OUTH

VOLUME 33, NUMBER 6 — SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

MARCH 2003

NEXT MEETING

DATE: Tuesday, March II, 2003

TIME: 8:00 p.m. 🕗

PLACE: Freeport Memorial Library

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

SPEAKER: Josh Soren

High Hill Beach/Jones Beach TOPIC:

At our March meeting, join us for a slide presentation about High Hill Beach, a community that existed from approximately 1890 to 1940 on the eastern shore of what's now called Zach's Bay. Local historian Josh Soren, who is the Landmarks Commissioner for the Town of Hempstead, will also inform us about the early days of Jones Beach State Park, which opened on August 4, 1929.

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



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

SHADE-GROWN COFFEE PROTECTS RAINFORESTS! \$

SAVE POSTAGE STAMPS FOR SCOTT

In 1996, SSAS's Mike Higgiston saw a report in Bird Watcher's Digest that the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds in England sells stamps to collectors and dealers in order to support various RSPB activities, especially land acquisition. Ever since then, he's been sending the stamps we collect to England. However, he's going to be moving out of SSAS's territory soon and our VP volunteered to take over. Even our most common issues are wanted; please cut undamaged stamps from envelopes (don't peel them off) and bring them to our monthly meetings or send them to Scott Oglesby, 120 Massapequa Ave., Massapequa, NY 11758-6431.

OUR WEB SITE (incl. online store) www.ssaudubon.org

HELP NEEDED AT GENERAL MEETINGS

SSAS is an all-volunteer organization and we're always looking for more members who are willing to donate some time and effort to keep us running. As this paragraph is being typed, we're especially in need of a programs chairperson and a hospitality chairperson. We also invite anyone who attends our general meetings to bring along something edible to share — cookies, cake, fruit, etc.

The programs chairperson is responsible for choosing and hiring the guest speakers for our general meetings, and is expected to participate in monthly SSAS board meetings. The board can provide contact information for some possible future speakers.

The hospitality chairperson is responsible for purchasing edibles, drinkables, plates, and cups for our general meetings' coffee breaks, for which the chapter will reimburse you. The "job" also includes helping to set up and put away the coffee break items before and after the meetings. Attendance at board meetings is not required.

If you'd like to volunteer, please call or speak to George Peters (the prez) or any other board member.

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.

************************************** COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE**

Betsy Gulotta

Thanks, in part, to the continued generosity of Evelyn Bishop, South Shore Audubon Society will be awarding two \$750 Jerry Bishop Environmental Scholarships to students who are college juniors, seniors, or graduates and who are continuing their studies towards a degree in biological or environmental sciences, such as wildlife management, forestry, animal behavior, ecology, marine biology, oceanography, mammalogy, ornithology, etc. For information, call Betsy Gulotta at 546-8841; applications are due by April 30 and should be sent to Betsy at Dept. of Biology, Nassau Community College, 1 Education Dr., Garden City, NY·11530.

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Elliott Kutner

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. Directions may be found at ssaudubon.org.

Feb. 23	Pelham Bay for Owls (pull over to street
6	on extreme right after going through
(T)	Throgs Neck Bridge toll; meet at 9 A.M.)
Mar. 2	Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
Mar. 9	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Mar. 16	Norman J. Levy Park and Preserve
Mar. 23	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
Mar. 30	Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner
Apr. 6	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Apr. 13	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
Apr. 20	Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
Apr. 27	Norman J. Levy Park and Preserve



Explore the coast with the

AMERICAN LITTORAL SOCIETY

NY AQUARIUM (Sat., April 5). Meet 10 a.m. at aquarium entrance in Coney Island, Brooklyn for a 2-1/2 hour "Behind-the-Scenes" tour. See walrus, sea otter, penguins, sharks, sea turtles, beluga whales, and local & tropical fishes. Cost: \$15 (\$8 kids). Call Don.

ASSATEAGUE SPRING WEEKEND (May 8–11). Enjoy a wildlife bonanza on the Virginia coast. Hike trails of Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge and Assateague National Seashore during peak spring bird migration. See nesting eagles, osprey, and hawks; migrating herons and shorebirds; butterflies; deer; turtles; snakes; and Chincoteague ponies. Cost: \$295 covers three nights at Refuge Motor Inn, guides, lectures, boat tour, and seafood buffet on Sat. night.

FIRE ISLAND SUNKEN FOREST (May 18). Hike the milelong boardwalk during peak spring bird migration. Learn about the ecology, wildlife, and unique flora. Bring lunch and binoculars. Cost: \$20 includes ferry from Sayville.

JAMAICA BAY SUNSET CRUISE (May 31). Leave Sheepshead Bay at 5 P.M. on the "Dorothy B VIII" for a three-hour narrated tour. Learn about the history, wildlife, and ecology of the 9,000 acre wildlife refuge. Cost: \$35 incl. wine, snacks.

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

George Peters

As open land continues to disappear under the pressures of suburban development, environmentalists are concerned about the diminishing habitat for wildlife. Overdevelopment has negative consequences for human society as well. As population density increases, open space and attendant natural beauty are transformed, leaving us with the monotony of endless residential developments, connected by highways flanked with ugly commercial properties.

Some forward-looking municipalities interested in what is called "smart growth" are attempting to control sprawl so as to minimize the worst aspects of its excesses. In areas that are already overdeveloped such as the south shore of Nassau County, the opportunity to regulate growth has largely passed. Some of the damage, however, can be undone with better utilization of land already developed and by establishing more stringent controls over redevelopment projects.

Parking lots, a ubiquitous component of the suburban landscape, are a prime example of poorly utilized space. Usually covered in asphalt from curb to curb, the barren monotony of their appearance is rarely relieved by any significant landscaping.

There are acres and acres of parking lots in every suburban community that could be made into semi-parks with plantings of trees and shrubs. If carefully selected,



these would provide food and habitat for birds. But humans would benefit as well. Shaded by trees, the lots would be more inviting in hot weather. The desirability of

shaded parking lots is demonstrated by the fact that spaces under trees are always filled first in the summer.

Surrounding parking lots with wide bands of small trees and shrubs, modeled after the understory in a naturally wooded area, would screen the lots and parked cars from the street. This perimeter landscaping, if done well, would become an asset to the appearance of the neighborhood.

Additionally, perimeter plantings could be designed to collect and absorb rain runoff and thereby help replenish groundwater. Aside from these benefits, trees act as "air cleaners" by removing carbon dioxide, a major culprit in global warming, from the atmosphere. Landscaped parking lots at our schools would provide educational "laboratories" for environmental studies classes.

Parking lots are an untapped, potentially valuable resource that could be used to greater advantage for us and our environment. Although a landscaped parking lot is by no means equivalent to the natural setting that it replaced, it would be far superior to the bleak, blacktopped acres that now confront us daily.

NATURE TALES FROM A WANDERER Just Another Robin

Joe Grupp

We are standing on the bank of a flowing river, having walked about a mile of trail on a two-inch carpet of light snow. It's cold; cold enough that the thin layer of snow squeaks as we walk on it, under a deep blue sky, far from home in Mammoth Cave National Park, Kentucky. The riverbank we stand on was created by the Echo River, which only a few feet from us comes from deep in the earth at a place called Echo Spring and is an aboveground river for only a short distance of about 200 yards before it empties into another river called the Green. Watching it flow, we know that it has done its work for untold years, carving out part of Mammoth Cave, the largest cave in the world.

The water appears green, almost crystal clear, and its surface is flat yet shows gentle ripples from its significant flow. The lighting conditions make it appear a deeper, darker green than it actually is. The undisturbed pure white snow blankets the ground almost to the edge of the river and spring, and a thin border of deep tan soil outlines the meeting place of the warm river that has just emptied from the earth and the frozen snow blanket of an unusually cold Kentucky environment. The air is still and all is quiet.

We stand thinking and quietly talking about the significance of the river flowing by, when we hear a familiar call and our eyes catch some motion in the trees, then in the nearby shrubs, and finally on the bare earth near the far edge of the stream. An American Robin settles there, while

one or two others swoop in but then head
for the tops of the tall trees. My
first conscious thought is
robin, no big deal, but the
robin does not let me hold that
thought long as it takes two hops to

the water's edge and a robin's leap to a small snowcapped rock that just about breaks through the surface of the river.

The robin stands, body stretched upward, alert for any hint of danger. Then the tension in its body relaxes. The head of the bird swivels left then right and it moves even closer to the water. The reflected light from the snow falls on the bird, even from below. It bends over, puts its bill in the water, takes a drink, and throws its head back, allowing the water to trickle down its throat. Every detail of the plumage, especially in the area of the head, becomes evident. The white chin under the yellow bill is brilliant and defined, as are the white lines that come from it and begin to travel towards the throat. The white broken eye ring extends almost like the beginning of a nose bridge on a pair of spectacles before it blends into the dark soft charcoal black of its face above the bill and head. Of all the countless robins I have seen, I cannot ever remember seeing the facial features in as defined and dramatic a way. The robin red of the breast and deep gray of the back appear soft and flawless.

The bird drinks for a considerable period of time. It drinks again and again, hops to the shore and drinks again, and then it is gone. We hear calls from it and from a second robin as the distance between us grows, and then all is quiet and we are with our thoughts. Those thoughts tell me that our observation was one of bird, light, cold, snow, blue sky, detail, color, place, and the warm green cave water passing so close to where we stand. Then again, maybe it was just another robin.

★★ WELCOME NEW MEMBERS ★★

Wendy Murbach

One of the wonderful perks that you get from an Audubon membership is the chance to be a part of your local Audubon chapter, South Shore Audubon Society.

You are automatically a valued member of this active and friendly chapter, so please come out to the next meeting at the Freeport Library from 8–10 P.M. on the second Tuesday of the month to hear what you can do to help preserve your local environment's health and viability, to hear about local issues that you can help to solve, and to see an interesting program.

Whether you are a beginning birder or someone with a large life list, you will enjoy our weekly Sunday bird walks led by Elliott Kutner, birder extraordinaire. Check out the special events that are mentioned in this *Skimmer*. Attend them yourself, and bring your family and friends too.

You are warmly invited to be an active participant in this vibrant all-volunteer organization comprised of persons who, like you, care about the earth we live on, about our local environment, and about the creatures that live alongside us.

Our new members since the last Skimmer are:

Baldwin	David Glicksman
East Rockaway	Ethel Brody
Farmingdale	Joy & Bob Guarino
Floral Park	Dr. Gertrude Downing
Garden City	
Hempstead	Carol A. Macken
Hewlett	Howard Golden
Island Park	Lisa Maier
Levittown	Antonie Feil, Mr. Arthur Zanelli
Long Beach	Lisa Peratino
Lynbrook	Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Brobston,
	Dennis McCartin
Malverne	Dr. D. Powell
Massapequa	Susan & Frank J. Faber, Paul C.
	Smith
Merrick	Mrs. Claire Tangney
Rockville Centre	
Seaford	Mr. Andrew Schaffer
Valley Stream	Leo Sarro
West Hempstead	Doris Haber, Patricia Johnson

SSAS NEEDS HICKS HELPERS

Therese Lucas

Join us at the Horticultural Fair 3/22 and 3/23! Once again, SSAS has accepted an invitation to participate in the Horticultural Fair at Hicks Nurseries. The fair runs from March 14–23, is free, and is held indoors. Local horticultural and environmental organizations will partake during the second weekend, Saturday and Sunday, **March 22nd and 23rd**, from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M.

This year's displays include a bulb garden, vegetable garden, herb garden, and one especially for children, along with many surprises.

Hicks Nurseries is located at 100 Jericho Turnpike in Westbury. Further information can be garnered at www.hicksnurseries.com. This event has attendance numbering in the thousands and affords an excellent opportunity to greet the public, share information about our chapter and its goals, and recruit new chapter members.

To volunteer, please contact me at 221-8654 or TKLWingsII@ aol.com, or use the sign-up sheet that will be provided at our next general meeting.

Any time you can spare during the weekend will be greatly appreciated. This is a great way to support your chapter and shake those winter doldrums!

I5th ANNUAL WINTER WATERFOWL SURVEY

The remaining dates of SSAS's 2002–2003 Waterfowl Survey are as follows, rain or shine:

February 22 March 22

Volunteers are welcome to participate in the main team's surveys; identification expertise not required. If you are interested, call Joe Grupp, Research Chairperson, at 481-4208, and spend a full or half-day visiting 28 locations from Valley Stream to Massapequa Park. JOIN US!

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.

ANOTHER SSAS WALK IN CENTRAL PARK

SSAS's fourth annual early May visit to migrant-filled Central Park is scheduled for **Saturday**, **May 3**. Details about preregistration and the cost will be in the next *Skimmer*. Former NYC Ranger Bob DeCandido is doing postdoctoral bird studies in Eilat, Israel, so SSAS's Ann Marie Pozzini is making arrangements for someone else to help lead our group.

WE THANK THE HOLIDAY PARTY VOLUNTEERS

South Shore Audubon's perennial wildlife-oriented holiday party for children was held on December 21 at Tackapausha Museum and we'd like to thank the members who helped out: Gloria Berkowitz, Alice Blaustein, Helen Buckley, Mary Jane Conlon, Therese Lucas, Wendy Murbach, Doris Pirodsky, Laurie Raisher, Chris Schmitt, Marcia Specht, and Michael Sperling.

We'd also like to thank Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary's Lauren Thomas for presenting the live-raptor show three times in order to give all 250 attendees a chance to see it.

RARE BIRD ALERT (212) 979-3070

AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP STATUS (800) 274-4201

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Houses – Baths
Books – Gifts

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BIRD FEEDING DO'S AND DON'TS

Editor's note: The following is reprinted from Bird Watcher's Digest's Web site, ©1999 BWD Press, and can be downloaded from there as a two-page flyer. I've omitted the tips regarding hummingbird feeders and some "further reading" (for space reasons), and would like to note that in January I spotted two House Finches with blindness-causing conjunctivitis in my yard.

Dear Bird Feeder:

Bird feeding provides enjoyment to millions of North Americans each year. When proper feeding methods are followed, both humans and birds derive benefits from feeders. However, recent research on the impact of bird feeding has shown that feeders can sometimes be a source of disease for the birds visiting them. There is good news, too: With minimal effort, any feeder operator in North America can provide a safe, healthy feeding station for birds. This flyer, compiled by the editors at *Bird Watcher's Digest*, offers useful tips and techniques for maximizing your bird-feeding enjoyment.

Tips for a Healthy Feeding Station

- Give your seed feeders (especially thistle and tube feeders) a shake before you refill them, to dislodge any compacted seed. Dump out any wet clumps of old seed.
- Clean all hulls off platform feeders and out of seed trays daily.

- Keep some old spatulas and brushes handy by the feeding station for cleaning purposes.
- Disinfect feeders by scrubbing with a weak bleach solution (1/4 cup of bleach to 2 gallons of warm water) every few weeks, more often in summer or rainy periods. Rinse and allow feeders to dry before refilling.
- Wash your hands thoroughly after filling or cleaning your feeders.
- Move your feeding station when the ground beneath it becomes covered with seed hulls and droppings. Rake the old site to remove hulls and to give the grass a chance to recover.
- Store your seed in a clean, dry, airtight container, such as a metal or plastic garbage can.
- Don't put hulled sunflower hearts (or bits) out where wet weather can cause them to spoil. Offer them in a tube or hopper feeder.
- Don't put out any more seed than can be eaten by the birds by nightfall, especially where raccoons, opossums, bears, deer, or rodents are a problem.
- Don't use grease, oil, petroleum jelly, or similar substances on your feeder poles or wires to thwart squirrels, ants, or other feeder-raiding creatures. If these substances come into contact with bird feathers, they are impossible for the bird to preen or wash out. Gooey feathers can become useless for flight or insulation, thus putting the

and disease. For squirrels and other mammals, use a pole-mounted baffle (many are sold commercially). For ants, use an ant guard that prevents ants from reaching the feeder. Both baffles and ant guards are available on the Internet, by mail-order, or in retail stores that sell an extensive array of backyard products.

birds at risk to predators, extreme weather,

- Don't allow large amounts of seed to become wet, as on platform feeders. Instead, when it's wet outside, feed primarily from covered feeders that will keep seed dry, or put out only a handful of seed at a time on platforms.
- If you see a sick or dead bird at your feeders, halt your feeding for a few weeks to allow the healthy birds to disperse. This lessens the possibility of disease transmission. Remove and discard in the trash any dead birds. Report the sick birds to your local wildlife officials, many of whom monitor wildlife health.
- If you provide suet, reduce the amount you offer in hot weather. Heat can make suet rancid and unhealthy for birds. Runny suet can also stick to birds' feathers, making them hard to keep clean and useful. Use rendered suet or heat-resilient suet blocks that are available commercially.
- Reduce window-kills of birds by placing feeders a safe distance away. If birds regularly strike a particular window, place a screen, crop netting, or a series of branches over or in front of the outside glass panel to break up the reflection.
- Though birds may not be entirely dependent on your feeder, it's best not to leave them totally without food if

- you plan to be away from home in midwinter. Purchase an oversized feeder with a large seed capacity, or ask a willing neighbor to continue feeding your birds.
- Don't discontinue feeding as soon as the grass greens and the weather warms in spring. Many birds will continue coming to your feeders all summer long.

Tips for Belter Feeding

- Black-oil sunflower seed is the most widely used birdseed, popular with the greatest number of bird species. Its thin shell and large nutmeat are ideal for most feeder species.
- Offer a variety of seeds and food in a variety of appropriate feeders (sunflower seed in tube, hopper, or platform feeders; thistle in tube feeders; peanuts in peanut feeders; suet in suet cages; and mixed seed on platform feeders or scattered on dry ground).
- Offer the thick-shelled gray-striped sunflower seed to cardinals, grosbeaks, jays, chickadees, titmice, and nuthatches.
- Offer safflower seed to cardinals. Squirrels and blackbirds in many parts of the continent do not like it.
- If your feeder is overrun with blackbirds, pigeons, or house sparrows, stop offering mixed seed on the ground or on platform feeders. Feed only black-oil sunflower seed in tube or hopper feeders until the problem species disperse.
- Don't offer so-called wild bird mixes in tube feeders. These are better fed on platforms or out of hopper feeders. Birds that prefer sunflower seed will just empty the feeder to get at the sunflower seeds.
- Make a brush pile near your feeder to make sparrows, towhees, and other shy birds feel more at home, but be sure it won't harbor roaming cats.
- Add natural features to your feeding station, such as branches to perch on, to make birds feel more at ease.

Tips for a Healthy Bird Bath

- Don't situate bird baths under feeders or perches, where droppings can fall into them.
- Rinse and scrub birdbaths daily in summer, or whenever they become fouled with bird droppings. Once a month, scrub out with a light bleach solution (1/4 cup of bleach in 2 gallons of water), rinse thoroughly, and refill.

Further Reading

- Enjoying Bird Feeding More by Julie Zickefoose. Paperback, 32 pages, full color. (©1995 BWD Press, P.O. Box 110, Marietta, OH 45750. 800-879-2473. www.birdwatchersdigest.com)
- An Identification Guide to Common Backyard Birds by Bill Thompson III and Eirik A. T. Blom. Paperback, 32 pages, full color. (©1995 BWD Press)
 - Bird Watching for Dummies by Bill Thompson III.
- Backyard Bird News (bimonthly newsletter), P.O. Box 110, Marietta, OH 45750. 800-879-2473. www.birdwatchersdigest.com.
- For answers to frequently asked questions and links to informative feeding-related Web sites, visit www.birdwatchersdigest.com.

SSAS BIRDATHON

Marcia Specht

It is autumn, and I have come once again to walk in the Massapequa Preserve. High overhead, an Osprey flies on silent wings, beckoning me to follow. My thoughts wander back in time to last May when, as new leaves burst into bloom, I came here to count birds. Their brief visit brought joy into my life, and with it came the thrill of the Birdathon.

I remember waiting, with thumping heart, to participate in the Birdathon — a friendly competition, in which teams challenge each other while raising money for SSAS. I had

asked my family and friends to "pay" for each bird species I located during the next twenty-four hours. At exactly 5 p.m., my teammates and I synchronized our watches, and lifted our binoculars to carefully scan the area. An Osprey (pictured) was hunting high above the water, his feathers

glimmering in the sunlight. He gracefully soared on outspread wings, and became the first bird on my Birdathon list for 2002.

Keeping the bird in sight, my teammates and I walked from the northeast parking lot of the Massapequa train station along a path that twisted through the woods to lead us to the first pond. I turned my binoculars toward a rustling in the trees, heard a flutelike song, and caught a brief glimpse of spotted breast, as Doreen whispered "Wood Thrush." Moving quickly and quietly, pausing only when we saw movement in the bushes or heard a birdcall, we soon arrived at the next pond. Without making a sound, we crouched, and peered through the reeds to search for snipe. That night I couldn't find a single one! I saw yellowlegs and several species of ducks, and a dowitcher, searching for food with her head bobbing up and down like the needle of a sewing machine.

After two hours, I was about ready to go home. But in my head a little voice said, "You might miss something special. Don't stop now!" Twenty minutes later, I found myself at the Coast Guard Station at West End 2. Other teams were leaving as my team arrived. They regaled us with stories of dozens of warblers feeding on the ground at their feet. Kidding around, I said, "I've already listed all the warblers! I don't need any more!" (In truth, I got a bit anxious at that point.) During the next twenty minutes, we added at least a dozen new species to our list. Then darkness set in, and we could no longer see the birds. I was weary as I headed for home. The plan was to meet at 5:30 A.M. at Mill Pond in Wantagh.

I was startled awake by a buzzing in my ear. Can there be mosquitoes so early in the season? Groggily I realized that it was the sound of my alarm clock warning me that I had only a half-hour to get out of bed, shower, dress, and leave the house in order to meet my teammates on time.

Over the water, the haze lifted as I parked by Mill Pond and scanned the shoreline for herons. Bird songs had me

searching the trees. I was rewarded when a spot of blue among the green leaves turned out to be an Indigo Bunting. Its beauty gave me goose bumps! Soon I developed "warbler neck," that birder's ailment caused by bending one's head back as far as possible to see into the treetops. Anticipating a day of fun, I chose to ignore it!

I played "Follow the Leader" on the drive to the Marine Nature Study Area in Oceanside. I was behind Joe Grupp. He veered off to take an alternate route, and I, thinking he knew a shortcut, chose to stay with him. What a mistake! He wound in and out of unfamiliar streets, and the ride took forever! By the time we reached Oceanside, everyone was waiting for us. My binoculars, sticky with insect repellent and sweat, felt heavy. Discomfort was soon replaced by joy and disbelief as we saw three Blacknecked Stilts. These birds don't usually appear north of Delaware, so this sighting became a highlight of the day!

We arrived at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge at 2 P.M. and ate lunch in the parking lot. Other teams were already there. Part of the game is to be secretive, but I immediately told them about the stilts that we saw. Then, with a smirk, I added, "Oh, by the way, we had turtle doves and French hens." To which someone replied, "Yeah, but we had a pheasant, and he wasn't in a pear tree!" The hour was late. I was happy, but tired. As we headed back to our cars, Jim Remsen gave our team's unofficial tally. We listed 147 species, which was for me a record-breaking Birdathon!

I'm already counting the days until **May 9–10**, and Birdathon 2003! Why don't you plan on joining us?

RESEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT

Joe Grupp

The research committee is attempting to build a database of the birds in the SSAS area. This research includes formal surveys of various locations on a periodic basis. The data below is a summary of the observations made by Mike Higgiston at 3–4 week intervals or less during 2002 at Hall's Pond Park, a small park located in West Hempstead.

Number of visits: 15

Distribution of visits: April 24 to December 21, 2002

Number of species: 46

Species observed 10 or more times:

- Mallard (14)
- Canada Goose (12)
- → Ring-billed Gull (10)

Species other than waterfowl, etc., observed 8 or more times:

- → Northern Cardinal (11)
- → Mourning Dove (8)
- ✓ European Starling (9)
- → Blue Jay (8)
- House Sparrow (8)

55A5 BACKYARD BIRD SURVEY

The Research Committee is conducting a study to document the bird species found in the SSAS geographical area and to make some estimates as to their numbers. We request input from anyone that feeds and/or observes birds in their yard or neighborhood. If you would like to participate in this program, we would greatly appreciate it.

To participate, simply record the birds that you see in your yard, neighborhood, or at your feeder; the date, time, and the number or approximate number of each species; and fill in the table provided below. If you have more recordings than lines in the table, please attach an additional piece of paper to the table and submit the additional recordings in the same manner. At the end of each month, please mail or e-mail your record to me at the appropriate address listed below, or hand it to me at our monthly meeting. Double-sided survey sheets are available at SSAS events.

Please do not hesitate to submit your observations, even if you have been able to make only very few. WE NEED YOUR INPUT!

Dates: Fron	n	to					
Date	Time	Species	No.	Date	Time	Species	No.
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				Submitted	lby:		
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				Phone nur	mber:		
						J. Grupp, Research Chairperso	n
					660 E	Edgemere Ave., Uniondale NY	 11553
		34.dam			E-	or mail: Birdstudyjoeg02@aol.co	m
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South Shore Audubon Society P.O. Box 31 Freeport, NY 11520-0031

A CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

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Elliott Kutner, Birding / Field Trips	
Therese Lucas, Environmental Festivals	221-8654
Annie F. McIntyre, Educational Media	379-2206
Wendy Murbach, Membership	
Doreen Remsen, Birdathon	
James Remsen, Jr., Birdathon (pager)	517-7538
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