VOLUME 32, NUMBER 3 — SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

**NOVEMBER 2001** 

#### **NEXT TWO MEETINGS**

Tom Torma

DATE:

Tuesday, November 13, 2001

TIME:

8:00 p.m. ②

PLACE:

Freeport Memorial Library

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

SPEAKER: Mel Springer

TOPIC:

Adventures in Fiji and Australia

The tropical paradise of Fiji and Australia's vast wilderness are the subjects of our November meeting. Mel Springer will present a slide show featuring the fauna and flora of these exotic locations.

Mel is the president of the Long Island Shell Club and the author of the book Sea Shells of Long Island. Join your fellow members for a photographic adventure to the romantic South Pacific.

Pre-Meeting Bird ID Class at 7:30. Arrive early and join Scott Oglesby as he helps us expand our birding horizons.

DATE:

Tuesday, December 11, 2001

TIME:

8:00 p.m. ②

PLACE:

Same as Above

SPEAKER: Brett Curlew

TOPIC:

Preserving Our Maritime Heritage

Brett Curlew of the Maritime Oceanological Society, Inc., will present our December program. Join us.



···· IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE WASTE, PLEASE

BRING COFFEE MUGS TO OUR MEETINGS 

#### 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.

#### **JOIN US AT ALLEY POND PARK**

Joanne Del Prete

SSAS is booked for Saturday, November 10 at 9:30 A.M. at Alley Pond Environmental Center, 228-06 Northern Blvd, Douglaston, NY; (718) 229-4000.

Alley Pond Park was designated as a National Environmental Study Area in 1979 and is comprised of 635 acres of woodland, meadows, fresh and salt water, and marshes. We will be escorted by APEC staff and expect to finish by approximately noon. Bathrooms are available at the main building. There will be a \$3 fee per person. Heavy rain cancels — there is no rain date. Picnic tables are available; possible local group lunch at diner/restaurant. Call me at (516) 433-0739 (evenings) for car-pool leads.

Directions. Take the Southern State Parkway, Northern State Parkway (Grand Central Parkway), or Long Island Expressway west to Cross Island Parkway north. Exit the Cross Island Parkway at Northern Blvd., eastbound (exit 31E). Coming off the exit ramp, stay in the right lane and the center is about a hundred yards on the right. Look for a green building with reddish trim (may be partly hidden by trees). Go right into the driveway and park on the side or back of the building.

From the Skimmer Editor. Here's some info I found in The New York City Audubon Society Guide to Finding Birds in the Metropolitan Area, which was published this year and whose two Nassau County entries were aided by people listed on the back page of this newsletter: Alley Pond Environmental Center is in the Alley Wetlands section of

Alley Pond Park. This section's meadows and old fields, adjacent to Alley Creek, are nesting spots for American Woodcocks, vireos, Swamp Sparrows, and American Goldfinches. Common Snipes (pictured) and

American Tree Sparrows can be common in autumn and winter. Great Blue Herons arrive in autumn, too. The Park, especially the Upper Alley section (which is south of the L.I.E.), is visited by a wide variety of migrating songbirds.

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Statesmen, Politicians, and Weasels

Tom Torma

There are times when we would hope that our politicians would step up and become something larger. Would it be too much to ask our leaders to become statesmen? Why are we not surprised when they turn into weasels? On

September 11, our region was hit with a tragedy that was almost beyond imagination. I know it is naive, but I believe our leaders should not take advantage of this event for their political or financial gain. Yet that is exactly what is happening.

Two examples stand out. The first was attempts by politicians in Washington to add on amendments to the Defense Authorization Bill. Politicians attempted to wrap these amendments in an American flag, claiming they were necessary for the national defense. In truth, these amendments were more of the same old political agenda they had been pushing before the tragedy.

Two proposed amendments would have had a large effect on the environment. A recent e-mail from a long-time South Shore Audubon Society member said it best about this issue of concern to all SSAS members:

"DO NOT LET EMERGENCY BE A CLOAK FOR ENABLING ARCTIC OIL DRILLING. Senator James Inhofe of Oklahoma has filed amendments to the Defense Authorization Bill to mandate oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The bill is scheduled for the Senate floor this Monday, September 24. Senators Clinton and Schumer have declared themselves opposed to the drilling. However, they could feel pressured to support the Defense Authorization Bill because of the current national emergency. Reaffirming messages should be sent to sustain them in their continued opposition to the drilling, even if it means opposing the Defense Authorization Bill — which they could do rightly because of this tactic enabling the administration to operate in the shadow of a national tragedy to gain drilling access to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for their oil company campaign supporters. Our representatives must not allow the administration to take advantage of a national emergency for pursuing highly questionable objectives — and in the area of our particular concern for the nation, the environment.

"For information, consult web site http://www.northern.org/arctic/anwr.htm and click on 'Washington, DC, contact information for Senate.' Thank you for your attention to this appeal — Maxwell C. Wheat, Jr."

The second issue involves the directive to General Electric to clean up the PCBs they dumped into the Hudson River. A New York Daily News editorial on October 2 expressed concern about attempts to lower the

standards for the project. The attention of the nation, state, and region was diverted by the September 11 events. General Electric and the Environmental Protection Agency have been meeting behind closed doors. Both the EPA and GE deny any attempt to undermine the \$460 million cleanup, yet in a recent statement EPA spokeswoman Tina Kreisher said: "The dredging will go forward, but surrounding us is this National Academy of Sciences study... do we commit ourselves, that we're going to see this through to the end, dredge every last piece of material from the Hudson whether or not it helps the environment?...We're going to examine it as we go." Does this sound like a commitment? Are they trying to weasel out of the directive?

That Daily News editorial mentions a \$10 million donation to the World Trade Center Victims' Fund. This is an act of a good corporate citizen. But good corporate citizens also take responsibility for their actions. They clean up their messes. We expect our leaders to stand up for what is best for our country. We do not expect them to take advantage of tragic situations. We need leaders and statesmen, not weasels.

Editor's sequel: The U.S. Senate passed the Defense Authorization Bill without allowing any amendments to be considered on the floor. However, as we go to press, Alaska's Senator Frank Murkowski is loudly demanding swift Senate action on the awful energy bill that the House of Representatives passed in August; that bill authorizes drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.



"NEW YORK'S LARGEST WILD BIRD SPECIALTY STORE"

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

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On Saturday, **October 27**, SSAS will hold its annual Halloween Party at Tackapausha Museum and Preserve in Seaford from 1 to 3 P.M. This children's party will feature programs and arts & crafts for kids. Our guest magician will be back! Refreshments will be served. Regular admission will be charged (\$2 for adults, \$1 for children); the museum is on Washington Avenue, just north of Merrick Road (Washington Ave. is four traffic lights east of the Seaford-Oyster Bay Expressway's Merrick Rd. exit).

Volunteers Needed. We need your help at our Halloween Party. If you would like to volunteer, please call Therese Lucas at 221-8654 or you can just show up and we will put you to work.

#### **BROOKSIDE PRESERVE CLEANUP TIME!**

SSAS's annual Brookside Preserve fall cleanup will take place on **Sunday**, **November 4**, starting at 1 P.M. Brookside is a 20-acre freshwater wetland, woodland, and upland area owned by Nassau County and managed (and rescued from oblivion) by SSAS. With help from a state grant, we published a trail guide, educational freshwater wetland guide, and video; we continue to add plantings for wildlife.

The trail guide, written by SSAS's John Zarudsky, Paul Butkereit, and Jim Remsen, and designed and produced by SSAS's Jenny Krivanek, includes lists of 50 plants and 50 birds found in Brookside. Here are the plants, which you can look for at the cleanup: Eastern white pine, Atlantic white-cedar, American beech, white oak, northern red oak, red maple, silver maple, Norway maple, black tupelo, elderberry, spicebush, multiflora rose, skunk cabbage, garlic mustard, jewelweed, English ivy, common mullein (pictured), sweet pepperbush, highbush blueberry,



marginal shield fern, common reed, bugleweed, nut grass, field speedwell, wood anemone, Jackin-the-pulpit, spearmint, sassafras, swamp buttercup, rough cinquefoil, wintercress, cinnamon fern, lady fern, hay-scented fern, blackberry, wild black cherry, wild strawberry, birdfoot trefoil, swamp sweetbell, arrow-leaved tearthumb, bluecurl, blue-stem grass, Canada mayflower, marsh violet, common cinquefoil,

lesser celandine, nettled chain fern, sensitive fern, Virginia creeper, and wild grape.

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).

### 

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 last month's Skimmer are: Atlantic Beach ...... Gail Mairowitz Baldwin ...... Vincent Ferrari, Barry W. Grimecy, Robert Redfield Lauren Reis Bellmore ...... Daniel E. Butler Bethpage ...... Robert Campbell Cedarhurst ..... Jerry Eltman East Meadow ...... Angel Aton, Leah O. Hopping, Jeffrey Kuhn, Frances Orefice, Rosalie Piazza East Rockaway ...... Ethel Stale Elmont ...... Clifford J. Joseph Farmingdale ...... Ronald R. O'Reilly, Chris Spampinato, Neal Swernofsky Floral Park...... Mr. Ralph M. Foster, Len Hecht Associates, Christine Scott. Robert Spohn, A. Verrelli Franklin Square ...... James Feaster, Rose Ferraioli Freeport ...... Kathleen M. Randall, Diane R. Smith, Karen Specht Hicksville ...... Paul S. Beeber, Phyllis E. Spisto, Gerard Wojahn Island Park ...... S. DiFrancesco Levittown ...... Gil Caren, Margaret M. Hlopeck Long Beach ...... Charles Elioseff, Bernard Selnick. Robert Shack Massapequa ...... Heike Bombowsky, Joan Boyce, William Karras, Helen Mackreth. Henry Skubik, Estelle Wilton Massapequa Park ..... Richard E. Magee Merrick ...... Kathleen Schnaars Plainview ...... Copeland Bershader, Dan Saraceno Point Lookout ...... Mary L. Mc Phillips Stewart Manor...... George J. Cerasuolo, Elizabeth Fitzpatrick, Hermine Gutekunst, Lawrence Jones, Lois Ridgway Uniondale ..... Jean Morris Valley Stream .......... Vivian Bartolomeo, J. Johnson, Richard Murray, Thomas Schoch Wantagh ...... Kevin J. Gallagher, Marybeth Schweibert West Hempstead ..... Ms Gail K. Bennington, G. Korpi, Alan Mechanic Woodmere ...... Dr. & Mrs. M. Rudolph AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP STATUS (800) 274-4201

# SSAS ALLOWS DISADVANTAGED YOUNGSTERS TO ATTEND TR SANCTUARY'S DAY CAMP

Belty Borowsky

This was the fourth year we've been able to send children from low-income families in our area to a oneweek day camp run by the National Audubon Society's Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary in Oyster Bay. Our chapter's catchment area encompasses some of the poorest communities on Long Island. And even within our more-affluent communities, there are many families who cannot possibly afford to send their children to day camp during the summer. That's the first reason why we began this program. The second reason is because environmental education and conservation are part of our chapter's mission, and we know that the deep love of nature and the environment that many of us have began when we were young. But maybe the most important reason is because it gives us so much pleasure to see how much fun the children have.

Each year we work with a different school district in our area. This year we worked with the Oceanside School District and sent eighteen youngsters to camp. We were blessed by having a strong advocate in Oceanside — Doreen Cronin (daughter or our own Dolores Rogers), who is a social worker there. Doreen, assisted by bilingual colleagues, worked with teachers to identify eligible children, and actually obtained permission slips for 24 of them.

The participation of someone who speaks Spanish was critical this year, since while all the children are perfectly fluent in English, some of their parents only speak Spanish, and we must explain the program to them so they are comfortable about sending their children to camp. I thank Doreen and everybody at Oceanside who worked so hard and made my job so much easier this year.

There are many other people we need to thank as well. Absolutely everyone was indispensable. Thank you to:

- \*Old Navy Company, who provided the school bus and driver for free. In particular I want to thank Vicky Seely in the Islandia office, who made the paperwork easy for me, and our bus driver, a man with nerves of steel. We are very grateful for Old Navy's continued support for our program. Indeed, without their assistance we probably would not be able to afford it; commercial school buses are prohibitively expensive. And the children get a big kick out of riding in that colorful bus.
- \* Our chaperons: Chris Schmitt, who accompanied the children on the bus to and from the camp every day and who coordinated attendance and other details; and Alice Blaustein and Maureen Rube, who once again were able to spend two whole days making sure the children would have adult supervision at all times.
- \* All the counselors and staff of TR Sanctuary, but most especially Jay Teyan, Marilyn England, and Joan Seaman. It wouldn't work without their cooperation. For the rea-

sons given below, I really can't even tell the TR staff how many children we'll be sending; indeed, not until we get there the first day do I know for sure. So I keep changing things until the last moment, and TR always accommodates this uncertainty.

Two weeks before camp, I call every family to confirm their child's attendance. It is at this point that I realize how marginalized these families are. This year, by two weeks before camp was to begin, I was only able to reach 19 of the 24 families that Doreen had gotten permission slips for (one mother said her child could not attend because of illness). There are many reasons why I can't reach some of these families, but the underlying reason is that they are poor. So their phone may be disconnected. Or they may move frequently. Or they've moved into another relative's home temporarily, so I can't locate them.

What do the children do when they get to camp? They do pretty much what children in other day camps would be doing. They have running games and building games. They go fishing; they comb the shore for shells. But at TR,



this is all in the context of the environment. So the running and tag games' theme revolves around the environment. They might build a log cabin for themselves of sticks they find in

the woods. Then, at the end of each day, a counselor takes out a special live animal and tells the children all about it, drawing them into the discussion. The animal might be a bird, or a lizard, or even a millipede (yuck!). The kids just love this. I have some video to show you all, but this will just give you a small idea of what they experience. You need to see their faces, and listen to what they say when they get on the bus in the afternoon, to really appreciate how much they enjoy the camp.

And I should mention that most of our children are really wonderful kids. They are smart, they participate with enthusiasm, and they're just plain fun to be around. You would be very proud of them.

Each year we've been able to send more children than the previous year. With everyone's help, I look forward to continuing to grow this program. But we need more help. If you are bilingual, and/or if you work in one of the school districts in our area, and/or if you would like to be a chaperon next year, or if you just have some ideas, I would love to hear from you. Call me at 764-3596.

On the last day of camp, one of the children said it all to Chris: "See you next year!"

SSAS Post Office Statement — South Shore Skimmer is published monthly from September through January and March through May by South Shore Audubon Society, P.O. Box 31, Freeport, NY 11520-0031.

#### **MORTON TRIP SCHEDULED**

Joanne Dei Prete

On **Saturday, December 1** (for the first time in nearly three years), SSAS will meet at 10 A.M. at Morton National Wildlife Refuge, located on the peninsula of Jessups Neck in Noyack, which is just west of Sag Harbor (driving moderately, from Bethpage it takes me about 1-1/2 hours via the Long Island Expressway to Sunrise Highway). Bring sunflower seeds or shelled peanuts if you want to feed the Black-capped Chickadees and Tufted Titmice out of your hand. We should also see many other species of birds who are attracted by all the free food and some others in the pond and bay. Bring a camera for great closeup shots. Heavy rain cancels.

There are several options for exploring this great treasure: There are two 3/4 mile trails — one is a woodland trail with a pond and the other leads to the Little Peconic and Noyack Bays. We can also walk along the beach to the end of Jessups Neck. Afterwards, at your own discretion, you can visit Sag Harbor for lunch, shopping, and celebrity watching.

Directions to Morton: Sunrise Highway (Route 27) eastbound (from LI Expressway take exit 70, County Road 111 and follow signs to 27 east). Route 27 will change from a highway to local roadway going through the towns. A few miles past Southampton College (and 17.1 miles from Route 111), make a left at the County Road 52 intersection (the sign points left for North Sea and Noyack). Proceed 0.9 miles and turn left at a traffic light onto County Road 38. Go 1.4 miles and turn right onto Noyack Road (look for a small sign on right side of road, "5 Miles to Morton Wildlife Sanctuary"). The refuge entrance is on the left. There is a big brown sign right at the entrance.

There is limited parking so it would be advisable to arrange carpooling; you can call me if you need help (433-0739 evenings). There is no entrance fee and the rest rooms (near the entrance) may not be open.

From the "Long Island National Wildlife Refuge Complex" Pamphlet: This 187-acre refuge includes Jessups Neck and contains exceptionally diverse habitats. Sandy, gravel, and rocky beaches fringe the peninsula, and the wooded bluffs of Jessups Neck overlook the Peconic and Noyack Bays. The remainder of the refuge is upland forest, brackish and freshwater ponds, salt marsh, a lagoon, and open fields. After years of agriculture and occasional fires, the land is reverting to a natural state. These habitats provide for a diversity of wildlife including deer, fox, and other common mammals, reptiles, songbirds, waterbirds, and raptors. Bay and sea ducks are common during winter, and wading birds and shorebirds are easily observed in the warmer months. The adjacent bays are used by marine turtles.

The refuge was donated to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in 1954 by Elizabeth Morton. A nature trail passes through upland forest, adjacent to wetlands, through a field, and onto a bay beach. The peninsula is 1-3/4 miles long and contains upland trails and a brackish pond.

From the Refuge's Checklist

Abundant in winter (Dec.-Feb.): American Black Duck, Long-tailed Duck (formerly Oldsquaw), White-winged Scoter, Bufflehead, Red-breasted Merganser, Herring Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Mourning Dove, and White-throated Sparrow (pictured).

Common in winter (Dec.-Feb.): Horned Grebe, Mute Swan, Common Goldeneye, Red-tailed Hawk, Northern Bobwhite, Ring-billed Gull, Downy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, Northern Cardinal, Song Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, and House Finch.

Uncommon ("present, but not certain to be seen") in winter (Dec.-Feb.): Common Loon, Pied-billed Grebe, Great Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Snow Goose, Brant, Canada

Goose, Mallard, American Wigeon, Canvasback,
Redhead, Greater Scaup, Lesser Scaup,
Black Scoter, Surf Scoter, Hooded
Merganser, Common Merganser,
Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's

Hawk, Ring-necked Pheasant, Black-bellied Plover, Killdeer, Sanderling, Common Snipe, Barn Owl, Eastern Screech-Owl, Great Horned Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Horned Lark, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, American Robin, Cedar Waxwing, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Eastern Towhee, American Tree Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Snow Bunting, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Rusty Blackbird, Purple Finch, Common Redpoll, American Goldfinch, Evening Grosbeak, and House Sparrow.

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Brookside Preserve	\$2,000
College Scholarships	\$1,500
Conferences/Council Meetings	\$1,000
Conservation	\$600
Donations	
Education	
Festivals	\$500
Insurance	
Library Custodians	\$300
Library Donations (Freeport & Merrick)	\$800
Library Overtime	\$500
Membership	\$400
Miscellaneous	<b>7\$1,000</b>
Public Relations	\$200
Refreshments	<b>\$400</b>
Secretary	3 \$150
Skimmer	\$6,500
Speakers	<b>\$600</b>
TRS Camp Scholarships	\$6,000
Total	\$25,050

#### NINE REASONS TO CONNECT WITH SSAS VIA THE INTERNET

Michael Sperling

① At www.ssaudubon.org, you can enter our **online store**. (When you do, you'll be able to support SSAS by purchasing discounted environmental books, videos, CDs, software, bird feeders, binoculars, spotting scopes, clothing, jewelry, etc., through our arrangement with withoutbricks.com.)

- ② At www.ssaudubon.org, you can get directions to local birding sites.
- ③ At www.ssaudubon.org, you can read lists of species seen on our recent Sunday morning bird walks.
- At www.ssaudubon.org, you can read a list of ways that you can become one of SSAS's volunteers (if nobody volunteered, there'd be no SSAS at all).
- ⑤ At www.ssaudubon.org, you can read portions of current and recent *Skimmers*.
  - **6** At www.ssaudubon.org, you can read Action Alerts.
- ② At www.ssaudubon.org, you can find a list of our elected officials and how to contact them.
- **®** At www.ssaudubon.org, you can click on links to other environmental web pages.
- At www.ssaudubon.org, you now can easily join our Yahoo Group. (When you do, you'll get occasional emails about what we've seen on our walks, where our next walk will be, how to influence imminent major environmental decisions, and when the Freeport library cancels our meetings due to terror or winter weather, and you'll be able to send messages to anonymous fellow members.)

#### 

Michael Sperling

I've made arrangements for a limited number of SSAS members to visit Shai Mitra's songbird banding station at nearby Fire Island National Seashore during the morning of **Saturday, November 3**.

Since 1996, he has been coordinating a multidisciplinary field project on Fire Island concerning ecological interactions among the organisms involved in the Lyme Disease cycle: birds, mammals, and Deer Ticks. His own postdoctoral research "focuses on the ecology of migratory birds and their role as hosts for Deer Ticks."

This is an opportunity for SSAS members to see songbirds from a few feet away in mist nets, and while they're being measured, banded, and inspected by Shai, as well as an opportunity to learn about his studies.

Shai wrote that "early November is a dynamic time for birds on Fire Island; typically the likelihood of western and



boreal vagrant species is greater than during the peak of migration Sep.—Oct., but many typical October migrants (e.g., Myrtle Warbler, Slate-colored Junco, both kinglets) are still present." Current field guides refer to the preceding as Yellow-rumped Warbler (pictured), Dark-eyed Junco, and Golden-crowned and Ruby-crowned Kinglets. He also wrote that it will still be tick season and we should take precautions.

In order to attend, members must speak to me at 541-0805 after 7:30 P.M. or send e-mail to mssperling@ compuserve.com. Shai can handle a maximum of 20 people at a time, perhaps as two groups of 20 people. Registration was expected to begin at our October general meeting; if you signed up then, I'll be contacting you with the details in late October.

Heavy rain or high winds (over 20 knots) will cancel our visit; light or intermittent rain won't.

# SHAKY FIGURES ON ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE DRILLING

Back in August, your editor tuned in C-SPAN's coverage of the House of Representatives' consideration of the environmentally disastrous energy bill (H.R. 4) and watched Congressman John Sununu, Jr. (R-NH) spit out nonsense as he led the bad guys' successful effort to approve drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Soon afterwards (8/13/01), *Time* magazine's Douglas Waller wrote an opinion piece that refuted the oil industry's propaganda. Since we're likely to hear the same arguments when the U.S. Senate considers the energy bill, here are his points (the article may still be available at www.time.com; it was titled "Some Shaky Figures on ANWR Drilling").

Mr. Sununu tacked on an amendment limiting the drilling to 2,000 acres. According to Mr. Waller, "the 2,000 acres don't have to be contiguous and only the space of the equipment touching the ground is counted. Each drilling platform can take up as little as 10 acres. The pipelines are above ground. For space purposes, the amendment counts only the ground touched by the stanchions holding up the pipe. Road widths also are conveniently left out of the space limit... Environmentalists complain that the House limit ends up allowing oil companies to spread out over practically the entire 1.5 million acres" of the refuge's coastal plain.

The Teamsters union lobbied for drilling because they'd been told that over 700,000 jobs would be created. But "that number comes from an 11-year-old study commissioned by the American Petroleum Institute that economists complain wildly inflates the employment potential." Mr. Waller names one economist as an example, "who predicts the real job growth will be less than one-tenth that number."

<b>*****************************</b>
NASSAU COUNTY POLLUTION HOTLINE 739-6666
<b>*****************************</b>
RARE BIRD ALERT (212) 979-3070
<b>****************************</b>



All walks start at 9:30 a.m. except for Pelham Bay; no walk if it rains or snows or temperature is below 25°F. Any questions? Call Elliott at 486-7667.

Oct. 21	Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner
Oct. 28	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
Nov. 4	Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
Nov. 11	Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner
Nov. 18	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
Nov. 25	Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
Dec. 2	Pelham Bay for Owls (pull over to street
<b>5</b>	on extreme right after going through
<b>(P)</b>	Throgs Neck Bridge toll; meet at 9 A.M.)
Dểc. 9	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)

Jones Beach Toll Season Advisory. Prior to the election of George Pataki as Governor, parking fees were charged at NY State Parks from Memorial Day through Labor Day. When the Pataki administration extended the toll season to be from early May through Columbus Day, Elliott adjusted the bird walk schedule to avoid the tolls. However, we've learned that tolls will be charged through Thanksgiving this year and it's too late to change our schedule, so carpooling, especially with someone who has an Empire Passport, will now help your pocketbook in addition to helping the environment.

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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.

*******		
NAME:	·	
ADDRESS:		
PHONE NO.:		
E-MAIL: Chapter Code R15 7XCH (South Shore Audu	ıbon Society)	

#### **TOLL-FREE NUMBER FOR DEAD BIRDS**

In the September *Skimmer*, we reported that New York State's wildlife pathologist, Dr. Ward Stone, had concluded that the use of toxic pesticides (including some common lawn-care chemicals) was the leading cause of death for the birds examined by his office during the West Nile Virus scare. We omitted the toll-free number that has been set up to report dead bird sightings in New York; according to an Audubon New York media release, it's 1-866-537-2473. If you find an intact dead bird, you can double bag it; tag it with the time, date, and location; and send it to Ward Stone, State Wildlife Pathology Unit, Game Farm Road, Delmar, NY 12054.

#### 

As noted in this *Skimmer*, we're heading east to Morton on December 1 — a National Wildlife Refuge famous for the generations of chickadees (pictured) and titmice that have become so acclimated to handouts that they'll take seed from anyone's hand. The Adirondack Park Visitor Interpretive Center in Paul Smiths, NY published a series of columns titled "Nature Detectives," one of which answers the timely question "How do you tame a bird so it will eat out of your hand?"

Here's their answer, with tips that should be useful at Morton NWR.

Taming a bird to eat out of your hand can be rewarding; it also can be a nuisance, as the bird may approach you every time you go outside.

The general premise of taming techniques is to get the birds accustomed to you. You can do this by remaining at the feeder for 10 to 30 minutes each day. You might feed the birds, then move 10 feet or so away and wait. Each day after you feed them, move closer and remain.

Once they feel comfortable with you hanging around, you can begin the process of getting them to eat out of your hand.

According to the book *Hand-Taming Wild Birds at the Feeder* by Alfred Martin, the next step is to remove all the food from your feeder except a small quantity at the corner of a tray. Lay your hand flat on the tray with a large portion of food in it and wait. Martin advises you to:

- Speak softly to the birds in low conversational tones.
- Avoid sudden movements and do not look directly at the birds.
- Not swallow; the birds may think you want to swallow them.

Birds generally regard hands as potential traps, so keep your hand flat and do not move it.

You may have to repeat the procedure over a few days before a bird will risk taking food.

Chickadees are the most likely bird to be hand tamed.

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