# OUTH HORE KIMMER

VOLUME 31, NUMBER 5 — SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

MARCH/APRIL 2001

# **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Tom Torma

It was a cold Sunday morning and I was enjoying my first cup of hot coffee, reading the Sunday *Newsday*. In the LI Life section I found a page headlined "Time Machine." This page had two striking photographs. Both were aerial pictures. Both pictures were of the intersection of the Southern State Parkway and Central Avenue in Valley Stream. The images did not look remotely similar. One image was taken in 1933; the other recently.

In the 1933 image there is nothing but open space. All you see are farms and the undivided four-lane Southern State Parkway. The other, more recent image has no open space. An eight-lane divided Southern State splits a community of thousands of houses with a few trees along the Parkway. The farms and fields on this part of the South Shore disappeared in the population explosion of the '40s and '50s.

I was not surprised by how much southern Nassau County has developed since the 1930s. Even with that knowledge, the difference in the images was startling.

Too often, planners have considered short-term profits over the long-term needs of Nassau residents. It is in the interest of everyone to preserve our open space, to protect our environment. We need to protect the value of our investment in our homes and businesses. For example, we need to protect our drinking water in both quantity and quality. If we fail to do so, the value of our communities will be diminished. Groundwater is our only source of drinking water. That source is recharged by rain falling on green and open space. If Nassau County is to continue to be a valued location, we need to grow smarter. We must consider the effect development has on our water, air, traffic, energy supply, and the environment in general.

The South Shore Audubon Society is dedicated to the preservation of open space. We have worked in the past to preserve locations like Brookside Preserve, Twin Lakes Preserve, Bethpage State Park, and the Hempstead Plains. We are presently working with the Long Island Drinking

### **NEXT TWO MEETINGS**

WHEN: Tuesday, March 13, 2001 at 8 p.m. 🕗

WHERE: Freeport Memorial Library

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

SPEAKER: Dr. Russell Burke TOPIC: Terrapin Turtles

Learn about the diamondback terrapins of Jamaica Bay. Dr. Burke, a Professor of Biology at Hofstra University, has been studying different turtle species for over 20 years. Recently his study attention has been turned to this unique estuarine turtle. He will discuss their ecology, nesting behavior, and, most importantly, the recent threat of predators to the terrapins of Jamaica Bay. Join us!

Scott Oglesby's Pre-Meeting Birding ID Class at 7:30: Topic for March will be "The Changing Seasons." Please bring your favorite field guide.

WHEN: Tuesday, April 10, 2001 at 8 P.M. ②

WHERE: Freeport Memorial Library

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

SPEAKER: Joseph Jannsen TOPIC: Piping Plovers

Joe Jannsen, Director of the Coastal Species Recovery Program of the Long Island Chapter of The Nature Conservancy, will be speaking about the Piping Plover, an endangered shorebird that nests on Long Island including in Jones Beach State Park. Joe will speak about the efforts of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; NYS Department of Environmental Conservation; NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation; and the Nature Conservancy to protect this endangered species.

Scott at 7:30: Topic for April will be "Expanding Horizons With the Big Day." Please bring your favorite field guide.

IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE WASTE, PLEASE

BRING COFFEE MUGS TO OUR MEETINGS

Water Coalition to preserve open space in the Jericho area, such as the Underhill property. 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.



Elliott Kutne.

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

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.



Apr. 29

Explore the coast with the

# AMERICAN LITTORAL SOCIETY

Massapegua Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)

**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, gar-

dening, 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.

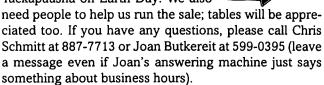
# EARTH DAY AT TACKAPAUSHA

Tom Torma & Michael Sperling

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 Museumis 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



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

"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 con-

Breeding" by observing territoriality, code

firmed 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.



"NEW YORK'S LARGEST WILD BIRD SPECIALTY STORE"

621 Fulton St. (Rt. 109), Farmingdale, NY 11735 Located between McDonald's & Dunkin' Donuts

### JOIN OUR FREE E-LIST

Last issue's "President's Message" announced that there is now an e-list for chapter members. The e-list provides members with the ability to exchange e-mails about environmental issues, birding, and SSAS events with everyone

who has subscribed to the list. To subscribe, send a message to ssas\_list-subscribe@egroups.com. To post an e-mail to the list, use ssas\_list @egroups.com. You can also visit the web page for the site at http://www.egroups.com/group/ssas\_list.



This list will enable us to communicate with each other on a continuing basis, which will help compensate for the less-frequent *Skimmer* schedule forced by National Audubon's recent unprecedented decision (discussed last issue) to slash its funding of chapters.

### **★★ 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 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 *Skimmer* (the December issue) are:

Cedarhurst..... Blanche Cohen

East Meadow	Mr. & Mrs. Edward Dembek, Hy Gallin, Peggy Moeller			
Elmont				
	Madeline Bernard, ? Johnson,			
•	The Newton Family,			
	Rosita G. Tuason			
Freeport	Elza Pisarro, Mr. Neil Strandberg,			
	Mrs. Gwen Watson			
	Robert Soret, Clem Wingert			
	Miss Margaret M. Kuhn			
Hempstead	Jimmy Campbell, Julie Greco,			
	Mr. Theodore W. Jackson,			
Hewlett	Michael Knowles			
	Alice Barbaro, Brigitte Porten			
riicksville	Conover, Ms. Virginia Perry,			
	Ceni Sumperl			
Island Park	Paul Ash, Mrs. Elizabeth Gutman			
	Julie Bloom, Marc Carullo, Emily			
	Lukin Celentano, Cameron			
	Chisholm, Martina Schmid			
Lindenhurst	John & Jane Moore			
Long Beach	Georgette Levesque, Ms. Kathy			
	O'Brien, Bruce N. Ostroy, Alison			
	Schroeder, Dr. Leon Shargel			
Lynbrook	George Dadone, Mary V.			
M	Donohue, Philip & Jill Singer			
Massapequa	Mr. & Mrs. J. Caramelli, Sissy			
Magaanagua Darle	Slomin			
wassapequa Fark	Janice Manheimer, Evelyn Spahr, Kathy Tsoukatos			
Merrick	Arnold Bottalico, Louise Zech			
	J. E. Franks, ? Hay, Linda			
Occumbiae	Horowitz, Ronald O'Connor			
Plainview	Pamela Berg, Roland Johnson,			
	Joel Paymer, Alan Ring			
Rockville Centre	M. Archard & Joan Schapiro; Dr.			
<b>\$\$</b> €	H. W. Davoli, M.D.; Lynne			
	Mahoney; Marcia L. Ollstein;			
RAM	Betty O'Hara Scully			
Seaford Consultation	Mrs. P. Lavacca,			
V-11 C+	Susan Wildenauer			
Valley Stream	Laurence Cuocci, Charles			
wantagn	Fillizola, Francis J. Patti			
West Hemnstead	Louis Benjamin, Betty & Marvin			
West Hempstead	Edelstein, Mrs. Mollie C. Huang,			
	Mrs. Elena Voss			
Woodmere	Ms. Marilyn Nichols Marc			
<b>************</b>	<b>*******************</b>			
WEB PAGE http://redrival.com/southshore				
************************************				
NASSAU COUNTY POLLUTION HOTLINE 739-6666				
AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP STATUS (800) 274-4201				
	\$ERSHIP \$1A1U\$ (800) 274-4201			
, , , , , <del>, , , , , , , , , , , , , , </del>	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,			

### **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)
Chapter Code K15 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.

# **DUCK SURVEY HELPERS WANTED**

Since February of 1989, SSAS Duck Survey Chairperson Joe Grupp has spent five Saturdays every winter counting ducks in 28 locations from Valley Stream to Massapequa Park, with Paul Butkereit leading another team at 10 locations in southwestern Nassau. The data being collected provides essential and unprecedented information about the populations of every duck species wintering on our lakes and ponds.

Joe is looking for volunteers willing to spend a half day or full day viewing and learning about our waterfowl and where to find them. If you're interested, please call him at 481-4208. The last two counts will be held on **February 24** and **March 24**, rain or shine.

# APPLY FOR AN AUDUBON CAMP SCHOLARSHIP

This year, SSAS is once again offering two full scholar-ships, one to an adult and one to a child age 10–14, to attend an Audubon camp this summer in Maine. Applicants or their parents should be members in good standing and be interested in sharing their camp experiences with fellow members, the community, and/or schools; we typically get only a few applicants, so apply! Financial need is not a basis for receiving a scholarship; the winners must provide their own transportation (the camp is 60 miles northeast of Portland). Please contact our Education Chairperson, Suzanne Lancer (536-6574 between 7 and 9 P.M.), for details; applications are due **March 15th**. The following descriptions come from National Audubon:

Muscongus Bay is the southernmost outpost of many northern birds and marine mammals. Harbor seals bask in the sun. Mosses, lichens, and mushrooms abound. Established in 1936 as a pioneering experiment in nature edu-

cation for teachers and other adult leaders, the Maine Camp occupies the 333-acre Todd Wildlife Sanctuary on Hog Island,

a wild paradise that seems a million miles from the urbanized workaday world. Hearty meals are served in the "Bridge," a restored 19th century farmhouse. A library and laboratory, fresh- and saltwater aquaria, and microscopes are readily available.

Audubon Youth Camp. At the Audubon Camp in Maine, a sense of wonder prevails. Young people aged 10–14 years learn about themselves, about nature, and how they relate to their natural environment. Participants learn by doing — if we talk about something, we'll also see it, feel it, touch it, experience it.

The primary aim of Audubon's Youth Camp is to instill a love, respect, and sense of stewardship for the natural world. While working toward this goal, we hope to aid your child in acquiring the knowledge and skills to understand the environment. The faculty consists of dedicated

science educators who have a proven knowledge of the natural world as well as a strong background working with middle school-aged youth. The camper-instructor ratio of 5 to 1 and the enrollment of 50 campers creates a warm, personal atmosphere. The curriculum is wide ranging and includes marine biology, oceanography, geology, forest ecology, ornithology, and pond life. The camp maintains a commitment to the highest standards of boat and camper safety.

Campers hike through cathedral-like spruce—fir forests, search for organisms in tide pools, and learn about seabirds, seals, and other wildlife while exploring Muscongus Bay by boat. The evenings are filled with night hikes, stargazing, cooperative games, and campfire programs. This experience is designed to stay with these camp graduates and illuminate the course of their lives for a very long time to come. The Youth Camp is offered July 26–August 5 and August 8–18.

Adult Scholarship. This year, the adult scholarship winner will attend a "Natural History of the Maine Coast" session (you can choose July 8–14 or 15–21). Our experienced instructors bring a wide range of expertise in the physical and natural sciences to this week-long program of field explorations, boat cruises, island hikes, slide presentations, evening discussions, and more.

# COMING SOON: THE SSAS FOURTEENTH ANNUAL BIRDATHON!

James Remsen, Jr.

This year, SSAS will conduct its fourteenth annual Birdathon. Thanks to the generosity of many of our members (both in terms of their time and their donations), last year we raised over \$3000 to support South Shore Audubon and its work. The Birdathon is the ideal way to support your chapter and have fun doing it!

As many of you know, SSAS raises funds through the Birdathon by having members get pledges for each species of bird identified during a 24-hour period in May, when the spring migration is at its height. The dates for 2001 are **Friday, May 11** and **Saturday, May 12**, from 5 P.M. on Friday to 5 P.M. on Saturday. The rain dates will be May 18 and 19 from 5 to 5, as above. Mark your calendar now!

As in previous years, we wish to offer prizes to our Birdathon participants. We really are in need of prizes! If you are interested in donating a prize, or in soliciting a donation of a prize, please contact Jim Remsen. You can also make a cash gift to the Birdathon and ask that it specifically be used to defray prize costs. Remember that all Birdathon income not used for expenses goes to SSAS! For the past several years, the Birdathon has been run totally cost-free, with all prizes, time, and effort donated by chapter members.

More details on the Birdathon (including the SSAS teams you can join) will be in the May Skimmer!

# **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 contribu-

tions 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 Kulner, 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 ou.

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.

<b>*</b>	····
NAME:	
ADDRE	SS:
AMOU	NT OF CHECK:
NUMBI	ER OF PEOPLE:
NUMBI	ER OF EACH MENU CHOICE:
	Chicken Francese
慢量	Eggplant Rollatini
	Filet of Sole Arreganata
ME!	Roast Beef

# 2000-2001 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

EDDD EDDT OF TEERS, DIRECTORS, AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS			
Tom Torma, President	516-378-4723		
Michael Goldsmith, Vice President	516-822-5272		
Nancy Frame, Treasurer	516-520-9016		
Christine Schmitt, Recording Secretary	516-887-7713		
Alice Blaustein, Corresponding Secretary	516-221-1870		
George Peters, Director (6/03)	516-868-5480		
Doris Pirodsky, Director (6/03)	516-378-1790		
Sandy Brenner, Director (6/02)	516-249-4919		
Scott Oglesby, Director (6/02)			
Therese Lucas, Director (6/01) & Environmental Festivals Coordinator	516-221-8654		
Betty Borowsky, Conservation Education Chairperson	516-764-3596		
Joan Butkereit, Conservation Legislation Chairperson	516-599-0395		
Paul Butkereit, Wild Bird Feed Savings Day	516-599-0395		
Joanne Del Prete, Special Trips Chairperson	516-433-0739		
Joseph Grupp, Duck Survey	516-481-4208		
Betsy Gulotta, Brookside Preserve Committee Chairperson	516-546-8841		
Marge Jaeger, Fund-raising Chairperson	516-536-9166		
Elliott Kutner, Birding / Field Trips Chairperson			
Joseph Lancer, Binocular / Book Sales (7 to 9 P.M.)	516-536-6574		
Suzanne Lancer, Camp Scholarships Chairperson (7 to 9 P.M.)	516-536-6574		
Annie F. McIntyre, Educational Media Chairperson	516-379-2206		
Wendy Murbach, Membership Chairperson	516-546-6303		
Doreen Remsen, Birdathon Co-Chairperson	631-472-6830		
James Remsen, Jr., Birdathon Co-Chairperson (pager number)	516-517-7538		
Dolores Rogers, Welcoming Committee Chairperson	516-599-1224		
Mary Jane Russell, Armchair Activist Chairperson	516-766-7397		
Diane Singer, Publicity (5 to 8 P.M.)	516-561-6118		
Michael Sperling, Skimmer Editor	516-541-0805		
Jonathan Staller, Hospitality Chairperson	516-482-7963		

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

A CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Americans Committed to Conservation

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED





U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 1181
NONPROFIT
Freeport, NY