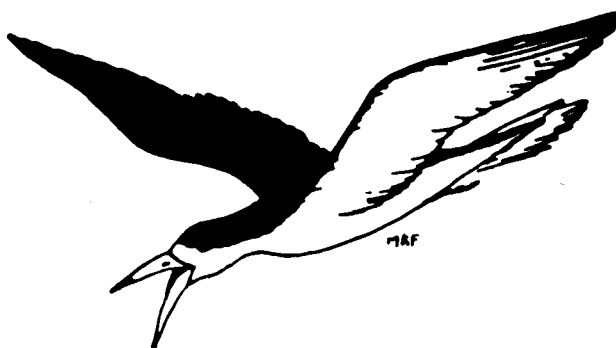


# SOUTH SHORE SKIMMER



VOLUME 32, NUMBER 5 — SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2002

### NEXT MEETINGS

*Tom Toma*

**DATE:** Tuesday, January 8, 2002  
**TIME:** 8:00 P.M. ☺  
**PLACE:** Freeport Memorial Library  
144 W. Merrick Rd. (at S. Ocean Ave.)  
**SPEAKER:** Robert DeCandido, Ph.D.  
**TOPIC:** Raptors of Asia

January's guest speaker is the Urban Park Ranger who has led SSAS's annual spring-migration visits to Central Park. Join us to learn about Bob's studies of the birds of prey on the other side of our planet.

*Pre-Meeting Bird ID Class at 7:30.* Arrive early at our general meetings and join Scott Oglesby as he helps us expand our birding horizons.

**DATE:** Tuesday, February 19, 2002 (not 2/12)  
**REASON:** Library's Closed for Lincoln's Birthday ←  
**TIME:** 8:00 P.M. ☺  
**PLACE:** Same as Above  
**SPEAKER:** John S. Brokos, FPSA  
**TOPIC:** Flowers My Way

This program promises to be filled with wonderful images of some of our favorite flowers. Included in the program will be wildflowers, cactus flowers, orchids, domestic flowers, and fantasy flowers.

John is a long-time friend of SSAS and the coordinator of our annual members' night meetings (which we're skipping in favor of this program, which was originally scheduled for 9/11/01). He was listed in the Photographic Society of America's *Who's Who* in 1984-85 as #12 in a ranking of the top 100 exhibitors in the world. He is the president of the Freeport-Meadowbrook Camera Club and has presented many excellent programs to us.

◆◆◆◆◆ IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE WASTE, PLEASE



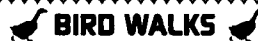
BRING COFFEE MUGS TO OUR MEETINGS.

◆◆◆◆◆ SHADE-GROWN COFFEE PROTECTS RAINFORESTS! ◆◆◆◆◆

### 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.*

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*Elliott Kulner*

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

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| Dec. 23 | Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)  |
| Dec. 30 | Season's Greetings — No Walk   |
| Jan. 6  | Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner   |
| Jan. 13 | Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner   |
| Jan. 20 | Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)  |
| Jan. 27 | Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge  |
| Feb. 3  | Pelham Bay for Owls (pull over to street on extreme right after going through Throgs Neck Bridge toll; meet at 9 A.M.) |
| Feb. 10 | Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner   |
| Feb. 17 | Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner   |
| Feb. 24 | Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)  |
| Mar. 3  | Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge  |
| Mar. 10 | Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner   |
| Mar. 17 | Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)  |
| Mar. 24 | Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner   |
| Mar. 31 | Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner   |
| Apr. 7  | Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge  |
| Apr. 14 | Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner   |
| Apr. 21 | Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner   |
| Apr. 28 | Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)  |



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RARE BIRD ALERT (212) 979-3070

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OUR WEB PAGE (incl. online store) [www.ssaudubon.org](http://www.ssaudubon.org)

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**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**  
**Jack and the Beanstalk Save the World With Genetically Modified Beans**

Tom Torma

Recently, the Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) presented an updated version of the fairy tale "Jack and the Beanstalk." This made for television "event" was filled with many hidden messages. While many of these messages could be considered positive, one message concealed a hidden agenda.

This weird movie presented Jack as a selfish individual who stole the Golden Goose. In the process he hurt many people; needless to say, this included a dead giant. To make a very long story short, a descendant of the original Jack returned the Golden Goose. He then used all the money he made from that goose and the multinational corporation he controlled to save the world. He used all his billions of dollars and his corporate power to develop genetically modified beans and other foods that would end starvation in our world.



In Great Britain, they use another famous tale to describe genetically modified foods. Baron Frankenstein was a scientist who saw fantastic opportunities if he could recreate a human being. He did not see the consequences of his experiments. Those who oppose genetically modified food have labeled these foods "Frankenfood."

Like Frankenstein, modern scientists and the corporations they work for push forward under the name of progress, but they have not considered the consequences of their efforts. Have they considered the effects of genetically modified foods on our environment? What could happen if the genes from a modified plant cross with its natural cousin? Will the new live plants be able to survive in the wild with the new genes? What effects will these plants have on the other plants and animals in the environment? The truth is no one knows what the effects will be.

Another myth is that we can drill our way to energy independence. The authors of this fairy tale include President Bush, who was a failure when he attempted to be an oilman. Another author of the administration's energy plan is Kenneth Lay, Chairman of Enron, the Houston, Texas based energy company. This man led his company into one of the biggest bankruptcy debacles in American history. The facts are that the United States' oil production peaked in the 1970s and has declined ever since. Drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge or off the coast of Florida will not change that.

Other myths include that nuclear power is safe. Yet we worry about terrorists hitting a nuclear power plant. We are told that replanted monoculture forest is the same as a natural forest and that forestry corporations plant three trees for every tree they cut down. They don't mention

that those three trees occupy the same space as one tree in a natural forest.

As we watch our televisions, listen to our radios, or read the newspapers, we must be careful. The President speaks from his bully pulpit, using press conferences, town meetings, and speeches to promote his myths. We are bombarded with advertisements, entertainment programs, and so-called news reports that promote myths and fairy tales. A better story is one based on conservation that will lead us to a sustainable economy — a story not being presented to the public.

Seed - Feeders  
Houses - Baths  
Books - Gifts

(516) 694-2180



**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

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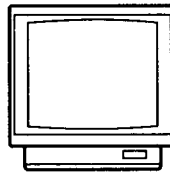
**SSAS ON TV!**

Michael Goldsmith

SSAS is proud to announce the premiere of its very own television show, "Birding on Long Island."

The half-hour show will begin its initial 13 week run on Cablevision's public access channel 71, and will air on Saturdays at 4 P.M. and be repeated on Tuesdays at 10 A.M.

The show will debut on Saturday, January 5 and will feature footage of raptor banding at Robert Moses State Park, starring Trish Pelkowski of the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary. This episode will co-star volunteers Sarah Karpanty and Lorraine Bondi-Goldsmith. Viewers will be treated to the capture and release of two Merlins.



We hope that the show (which I produced) will be entertaining as well as educational. Future episodes will explore conservation issues, present interesting speakers, and, of course, highlight the beautiful birds that inhabit Long Island. Anyone with the basic Cablevision package should be able to watch the show, which we hope to make a permanent fixture on local television.

OUR E-LIST [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ssas\\_list](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ssas_list)

**CITIZEN SCIENCE:  
YOU CAN PARTICIPATE!**

*Joe Grupp*

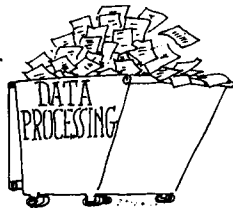
The SSAS Research Committee, formerly known as the Duck Survey Committee, has expanded its collection of data beyond that of the annual Duck Survey which is now in its 14th year. This expansion will contribute to the biological record of the species of birds that utilize various locations within the SSAS area. There are three phases to this program:

*Phase One* — the recording of the species seen on our bird walks, a process already underway;

*Phase Two* — the collection of data from anyone who goes on individual bird walks and from anyone who would like to list the birds seen at their bird feeder;

*Phase Three* — the collection of data by formalized teams at specific locations on specific dates.

If you would like to participate in Phase Two by sharing your observations in the field or at your feeder, please contact me at 481-4208. We need your input for Phase Two to be a success.



**Citizen Science: Be a Participant!**

**DUCK SURVEY HELPERS WANTED**

Joe Grupp is looking for volunteers willing to spend a half day or full day viewing and learning about our waterfowl at some or all of the 28 locations from Valley Stream to Massapequa Park that his team surveys each winter. If you're interested, please call him at 481-4208. Surveys will take place on **January 5, February 2 & 23, and March 23**, rain or shine.

**GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT**

People of all ages and backgrounds can help monitor bird populations by participating in the 5th annual Great Backyard Bird Count on **February 15-18**.

A project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society, the GBBC asks people to count the highest number of each bird species seen at one time (to ensure the birds are not counted more than once) at feeders, local parks, schoolyards, and other areas during any or all of the four count days. Keep track of the amount of time spent counting. When you're done, visit [www.birdsource.org](http://www.birdsource.org) and click on "New York" for a species checklist to fill out; there's no fee or registration. Findings from previous years are also available at BirdSource.

NASSAU COUNTY POLLUTION HOTLINE 739-6666

AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP STATUS (800) 274-4201

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

*Wendy Murbach*

One of the wonderful perks that you get from an Audubon membership is the chance to be a part of your local Audubon chapter, South Shore Audubon Society.

You are warmly invited to be an active participant in our vibrant all-volunteer organization, comprised of persons who, like you, care about the earth we live on, about our local environment, and about the creatures that live alongside us. Check out the free events that are mentioned in this *Skimmer*. Attend them yourself, and bring your family and friends too.

Our new members since the last *Skimmer* are:

- Baldwin ..... Andrew J. Clarke, F. Petrovec
- Bethpage ..... Christine Sarnicola
- Elmont ..... Doris Ruiz
- Farmingdale ..... Richard Hatfield
- Hempstead ..... Charles G. Vocke
- Long Beach ..... Becky & Peter Goodman,  
Elizabeth A. Mesca
- Massapequa Park ..... Michael Romano
- Oceanside ..... Jennifer Orandello,  
Sheryl Tomack
- Old Bethpage ..... Claire Salant
- Seaford ..... Maria Tepedino
- West Hempstead ..... Ms Patricia Cohen,  
David Hoppe



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

**NEW YEAR'S DAY BEACH WALK** (Jan. 1). A long-standing tradition is to hike the beaches in NY and NJ to start off the New Year. Meet 10 A.M. at one of the following locations: Fort Tilden, Breezy Point (free champagne, coffee & cookies); West End 2 parking lot at Jones Beach; or Sandy Hook, NJ. Free. Call Don.

**MONTAUK WINTER WEEKEND** (Jan. 11-13). Visit the eastern tip of Long Island during quiet time and peak winter birding. See thousands of waterfowl, including loons, mergansers, eiders, scoters, and goldeneye, as well as lots of seals. Cost: \$275 includes 2 nights at the luxurious Manor House (heated pool, Jacuzzi, spacious lobby), 5 meals, 5 guided hikes, 2 evening programs, and star watch.

**FIRE ISLAND WILDERNESS HIKE** (Saturday, Feb. 2). Meet at 10 A.M. at the Otis Pike Visitor Center for a 7 mile nature hike to Bellport Beach & back. Call ranger Steve Finn for info & reservations, (631) 821-2160.

**ICELAND** (Aug. 2-12). Visit unspoiled land of glaciers, waterfalls, bird cliffs, and volcanic formations. Leaders: Don Riepe, Rob Villani.

**MOROCCO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 7). Enjoy exotic Moorish & Berber culture in North Africa's richest birding area.

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

**2001-2002 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

Tom Torma, President .....	378-4723
Michael Goldsmith, Vice President .....	822-5272
Nancy Frame, Treasurer .....	520-9016
Sal Navasaitis, Recording Secretary .....	781-0633
Alice Blaustein, Corresponding Secretary .....	221-1870
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Doris Pirodsky, Director (6/03) .....	378-1790
Sandy Brenner, Director (6/02) .....	249-4919
Scott Oglesby, Director (6/02) .....	798-4871
Betty Borowsky, Conservation Education .....	764-3596
Joan Butkerei, Conservation Legislation .....	599-0395
Paul Butkerei, Wild Bird Feed Savings Day .....	599-0395
Michele DeCaprio, Youth Representative .....	707-7698
Joseph Grupp, Research .....	481-4208
Betsy Gulotta, Brookside Preserve .....	546-8841
Marge Jaeger, Fund-raising .....	536-9166
Elliott Kutner, Birding / Field Trips .....	486-7667
Therese Lucas, Environmental Festivals .....	221-8654
Annie F. McIntyre, Educational Media .....	379-2206
Wendy Murbach, Membership .....	546-6303
Doreen Remsen, Birdathon .....	887-6150
James Remsen, Jr., Birdathon (pager) .....	517-7538
Dolores Rogers, Welcoming .....	599-1224
Mary Jane Russell, <i>Armchair Activist</i> .....	766-7397
Christine Schmitt, Education .....	887-7713
Diane Singer, Publicity (5 to 8 P.M.) .....	561-6118
Michael Sperling, <i>Skimmer</i> Editor .....	541-0805
Jonathan Staller, Hospitality Chairperson .....	482-7963

**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, please mail the following form and your check payable to **National Audubon Society** to us at 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. Gift memberships help too; we will ask that non-local recipients be assigned to their own local chapter if you prefer.

*Option 2.* You can subscribe to the *Skimmer* for a year by sending \$10 payable to **South Shore Audubon Society** to us at the address above.

*Renewing?* Please send NAS renewals directly to NAS.



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NO.: \_\_\_\_\_

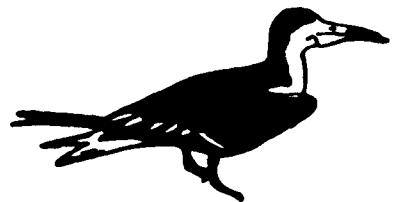
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**South Shore Audubon Society  
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