



30th ANNUAL SSAS DINNER PARTY

Shirley Kutner, Diane Singer, and Pam Rubin

Looking for something fun to do?

Audubon dinner gala is the place for you.

There will be delicious food to eat,

Hors d'oeuvres, chicken, wine, eggplant, fish & meat.

There will be music, singing, and games to play,

An auction, raffle, and door prizes to give away.

You'll meet old friends and some who are new,

You can enjoy the company of other bird-watchers like you.

Bring family, friends — everyone,

This evening promises to be joyous and fun!

Beautiful Pompei's Restaurant is where it will be,

June 12th, in the evening, at six-thirty!

Shirley Kutner (Pam's grandmother) and Diane Singer have once again reserved a room at Pompei Restaurant & Catering in West Hempstead for SSAS's annual dinner, to be held on **Tuesday, June 12th**, starting with cocktails (open bar) and an hour of hors d'oeuvres at 6:30. Smoking will be prohibited; wine and soda will be unlimited. Pompei is at 401 Hempstead Avenue (take Southern State Parkway Exit 17 north about 1½ miles). Join us!

Advance registration is required and there'll only be one more newsletter before the dinner, so please enclose the following form with your \$25/person check payable to *South Shore Audubon Society* and mail them 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 Francese _____

 Eggplant Rollatini _____

 Filet of Sole Arreganata _____

 Roast Beef _____

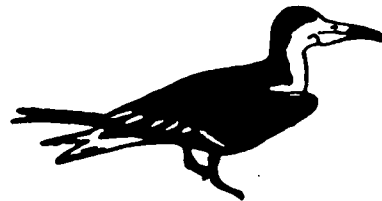


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P.O. Box 31
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