





**TIME FOR CELEBRATION!**

*Therese Lucas*

Join with fellow members and friends for the South Shore Audubon Society's 37th Annual Dinner. On **Tuesday, June 10**, we'll be celebrating another successful year at the Coral House, 70 Milburn Avenue at Merrick Road, Baldwin, NY.

It will be an evening to recount birding adventures of the past year with friends old and new, and enjoy the music of Toby Tobias.

The ever-popular Super Raffle, Chinese Auction, and 50-50 Raffle will be ongoing during the course of the evening. There are a number of birding-related items you won't want to miss, among them some autographed books by famous naturalists! There will be a service award presentation and a raffle for Birdathon participants. Cocktail hour starts at 6:30.

It promises to be a special evening, made even more special if you are there.

There are no sales at the door; reservations must be made in advance. The cost is \$40 per adult. Please send your check and the form below to me at 983 Bellmore Road, North Bellmore, NY 11710-3714.

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*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. Directions and summaries may be found at [ssaudubon.org](http://ssaudubon.org).

- Mar. 23 *Easter Sunday — No Walk*
- Mar. 30 Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
- Apr. 6 Hempstead Lake State Park\*
- Apr. 13 Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
- Apr. 20 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- Apr. 27 Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)

\*In order to avoid the seasonal \$6 parking fee, look for Elliott outside the entrance to Field #1 (take Southern State Parkway Exit 18 south); he will direct you to alternative parking in Rockville Centre. That afternoon, please join our Brookside Preserve cleanup!

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RARE BIRD ALERT (212) 979-3070

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**RESERVATION FOR ANNUAL DINNER AT CORAL HOUSE ON JUNE 10**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE #: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF PEOPLE: \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \_\_\_\_\_

**VICTORY FOR JONES BEACH AND THE PEOPLE OF LONG ISLAND!**

*Jim Brown*

*Editor's note:* Back in the October issue of the *Skimmer*, Jim reported our opposition to the scheme to replace the previous restaurant at Jones Beach with a combined restaurant/catering hall approximately four times as large, replacing green space with pavement. Since then, he has kept our members up to date at our meetings and via our chapter's free e-mail list. Here's the e-mail he posted on March 6, just as the local media was widely reporting that the defeated developers will now sue New York State. Jim and Joe Grupp both spoke at the public hearing mentioned below.

The New York State Department of State denied Donald Trump and Steve Carl a variance for the basement of their restaurant/catering hall complex slated to be built on Jones Beach. This denial of a variance marks a resounding success for the environment and people of Long Island. Concerned residents came out in large numbers to the hearing at the Cradle of Aviation Museum on Tuesday to voice — finally — their sincere concerns for the barrier beach. The basement was deemed unsafe and a violation of state law. Importantly, we were also able to express our criticisms of the size and appropriateness of the entire project, of which this ill-advised basement was a part. If the public had been genuinely included at the beginning of this whole process, the tense March 4th confrontation between developers and public may have been avoided. Hopefully, we will now get a restaurant on Jones Beach that is in harmony with the environmental and social needs of average New Yorkers, and in conformity with Robert Moses' original vision for a people's beach.

Thanks to everyone who came out to the hearing — without such visible and vocal opposition to this huge development project, we might not have been successful in halting its construction. It was great to see so many Audubon members in the audience!

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*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.*





## CALVERTON GRASSLANDS IN PERIL

At last autumn's meeting of the seven-chapter Long Island Audubon Council, SSAS joined its fellow chapters and Audubon New York staff in supporting the efforts of the Coalition to Save Open Space at EPCAL. The Town of Riverhead is seeking to develop the nearly 3000-acre former Grumman property now known as Enterprise Park at Calverton (EPCAL), which includes 800 acres of grasslands known to be one of the last LI breeding locations and wintering strongholds for Eastern Meadowlarks.

The Town has given its approval to a 778-acre Riverhead Resorts, which would include a 350-foot indoor ski mountain (which would be Long Island's tallest structure), 90-acre artificial lake, 2000-room hotel, 3500 time-share units, etc. (see [www.riverheadresorts.com](http://www.riverheadresorts.com)). Other portions of EPCAL are slated for business and light industrial use; some construction is underway. A posting on the New York Birding List website in early March reported sightings of four state-endangered Short-eared Owls, three Northern Harriers, three Red-tailed Hawks, about 15 Eastern Meadowlarks, and seven Horned Larks.

### SSAS OPPOSES PARK TRANSFERS!

*Editor's note:* Three issues ago, we mentioned that Nassau County and the Town of Oyster Bay were discussing the possible transfer of Massapequa Preserve. Since then, County Executive Thomas Suozzi and Tobay Supervisor John Venditto have publicly expressed support for this idea, pending the results of a study by consultants, while several Nassau County Legislators from both parties have voiced their opposition. In addition to Massapequa Preserve, Stillwell Woods Park and Preserve in Syosset is also slated to be given to Tobay. SSAS's position was expressed in a letter that was sent to Mr. Suozzi, with copies to Mr. Venditto, the supervisors of the Towns of Hempstead and North Hempstead (the latter has already taken over nine parks), County Legislator David Denenberg (who chairs the Planning, Development and the Environment Committee), and via a press release. Here it is:

The members of the South Shore Audubon Society, comprising 1500 households from Nassau County communities stretching from the Queens County line to the Suffolk County line, wish to voice their opposition to the giveaway of our Nassau County parks to local townships. We believe this course of action to be a very costly and irrevocable mistake.

Our parks and preserves are the pride of our county, the reason that Nassau County is an attractive place to live and bring up families. We have paid taxes to purchase and maintain these properties, have enjoyed their beauty, and wish to continue to do so.

Giving these parks and preserves to the townships will in the long run not save one penny for an individual taxpayer. We all understand that maintenance must be paid for and will be taxed for by any governmental owner of the property.

In addition, we as an environmentally aware organization are concerned that the lands which have been preserved in a "forever wild" status will be given to townships which do not have "forever wild" clauses in their legal systems. These preserves are in danger, then, of being developed, of being sold commercially, or of being used in ways that are not consistent with conservation and preservation.

There is a further concern. Money has been granted for massive restoration efforts for some of the areas being considered for transfer. Will Nassau County restore the areas only to then give them away? That seems unfair, outrageous, and a wanton disregard for public monies.

A prestigious county, Nassau County, should have glorious parkland, woodland, places for its citizens to renew themselves in an outdoor environment. It is shameful to hand these wonderful resources, which belong to the people of Nassau County, over to the townships. These lands are our investment in the future of this county. They are important for our welfare and recreation. And they are an important asset which must not be squandered.

South Shore Audubon Society requests that the handover of our Nassau County parks and preserves to townships be stopped.

### HECKSCHER SPRING FESTIVAL

The annual Spring Festival at Heckscher State Park is scheduled for **April 26 & 27**, from 11 A.M. to 4 P.M., weather permitting. SSAS, other environmental organizations, and various agencies will provide information, displays, crafts, wildlife exhibits, etc.

## Socially Responsible Investing

Amy Boyle, Associate Vice President - Investments  
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Discover a Refuge In Your Own Backyard.

## OUR ANNUAL CENTRAL PARK WALK


On **Saturday, May 3**, SSAS is planning to be in Central Park for our annual (weather permitting) early May morning bird walk. Once again, Manhattan residents (and old-time SSAS members) Chris Cooper and Lloyd Spitalnik are being asked to lead us through the twisting maze of the Ramble and adjoining areas of the park. In previous years, we've recorded 45 to 70-plus species in under three hours (49 last year, including 15 warblers).

The cost of the walk is \$6 for members and \$8 for nonmembers; all proceeds will be used to support SSAS. Please look for details in the next *Skimmer*.

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**COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE**

South Shore Audubon Society is offering two \$750 environmental scholarships this spring to college juniors, seniors, or graduate students who are continuing their studies toward a degree in an area of biological or environmental science, such as wildlife management, forestry, animal behavior, ecology, marine biology, oceanography, mammalogy, or ornithology. For information, call Betsy Gulotta at 546-8841 or e-mail [gulotte@ncc.edu](mailto:gulotte@ncc.edu). Applications are due by April 30 and we typically receive only a few, so apply!

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AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP STATUS (800) 274-4201  
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**NEW YORK AQUARIUM "BEHIND-THE-SCENES" TOUR** (Sat., April 5). Meet 10 A.M. at aquarium entrance in Coney Island for 2-1/2 hr special guided tour. See walrus, sea otter, seals, sharks, stingrays, sea turtles, and, of course, "Squirt, the Wonder Clam." Cost: \$25 (kids \$15). Contact Don to reserve.

**SUNKEN FOREST, FIRE ISLAND** (Sat., May 17). Call Don for info and reservation.

**HORSESHOE CRAB WALK** (Sun., May 18). Meet 7 P.M. at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. Call Don for info.

**JAMAICA BAY SUNSET CRUISES** (Sun., June 1 & Sat., June 14, 5-8 P.M.). Join us for a special 3-hour narrated tour of the backwater marshes of Jamaica Bay. Learn about the history, ecology & wildlife of this 13,000-acre preserve. See nesting peregrine falcon, osprey, terns, oystercatchers, as well as egrets, herons, and migrating shorebirds. Cost: \$45 includes wine & cheese, fruit, drinks, snacks.

**MONTAUK SPRING WEEKEND** (June 6-8). Spend a weekend of natural history at the end of L.I. during peak heather & orchid blossom time. Activities incl. birding, botanizing, seining for sea critters, tidepooling. Cost: \$345 incl. 2 nights at luxurious Manor House, 5 meals, 5 guided hikes, 2 evening programs.

For information and free field trip brochure,  
call/write Don Riepe, (718) 318-9344, [driepe@nyc.rr.com](mailto:driepe@nyc.rr.com),  
28 West 9th Road, Broad Channel, NY 11693; [www.alsnyc.org](http://www.alsnyc.org).

## SAVE THE DATE! SAVE YOUR JUNK!

Maureen Rube

The South Shore Audubon Society will be holding a **Flea Market on Saturday, May 31** or, in the event of rain, on Sunday, June 1. It will be held at the same place as last year, the Youngferts' home in Franklin Square. The money raised will be used to provide scholarships for disadvantaged children in our area to attend the Environmental Day Camp at Audubon's Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary for one week this summer.

Please help us in raising funds for this good cause by donating your unwanted items, such as: dishware, books, toys, jewelry, bric-a-brac, accessories, tools, small pieces of furniture, etc. You may bring your things to the Youngferts' home the week before or on the day of the flea market. We will also be providing pickups for those who are unable to drop off their things; you can call me at 352-4327.

We also are asking for volunteers in helping us the week before to pick up items at members' homes and drop them off at the Youngferts' home.

Plan to join us, chat with members, and find some great buys!

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*SSAS Mission Statement—The mission of South Shore Audubon Society is to promote environmental education; conduct research pertaining to local bird populations, wildlife, and habitat; and preserve and restore our environment, through responsible activism, for the benefit of both people and wildlife.*  
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## SSAS BIRDATHON 2008 IS COMING!

This year, SSAS will conduct its 21st 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. Due to the decision by National Audubon to sharply decrease the amount of financial support given to chapters, the Birdathon has become one of our major sources of income. Many of you have been very generous with your time and pledges in previous years; we hope you will continue and increase your gift of either time or pledges this year. Birding expertise and big pledges are not necessary; anyone can join one of SSAS's teams locally for all or part of the time, sponsor themselves, and help us find species, or you can do your own Birdathon anywhere.

Mark the dates on your calendar — **Friday, May 9** from 5:00 P.M. until **Saturday, May 10** at 5:00 P.M. The rain dates are one week later at the same time. Team details will be in the next *Skimmer*.



**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 SSAS**  
**Think Globally, but Join Locally!**

*Option 1.* You can join SSAS for a year by sending \$15 payable to **South Shore Audubon Society** using the form below. Our address is P.O. Box 31, Freeport, NY 11520-0031.

*Option 2.* To join NAS and your all-volunteer local chapter, 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 \$0 unless you join through us). Mail the form below and your check payable to **National Audubon Society** to SSAS at the address above. The special rate for the first year is \$20 per household; \$15 for students and seniors.

➔ **Renewing?** Please send NAS renewals directly to NAS (we now get \$0 for all NAS renewals).

**Donations to SSAS are always welcome!**



Yes, I'd like to join:  SSAS only  National Audubon too

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

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

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*Chapter Code R15 7XCH (South Shore Audubon Society)*

