OUTH HORE KIMMER

VOLUME 34. NUMBER 5 — SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

FEBRUARY 2004

NEXT MEETING

Enid Klein

DATE: Tuesday, February 10, 2004

TIME: 7:30 p.m. ②

PLACE: Freeport Memorial Library

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

SPEAKER: Dominique Shimizu

TOPIC: Living With Wildlife on Long Island

This month's guest speaker will provide an educational live wildlife program that will give us a fascinating insider's look at some of the trials and tribulations facing the native wildlife admitted for care at Volunteers for Wildlife Hospital and Education Center. The program will include tips and advice on aiding wild birds in distress.

Dominique Shimizu is the Executive Director of Volunteers for Wildlife. She earned an MA in Ecology & Evolution at Stony Brook University, and studied wild primates in Africa and a variety of endangered species, including Hawaiian finches. While employed at the Bronx Zoo and Prospect Park, she did wildlife education. Her current research includes post-release studies of rehabilitated wildlife, including banding birds and marking turtles, and she maintains a bluebird nest-box trail in Caumsett State Historic Park. Join us!

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.

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

SSAS TREE PROGRAM

Chris Schmitt & Wendy Murbach

Alice Blaustein, Susan Gilmore, Wendy Murbach, and Christine Schmitt presented a program for children aged 5 to 9 at the Lynbrook Library on October 10, about the

beauty and importance of trees. This program is available to libraries in Nassau County and includes reading a story about trees, discussing many trees and their uses, and a craft session, making branch and leaf mobiles. A program for children about birds will be available in the spring.

If you would like your library to participate in a program, please contact the library about it and provide the numbers listed below. If you are interested in helping with the program, please call us at 887-7713 (Chris) or 546-6303 (Wendy).

SIXTEENTH ANNUAL WATERFOWL SURVEY

The remaining dates for SSAS's 2003–04 Waterfowl Survey are **January 31**, **February 21**, and **March 20**, rain or shine. Volunteers are welcome to participate. If you are interested in spending a full or half-day visiting 28 locations from Valley Stream to Massapequa Park, call Joe Grupp, Research Chairperson, at 481-4208.

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 7:30-9:30 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 the *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:

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|--------------------|--|
| Baldwin | Barbara & Joseph Carroll, David Goliger, Richard S. Raskin |
| Bellmore | Julius Graber, Robert J. Reilly, Chester Tabacco |
| Dellerer | |
| Bethpage | • |
| | Hyman Hoffman, Edward Ichart, Sigmund Katz, Elaine Ward |
| East Rockaway | Richard S. Collett |
| Farmingdale | Mrs. Cynthia Chahalis, Rose S. Katzen, Melvin Miller, Laurence S. Spahr |
| Floral Park | |
| | Mary Cyrana, Marie Sica |
| | William Bateman, Jaquie Nicholson |
| Fresh Meadows | |
| | Mrs. Allen Hammond |
| | Daniel Barry, Peter & Bettianne Carioscia, |
| • | Mickey & Manny Levine |
| Hewlett | |
| Hicksville | |
| Lawrence | Brandon Bramwell |
| | Dolores Coleman, Carol Rowell |
| | C. A. Kreppein, Francis Lorenzini |
| Massapequa | Kathy Imperiale, J. McGuire, Bernard Swallow. Christian Wolfe |
| Massapequa Park | - · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · |
| | Richard Benincasa, Roslyn Brenowitz |
| Oceanside | |
| | Edward Goldenberg, Mr. Bela Ladanyi, Claire |
| | Raskin, Ethel H. Remuzzi, Vincent Tinebra |
| Rockville Centre | |
| | Wendy B. Albin, Carl Holgers |
| Stewart Manor | |
| | John E. Hearn, Marie Novotny |
| Valley Stream | Deborah Miller-Isaacs, Edythe Miller, Samantha Stanton |
| | Ellee Spiro, Lou Stapleton |
| West Hempstead | Selma Demirarslan, Catherine Proto |
| Woodmere | |
| *********** | |
| AUDUBON ME | MBERSHIP STATUS (800) 274-4201 |

++*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+*+* BACKYARD BIRD COUNTS NEEDED

As most of you know, SSAS is compiling data on the birds seen in our area. Forms have appeared in previous *Skimmers* and are available at meetings, walks, our Web site, and from Joe Grupp or Mike Sperling. Please send dates, times, species, and numbers to Joe (660 Edgemere Ave. Uniondale, NY 11553; Birdstudyjoeg02@aol.com).

Great Backyard Bird Count. On the weekend of February 13–16, National Audubon urges you to count birds wherever you are and add your data to www.birdsource.org.



Elliatt 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 and summaries may be found at ssaudubon.org.

| Jan. 25 | Pelham Bay for Owls [pull over to street on |
|-------------|---|
| 80 | extreme right after going through Throgs |
| | Neck Bridge toll (Pennyfield Ave.); meet at |
| | 9 A.M.; hiking shoes recommended] |
| Feb. 1 | Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge |
| Feb. 8 | Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner |
| Feb. 15 | Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot) |
| Feb. 22 | Norman J. Levy Park and Preserve |
| Feb. 29 | Hempstead Lake State Park (Exit 18, first |
| | lot south of Southern State Parkway, south |
| | end of lot) |
| Mar. 7 | Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner |
| Mar. 14 | Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner |
| Mar. 21 | Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot) |
| Mar. 28 | Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge |
| Apr. 4 | Norman J. Levy Park and Preserve |
| Apr. 11 | Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner |
| Apr. 18 | Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner |
| Apr. 25 | Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot) |
| **** | ************************** |
| | RARE BIRD ALERT (212) 979-3070 |

Our annual children's holiday party took place at Tackapausha Museum in Seaford on December 13. SSAS thanks members Alice Blaustein, Helen Buckley, Louise Leonard, Therese Lucas, Wendy Murbach, Laurie Raisher, Chris Schmitt, and Michael Sperling for helping out, and we thank Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary and Audubon Center's Matt Lingerforpresenting the live raptor program.

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

REFORM GROUP FALLS SHORT IN NAS PROXY CHALLENGE

Darrel Whipple

Editor's note: As most of you know, the November issue of the Skimmer contained a proxy in support of Take Back Audubon. Darrel Whipple, a TBA candidate, wrote that:

A proxy challenge mounted by a reform group within the National Audubon Society brought some tension to an otherwise business-as-usual Annual Meeting of Members on December 6th, 2003, in Erlanger, Kentucky.

The group of local Audubon chapter leaders from more than 50 chapters across the country calls itself Take Back Audubon and aims to "restore a true partnership between the independent chapters and the National Audubon Society through a real voice in the NAS organization and in all decisions that affect chapters." TBA leaders claim that the organization pays little heed to chapter concerns. They say they are offended that NAS holds noncompetitive elections for its Board of Directors and that NAS has discontinued sharing some \$1.8 million in member dues with the 500 local chapters.

The dissidents appeared with over 3,200 proxies, but in a showdown on TBA's motion to have the meeting governed by Robert's Rules of Order, the newly appointed Chairman of the Board Carol Browner and CEO John Flicker voted 37,000 proxies against, and the proposal was defeated.

The election of directors to fill 12 positions on the 36-member board followed a similar pattern, with Flicker voting the 37,000 proxies for the Nominating Committee's nine candidates for at-large positions, and with Gallagher voting 3,200 proxies for TBA's slate of nine candidates, but with both camps voting for the same three regionally nominated [i.e., chapter-nominated] representatives.

The TBA leaders later argued for a resolution to reinstate the dues share to chapters, a resolution to require competitive elections for the Board of Directors, and resolutions to provide for initiative measures, congresses of chapters, and "access to basic information."

Chairman Browner asked if these were the same five resolutions the Board of Directors agreed to refer to committees at the September Board meeting in Los Angeles. Taken aback, Darrel Whipple replied that he had attended the LA meeting but did not learn of any such action by the Board [these resolutions had been voted down without referral at the no-TBA-proxy 2002 Annual Meeting]. The TBA group then agreed with Carol Browner's suggestion to refer the current versions of the resolutions to the appropriate committees, rather than force an up-ordown proxy vote on each one with no hope of success. The motion for referral, with a guarantee of regular status reports, passed unanimously. (Whipple later learned from Board member Charlie Kahle that the action by the Board in Los Angeles was taken in a closed session.)

TBA leaders indicated they would continue to claim for chapters what they perceive as the chapters' rightful share of member dues, and to press for more democratic election procedures for the organization and more openness and respect for dissent at all NAS meetings. They did not rule out another proxy challenge in 2004.

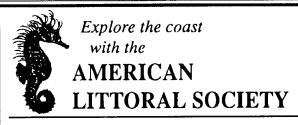
Elliott Kutner recently received the following letter from Dr. and Mrs. Herbert Perr. Sally Popkin was the widow of SSAS's former treasurer, and donated dozens of nature books and other items to us last year. We thank the Perrs for their letter and their donation.

Dear Mr. Kutner,

We are enclosing a check to the South Shore Audubon Society in memory of our good friend Sally Popkin. She and George enhanced our lives, and among many shared pursuits, introduced us to bird watching.

We can think of no better way to keep their memory alive than to support the society which they so deeply cared about.

SSAS can always use more volunteers. For example, if you are available Monday mornings (7:30–10 A.M.) or Friday afternoons (before 5 P.M.), you could visit our printer in Island Park, a few minutes north of Long Beach. Please call Mike Sperling at 541-0805 (evenings).



WINTER WILDLIFE WORKSHOP (Sun., Feb. 8). Meet 11 A.M. at Jamaica Bay Refuge visitor center. Slide program on how plants and animals adapt to winter. Hike to look for waterfowl, owls & other raptors, finches, and signs of mammals, insects, other wildlife. Call leader Don to reserve. Free.

EARLY SPRING MIGRANTS (Sun., March 28). Meet 11 A.M. at Jamaica Bay Refuge visitor center. Slide program on signs of early spring, followed by hike to look for phoebes, oyster-catchers, egrets, ibis, osprey, and other early returning birds. Call leader Don to reserve. Free.

NEW YORK AQUARIUM (Sat., April 3). Meet 10 A.M. at entrance for a 2-1/2 hour "Behind-the-Scenes" tour of indoor/outdoor exhibits. See sea otters, walrus, penguins, sharks, beluga whales, local & tropical fishes, and, of course, "Squirt, the Wonder Clam." Cost: \$15 (kids \$10). Call Don.

ASSATEAGUE WEEKEND (May 20–23). Hike Chincoteague Wildlife Refuge trails and Assateague National Seashore beaches during peak spring bird migration. See nesting eagles & osprey, butterflies, Sika deer, river otter, red fox, Chincoteague ponies. Cost: \$325 includes inn, marsh boat tour, bus tour, etc. JAMAICA BAY SUNSET CRUISES (May 29 and June 12).

For information and free field trip newsletter, call/write Don Riepe, (718) 318-9344, donriepe@aol.com, 28 West 9th Road, Broad Channel, NY 11693; 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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| Laurie Luxner Raisher, Treasurer |
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| |

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

Option 1. You can join SSAS for a year by sending \$15 payable to **South Shore Audubon Society** using the form below. Our address is P.O. Box 31, Freeport, NY 11520-0031.

Option 2. If you'd like to become a member of National Audubon and your all-volunteer local chapter, you can help SSAS survive NAS's major dues share cutbacks (we now get \$0 for renewals) by joining Audubon through us for the same price that it costs if you join through NAS (we get a first-year dues share only if you join through us). Please mail the form below and your check payable to **National Audubon Society** to SSAS at the address above. 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 requested.

Renewing? Please send NAS renewals directly to NAS.

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