

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.

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 (pictured) 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.

BIRD WALKS

Elliott Kulner

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

Apr. 23	Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
Apr. 30	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
May 7	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
May 14	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
May 21 & 28	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
June 4	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
Aug. 13	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Aug. 20	Boat Trip
Aug. 27	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Sept. 3	<i>Labor Day Weekend — No Walk</i>
Sept. 10	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
Sept. 17	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Sept. 24	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
Oct. 1	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Oct. 8	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
Oct. 15	Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner

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 mssperling@compuserve.com. Introductory membership is \$20; \$15 for students and senior citizens.]

- Atlantic Beach Edas Babusis
- Baldwin Ms. Carolyn Carroll, Ms. Agnes Fazzolare, Arthur Groeling, Mr. & Mrs. Simon Rosenzweig, Sharon Sjogren
- Bellmore Vic Ackerman, Gustavo Alford, N. A. Ohland, Joseph A. Senzatimore, Patricia Sheehan, Alberta Steinert, David Taylor
- Bethpage Ada Tumino
- East Meadow Elizabeth A. Peacock, Mr. Herman Tillem
- East Rockaway Lynn A. Friedman, Marianne Pearsall
- Elmont Eileen Doyle, Mr. Michael Wieber
- Farmingdale Mr. George Bombard, Ms. Felicia Haran, Ms. Mary Jeavons, Jeffrey Mansfield, Phil Poynor, Mark G. Tynan
- Floral Park Isaac Bloch, Katherine Cocozello, 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 Shwom
- 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
- Rockville Centre Sylvia Coleman, Nancy Reimer
- Roosevelt Charles F. Winter
- Valley Stream Kristin Graves, Priscilla A. Mollo, Edward I. Thomashow
- Wantagh Tom Brannan & Family, Gaetano DiForti, Jennifer Dunn, Milton Klein, Glenn O'Leary, Cathey Schortemeyer, Renate Walter
- Woodmere Eugene Sanders



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



- Seed - Feeders (516) 694-2180
- 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

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 one of 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 (sponsoring 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 birdbaths. Birdbaths 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 2000" 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, Therese Lucas, Scott Oglesby, George Peters, and Michael Sperling.

BREEDING BIRD ATLAS VOLUNTEERS WANTED

The breeding distribution of all of 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.*

FAHNESTOCK 2000: OCTOBER 14TH & 15TH

Mary Jane Russell

11,000 acre Fahnestock State Park in Putnam County is about a 2 hour ride 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 Fahnestock 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 Sperling

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 mssperling@compuserve.com.

PLOVERS & TERNS NEED VOLUNTEERS

John Zarudsky

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 and Common 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 (pictured), 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 insure 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 as threatened, and Black Skimmer as 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:

① 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;

② before 8:10 A.M. at Penn Station (LIRR Waiting Area); we will take the 8th Avenue subway's C Train;

③ 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.

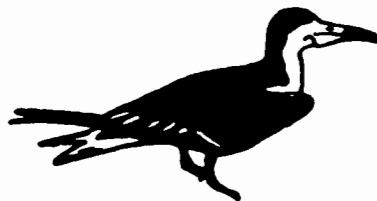
Belvedere Castle can be reached at 212-772-0210.

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South Shore Audubon Society
P.O. Box 31
Freeport, NY 11520-0031

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