OUTH HORE KIMMER

VOLUME 31, NUMBER 6 — SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

MAY-AUGUST 2001

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Tom Torma

As the weather warms, we are all outdoors more and our little friends join us to feed on our blood and make life, miserable. It is time to think about mosquitoes and ticks.

There are 3000 kinds of mosquitoes and 150 kinds live in New York State. They are a type of fly with two wings (most insects have four). Both male and female adult mosquitoes feed on nectar. Only the female mosquito feeds on blood occasionally. She needs this blood meal to make her eggs develop properly. When a female "bites," she injects a beak like a juice-box straw into your skin and injects saliva. It is the reaction of our immune system to the saliva that causes the welt at the spot where we are bitten. She can sense humans from 6-15 feet away, using our exhaled carbon dioxide as a primary clue to our location. She also uses dark colors, warmth, and substances on our skin like lactic acid (we produce a lot when we sweat) to decide if we are good to eat. After she consumes our blood, she lays her eggs. She can lay multiple batches of eggs and can live from two weeks to two months.

After the last two summers, we all know that mosquitoes carry diseases like the West Nile Virus. A virus is the ultimate parasite. It depends on its host for a living. It is the smallest known parasite, smaller than bacteria. Viruses can only be seen with an electron microscope. They are made up of genetic material and some protein. A virus must get into the body of its host, past the host's defenses, 🚜 and then into a cell. Once inside a cell, it must harness the machinery of that cell to reproduce itself. The virus must then find its way to a new host if a virus kills its host before it can be passed on or if the host cannot pass on the virus for some other reason, i.e., if the host is a "dead end." When a host passes the virus to another host, the mechanism is called a vector. A vector usually acquires a parasite from a host that produces enormous amounts of the parasite. That host is called a reservoir.

The vectors for West Nile Virus (WNV) are mosquitoes, mostly house mosquitoes. The reservoirs for WNV are $\cancel{\pm}$

NEXT MEETING

DATE: Tuesday, May 8, 2001

TIME: 8:00 P.M. ②

PLACE: Freeport Memorial Library

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

SPEAKER: Dr. John Morrissey
TOPIC: Sharks Are People Too

Join the South Shore Audubon Society at our last monthly meeting till September as we learn about one of our most fascinating and misunderstood predators of the sea. Dr. John Morrissey, a professor of biology at Hofstra University, is a shark biologist. While showing us slides, he will discuss shark ecology, reproduction, and conservation, and dispel many of the myths about sharks. Join us!

Scott Oglesby's Pre-Meeting Birding ID Class at 7:30: Topic for May will be "Vacation Tips for Birders."

BRING COFFEE MUGS TO OUR MEETINGS

WE'VE MADE ARRANGEMENTS FOR AN EXTRA-SPECIAL ANNUAL DINNER! SEE PAGE 7 FOR DETAILS

birds. This disease does not make very many people sick; they may not even know they have the virus. But certain people over age 50 or those with immune systems not working properly can get very sick and sometimes even die. WNV may mimic flu; for a small percentage WNV can cause inflammation of the nervous system tissues (encephalitis and meningitis).

Female mosquitoes look for stagnant water sheltered by grass and weeds from sun and wind. The more places for mosquitoes to breed means the more vectors in the environment. More vectors means more reservoirs, which in turn means more vectors. While most mosquitoes do not carry WNV (less than 1%) or fail to transmit the virus

to you, having more vectors and reservoirs increases the chances of transmitting the virus.

The best way to avoid West Nile Virus is to get rid of the areas where vector mosquito larvae breed. Being proactive starts with an inspection around your home and yard. Create a list of locations to check as you remind yourself of all the areas you need to look at.

Dump out standing water from containers in the yard, including recycling bins, bottle caps, cans, tires, boats, and tarps.

Clean debris from rain gutters early in spring and check them regularly. If you are unable to clean them, ask your landscaper or pest control technician. A huge number of mosquitoes can result from clogged gutters.

Clean, filter, and treat pools. Empty children's pools; turn them over when not in use. Keep pool covers clean by propping them up to drain water.

Encourage natural enemies like goldfish and mosquito fish in ornamental pools. Dragonflies and damselflies are mosquito predators. Construct the goldfish pond properly. Large goldfish are unable to reach the sloping edge of the ponds where mosquitoes breed, so be sure your pond has vertical sides. A pond fountain will also reduce mosquito breeding.

Change the water in birdbaths and fountains twice a week.

Protect yourself against mosquitoes. Cover yourself with loose-fitting and lightweight clothing from dusk to dawn. Use insect repellents properly, especially with children. Read the label and follow precautions. Keep household screens in good repair and do not prop open windows and doors.

These are suggestions that will hopefully protect us from the West Nile Virus. If we reduce the number of breeding locations, we might also reduce the need to spray with harmful chemicals and thereby help protect the environment.

I'd like to thank the Nassau County Cornell Cooperative Extension and Dr. Tamson Yeh, Ph.D. for the information found in this article.



Elliott Kutner

All walks start at 9:30 A.M.; no walk if it rains. Any questions? Call Tom Torma at 378-4723 while Elliott recuperates from a double bypass.

Apr. 22 Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner

Apr. 29 Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)

May 6 & 13 Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)

May 20 & 27 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

June 3 Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)

Aug. 12 & 19 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

Aug. 26 Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)

SSAS WALK IN CENTRAL PARK

On **Saturday, May 5th,** we will meet at Belvedere Castle at 9 A.M. (unless it rains) to explore the lakes, ponds, meadows, forests, and spring-migration species. Joanne Del Prete has once again recruited NYC Park Ranger Robert DeCandido, Ph.D., to ably lead us through Central Park. Bob recently returned home after spending a month studying raptors in Malaysia. Bring your lunch or join a group lunch afterwards. Joanne will meet SSAS members 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 8:15 A.M. at Penn Station (LIRR Waiting Area), after which we'll head to the 8th Avenue subway's C train;
- 3) Belvedere Castle (mid-Park at 79th Street) by 9 A.M. Joanne suggests that you call her at 433-0739 if you want to join us at Massapequa or Penn Station so we can look for you.

Belvedere Castle can be reached at 212-772-0210; touchtone LIRR schedule info is available at 516-822-5477.

Last Year's List. On the first Saturday in May last year, our outing coincided with the best spring migration weekend in Central Park. We saw the following and more.

Warblers: Black-and-white, Black-throated Blue, Blackburnian, Blackpoll, Blue-winged, Chestnut-sided, Hooded, Kentucky, Magnolia, Prairie, Prothonotary, Wilson's, Yellow, Yellow-rumped, and Yellow-throated; Ovenbird, Northern Parula, American Redstart, Louisiana Waterthrush, and Northern Waterthrush

Sparrows: American Tree, Song, Swamp, White-crowned, and White-throated

And: Red-winged Blackbird, Gray Catbird, Brownheaded Cowbird, Northern Flicker, Least Flycatcher, Boattailed Grackle, Common Grackle, Rose-breasted Grosbeak

(pictured), Red-tailed Hawk (nesting above an apartment window), Green Heron, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Eastern Kingbird, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Baltimore Oriole,

American Robin, Mute Swan with cygnets, Scarlet Tanager, Wood Thrush, Eastern Towhee, Warbling Vireo, Downy Woodpecker, and Red-bellied Woodpecker

Seed - Feeders
Houses - Baths
Books - Gifts

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"NEW YORK'S LARGEST WILD BIRD SPECIALTY STORE"

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NOMINATIONS FOR 2001-2002 OFFICERS

At South Shore Audubon Society's general meeting on May 8, officers will be elected for our next fiscal year. All members attending that meeting may nominate candidates from the floor and vote. The SSAS Nominating Committee, led by acting chair Wendy Murbach, has recommended the following candidates:

★★ 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. 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

alongside us.

Our new members since the last *Skimmer* are:
Atlantic Beach Ben Bernstein, Rhoda Lapidus,

Lauren Popkoff
Baldwin Kristine Bader, Emil E. Hoefler,
Roy S. Mahon, Lillyan Schnur

Roy S. Mahon, Lillyan Schnur, Matthew F. Shields, Mrs. Richard Weissman

Bellmore Jesse Aue, Ms. Betty Betts, Joni Capuano, Helen Gerhauser, Iris

T. Kinzer, Kathleen L. Naidich

Bethpage Doreen Bucci

Cedarhurst..... Adam B. Hofstetter, Louis

Srulowitz

Copiague Ms. Susan Burke

East Meadow Marilyn Bunshaft, Laura M. Flanagan, J. Marcus

East Rockaway	Anthony & Patricia Arroyo, Daniel F. Foley
Farmingdale	Gerard X. Brogan, Carmen Givan, Val & Sonia Martilotto, Cathy Smith
Floral Park	Jeanine Connolly, P. O'Brien
rialikilii Square	Jeffrey K. Breger, Maria Raspante Kathleen Rathgeber
Freeport	Bettye Gomes, Mr. Gilbert Shore
	Laura Mc Keon, Susan Silverman,
	Maria Wilson
	Diego Lopez, Andrew J. Tatom
Hewlett	Sheila J. Brazil, William Greenwald
Hicksville	James Fazio, Sharati A. Gandhi,
	Thelma Kuhajda, Marilyn Leon
Jamaica	Barbara Hausman
Levittown	Abbey Bial, Carina Henriksen,
\	Ronald Kahn, Nancy A. Lane,
	Craig Marshall, Betty Oley,
	Dr. Raymond H. Turgeon
Long Beach	David Levine, Jeanne Kaskel,
3	Phyllis Katzen, Stephanie
	Kurtzman
Lynbrook	Mario G. Filippo
Malverne	
	Louise Bender, Charles Daleo,
.	Matthew Kressel, Cheryl
	Oestreich, Kurt Scammell,
4	Joan Schenck
Massapequa Park	Sallie Moore
Merrick	Mr. John Ammerman, Mario
	Felicione, Margaret Lowe
Oceanside	Carol & Jerrold Mehlman
Plainview	Steven Corio, Mr. Edward Moran,
	Kenneth Speiser,
	Anastasia D. Theodorou
Point Lookout	John Gilmore
Rockville Centre	Alvin Abelack, Mr. & Mrs. C.
	Lancellotti, Donald Resnick,
	William Yoniack
Roosevelt	Clarice Donaldson
	Esin K. Carton, John Lane
Valley Stream	Dorothy Allocca, Vivian Bitensky,
	Joan A. Calabrese, Laura Koch, Helen Scala
Wantagh	Floyd Earl, David T. Frisch,
···	Daniel J. Wilke
West Hempstead	Sandy Armstrong, Rita Beyer,
F	Cindy Chaimowitz, Robert G.
~11.1	Martino, Gina Milici, Elizabeth
Fire Did	Perrier, Thelma Seifer, Aileen
T	Sheridan, Diane Singer,
V	Barbara Stiles

Woodmere Asher J. Mathathias, Florence

Schwartzberg

REMINDER: EARTH DAY AT TACKAPAUSHA

If the U.S. Postal Service delivered your *Skimmer* quickly, here's a last-minute reminder: Join SSAS on **Saturday, April 21**, from 10 A.M. to 3 P.M. for fish printing, children's nature tees, nature and wildlife programs (including live falcons), free white pine seedlings for the first 1000 visitors, a recycle sale, and more. The usual admission, \$2 for adults and \$1 for children ages 5 to 12, will be charged to enter the museum. Tackapausha Museum is 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 very old computers used by children at the museum. Please bring items that you're willing to donate/recycle to Tackapausha on Earth Day. If you have any questions, please call Chris Schmitt at 887-7713 or Joan Butkereit at 599-0395.



Explore the coast with the

AMERICAN LITTORAL SOCIETY

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, oystercatcher, osprey, peregrine falcon, many shorebird species. Cost: \$35 incl. guided narrative aboard 96' "Dorothy B VIII." MONTAUK (June 8–10). Weekend of natural history exploration incl. birding, botanizing, seining, canoeing. Cost: \$275 incl. 2 nights at luxurious Manor House, 5 meals, 5 field trips, evening programs, star watch. Visit "Walking Dunes," Accabonac harbor, Montauk Bluffs, Napeague beach during heather blossom time.

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

SUMMER DAY CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS FOR DISADVANTAGED YOUNGSTERS

Thanks to the persistent efforts of Betty Borowsky, this will be the fourth year that SSAS sends needy children from our area to the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary's summer day camp program. Our objective is to expose the children to nature and to the environment, and maybe have them learn a little about conservation.

Once again, the Old Navy Company will provide us with a bus and driver at no charge. This year, the bus will be transporting our campers between Oceanside and Oyster Bay. If you can be a chaperone for a few days in August or assist us in any other way, please call Betty at 764-3596 for details or to volunteer.

THANKS TO THE HICKS & BROOKSIDE VOLUNTEERS AND OUR PRO BOND ACCOUNTANT

We'd like to thank the SSAS members who helped our chapter recruit new members at our table at Hicks' Nurseries Flower and Garden Show on March 17th & 18th: Philippa Gerstenblitt, Therese Lucas, Wendy Murbach, Scott Oglesby, George Peters, Chris Schmitt, Michael Sperling, and Tom Torma.

And we'd like to thank the members who participated in our spring cleanup at Brookside Preserve: Susan Brychcy, Betsy Gulotta, Marianne Gumbs, Therese Lucas, Christine Marzigliano, Wendy Murbach, George Peters, Doris Pirodsky, Vince Puglisi, Chris Schmitt, and John Zarudsky.

Last, we'd like to thank Ronald A. McGrath, now a resident of Old Brookville, for donating his accounting services to SSAS for the past year.

^

THE ELEVENTH ANNUAL THANK-YOU COLUMN

Michael Sperling

I'd like to thank very much everyone who contributed articles to this year's six issues, made trips to F&B Printers (Brendan Kelly, George Peters, Doreen Remsen, Dolores Rogers, Chris Schmitt, and Tom Torma), brought *Skimmers* to Nassau Library's distribution center (Wendy Murbach) and the post office (Sal Navasaitis), printed the labels (Wendy again), and stuck labels on *Skimmers* (Sandy Brenner, Philippa Gerstenblitt, Shirley Kutner, Therese Lucas, Wendy, Doreen, Dolores, Chris & Rina Schmitt, Marcia Specht, and my dad).

And I'd like to thank the Brookside Preserve Committee people who stayed late to stuff and sponge the Greening of Long Island envelopes: Joan & Paul Butkereit, Betsy Gulotta, Judy Hoyer, Marge Jaeger, Therese, Wendy, Lou Paolillo, George, Doris Pirodsky, Laurie Raisher, and Chris.

RARE BIRD ALERT (212) 979-3070

BIRDING WHILE EXERCISING

Peter Martin

One interesting aspect of birding and natural history observation is that some of the best opportunities present themselves when we are not specifically "birding." I've had great pelagic encounters (seabirds, whales, etc.) while shark and tuna fishing off Long Island, and have seen a frigatebird and numbers of shearwaters while kayaking off Fire Island. I've viewed gannets, cormorants, and pelicans from underwater while skin diving. My only viewing of the aurora borealis from Long Island was while bike riding the Wantagh Parkway after dark last spring. Last fall, while I was in the dentist's chair, a Cooper's Hawk chased a starling across my field of view. My excitement caused my dentist to fear he hit a nerve! I'm sure we've all seen neat things while driving (be careful).

Serendipity aside, it's well to be prepared. Being alert and mindful of the possibilities of your location and season help. Having even an old "spare" pair of binoculars and field guides handy in your vehicle makes sense too.

But this article is supposed to be about birding while exercising. I compete in a number of triathlons and road races each year, and training for these events entails a great deal of biking and running, year-round. Instead of enduring the vehicles, fumes, noise, hard pavement, and dogs of the roads of Long Island, I train primarily on beaches, trails, and bikeways. It's a simple matter to carry a lightweight set of binoculars in a fanny pack. When they are properly adjusted, you almost forget they are there. Just don't forget to remove the pack if you go in for a swim; I've only made that mistake once. If your exercise is walking around your neighborhood, local parks, or the Jones Beach or Long Beach boardwalks, bring your binoculars. I've seen an eagle high over my house in Bellmore, both species of pelicans (White Pelicans on the Christmas Bird Count!) from the Jones Beach boardwalk, and seals and, once, a whale from the Long Beach boardwalk.

Although studying fall warblers and shorebirds while running doesn't really work, you do notice the larger and more spectacular wildlife, and you can always interrupt your run and stop to observe when you encounter something interesting.

One important consideration is to avoid doing environmental damage while indulging yourself in exercise. I

obviously avoid bird nesting areas and areas with sensitive vegetation. But sometimes you can cause a disturbance unintentionally. While I was running an upstate trail, a Northern Goshawk (pictured) launched itself from a tree and raked its talons through a sweatshirt, tee shirt, and a little bit of me.

I thereafter altered my route and respected its nesting territory. While running a wooded north shore trail at night, I had my cap knocked off my head and stopped briefly to observe three Screech Owlets sitting on a branch while an adult owl made repeated passes, causing a breeze over my head. Here, too, I left promptly and did not intrude again.

While running, you routinely disturb insects, small birds, and mammals. On several occasions, I've seen predators seemingly take advantage of this and use me as a "beater." Along the Ocean Parkway I've seen a Merlin take a sparrow and a Barn Owl take a rodent in this manner. Both birds had been following my progress for a while before making their kills. Most spectacular was during a run on the open beach, when a rabbit I had inadvertently flushed from a bayberry thicket made a very narrow escape from a Snowy Owl I had not even noticed. These things don't happen every day, but over 30 years the experiences and memories add up!

If you are out at night, sound plays a greater role. Various frogs, American Woodcocks, Whip-poor-wills, Chuck-will's-widows, Screech Owls, and Great Horned Owls are all more readily heard than seen on Long Island.

Even far from roads and especially at night, be concerned about safety. I've never had trouble with other people, but perhaps I've been lucky and I do choose my areas carefully. Uneven footing can be a hazard — running along the parkway shoulder at night and looking at the stars is great until you step in a hole that used to hold a signpost! As for hazardous wildlife, I fear ticks the most on Long Island, but I have had experiences with a black bear in Montana, a cottonmouth in Georgia, and a fer-de-lance in Belize, so knowledge of the local areas is a plus!

So, try to couple outdoor exercise with nature observation and your rewards will be magnified! As I finish this writing (in early March), the weather is atrocious, but maybe if I set up a treadmill alongside my stationary bike, which already looks out on my bird feeder... Well, the possibilities are endless! Runners and birders are supposed to be compulsive, and the combination can be both a burden and a blessing.

Editor's note: SSAS member Peter Martin was last year's winner of our Maine Audubon Camp scholarship. Cottonmouths and fer-de-lances are venomous snakes.

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 bimonthly from September through May by South Shore Audubon Society, P.O. Box 31, Freeport, NY 11520-0031.

SURVEYOR WANTED

Michael Sperling

As most of you know, in March of last year SSAS reached an out-of-court settlement in our first-ever law-suit. We had sued Water Works Realty Corp. and Nassau County in order to protect Nassau County's 20-acre Brookside Preserve (which is managed by SSAS and is on the Freeport–Baldwin border just north of Sunrise Highway) from damage to be caused by a nursing home that would be built zero inches from the preserve's southern border. We went to court after the lame-duck Republicanled County Legislature voted to sell an emergency access right-of-way through Brookside for \$750 without issuing an environmental impact statement or getting the State Legislature's approval for its alienation of parkland.

One provision of the court settlement gave SSAS a conservation easement protecting 8,732 square feet between the west bank of Milburn Creek and the nursing home's reconfigured parking lot. Our easement, however, would be lost if and when Water Works Realty Corp. sells the property to another developer, which they were already under contract to do when we filed suit.

Well, a year's gone by and Water Works Realty's deal with the other developer has reportedly fallen through and it's now possible that they'll end up developing the property themselves. So SSAS is seeking a surveyor to map out our conservation easement. A pro bono surveyor would be our first choice, of course, but we'd also like to hear from anyone who would be willing to map the easement at a bargain price. Please call me at 541-0805 after 7:30 P.M. if you'd like to contribute your services for the benefit of Brookside Preserve and SSAS's checkbook.

SSAS FOURTEENTH ANNUAL BIRDATHON!

James Remsen, Jr.

This year, SSAS will conduct its fourteenth 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 recent decision by National Audubon to sharply decrease the amount of financial support given to chapters, the Birdathon takes on new importance; it is one of our major sources of additional income. Many of you have been very generous with your time and pledges in recent years; last year netted approximately \$3000 for the chapter and we thank you! We hope you will continue and increase your gift of either time or pledges this year.

Mark the dates on your calendar — **Friday, May 11** from 5:00 P.M. until **Saturday, May 12** at 5:00 P.M. — and join one of our intrepid leaders (or go it alone, in which

case you choose the turf). Rain dates will be one week later at the same times.

Please note: In the event of questionable weather, I will decide whether or not to cancel the Birdathon by 3:00 P.M. on Friday, May 11. If you have any uncertainty about whether it will be postponed, please call me no later than 3 o'clock on May 11. This may save unnecessary trips.

We 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. If you would like to donate a prize, please contact Jim Remsen. What we would really like to do is give some kind of reward to everyone who takes part, but we will need suggestions or donations to do this. Please see me at meetings if you can help!

Our schedule of starting places and leaders is as follows: **Friday, May 11**: Meet Ken and Karen Wenzel at Mill Pond, Merrick Road, Wantagh/Bellmore (5:15 p.m.); Paul Butkereit at Jones Beach's Coast Guard Station (5:00 p.m.); or Joe Grupp and Jim Remsen at Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot, 5:00 p.m.).

Saturday, May 12: Meet Ken and Karen Wenzel at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge at 8:00 A.M.; Paul Butkereit at the Ryan Building behind Mercy Hospital at 6:00 A.M.; or Jim and Doreen Remsen at Mill Pond, Merrick Road, Wantagh/Bellmore at 5:45 A.M. Please try to notify me or Doreen Remsen before the Birdathon if you plan to go with one of these groups so they will know how many people to expect.

If you aren't going with a team, why not try your own Birdathon? Do a variation on the usual theme of seeing as many species as you can during the count period. Use your imagination. Limit yourself to your backyard, a favorite park or preserve, or even a "couch potato" Birdathon. (For this one, you count as many bird species as you can on

television during the 24 hours. Yes, people have really done it, but we suggest you make it clear to your sponsors if you decide to give it a try!)

Sponsors are the heart of the Birdathon. These are people who agree to give you 25¢, \$1.00, or any amount for each species you see (they may also give you a flat pledge not based on number of species). Ask anyone you know, and don't forget yourself!

Pledges are due no later than Monday, June 11 to be eligible for prizes, which will be awarded at our annual dinner (assuming we can get enough prizes!). You can submit pledges on bird walks, or mail them to me (address below). If you have questions, call me or speak to me at meetings. If you need extra pledge forms, I can supply them, too. Let's make our 2001 Birdathon special by raising more funds than ever! Good luck!

Birdathon Chairperson: James Remsen, Jr., 8 Venetian Blvd., Lindenhurst NY 11757.

TERNS & PLOVERS NEED VOLUNTEERS

The Town of Hempstead's Department of Conservation and Waterways needs your help in insuring the protection and survival of Piping Plovers, Least and Common Terns, and Black Skimmers that nest in the barrier beaches between Point Lookout and Atlantic Beach. 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.

Audubon volunteers will help prevent disturbances to nesting areas, will record the presence of plover chicks and any incidents of predation, and can give beachgoers educational literature. Volunteers are needed in the Lido Town Park/Nassau Beach area and at Silver Point in Atlantic Beach. 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 SSAS's John Zarudsky, Conservation Biologist, at 897-4126 (work) or 486-5272 (home).

SEEN ANY SAW-WHETS LATELY?

Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary's Research Coordinator, Trish Pelkowski, is compiling information on the presence of Saw-whet Owls on Long Island and will be establishing a pilot banding station. If you've seen one in recent years, please send the location to tpelkowski @audubon.org or leave a message at 922-3200, Ext. 24.

BECOME A MEMBER OF SSAS Think Globally, but Join Locally!

Option 1. You can help SSAS survive NAS's major dues share cutbacks by joining Audubon through us for the same price that it costs if you join through NAS (we get a first-year bonus for recruiting you). If you'd like to become a member of National Audubon and your all-volunteer local chapter, please mail the following form and your check payable to **National Audubon Society** to us at South Shore Audubon Society, P.O. Box 31, Freeport, NY 11520-0031. The special rate for the first year is \$20 per household; \$15 for students and seniors.

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

<++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++
IAME:
ADDRESS:
-MAIL:

MAINE CAMP SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Education Committee Chairperson Suzanne Lancer and the rest of the SSAS board wish to congratulate Stephen Gunther of Bellmore for winning our scholarship to this summer's eleven-day Audubon Youth Camp in Maine. We also congratulate CarolAnne Brucato, an earth science and biology teacher at Hicksville High School, who is the winner of our adult scholarship and will spend a week on Hog Island attending a "Natural History of the Maine Coast" session.

FUN AWAITS GUESTS AT OUR 30TH ANNUAL DINNER PARTY

With Live Music, Door Prizes for Everyone, Raffle, and Silent Auction

Tom Torma

An enjoyable evening awaits everyone at our 30th annual dinner. This year we will have live music, dancing, door prizes, and a raffle for everyone, and you can bid on an item in our silent auction.

The dinner will be held at Pompei Restaurant & Catering in West Hempstead on **Tuesday**, **June 12**, starting with cocktails (open bar) and an hour of hors d'oeuvres at 6:30 P.M. Smoking will be prohibited; wine and soda will be unlimited. Pompei is located at 401 Hempstead Ave. Take Southern State Parkway Exit 17 north about 1-1/2 miles. Join your fellow South Shore members and bring your friends to our gala dinner!

Advance registration is required and this is the last 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.

*	*****************
NAME	
ADDRI	ESS:
AMOU	NT OF CHECK:
NUMB	ER OF PEOPLE:
NUMB	ER OF EACH MENU CHOICE:
	Chicken Francese
慢色	Eggplant Rollatini
	Filet of Sole Arreganata
例包	Roast Beef
*	******

2000-2001 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

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