

# SOUTH SHORE SKIMMER



VOLUME 33, NUMBER 8 — SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

MAY–AUGUST 2003

## NEXT MEETING

**DATE:** Tuesday, May 13, 2003  
**TIME:** 8:00 P.M. ☉  
**PLACE:** Freeport Memorial Library  
144 W. Merrick Rd. (at S. Ocean Ave.)  
**SPEAKER:** Michael Unold  
**TOPIC:** A Natural Perspective

New York City Audubon Society member Michael Unold, who has led local trips for the NYC Sierra Club Photography Committee, has been capturing nature images since 1989. His entertaining and informative program will consist of about 80 slides, mostly of East Coast birds, with a sprinkling of whales, other mammal images, and landscapes. Many of his photos are at [www.michaelunold.com](http://www.michaelunold.com). Spend two hours with us at our last monthly meeting till September!

*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.

*Parking Advisory.* The municipal parking lot behind the library will be closed for a few weeks while the Village of Freeport improves it, adding eight sorely needed parking spaces. If it's closed on our meeting night, the library has made the following arrangements with two neighbors (the other neighbors love tow trucks): Compare Foods will allow the use of their lot facing South Ocean Avenue, just south of Merrick Road (please do not park by the store), and HSBC will allow the use of their rear lot on Long Beach Avenue (one block west of the library), just south of Merrick Road (please do not park by the bank). There is also a municipal lot on South Ocean Avenue, just north of Our Holy Redeemer Church (near Sunrise Highway).



## PROGRAM SUGGESTIONS AND RAFFLE ITEMS

Enid Klein has agreed to take over as SSAS's programs chairperson. She'd appreciate suggestions for guest speakers at our general meetings; please call her at 561-0004 if you have anyone to recommend.

In addition to prizes for the Birdathon (see Jim's article), we're looking for raffle items for our annual dinner. Any businesses that donate items (gift certificates, etc.) will be acknowledged in the next *Skimmer*, so we hope that you'll approach them on SSAS's behalf or donate something. Our annual dues share from NAS has been halved (down to \$2.75 per member, with zilch for all renewals and all new NAS-recruited members) and is expected to vanish in July 2004 when the "safety net" sinks. Please call George Peters at 868-5480 if you have raffle items.

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*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.*  
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## HICKS AND BROOKSIDE VOLUNTEERS

SSAS thanks the members who greeted the public at our table at the Hicks Nurseries' Spring Flower & Garden Show on March 22 & 23: Alice Blaustein, Betty Borowsky, Louise Leonard, Therese Lucas, Wendy Murbach, Chris Schmitt, Michael Sperling, and John Zarudsky.

We also thank the members who spent the afternoon of April 6 cleaning up and pruning Brookside Preserve (the county-owned preserve in Freeport/Baldwin that SSAS manages): Betty Borowsky, Susan Brychcy, Betsy Gulotta, Larry & Marianne Gumbs, Charlie Kiefer, Therese Lucas, Christine Marzigliano with grandchildren Alexis & Louis Duffy, Wendy Murbach, George Peters, Doris Pirodsky, Laurie Raisher, Chris Schmitt, Michael Sperling, John Zarudsky, and anyone your editor may have omitted (please let me know).

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IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE WASTE, PLEASE  
 BRING COFFEE MUGS TO OUR MEETINGS.  
SHADE-GROWN COFFEE PROTECTS RAINFORESTS!  
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## SSAS SIXTEENTH ANNUAL BIRDATHON!

James Remsen, Jr.

This year, SSAS will conduct its sixteenth 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 decision by National Audubon to sharply decrease the amount of financial support given to chapters, the Birdathon is now one of our major sources of income. Many of you have been very generous with your time and pledges in recent years; we hope you will continue and increase your gift of either time or pledges this year.

Mark the dates on your calendar — **Friday, May 9** from 5:00 P.M. until **Saturday, May 10** 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 9. If you have any uncertainty about whether it will be postponed, please call me or Doreen by then. This may save unnecessary trips. Please contact me at work (718-260-5960; yes, I will be at work in the city on Friday afternoon and will thus be joining my team “in progress” at Massapequa Preserve).



*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 9 (5 P.M.):* Meet Elliott Kutner’s team at Mill Pond, Merrick Road, Wantagh/Bellmore (leaders will be Kenneth and Karen Wenzel); Paul Butkerei at Jones Beach’s Coast Guard Station; or Joe Grupp at Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot).

*Saturday, May 10:* Meet Elliott Kutner at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge at 8 A.M.; Paul Butkerei 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. Late risers can join the Grupp/Remsen team at Muttontown Preserve at about 8 A.M. (call for location) or at Marine Nature Study Area in Oceanside at about 10:30 or 11 A.M. The Kutner team can be found near JBWR’s West Pond and garden throughout the day; all three teams will be at JBWR by mid-afternoon.

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.

For interested parties, we’re also planning an informal post-Birdathon dinner on Saturday for all who would like to join (at a buffet or similar restaurant). This will be on a pay-as-you-go basis.

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 9 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 and walks. If you need pledge forms, I can supply them. Let’s make our 2003 Birdathon special by raising more funds than ever! Good luck!

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

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*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.*

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### POLOVER VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

John Zarudsky

The Town of Hempstead’s Department of Conservation and Waterways needs your help in insuring the protection and survival of Piping Plovers, Least and Common Terns, and Black Skimmers that nest between Point Lookout and Atlantic Beach. In New York State (which has its own endangered species program), 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 regularly, please contact John Zarudsky, Conservation Biologist, at 897-4126 (work) or 486-5272 (home).

**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 last month’s *Skimmer* are:
- East Meadow ..... Rose Squillace
  - Farmingdale ..... Mr. Rudolph A. Breikopf,  
 Mahnaz Karim,  
 Steven Weiss,  
 Patricia Ziegler
  - Floral Park ..... Ms. Helen Sullivan
  - Freeport ..... Alexandra Butkerei, Mr. & Mrs.  
 Frank Elkin
  - Garden City ..... Ms. Henritta Calandrino
  - Glen Oaks ..... Robin Lugo
  - Island Park ..... Toni Sachs
  - Levittown ..... Arthur T. Mauriello, Kimberley  
 Van Tassell
  - Long Beach ..... Jack Kelly, Ms. Jessica Lohsen
  - Massapequa ..... Morton Epstein, Frank & Jane  
 Kromer
  - Massapequa Park ..... Deirdre Donnelly
  - Plainview ..... Carole M. Dunleavy
  - Point Lookout ..... Jane Campbell, Catherine Mulvey
  - Rockville Centre ..... Mr. Dennis McCauley, Eileen  
 Zurell
  - Valley Stream ..... Lori L. Finn, Betti Wettan
  - Wantagh ..... Bill Godigkeit, Henry K.  
 Schlubolm, Mr. & Mrs. T.  
 Whiteside
  - West Hempstead ..... John Lund, Jr.
  - Woodmere ..... Hershey Marcus

AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP STATUS (800) 274-4201

OUR WEB SITE (incl. online store) [www.ssaudubon.org](http://www.ssaudubon.org)

**NOMINATIONS FOR 2003–2004 OFFICERS**

James Remsen, Jr.

At South Shore Audubon Society’s general meeting on May 13, 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 me, has recommended the following candidates:

- President — George Peters
- Vice President — Scott Oglesby
- Treasurer — Laurie Raisher
- Recording Secretary — Christine Schmitt
- Corresponding Secretary — Alice Blaustein
- Director (to June 2006) — Doreen Remsen
- Director (to June 2006) — Michael Sperling



**ACCOUNTANT WANTED**

SSAS is looking for someone who is willing to handle our annual statement and tax forms pro bono or for a modest fee. We’re an all-volunteer chapter that doesn’t own any property or have substantial income, so there’s not much work involved. We can put your business card in every *Skimmer* as compensation; we print about 1800 copies per issue. If you’re interested or know someone who is, please contact Michael Sperling at 541-0805 (evenings) or [mssperling@compuserve.com](mailto:mssperling@compuserve.com).



*Explore the coast  
with the*  
**AMERICAN  
LITTORAL SOCIETY**

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**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 mile-long 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 Sheephead 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.

**MONTAUK SPRING WEEKEND** (June 6–8). Visit Montauk during peak orchid & heather blossom. Cost: \$295 includes 2 nights at luxurious Manor House, 5 meals, 5 guided hikes, 2 evening programs, star watch, and free LIRR pickup.

**FREE HORSESHOE CRAB WALKS AT JAMAICA BAY.**

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For information and free field trip brochure,  
call/write Don Riepe, (718) 634-6467, [donriep@aol.com](mailto:donriep@aol.com),  
28 West 9th Road, Broad Channel, NY 11693; [www.alsnyc.org](http://www.alsnyc.org)



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

A CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY  
*Americans Committed to Conservation*



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DATED MATERIAL

**2002-2003 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND  
 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

George Peters, President .....	868-5480
Scott Oglesby, Vice President .....	798-4871
Laurie Luxner Raisher, Treasurer .....	378-4025
Christine Schmitt, Recording Secy. & Educ. ....	887-7713
Alice Blaustein, Corresponding Secretary .....	221-1870
Lou Paolillo, Director (6/05) .....	766-4285
Ann Marie Pozzini, Dir. (6/05) & Special Trips ...	579-3353
Enid Klein, Director (6/04) & Programs .....	561-0004
Nancy Frame, Director (6/03) .....	520-9016
Doris Pirodsky, Director (6/03) .....	378-1790
Betty Borowsky, Conservation Education .....	764-3596
Sandy Brenner, Publicity .....	249-4919
Joan Butkerei, Conservation Legislation .....	593-4554
Paul Butkerei, Wild Bird Feed Savings Day .....	593-4554
Michele DeCaprio, Youth Representative .....	707-7698
Joseph Grupp, Research .....	481-4208
Betsy Gulotta, Brookside Preserve .....	546-8841
Marge Jaeger, Fund-raising .....	536-9166
Elliott Kutner, Birding / Field Trips .....	486-7667
Therese Lucas, Environmental Festivals .....	631-225-6377
Annie F. McIntyre, Educational Media .....	379-2206
Wendy Murbach, Membership .....	546-6303
Doreen Remsen, Birdathon .....	764-5168
James Remsen, Jr., Birdathon (pager) .....	517-7538
Dolores Rogers, Welcoming .....	599-1224
Mary Jane Russell, <i>Armchair Activist</i> .....	766-7397
Marcia Specht, Publicity .....	694-8229
Michael Sperling, <i>Skimmer</i> Editor .....	541-0805
Jonathan Staller, Hospitality .....	482-7963

**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)*

