OUTH HORE KIMMER

VOLUME 33, NUMBER 1 — SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER 2002

NEXT MEETING

Tom Torma

DATE: Tuesday, September 10, 2002

TIME: 8:00 p.m. ②

PLACE: Freeport Memorial Library

144 W. Merrick Rd. (at 5. Ocean Ave.)

SPEAKER: Reva Tucker

TOPIC: Bulterfly Gardening

Butterflies are among the most beautiful creatures on the planet. You can enjoy them in your own backyard by planting a butterfly garden. Reva Tucker will tell us how to plan such a garden, including which flowers and larval plants can be considered. We will also learn about other ways to attract butterflies. Other subjects to be discussed include butterfly predation and pesticides.

Reva Tucker is a Cornell Cooperative Extension Master Gardener, a docent at Sweetbriar Nature Center, and a nature photographer. Her home garden has been certified as a Backyard Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation and was featured in *Distinction* magazine last October. Join us for this informative program.

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.

in Order to Minimize Waste, Please

Bring Coffee Mugs to Our Meetings.

Shade-grown Coffee Protects Rainforests!

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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.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

George Peters

Initially, when approached by Elliott Kutner, I was reluctant to consider his suggestion that I run for president of South Shore Audubon. After all, I was a relative newcomer to the organization compared to many members with years of service. Besides, I didn't relish the thought of a flock of former presidents (pun intended) sitting in judgment at every meeting!

But Elliott pointed out that we have a very strong organization of committed volunteers (as he said, "no one's in it for the money!") whom I could count on for support and assistance.

Not content with Elliott's assurances, I approached a sampling of the membership — including some of those pesky former presidents. Elliott was right, of course. To a person, they were encouraging and freely offered their assistance during my tenure. (Alas, too late I have realized that tapes of those conversations might have been helpful in the future!) In any event, my excuses having been demolished, I accepted.

I am, of course, pleased to have the opportunity to contribute as much as I can to an organization in whose mission I strongly believe.

Thanks again for your endorsement. I look forward to working with all of you to meet the challenges of the coming year.

GREENING OF LONG ISLAND

Therese Lucas

Through our Greening of Long Island fund, whose monies are derived solely from donations by South Shore Audubon members, we were able to make species donations of \$1,000 each to Wantagh Park and Seaford's Cedar Creek Park. Eight red cedars, six Nelly Stevens hollies, and a dozen winterberries made up the assortment of native species planted to benefit the wildlife at these locations.

1

Commemorative plaques were presented to South Shore Audubon Society by Nassau County Parks & Recreation and Museums. They have been placed at each site. The presentation was made by Nassau County Parks Commissioner Doreen Banks and Deputy County Executive Hezekiah Brown. In attendance were Nassau County Legislator David Denenberg, Nassau County Parks Maintenance Supervisor Vinny LaBella, Groundskeeper William Kalberer, Wantagh Park Director Leonard Epstein, Cedar Creek Park Director Dolores Annarella, and, from the back page of the Skimmer, George Peters, Alice Blaustein, myself, and Wendy Murbach.

Editor's note: Additional funds from our Greening of Long Island fund have been allocated for plantings at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge this fall.

OUR POLITICIANS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Because SSAS is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit organization, we can't endorse or oppose politicians and there are limits to what we can say about them in the Skimmer. Thanks to the Internet, however, abundant information about their misdeeds and good works is now available for free from several prominent environmental organizations. Your editor urges you to:

① Visit www.lcv.org, where the League of Conservation Voters' annual National Environmental Scorecard reports the votes that resulted in our two U.S. Senators and our two local members of the U.S. House of Representatives achieving scores ranging from 93% pro-environment to 29% pro-environment. Two of the above tied at 88%; can you guess who got the 29%?

2 Visit www.nrdc.org/bushrecord, where the Natural Resources Defense Council has a chronological list billed as "the real story on this administration's dealings on environmental issues." There are hundreds of actions by the White House listed there. As I'm typing this in mid-August, today's New York Times is reporting that the Bush Administration has concluded that the National Environ-

mental Policy Act (NEPA, signed into law by President Nixon), which requires public environmental review of all federal actions, doesn't apply to the "exclusive economic zone" that extends 200 miles from our shores, because back in Nixon's era the U.S. only claimed 3 miles of territorial waters. If the Bush administration's view prevails in court, then, according to the

article, "military maneuvers, oil and gas pipelines, commercial fishing, ocean dumping, and scores of other activities" could escape public environmental review. A proposed U.S. Navy sonar project that, according to its opponents, would disorient and kill dolphins and whales, is behind this dispute regarding NEPA.

OUR E-LIST http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ssas_list

SUPERFUND CLEANUP AT MASSAPEQUA PRESERVE

Editor's note: The following's excerpted from an EPA press release issued on April 1, 2002 (I ran out of space in the last Skimmer) and the July 2001 EPA Proposed Plan (the last paragraph here). Several SSAS board members, including myself, have been watching this cleanup plan unfold for years. Comments in brackets below are mine.

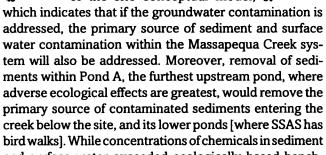
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has selected a final cleanup plan for soil contaminated with chemicals and heavy metals at the Liberty Industrial Finishing Superfund site in Farmingdale, Long Island [on Motor Avenue that sets the stage for its redevelopment into parkland and a recreation area. The plan also focuses on local groundwater and Massapequa Creek pond sediments contaminated by the 30-acre site, at which improper disposal of hazardous waste took place during and after World War II.

The final plan covers future actions for site soils, on-site and off-site groundwater problems associated with the site, as well as contamination in the Massapequa Preserve.

EPA's cleanup plan for the Massapequa Preserve requires that an estimated 2,600 cubic yards of contaminated sediments be removed at Pond A of the nearby Massapequa Creek and Preserve, and shipped off-site for appropriate disposal. A long-term monitoring system will be established in the Massapequa Preserve to measure the improvements in water quality in Pond A [located just north of the Southern State Parkway] and the other ponds as a result of the cleanup.

Based on the weight of evidence from the cumulative Massapequa Creek investigation, the remediation of siterelated contamination within the Massapequa Creek ponds will be limited to Pond A. Sediment cleanup levels of 50 mg/kg cadmium and 260 mg/kg chromium were devel-

oped for remediation of Pond A sediments. These remedial goals were established in recognition of the site conceptual model, 24 CHRONIUM



ments within Pond A, the furthest upstream pond, where adverse ecological effects are greatest, would remove the primary source of contaminated sediments entering the creek below the site, and its lower ponds [where SSAS has bird walks]. While concentrations of chemicals in sediment and surface water exceeded ecologically based benchmarks elsewhere in the stream system, little direct evidence of toxicity or other significant adverse effects were noted in these areas.

NASSAU COUNTY POLLUTION HOTLINE 739-6666

BIRDATHON RESULTS 2002

James Remsen. Jr.

The fifteenth SSAS Birdathon took place from 5:00 P.M. Friday, 5/10/02 until 5:00 P.M. Saturday, 5/11/02. Since 1988, our chapter has raised funds for our conservation programs by tallying the number of species seen by observers in 24 hours at the peak of spring migration. And this year we certainly did hit a peak. This was a spectacular count that featured warblers and thrushes of numerous species on the lawns and roadsides of the Jones Beach area, Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Scarlet Tanagers (pictured) in abundance, and such unusual sightings as Black-necked Stilt (Remsen/Grupp team), Connecticut (Kutner team) and Mourning Warblers (Remsen/Grupp team), and Lincoln's Sparrow (Butkereit team). All told, the chapter recorded 160 species of birds.

With a total of nearly \$2,900 raised for South Shore Audubon's programs, and numerous members rewarded for their efforts with prizes at our annual dinner, everyone involved had a great time. We thank everyone who contributed, regardless of how small the dollar amount. It all adds up. To all the birders who went out at all hours of the day (or evening), we thank you as well.

At the head of the thank-you list must come team leaders Paul Butkereit, Joe Grupp, Elliott Kutner, and Ken and Karen Wenzel. Year after year, these people lead our teams, and although it is the birding that brings them out, to do the Birdathon is also a commitment of time they make out of their busy schedules, and we are grateful.

It's hard to believe this event has lasted fifteen years, but here we are looking at number sixteen in 2003. Rest up until then, and enjoy the fall migration!

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 automatically a valued member of this active and friendly chapter, so please come out to the next meeting at the Freeport Library from 8–10 P.M. on the second Tuesday of the month to hear what you can do to help preserve your local environment's health and viability, to hear about local issues that you can help to solve, and to see an interesting program.

Whether you are a beginning birder or someone with a large life list, you will enjoy our weekly Sunday bird walks led by Elliott Kutner, birder extraordinaire. Check out the special events that are mentioned in this *Skimmer*. Attend them yourself, and bring your family and friends too.

You are warmly invited to be an active participant in this 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.

Our new members since the last <i>Skimmer</i> are:	
Albertson Maureen E. Dolan	
Baldwin	
Ms. Virginia Painter, Robert Shane	
Bay Shore Christine Price	
Bellmore Phoebe Altman, John Garraffa	
Bethpage Marie Ernst, Joseph Mortelliti,	
Lorine V. Schott	
Brooklyn Laura Piccone	
East Meadow Harold Krangle, Irene Schwartz	
East Rockaway John Gray, Edna Heller, Peter Wilson	_
Elmont Lillian Davidson, Linda Waters	
Farmingdale	
Raymond Thomas	
Floral Park John Curlew, H. Maxwell, Elena	
Scilla	
Franklin Square John Eckhoff, Jack Fesi, Rolf Lohse,	
Rosemarie Monte, Geoffrey	
Schaffner, Jane Meckwood Yazopo	r
Freeport Casi Butkereit, Frances & Samuel	
Klass, Claymene Rudder, Ricky	
Sigman	
Garden City Jeannine Heitmann	ž
Glen Cove Clara Nelson)
Glen Oaks David Gillen)
Hempstead Marion Cavoli	A
Levittown Courlandt Van Sickler	7
Long Beach Judith M. Bromberg, Ann	
Mangiapane	
Lynbrook Catherine Basile, Paul Faulk, Timothy	,
Healy, Henry Rittersbusch	,
Malverne Hortense Schierer	
Massapequa Doris Bryson, Martin Finkel, Peter	
Kopher, Eileen O. Roach	
Massapequa Park Carolyn Allstadt, Seymour Faust,	
Barbara Giannacco, Janine Harris,	
M. M. N. Rodgers, Bruce & Louise	
Saltzman, Arthur Straehle	
Merrick Linda Adler, Seena Leibling,	
Dianne Withers	
Oceanside Jennifer Janosek, Maryanne Lehrer,	
Laura Mattera, Bruce Turley,	
Ernest & Elisa Zorn	
Plainview Michele Eldelman, Bonnie	
Hollzwacher, Ronald Sargent,	
The Siegel Family	
Port Washington Mary Ann Bartlett	
Rockville Centre Marlene Vyskocil	
Seaford Jeanne Cox, Henry Rigali	
Uniondale Ivis V. Cruz, Ann Kowalski	
Valley Stream Judy Blancher, Catherine Guzzardo,	
Barbara Wakefield	
Wantagh J. Hughes	
Woodmere Loretta Heller	
******************************	>
AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP STATUS (800) 274-4201	
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SSAS BIRDSEED SALE COMING

Our annual birdseed sale is scheduled for **Sunday**, **November 3**; please check next month's *Skimmer* for the order form.

SHADE-GROWN COFFEE

Editor's note: Since last year, SSAS's coffee breaks have featured "Song Bird Coffee," roasted and blended by the Thanksgiving Coffee Company for the American Birding Association. The following information comes from a brochure distributed by the company:

Shade-Grown Coffee Saves Habitat for Migrating Songbirds. In the midst of a shrinking habitat, migratory birds have found sanctuary in the forest environment of traditional shade-grown coffee farms. Biologists have found that shade coffee farms can support

over 150 species of birds. This is a far greater number than is found in other agricultural habitats. In fact, it is exceeded only in the

undisturbed tropical rainforest. According to the Rainforest Alliance, studies in Colombia and Mexico found 97% fewer bird species in sun-grown coffee than in shadegrown coffee.

The deforestation necessary to create a "full sun" coffee plantation has turned traditional coffee farms into serious despoilers of the natural environment. The new varieties require massive amounts of pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers to compensate for the increase in uncontrolled insects, the need for weed control, and the rapid suninduced plant growth which necessitates increased nutrient intake by the coffee trees. At least one half of coffee grown in the northern neotropics has already been converted to full sun, and provides minimal bird habitat.

Adequate winter food intake is necessary for the reproductive health of birds and for strength on their return trip to North America. In traditional shaded coffee farms, the upper canopy vegetation provides plant matter, fruits, nectar, and habitat for a thriving insect community. Heavy loads of epiphytes (plants anchored to the canopy) contribute to the diversity: spiders, insects, crustaceans, frogs, and salamanders. Finally, the canopy, by shielding the ecosystem from sun, wind, and rain, and by contributing a steady amount of leaf litter to the forest floor, enables diverse life to flourish in the understudy.

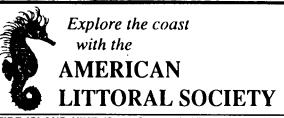
Without an active organic/sustainable production plan to build soil fertility, raise coffee yields, and diversify production, traditional shade coffee farms are vulnerable to change. Our experience suggests that only your demand for shade-grown coffee will help to create economically stable farms and communities, able to resist the development pressure that replaces coffee forests with cattle ranches, sun coffee plantations, or timber harvesting.

Thanksgiving Coffee Company utilizes the Rainforest Alliance certification program (ECO-OK) to certify the shade level of our coffees. Additionally, our certified organic coffees are assessed by the Organic Crop Improvement Association (OCIA) and Quality Assurance International (QAI). On all farms, there must be a rich diversity of shade tree species and high density coverage over the coffee shrubs, providing habitat for migratory and native birds.

Thanksgiving Coffee selection criteria for shade-grown coffee were developed through collaboration with the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center, the Natural Resources Defense Council, the Rainforest Alliance, and Sustainable Harvest Coffee Importers. All of Thanksgiving's shadegrown coffees meet strict eco-selection standards for environmental sustainability.

Your purchase of Song Bird Coffee helps fund American Birding Association programs, including support of Partners in Flight, an outstanding neotropical bird conservation project. With every package sold, 15¢ goes directly to these nonprofit birding organizations.

At last June's annual dinner, we were able to award raffle prizes to quite a few attendees, thanks to the much-appreciated donations of items by our members and by the following companies: Atlantic Nurseries (in Freeport), Hicks Nurseries (in Westbury), Marjé Salon (in Merrick), and WMF (in Farmingdale).



FIRE ISLAND HIKE (Sun., Sept. 29). Hike the boardwalk through Sunken Forest during peak fall songbird, raptor, and butterfly migration time. Cost: \$20 includes ferry and guides. Call Steve Finn evenings at (631) 821-2160.

JAMAICA BAY SUNSET CRUISE (Sat., Oct. 12, 4–7 P.M.). Learn about the history, ecology, and wildlife of this 9,000 acre refuge as you cruise aboard 96 ft "Dorothy B VIII." See egrets, herons, oystercatcher, ibis, falcons, shorebirds, Snow Geese. Cost: \$35 incl. narrated tour, wine & cheese, snacks.

CAPE MAY HAWK WATCH (Oct. 18–20). One of the nation's premier birding hot spots in fall. Cost: \$220 includes 2 nights lodging (double occ.), box lunch, Saturday supper, evening slide shows, hawk banding station, guided hikes to Higbee Beach, local butterfly gardens, Brigantine Refuge.

ASSATEAGUE FALL WEEKEND (Nov. 14–17). Visit Chincoteague Wildlife Refuge & Assateague National Seashore during peak fall waterfowl migration. See Bald Eagles, loons, gannets, and lots of waterfowl species. Mammals include river otter, fox, sika deer, wild ponies, and endangered Delmarva fox squirrel. Cost: \$295 includes 3 nights at Refuge Motor Inn, boat tour of marshes, park fees, guides, evening program & hike, star watch, and Saturday seafood dinner.

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; www.alsnyc.org

PROPOSED BYLAWS AMENDMENTS

James Remsen, Jr.

In order to conform to the National Audubon Society's new requirements for chapter certification, SSAS's board will present two amendments of our bylaws to our general membership for vote and approval at the September 10th general meeting. The amendments are as follows (new language indicated in **bold** letters):

1) Article VIII: Commitments. This Society, or its Officers or Board of Directors, shall not enter into commitments binding on the National Audubon Society without written authorization from the latter. In like manner, the National Audubon Society shall make no commitments binding on this Society without its written consent.

2) Article IX: Discontinuance. This Society reserves the right to terminate its Chapter status on six months' 60 days' notice, given in writing to the National Audubon Society, in which case all allocation of dues by the National Society to this Society will cease on expiration of the six months' 60 days' period. This Society recognizes the right of the National Society to terminate the Chapter relationship on six months' 60 days' notice, given by it to this Society, in which case the members of this Society shall continue as members thereof for the balance of the term for which dues have been paid.

Please make an effort to attend the meeting and vote on these amendments.

We hope that all of our modem-equipped members have taken a look at www.ssaudubon.org recently and have remained in touch with SSAS during our summer break via the free e-list.

Our Web site includes lists of species seen on recent bird walks, directions to local birding sites, *Skimmer* articles, Action Alerts, contact information for our elected officials, ways that you can become one of SSAS's volunteers, links to other environmental web pages, an online store (where you can support SSAS by purchasing discounted environmental books, videos, CDs, software, bird feeders, binoculars, spotting scopes, clothing, jewelry, etc., through our arrangement with withoutbricks.com), and more.

During your Web visit, you can join our free Yahoo Group. If you do, you'll receive occasional e-mails about birds we've seen, upcoming events, environmental policy decisions that you can influence, etc., and you'll be able to send your own messages to fellow members.

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.

A NEW VISION FOR THE HEMPSTEAD PLAINS

Belsy Gulotta

Imagine wandering through a large field with grasses as high as yourself and visible as far as your eye can see. Imagine seeing golden, blue, and lavender wildflowers all around you. Sparrows, meadowlarks, Upland Sandpipers, foxes, snakes, and butterflies were also abundant in this habitat. This is what the colonists encountered when they first arrived on Long Island and saw the Hempstead Plains.

Through years of settlement and development, the Hempstead Plains was a desirable area for cattle grazing, agriculture, horse racing, and commercial and residential development. Villages such as Plainview, East Meadow, Plainedge, Garden City, and Floral Park were established. Known as the "cradle of aviation," the Hempstead Plains was the site for significant early airplane flights. Mitchell Field was established to serve the military. Nassau Community College, Hofstra University, the Coliseum, and the Marriott Hotel were also built there. The Hempstead Plains diminished in size from 60,000 acres to less than 50 acres.

In the 1970s and 1980s, Nassau County citizens (including SSAS) and Nassau Community College recognized that the Hempstead Plains was in trouble, and began to take measures to preserve what was left. Some of the animals and plants were so rare that they were added to the Endangered Species list. The College contracted with The Nature Conservancy to help manage 19 acres on College property, one of the last remnants remaining undeveloped.

In 2001, a new not-for-profit organization was established to save the Hempstead Plains, called the Friends of Hempstead Plains. The Friends is dedicated to preserving, restoring, and offering educational programs about the Hempstead Plains. It invites volunteers to help with hands-on projects at the Plains. It welcomes neighboring schools, organizations, and businesses to become involved and sponsor projects. For more information, contact me at 572-7570 or send e-mail to gulotte@ncc.edu (yes, that's "gulotte").

INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP

SSAS's faithful advertiser, the American Littoral Society's Northeast Chapter, is coordinating the 16th annual New York State Beach Cleanup. Data on the debris collected on **September 21st** will be sent to The Ocean Conservancy (formerly the Center for Marine Conservation) to help regulate pollution. In 2001, over 7,500 New Yorkers documented and removed over 216,000 pounds of debris from 330 miles of shoreline. For information on nearby cleanups, call ALS's Barbara Cohen at 718-471-2166, send e-mail to alsbeach@aol.com, check www.alsnyc.org, or call the hotline at 800-449-0790.



Elliatt Kutner

All walks start at 9:30 a.m. except for Pelham Bay; no walk if it rains. Any questions? Call Elliott at 486-7667. Directions may be found at ssaudubon.org.

Aug. 25	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
Sept. 1	Labor Day Weekend — No Walk
Sept. 8	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Sept. 15	Tobay JFK Sanctuary
Sept. 22	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
Sept. 29	Norman J. Levy Park and Preserve*
Oct. 6	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
Oct. 13	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Oct. 20	Tobay JFK Sanctuary
Oct. 27	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
Nov. 3	Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
Nov. 10	Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner
Nov. 17	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
Nov. 24	Pelham Bay for Owls (pull over to street
5	on extreme right after going through
T	Throgs Neck Bridge toll; meet at 9 A.M.)
Dec. 1	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Dec. 8	Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner
Dec. 15	Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner

*About Norman J. Levy Park and Preserve. This will be SSAS's first Sunday morning bird walk here, but SSAS has long been an active participant in the Overlook Park and Sanctuary (OPAS) Committee that planned the ultimately renamed place. The following info was taken from http://www.townofhempstead.org/home/tohrc/rcconwat/rcnjlevy.htm, which also has a collection of photographs:

Dedicated to the memory of the late New York State Senator Norman J. Levy, a Merrick resident and a champion for the environment, Levy Park and Preserve opened to the public on October 22, 2000. This award-winning Town of Hempstead preserve serves as a plant and wild-life sanctuary, as well as a tranquil respite for residents.

Located alongside the Meadowbrook Parkway, the park and preserve's most visible symbol is the fully operational, agricultural windmill (situated on the north side of the facility), which is used to circulate the water in two manmade ponds that provide a freshwater habitat for wildlife. An exciting feature of the park is the kayak launch into the original Meadow Brook.

The preserve's highest point of 150 feet produces tremendous views of the Jones Beach Tower, the New York City skyline, and numerous coastal treasures.

The 42-acre facility also features a 500-foot fishing pier into Merrick Bay. The pier's decking is constructed of Cumaru, a hardwood from Peru. This extremely durable wood is harvested in an environmentally friendly manner. In addition to its aesthetic qualities, Cumaru is very strong, resists splintering, and contains no preservatives. Visitors can enjoy nature study areas for bird watching and a small

amphitheater for educational presentations. The site also includes three miles of hiking and jogging trails, with 18 exercise stations along the trails.

"The Norman J. Levy Park and Preserve has become a great natural asset to our town," said Hempstead Town Supervisor Rich Guardino. "It's fantastic to see that nature has reclaimed this area. The park and preserve is filled with different types of trees, birds, and other wildlife, and is a superlative educational facility. Black locust, poplar, white birch, and red cedar are among the types of trees you will find at Levy Park and Preserve. Additionally, wildlife such as turtles, snakes, and foxes are thriving."

In places where disturbance of nature was necessary to cap the landfill, the Town of Hempstead developed woodland and prairie plant communities, similar to the Hempstead Plains, to attract different types of birds.

Directions. Accessible from the Meadowbrook Parkway. Use the Merrick Road M9 east exit. Enter the Department of Sanitation entrance immediately on right (if you're driving west on Merrick Road, make a U-turn after Central Blvd. and before the Meadowbrook Parkway). Look for signs to Levy Park and Preserve parking lot.

Editor's note: The following's from an Action Alert that I received from our state office via e-mail in late May.

In an effort to further study the West Nile Virus and other causes of bird mortality, the U.S. Department of Agricul-

ture, with the help of the New York State Health Department, has established a toll-free hotline number so New York State residents can report dead birds in their community: 1-866-537-BIRD (2473).

Audubon New York has begun a statewide public education and outreach campaign to inform New Yorkers of this number, which is being distributed as a public service announcement to top radio stations, television stations, and print media.



"It is of critical importance that New Yorkers be made aware of this toll-free number," stated Sean Mahar, legislative assistant at Audubon New York. "Citizens throughout the state are our first line of defense when it comes to learning about how birds are affected by the West Nile Virus, and other impacts to our environment. They have now been given the chance again to play a critical role in the collection of key data that will help the state and counties deal with West Nile virus while also providing important information on bird mortality."

How can you help? Report all sightings. We ask that you report all dead birds you find to this number, and encourage your neighbors and friends to do the same. We need to get as many reports as possible to further this scientific study.

SSAS BACKYARD BIRD SURVEY

The Research Committee is conducting a study to document the bird species found in the SSAS geographical area and to make some estimates as to their numbers. We request input from anyone that feeds and/or observes birds in their yard or neighborhood. If you would like to participate in this program, we would greatly appreciate it.

To participate, simply record the birds that you see in your yard, neighborhood, or at your feeder; the date, time, and the number or approximate number of each species; and fill in the table provided below. If you have more recordings than lines in the table, please attach an additional piece of paper to the table and submit the additional recordings in the same manner. At the end of each month, please mail or e-mail your record to me at the appropriate address listed below, or hand it to me at our monthly meeting.

Please do not hesitate to submit your observations, even if you have been able to make only very few. WE NEED YOUR INPUT!

Dates: From to							
Date		Species	No.	Date	Time	Species	No.
		N					

				Cubmitte	l ben		····
				Phone nur	nber:		
				Please sen	nd to: Mr	J. Grupp, Research Chairperson	1550
						dgemere Ave., Uniondale NY 1 or	1553
	-	7			E-	mail: Birdstudyjoeg@aol.com	

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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BECOME A MEMBER OF 55A5 Think Globally, but Join Locally!

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