OUTH HORE KIMMER

VOLUME 32, NUMBER 8 — SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

MAY-AUGUST 2002

NEXT MEETING

Tom Torma

DATE: Tuesday, May 14, 2002

TIME: 8:00 p.m. (2)

PLACE: Freeport Memorial Library

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

SPEAKER: Sherman Wolfson TOPIC: Piping Plovers

Mr. Wolfson is an outstanding photographer who donated his time and talent photographing Piping Plovers for the Town of East Hampton. His photographs were used to help identify the individual birds. While photographing these birds, our guest speaker observed their behavior and the efforts being made by people to protect this endangered species. Mr. Wolfson will share his photography and experiences with us at our last monthly meeting till September. Join us!

Pre-Meeting Bird ID Class at 7:30. Arrive early and catch Jim Remsen demonstrating how to recognize the differences between similar-sounding bird songs.

Parking Alert: In April, Citibank enforced their senseless round-the-clock customers-only parking policy by towing away cars on a Tuesday night for \$125 apiece during an SSAS board meeting. If you park next to the building on the north side of the library's parking lot, you'll get towed for \$7 less. Allow a few extra minutes to find a legal spot!

IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE WASTE, PLEASE BRING COFFEE MUGS TO OUR MEETINGS.

\$SHADE-GROWN COFFEE PROTECTS RAINFORESTS!\$

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 FIFTEENTH ANNUAL BIRDATHON!

James Remsen. k.

This year, SSAS will conduct its fifteenth 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 sharp reduction in the amount of financial support given to chapters by National Audubon, the Birdathon is more important to SSAS than ever. Many of you have been very generous with your time and pledges in recent years 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 10 from 5:00 P.M. until Saturday, May 11 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 P.M. on Friday, May 10. If you have any uncertainty about whether it will be postponed, please call me by then.

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 me. 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 10: Meet Ken and Karen Wenzel at Mill Pond, Merrick Road, Wantagh/Bellmore (5 P.M.); Paul Butkereit at Jones Beach's Coast Guard Station (5 P.M.); or Joe Grupp at Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot, 5 P.M.).

Saturday, May 11: Meet Elliott Kutner at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge at 8 A.M.; Paul Butkereit at the Ryan Building behind Mercy Hospital at 6 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 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, 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 10 to be eligible for 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 pledge forms, I can supply them. Let's make our 2002 Birdathon special by raising more funds than ever! Good luck!

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

Last Year's SSAS List: Red-throated Loon, Horned Grebe, Great Cormorant, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Little Blue Heron, Tricolored Heron, Green Heron, Black-crowned Night-Heron, Yellow-crowned Night-Heron, Glossy Ibis,

Canada Goose, Brant, Mute Swan, Wood Duck, Gadwall, American Black Duck,

Mallard, Northern Shoveler, Surf Scoter, Bufflehead, Ruddy

Duck, Osprey, Northern Harrier, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Ringnecked Pheasant, Northern

Bobwhite, Clapper Rail, Blackbellied Plover, Semipalmated Plover, Piping Plover, Killdeer, American Oystercatcher (pictured), Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Willet, Spotted Sandpiper, Ruddy Turnstone, Sanderling, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, Dunlin, Short-billed Dowitcher, American Woodcock, Laughing Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Gull-billed Tern, Common Tern, Forster's Tern, Least Tern,

Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Redbellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker,

Eastern Wood-Pewee, Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Tree Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Blue Jay, American Crow, Fish Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, House Wren, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Eastern Bluebird, Veery, Swainson's Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Wood Thrush, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, Brown Thrasher, Cedar Waxwing, European Starling, White-eyed Vireo, Blueheaded (Solitary) Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo,

Blue-winged Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Northern Parula, Yellow Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Cape May Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Baybreasted Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Black-and-white Warbler, American Redstart, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Common Yellowthroat, Hooded Warbler, Canada Warbler,

Scarlet Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Indigo Bunting, Eastern Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow, Seaside Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Redwinged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Boat-tailed Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore Oriole, House Finch, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow

NOMINATIONS FOR 2002-2003 OFFICERS

At South Shore Audubon Society's general meeting on May 14th, 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, chaired by Elliott Kutner, has recommended the following candidates:

President — George Peters
Vice President — Scott Oglesby

Treasurer — Nancy Frame

Recording Secretary — Sal Navasaitis
Corresponding Secretary — Alice Blaustein

Director (to June 2005) — Louis P. Paolillo

Director (to June 2005) — Ann Marie Pozzini

SSAS's annual Brookside Preserve spring cleanup will take place on **Sunday**, **May 19**, 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 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).

★★ WELCOME NEW MEMBER5 ★★

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.

Seaford......Susan Gerlach, Judith Harvey

Valley Stream Sylvia Axelrod, M.D. Wantagh Mr. Martin J. Kelly West Hempstead George S. Lidback

Woodmere Rachel Flynn

Long Beach L. Driscoll

OUR E-LIST http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ssas_list

PLOVERS, TERNS, AND SKIMMERS

John Zarudsky

During the 2001 breeding season, 15 pairs of Piping Plovers nested between Point Lookout and Silver Point in Atlantic Beach, with at least one young produced per pair. In addition, Nassau Beach was the site of one of the largest Least Tern colonies on Long Island, averaging 625 pairs. Also successfully nesting at Nassau Beach were 53 pairs of Black Skimmers. The adult Skimmer population, which fluctuated in numbers throughout the season, sometimes reached 500 individuals, which were observed into late September.

Free Workshop. Information pertaining to helping protect Piping Plover and tern nesting areas on our barrier beaches will be provided at a biology and management training workshop that will be held in the Jones Beach West Bathhouse on **Saturday, May 25** at 9 A.M. Please call the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's field office at 631-581-2941 to register. The workshops are being jointly conducted by U.S. FWS, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, Nature Conservancy, Citizens Campaign for the Environment, and the Krusos Foundation.

Volunteers Requested. The Town of Hempstead's Department of Conservation and Waterways needs your help in insuring the protection and survival of Piping Plovers (pictured), Least and Common Terns, and Black Skimmers that nest 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 pertaining to Piping Plovers and terns. Help is particularly needed on evenings, weekends, and holidays from May through August. If you're interested and are able to volunteer fairly regularly, please contact John Zarudsky, Conservation Biologist (and active SSAS member), at 897-4126 (work) or 486-5272 (home).

THANKS TO THE HICKS VOLUNTEERS AND OUR PRO BOND ACCOUNTANT

SSAS thanks the members who greeted the public at our table at the Hicks Nurseries' Spring Flower & Garden Show in March: Eileen Daly, Therese Lucas, Wendy Murbach, Scott Oglesby, George Peters, Laurie Raisher, Chris Schmitt, and Michael Sperling.

We also thank Ronald A. McGrath of Glen Head for donating his accounting services to SSAS for the past two years.

HORSESHOE CRABS: ANCIENT WONDERS

Don Riepe

Editor's note: This article originally appeared in 1998 in Underwater Naturalist, the bulletin of the American Littoral Society. Horseshoe crab shells are frequently seen during our Jones Beach bird walks; see Don's ad in this Skimmer for free horseshoe crab walks at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge.

Each spring, between mid-May and mid-June, thousands of fierce-looking sea creatures crawl from the sea to mate and lay eggs along the sandy shorelines and mudflats of New York City. These harmless animals called horseshoe crabs are not really crabs at all, but more closely related to arachnids (spiders and scorpions). A living fossil, the horseshoe crab evolved long before the dinosaurs, with an ancestral heritage dating back to the Triassic Period, two hundred million years ago.

Currently, four species exist worldwide. One species populates the Atlantic coast from Maine to Mexico, with the largest concentrations found in Delaware Bay. Named

crab actually has nine eyes:

on each side of its shell,

center, and five light-

neath. The other three

crabs are found in the

Oceans. During high

new and full moons,

emerge from the

The larger females

companied by one

males that attach

back by specially

claws. At the high

Limulus polyphemus after the I one-eyed giant of Greek mythology, this horseshoe one large compound eye two small ones in the front receptive organs under-

species of horseshoe Indian and Pacific tides, especially at

"crabs" these water to spawn. are usually acor more smaller themselves to her adapted clasper

tide line, the female will dig a nest in the wet sand and lay tiny greenish eggs. The attached male fertilizes the eggs as they are laid and then both move back to deeper waters to feed on benthic animals such as marine worms, crustaceans, and mollusks.

About a month later, the eggs hatch out, each one containing a tiny, though tailless, replica of the adult crab. The little crabs will molt their shells several times yearly during the first few years of life and then once yearly thereafter. They reach adult size in about 10-13 years and may live another 7-10 years. Before molting takes place, a new skin forms under the existing shell. The old shell splits open along the front and the crab walks out. The crab then takes in water and digs into the sand. This new skin is stretched larger and hardens around the crab to form a new shell. The molted shells can be found along beaches at any time of year and make nice coffee table or shelf decorations.

The eggs provide a bonanza for migrating shorebirds arriving in New York City from their winter homes in Central and South America. Some birds, such as Blackbellied Plovers and Red Knots, may have traveled several thousand miles across the ocean, making their first landfall in the estuaries of New York and New Jersey. Peak shorebird migration coincides with the peak horseshoe crab egg-laying period. The horseshoe crab eggs provide critical nourishment for many shorebird species as they head to their Arctic breeding grounds. At the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge in Broad Channel, Queens, I have observed these mating rituals and feeding frenzies for many years and still am amazed by the abundance and diversity of participants. Besides Red Knots, Sanderlings, Ruddy Turnstones, and about 20 other species of shorebirds, the egg feast attracts many Laughing Gulls, Glossy Ibis, and even Canada Geese, whose goslings feed on animal matter as well as vegetation.

Snowy Egrets join in, not to feed on eggs, but on the mummichogs, silversides, and other small fish that are taking part in the bountiful melee. Larger predators, such as Herring and Black-backed Gulls, will frequently take advantage of overturned horseshoe crabs and peck out their gills, leaving a beachfront strewn with dead and dying crabs. Despite this heavy onslaught, the crabs keep coming ashore, determined to carry out the reproductive urge as they have done for millions of years, long before the advent of Homo sapiens.

It is man, however, that poses the greatest threat. In earlier times. Native Americans used the horseshoe crab for food and the shell for bailing water out of their canoes. They also used the long pointed tail, or telson, for spearing fish. None of these uses threatened the crab's existence. Today, however, using more efficient trawling techniques, fishermen harvest great numbers of horseshoe crabs for bait and many biologists are seriously concerned for their future.

Shoreline development is another problem. As sea level rises and people continue their migration to live in coastal areas, available shoreline habitats are becoming changed by bulkheading and dredging. Even though most coastal states have laws protecting these wetland areas, there is a continued nibbling away of shoreline habitat from use of legal loopholes and variances, as well as degradation of habitat from other disturbances, Including offshore dredging and water pollution from increased boating. Sewage outflows and untreated runoff further exacerbate the situation. As our coastal population swells, there will be increased pressure to build groins, seawalls, and other shoreline stabilizing methods used to protect coastal property — all of which impact natural shoreline habitats.

Another human-related problem is the tide of floatable debris littering many shorelines, thus impeding the crab's access or entangling the animal with monofilament or other plastic.

Fortunately, there is a growing public awareness about this issue. Many volunteer groups routinely clean beaches in all coastal states, and cities are seeking ways to keep trash from entering waterways. In New York City, the

Department of Environmental Protection has purchased several skimmer boats that remove debris from the surface.

Often overlooked in the equation is that the horseshoe crab has great medical value to humans. The large compound eye and accessible optic nerve have been used in scientific research for over 50 years. The Limulus lateral eye is one of the most thoroughly understood of all sensory receptor systems today. The copper-based blood contains a clotting factor that can detect minute amounts of pathogens. At Woods Hole and other research centers, crabs are routinely bled and then released unharmed back into the water. Unlike the red color of human blood, horseshoe crab blood turns bluish when exposed to air. This color comes from hemocyanin, a copper-based molecule that carries oxygen through the circulatory system. An extract of blood cells from the horseshoe crab is used to detect the presence of endotoxins in human blood serum. Chitin, the substance that makes up the horseshoe crab's shell, is used in surgical sutures and bandages that promote healing. One can only imagine what other beneficial secrets are yet to be discovered from studying this living fossil.

There is still much to be done through education, as these crabs still suffer from a maligned superstition passed down through generations. Horseshoe crab programs are becoming more popular and each spring both Urban and National Park Rangers, as well as school groups, visit NYC shorelines to tell the fascinating story of this prehistoric wonder, the ageless horseshoe crab.



Explore the coast with the

AMERICAN LITTORAL SOCIETY

ASSATEAGUE SPRING WEEKEND (May 16-19). Visit Chincoteague Refuge and Assateague National Seashore during peak spring bird migration. See lots of shorebirds & passerines, plus river otter, Sika deer, endangered Delmarva fox squirrel, and wild ponies. Cost: \$295 includes 3 nights at Refuge Motor Inn, boat tour of marshes, guided hikes, buffet. FIRE ISLAND HIKE (Sat., May 25). Hike through "Sunken Forest" and along beaches with marine ecologist Steve Finn. Cost: \$20 includes birding, butterflies, seining, ferry & guide. HORSESHOE CRAB WALKS (Sun., May 26 & Mon., June 10). Meet at Jamaica Bay refuge 7:30 р.м. for slide program & walk to see mating crabs. Contact Don for reservations. Free. JAMAICA BAY SUNSET CRUISE (Sun., June 2, 5-8 P.M.). Learn about birds, fish, management issues & general ecology, aboard 96 ft "Dorothy B VIII." See nesting Osprey, Oystercatcher, egrets, Peregrine Falcon, many shorebirds. Cost: \$35 incl. wine & cheese, snacks. Leader: Don (refuge mgr.).

MONTAUK (June 7-9). Cost: \$285 incl. 2 nights at luxurious Manor House, 5 meals, 5 guided hikes, 2 evening programs, and star watch.

ICELAND (Aug. 2-12); MOROCCO (Oct. 24 to Nov. 7)

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; www.alsnyc.org

RETHINK LITP2000!

Michael Sperling

In January, SSAS joined a coalition of organizations opposed to the preliminary preferred alternative that's been chosen by the NYS Department of Transportation's LITP2000 Study Team. Their proposed Long Island Transportation Plan would cost a projected \$4.8 billion and take 20 years to complete.

The plan includes a Rapid Commute system that "would be capable of serving at least 50,000 people during peak commuting hours. But in order to accomplish this... we will need to improve 130 miles of the roadway system" (by adding lanes to the roads) and "build 60 new miles of Priority Lanes." These 190 miles include 42 construction projects, of which the following would affect SSAS's territory:

© adding RCV (Rapid Commute Vehicle) Priority Lanes to the Meadowbrook State Parkway from the Southern State Parkway (Exit M6) to its end at the Northern State Parkway;

 adding RCV Priority Lanes to the Southern State from the Meadowbrook (Exit 22) to Sunrise Highway (Exit 44);

☼ adding one lane in each direction on Hicksville Road (Rt. 107) from Merrick Road to Boundary Avenue;

© extending the Bethpage State Parkway from Central Avenue to the Seaford-Oyster Bay Expressway at Broadway (i.e., through Bethpage State Park).

Other targeted roads include the Northern State Parkway, Sunrise Highway (in Suffolk County), Sagtikos and Sunken Meadow State Parkways, Nicolls Road, Route 109, Route 110, Montauk Highway, the L.I.E. (in Suffolk), Route 347, Route 454, William Floyd Parkway, and lots more.

There are other aspects to the proposed plan (see www.LITP2000.com), but obviously all this road widening will mean the elimination of a substantial amount of wildlife habitat. The opposition to NYS DOT's preliminary preferred alternative, led by the Long Island Progressive Coalition, provides information and ideas at www.rethink2000.com.

There are several ways to provide the LITP Study Team with your comments and questions or obtain documents. You can call 1-888-670-LITP (5487), give feedback at their web site, or write to LITP2000, P.O. Box 222262, Great Neck, NY 11022-2262.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Moving Into the Future

Tom Torma

History has taught us about the industrial revolution and how it changed our world. More recently we had a green revolution, which helped feed more people than anyone thought possible. Now the information revolution offers great promise for increased knowledge. Hopefully we will use some of that knowledge to create an economic revolution that will consider the principles of ecology in order to maintain a sustainable economy.

In 1979, the then-candidate Ronald Reagan was asked for his opinion of conservation. The soon-to-be president responded by saying that conservation meant Americans would be cold in their living rooms and he would have no part of that. Since he won that election, no American leader, either Republican or Democrat, has supported conservation. If America is to sustain its economic leadership, we must consider a future with diminishing resources. This is a considerable task; it would be nothing less than an environmentally sustainable economic revolution.

If we hope to fulfill the concept of an environmentally sustainable economy, we must stabilize human population, restore the carbon balance, and renew our water tables. We must also conserve our land, soil, and forest, and protect the diversity of our plants and animals. The problem is, these are issues in which our country has shown an amazing lack of leadership.

If we hope to ever create a sustainable economy, we must first bring human population growth under control. If we continue to allow our population to grow at the present rate, we will continue to strip our planet of its resources. To accomplish zero population growth, we will have to overcome age-old traditions, philosophical problems, as well as religious beliefs. But we have the knowledge and the means to do so; we only lack the will.

The United States is like a carbon-fuel junkie. We consume more than 25% of the world's oil supply, yet we possess less than 3% of the world's known oil reserves. That fact alone demonstrates the need for our nation to reform its ways. Energy conservation should be high on our list of national priorities. Higher fuel mileage standards for cars would be a good place to start. We also need to develop alternative sources of energy, sources that are clean and renewable. Such sources as fuel cells, wind, geothermal, and hydrogen could help solve our energy problems.

In many locations on our planet, the water table is dropping. This is due to increased farm irrigation, industrial use, increased population, and urbanization. It's the same story everywhere — humans use the groundwater faster than it can be recharged, so the wells run dry. In response to this, deeper wells are dug. Then the race is on, as competing interests dig ever deeper wells so they can

maintain their share of the available water. In a sustainable economy, efficiency and conservation will replace unwise consumption. Our water supply system should be restructured to make our water tables stable and raise the productivity of the water so it can be supplied to every facet of our economy.

Our forests provide many services, such as flood control, watershed protection, wildlife habitat, recreation, and helping maintain biodiversity. In fact, our forests are so valuable it is a shame to waste them for lumber. In the

future, we must reduce the load on our forests.
By recycling more paper,



developing alternative energy sources, and increasing the efficiency of wood for fuel, we can reduce the consumption of wood. We should get our wood from well-designed, ecologically sound, highly productive tree plantations. By producing more wood on less land, we can protect our forests. We must recognize the difference between a forest and a tree plantation, and treat them accordingly.

The human demand for animal protein has depleted our ocean fisheries and diminished our rangeland. Future demands for protein could be satisfied by fish farming and feeding livestock with crop residue. Most of our crop residue is now used for fuel or disposed of otherwise. It is possible to solve our protein demands with productive, ecologically safe methods. The Chinese have led the way with carp farming and residual crop livestock feeding. Their efforts could be a model for us to follow.

The solutions mentioned in this article are not science fiction; they are available to us today. The question is: Do we build a sustainable economy, or do we continue with an environmentally unsustainable economy until it declines? The choice is ours to make, a choice that will affect many generations to come.

THE TWELFTH ANNUAL THANK-YOU COLUMN

Michael Sperling

It's time once again for your editor to thank everyone who contributed articles and infò to this year's eight issues, made trips to F&B Printers in Island Park (Ruth Aptacker, Brendan Kelly, Dan Marsh, Ann Marie Pozzini, Doreen Remsen, and Dolores Rogers), brought *Skimmers* to the Freeport Post Office (Sal Navasaitis and George Peters), printed the labels (Wendy Murbach), and stuck labels on *Skimmers* (Louise Leonard, Therese Lucas, Wendy, Chris Schmitt, Tom & Jeanne Torma, and my parents). Thanks!

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Elliatt Kutner

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

Apr. 21	Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner*
Apr. 28	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
May 5	Tobay's JFK Memorial Wildlife Sanctuary
May 12	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
May 19	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
May 26	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
June 2	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Aug. 11	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Aug. 18	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Aug. 25	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
Sept. 1	Labor Day Weekend — No Walk
Sept. 8	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Sept. 15	Tobay's JFK Memorial Wildlife Sanctuary
Sept. 22	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)

*If you arrive after 9 A.M., a \$5 parking fee will be charged at Jones Beach, due to the Pataki administration's continuing expansion of the NYS Parks' toll season.

Editor's Directions to Tobay's John F. Kennedy Memorial Wildlife Sanctuary: From the Jones Beach traffic circle, drive east about four miles (to just west of the Suffolk County line) and enter the Tobay Beach parking lot, which is on the north side of Ocean Parkway. Turn left as soon as you enter that lot and follow the narrow road about 1/2 mile to the Sanctuary's parking lot. SSAS will request an exemption to the Sanctuary's parking permit requirement, but you can get a permit for free by requesting an application from Oyster Bay Town Hall South, 977 Hicksville Rd., Massapequa 11758 or calling 797-4110.

On **Saturday, May 4th,** we will meet at Belvedere Castle in Central Park at 9 A.M. (unless it rains) to explore the lakes, ponds, meadows, and forests, and see dozens of spectacular spring-migration species. For the third consecutive year, Joanne Del Prete has recruited NYC Park Ranger Robert DeCandido, Ph.D., to lead us through Central Park in early May. Bring your lunch, buy it in the Park, or join a possible group lunch afterwards. Joanne will meet SSAS members at any of the following locations (and will be collecting a \$3 fee per person):

- 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 all local stops through Rockville Centre;
- before 8:15 A.M. at Penn Station (LIRR Waiting Area), after which we will head to the 8th Avenue subway's C train (please buy tokens or MetroCards in advance if possible);
 - 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.

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YOU'RE INVITED TO SSAS'S ANNUAL DINNER!

An enjoyable evening awaits everyone at our 31st annual dinner, which will be held at Pompei Restaurant and Catering in West Hempstead on **Tuesday**, **June 11**, starting with cocktails (open bar) and an hour of hot hors d'oeuvres at 6:30 p.m. Smoking will be prohibited, wine and soda will be unlimited, and co-hostess Shirley Kutner says there'll be "wonderful music" just like last year. 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.

Advance registration is required; the cost is still \$25 per person, which also includes salad, strawberry shortcake, and coffee. Please mail the following form and your check, payable to *South Shore Audubon Society*, to: Diane Singer, 118 Kent Road, Valley Stream, NY 11580-3316.

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NUMBI	ER OF PEOPLE:
NUMBI	ER OF EACH MENU CHOICE:
	Chicken Marsala
	Grilled Chicken
	Filet of Sole
	Roast Beef
-	Eggplant Rollatini
9/4	

2001 –2002 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

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. Gift memberships help too; we will ask that non-local recipients be assigned to their own local chapter if you prefer.

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.

Renewing? Please send NAS renewals directly to NAS.

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

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

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