

VOLUME 34, NUMBER 7 — SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

**APRIL 2004** 

#### **NEXT MEETING**

Enid Klein

DATE: Tuesday, April 13, 2004

TIME: 7:30 p.m. ◆

PLACE: Freeport Memorial Library

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

SPEAKER: Don Riepe

TOPIC: The Everglades & South Florida

This month's slide program will bring us to the Everglades, Corkscrew Swamp, Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, Sanibel Island, Florida Bay, and some of Florida's county parks. Join us!

Don Riepe recently retired as refuge manager at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge after 25 years with the National Park Service and has a full-time position with the American Littoral Society as the Jamaica Bay Guardian. He's also ALS's Northeast Chapter's Director and leads the organization's trips to various places, including south Florida. Don has been involved with the New York City birding and environmental community for over 30 years. He is currently a board member of NYC Audubon Society and NYC Butterfly Club. In his spare time, he occasionally performs with flamenco groups. His photographs of nature have appeared in numerous publications, including Audubon, National Wildlife, Defenders, Scientific American, and the New York Times.

IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE WASTE, PLEASE

BRING COFFEE MUGS TO OUR MEETINGS.

SHADE-GROWN COFFEE PROTECTS RAINFORESTS!

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

#### **OUR LONG-RANGE PLAN**

George Peters

Eight members of our Board of Directors volunteered to work with me in developing a long-range plan for SSAS. We agreed on the following plan after numerous meetings and — what sometimes seemed endless — discussions.

We urge you to read it carefully and, if you are an inactive member (there are about 1500 households of you out there!), to seriously consider contributing your own talents to help make its implementation a success. As a completely volunteer organization, South Shore is totally dependent on the willingness of its members to give of their time and talents to accomplish its goals.

To volunteer, just call me or any of the board members (phone numbers on back page). If you would like to learn

more about us, come to our general meetings on Tuesday nights, April 13 and May 11.

A note of caution, however, is in order.

If you do volunteer, you will probably discover, as most of us have, that working with others to protect our natural world and to promote appreciation of its wonders is an addictive experience,

appreciation of its wonders is an addictive experience, and that the satisfaction gained far outweighs the time and energy expended. Come join us!

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.

**Fund-raising** — We must raise \$5,000 the first year to offset the loss of membership dues share from National Audubon.

This is essential for the organization's survival and its ability to continue programs and activities at their current level. Any expansion of existing programs or development of new ones will require a commensurate increase in funds raised.

#### I. Strategies to Generate Additional Income

- (1) Reinstate annual fund appeal to members. Letter requesting support to be mailed annually in the early spring.
  - (2) Increase recruitment of new members.
  - (3) Conduct flea market in the spring or early summer.
- (4) Develop fund-raising aspects of annual dinner in June.
- (a) Solicit merchants for contributions for a silent auction.
  - (b) Increase cost of dinner to patrons.
- (c) Advertise dinner more widely, and encourage members to come and bring friends. Invite participants on bird walks to join us.
- (5) Pursue opportunities for grants to support various programs Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary summer camp, restoration of Brookside Preserve, etc. Sources of grants include Federal and State agencies, private foundations, local legislators, corporate foundations, local businesses, etc.

#### II. Education

- (1) Expand library presentations of nature programs for children.
- (2) Continue Tackapausha programs of interactive nature activities for children at Halloween and winter holiday parties.
- (3) Develop programs with local schools. Conduct lectures/demonstrations at the schools. Invite schools to attend our general meetings. Special school nights with programs designed for students were suggested.
- (4) Increase the number of scholarships awarded to students pursuing environmental studies.
- (5) Increase community (adult) interest by placing exhibits in libraries.
- (6) Promote conservation and landscape restoration via demonstration projects. Suggested projects:
- (a) Backyard habitat plantings of native plants, shrubs, and trees to reduce lawns are an alternative to the use of pesticides and fertilizers, and the need for mowing.
  - (b) Landscaping of a parking lot.
- (c) Landscape restoration of empty lawns at a school or other institution.

#### III. Conservation

Continue efforts to preserve natural areas and open space. Oppose projects that are needlessly destructive of habitat.

- (1) Develop plan for restoration of Brookside Preserve removal of invasive exotic species and planting of native species.
- (2) Continue to oppose the holiday light show in an Important Bird Area (IBA designated by Audubon New York) at Jones Beach.
- (3) Continue to oppose 17-foot-wide bike "path" along Ocean Parkway at Jones Beach, the construction of which would destroy habitat and make dunes vulnerable to

destructive pedestrian traffic. Piping Plovers and other threatened species are at risk from this project.

(4) Take initiative to have 17-acre parcel of land, adjacent to Baldwin and south of Southern State Parkway, made a permanent preserve.

### IV. Programs and Activities

- (1) Increase number of field trips.
- (2) Schedule more social events, such as potluck dinners. Lengthening of coffee break at general meetings was suggested.
- (3) Reinstate birding classes. Schedule classes as a separate night so as not to interfere with general meetings. Advertise classes emphasize that they are open to the public and attract new members.
- (4) Establish a formal welcoming committee to greet newcomers.
- (5) Investigate possibilities for joint programs with other L.I. Audubon chapters.
- (6) Continue to support other organizations engaged in environmental protection and restoration activities, such as Friends of Hempstead Plains and Friends of Massapequa Preserve.

#### V. Publicity

Continue to develop and expand publicity efforts. Distribution of posters or fliers to libraries, schools, etc., was suggested.

#### VI. Research

Continue collection of statistics on bird populations — Birdathon, waterfowl, field trip, and backyard.

## VII. Facility

The committee noted the desirability of South Shore Audubon having a permanent facility which would include office space, meeting room, etc., and recommended that we begin planning to acquire one.

The committee has agreed unanimously that this plan shall be reviewed quarterly to assess accomplishments or lack thereof, and to make revisions as necessary.

In summary, it is clear that three elements of this plan are crucial to its effectiveness and, ultimately, to the survival of South Shore Audubon Society:

- ① Generation of additional income
- 2 Recruitment of new members
- ③ Volunteers willing to assume responsibility

Note: This plan was developed through the hard work and persistence of the following members: Joe Grupp, Elliott Kutner, Therese Lucas, Wendy Murbach, Lou Paolillo, Laurie Raisher, Doreen Remsen, and Jim Remsen.

In addition to the committee members, I thank my wife Marianne, whose baking provided the delicious calories that fueled our efforts to tackle the task at each monthly meeting, and Chris Schmitt, for typing up the plan.

OUR E-LIST http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ssas\_list

#### Fax: (516) 594-0801

#### ARTHUR C. SNOW

Certified Public Accountant

#### **55AS BIRDATHON 2004**

Jim Remsen

Hard to believe, but this year SSAS will conduct its seventeenth 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 7** from 5:00 P.M. until **Saturday, May 8** at 5:00 P.M. The rain dates are one week later at the same time. Full details in the next *Skimmer*.

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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 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.

Baldwin	since the last Skimmer are: Ms. Jasmin Presser Mr. & Mrs. Mel L. Goldstein, Bonnie Good, James Lewis, Carole & Harvey Tabin
East Meadow	Patricia D. Boehm, Seymour Fahrer, Joe Mc Donnell, Mr. Joseph Weiner
Elmont	
Farmingdale	Oneil G. Eastmond, Phil Poynor, Clare J. Rose, Kathleen Vosburgh
Floral Park	Dr. & Mrs. Stewart Blechner, Alan Levy
Franklin Square	M. S. Oberoi
Freeport	Patricia Dina, Vincent Perry
Glen Oaks	Isabel Farinacci
Hicksville	Libby Landy, Linda & Peter S.
	Pugliese, Brenda Schwartz
Island Park	
Levittown	Mrs. Christine Donnelly, Craig
	Marshall, Mr. Don Watkins
Lynbrook	Heather Hanson, Beth Singer
Massapequa	Leonard B. Chirkin, Ann Dinstell, Joan M. Jungbluth, Dorris Pullen
Massapequa Park	Carolyn De Soucey
Merrick	Edie Schaefer, Don Tchernovitz
Oceanside	Nettie Kaufman, Rose J. Marcello, Lisa Norris, Mabel Schwartz
Plainview	
Rockville Centre	
	Mary A. Lind, Emilie J. Sair, Willa B. Ward
Uniondale	
Valley Stream	Donald Chesley, Joel Lotman,
	Edward Thomashow, Sabrina
	Yazdpour & David Gonzalez
Wantagh	. Lorraine M. Schneider, Joyce Schwartz, Mr. & Mrs. Brian
West Hempstead	Stone . Anthony S. Calt, Jonathan D. Cooper, Lois Small

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#### SPRING CLEANUP AT BROOKSIDE PRESERVE

On **Sunday, May 2,** beginning at 1 P.M., SSAS will have its annual spring cleanup at Brookside Preserve, rain or shine. 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 guides are at ssaudubon.org.

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). Please bring gloves, rakes, bags, and/or friends of all ages.



Elliatt Kutner

All walks start at 9:30 A.M.; 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.

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)
May 2	Norman J. Levy Park and Preserve
May 9	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
May 16	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
May 23	Memorial Day Weekend — No Walk
May 30	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
June 6	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
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# SAVE POSTAGE STAMPS FOR SCOTT, NOT MIKE

Back in 1996, 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, SSAS has been sending the stamps we collect to England. Even our most common issues are wanted; please cut undamaged stamps from envelopes (don't peel them off) and bring them to our events or send them to Scott Oglesby, 120 Massapequa Ave., Massapequa, NY 11758-6431, phone 798-4871. As we noted here last year, Mike has moved out of our territory; those of you that Scott hasn't managed to track down are asked to send the stamps to the address above, not Mike's former home.

#### **NATURE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT JONES BEACH**

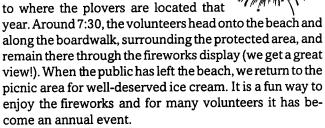
Annie Mcintyre

Each summer, Jones Beach is home to several protected species—Piping Plover, Least and Common Terns, and the globally rare plant, seabeach amaranth. I invite you to help us in our various protection efforts.

Reminder: Symbolic Fence String Day, Saturday, March 27, 10 A.M. Each year, the nesting areas for the plovers and terns are protected by about 7 miles of symbolic fencing, which is comprised of fence posts, twine, and flagging. We need volunteers to install the string and flagging. Even if you can spare only a few hours, it would be a great help.

July 4th Fireworks Display, 5 to 11 P.M. New York State Parks provides a beautiful fireworks display every July 4th. Every year since the late '90s, we have enjoyed the cooperation of over 100 volunteers who join us to help ensure the patrons watching the fireworks don't disturb the Piping Plovers in the area. Volunteers receive a T-shirt,

and are invited to join us for a barbecue picnic dinner. After dinner, we give a brief presentation on the current status of the plovers and an orientation as to where the plovers are located that



These are two big volunteer events, but we can always use a hand. Whenever you can donate a few hours, we'd love to have you join us in our efforts to protect local endangered species. Call us (Theodore Roosevelt Nature Center at Jones Beach) at 679-7254.



Charlie Rowan crowan@fossilfly.com

Jena Costanzo jcostanzo@fossilfly.com

46 Beechhurst Avenue • Floral Park, NY 11001 (516) 616-1174 • (707) 988-1534 Fax http://www.fossilfly.com

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At South Shore Audubon Society's general meeting on May 11th, officers and directors 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 will provide a list of recommended candidates in next month's *Skimmer*.

#### **ANNUAL CENTRAL PARK TRIP**

Ann Marie Pozzini

On **Saturday, May 1,** SSAS will be in Central Park for our fifth annual early May bird walk. Once again, Chris Cooper and Lloyd Spitalnik (both turned onto birding many years ago by our own Elliott Kutner) have agreed to lead us through the twisting maze of the Ramble and adjoining areas of the park. Last year, our count was over 50 species (see below) in less than 3 hours. In previous years, we've tallied over 70 species in the same amount of time.

This trip is open to both members and nonmembers. The cost is \$5 for members and \$6 for nonmembers. Please send your check payable to South Shore Audubon Society, along with your e-mail address and phone number, to: **Joanne DelPrete**, 20 Ceil Pl., Bethpage, NY 11714. Registration is required prior to April 28. If you meet us on the train or in the park and have not previously registered, your cost will be \$7 if you're a member and \$8 if not, so register early! Per the SSAS Field Trip Guidelines published in the last Skimmer, if you find that you cannot make the trip, please cancel at least 24 hours in advance to have your fee refunded. However, if the trip is canceled by the leaders or due to weather, all fees will be refunded.

Joanne prefers to be reached by e-mail (jdp4 @erols.com); please put "Central Park" in the subject line so the message isn't deleted. If you're not part of the information highway yet, you can call her at 433-0739.

For train schedule information, please contact the Long Island Rail Road at (516) 822-5477 or http://lirr42.mta.info/index.asp; a group of us will be in one of the front cars of the Babylon line train that is scheduled to depart from Massapequa at 7:28 and arrive in Penn Sta-

tion at 8:25. A \$4 MetroCard is required for the subway. This can be purchased along with your train ticket at your local train station. We will meet in Penn at 8:30 (in front of the LIRR's

waiting area) and at Belvedere Castle in the park at 9:30. The walk usually ends around noon. Bring lunch and spend the day in the park, or head back home after the walk if you prefer. We look forward to seeing you (and all those warblers) there!

Last Year's List: Mallard, Red-winged Blackbird, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Canada Goose, American Robin, Mute Swan, Green Heron, Great Egret, Yellowrumped Warbler, Baltimore Oriole, Boat-tailed Grackle, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Gray Catbird, House Sparrow, Mourning Dove, Rock Dove, Herring Gull, Chipping Sparrow, Warbling Vireo, Chimney Swift, Blue Jay, Northern Mockingbird, Hermit Thrush, Wood Thrush, European Starling, Northern Parula, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Black-and-white Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Veery,

Song Sparrow, American Goldfinch, Northern Cardinal, Blue-winged Warbler, White-throated Sparrow, American Redstart, Northern Waterthrush, Ovenbird, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Magnolia Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Double-crested Cormorant, Eastern Screech Owl, Tufted Titmouse, Common Yellowthroat, Red-headed Woodpecker, Yellow Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, Indigo Bunting, Downy Woodpecker, Nashville Warbler, and Red-tailed Hawk.

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Therese Lucas

Once again, South Shore Audubon Society has been invited to participate in the Heckscher Spring Festival at Heckscher State Park in East Islip. This year's event, which focuses on the celebration of Earth Day, will be held **Saturday and Sunday, April 24 and 25**. The festival will be at Fields One and Four between 11 A.M. and 4 P.M.

Look for SSAS's display in the "Summer Fun for Kids Area." This year, this special section for organizations offering programs for children will be set aside in a centrally located spot. Our complete display covering all facets of chapter activities will also be at this location.

I hope to see you there as a visitor and/or volunteer. To volunteer, contact me at 631-225-6377 or TKLWingsII @aol.com.



ASSATEAGUE WEEKEND (May 20–23). Hike Chincoteague Wildlife Refuge trails and Assateague National Seashore beaches during peak spring bird migration. See nesting eagles & osprey, migrating shorebirds & herons, butterflies, Sika and white-tailed deer, river otter, red fox, black rat snake, Chincoteague ponies. Cost: \$325 includes 3 nights at Refuge Motor Inn (heated pool, jacuzzi), marsh boat tour, bus tour of back dune areas, guided hikes, evening lectures, and Saturday night seafood buffet. Leaders: Mickey Cohen & Don Riepe.

JAMAICA BAY SUNSET CRUISES (May 29 and June 12). Leave Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn on 96' boat "Dorothy B VIII" at 5:30 p.m. for a three-hour tour of backwater marshes. Learn about the history and ecology of Jamaica Bay during peak nesting time. Cost: \$35 includes wine, cheese, snacks, guides.

HORSESHOE CRAB WALKS (June 2 and 16, 7:30 р.м.). Join Don Riepe at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge to witness the annual mating ritual of the horseshoe crabs. Call Don to register.

MONTAUK SUMMER WEEKEND (June 4-6). Spend two nights at Manor House; hike "Walking Dunes," Montauk Bluffs, Accobonac Harbor, Montauk Beach & Lighthouse.

For information and free field trip brochure, call/write Don Riepe, (718) 318-9344, donriepe@aol.com, 28 West 9th Road, Broad Channel, NY 11693; www.alsnyc.org.

# NATURE TALES FROM A WANDERER An American Kestrel

Joe Grupp

I decided to relieve the mental doldrums of an overcast, dark, dreary, winter day a year or two ago by taking a walk and doing some birding at Levy Preserve in Merrick. About twenty minutes into the walk, I soon realized that the birding was in the same doldrums as the weather, as the only birds I had observed were a very few Herring Gulls that flew by, a couple of Mourning Doves that I flushed while walking, and a large number of distant Brant. Resigned to a pretty quiet birding day, I was climbing the trail up the back of the mound towards the small ponds on top when the doldrums vanished at the sight of a small bird flying low across the mound at a high rate of speed and passing not too far in front of me. Spreading its wings, it braked and settled down on a branch of a lone small barren tree.

Observing the bird through my binoculars as it was flying, I noticed the gunmetal gray upper side of its outstretched wings, the rufous-brown back, and a rufous-

brown tail which also had a broad black band near the end. When the bird perched on the tree motionlessly, I observed two dark vertical lines that birders sometimes refer to as "mustaches," lining the white face, one from under the eye, the second from behind the eye. The bird was an American Kestrel.

I don't believe the bird saw me as it looked down into the old dry grass beneath the scrubby tree. Looking tense, it seemed ready to drop on any morsel of food that might scamper beneath it. Being winter, it was hard to determine what food may have been available; perhaps a small mammal such as a mouse or vole. The bird's diet also includes insects, small reptiles and amphibians, and sometimes small birds. Winter pretty much rules out insects, small reptiles, or amphibians, and birds had been at a minimum that day, but of course it only takes one to make a meal for a kestrel.

The American Kestrelis a bird of open habitat containing a few scattered trees and snags. The upper portion of the mound at Levy Preserve where the bird perched is that type of habitat. When nesting, it uses a cavity, usually in a dead tree, or even a nest box to lay a usual clutch of three to five pinkish-white to white eggs that are blotched with light-brown spots. The male does most of the hunting during incubation and for the first week or so after the young hatch, while the female tends the eggs and the newly hatched birds.

By early winter, most of the American Kestrels that spend summers in our area have migrated south, along with thousands of others from farther north, some going as far south as Panama. The 2001 and 2002 Christmas Bird Counts recorded only five American Kestrels in our area

on each count. They may have been late migrants or maybe some or all attempted to overwinter in the area.

I moved ever so slightly and the bird turned its head, glanced at me, and, with rapid strong wing beats, flew off its perch. I watched it through my binoculars until I could no longer see it. The bird was flying strong and fast, following the coast along the bay towards the city. Following the coast is what thousands of kestrels do while migrating in season. Could the bird I observed be a very late migrant following that same path?

#### COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP REMINDER

Belsy Gulotta

Thanks again to the generosity of Evelyn Bishop, South Shore Audubon Society will be awarding two \$500 Jerry Bishop Environmental Scholarships to students who are college juniors, seniors, or graduate students and who are continuing their studies towards a degree in an area of biological or environmental science, such as wildlife management, forestry, animal behavior, ecology, marine biology, oceanography, mammalogy, or ornithology. For information, call me at 546-8841 or e-mail gulotte @ncc.edu (yes, that's spelled correctly). Applications are due by April 15.

#### PROSPECT PARK REMINDER

**^** 

Ann Marie Pozzini

On **Saturday, April 17**, we will be traveling into the wilds of 526-acre Prospect Park in Brooklyn with hopes of viewing early spring migrants. Leading us around this new location for SSAS will be Steve Nanz, a longtime birder

and photographer of Prospect Park (you can visit www.stevenanz.com to see his photos of birds, insects, and other animals). The starting time will be 8:30 A.M.; our starting location hasn't been determined yet.

The cost for this trip will be \$5 for SSAS members and (space permitting) \$6 for nonmembers. We are approaching our limit of 25 participants, so if you are interested, please register soon (and read the field trip guidelines in last month's *Skimmer*, which include the cancellation rules that are also in this month's Central Park article on page 5).

Send your check, payable to South Shore Audubon Society, to me at 93 Weaving Lane, Wantagh, NY 11793. Please include your phone number and e-mail address so I can send you all the details of the trip as soon as they are confirmed. My e-mail address is rockgeek56@yahoo.com. Please put "Prospect Park" in the subject line so I won't delete your e-mail. Don't miss out on this great birding destination; register now!

#### THANKS AND A WORD ABOUT EASTER DUCKLINGS

Gayle Wertz

Editor's note: The following letter, dated 2/28, was sent to SSAS's president, George Peters. Gayle edited the Skimmer in the late 1980s.

Thank you for printing the article in the March 2004 South Shore Skimmer regarding our need for food for starving wildlife. 99% of our rehabilitation work is with waterfowl (swans, ducks, geese, cormorants, herons, egrets, etc.) and different bird species. We are swamped every season and, as we have been doing since July 1975, donate all our time 24/7 to animals. We really love what we do!

Please thank the following South Shore Auduboners for their kindness in response to the article: Sincere thank you to Mrs. Dorothy Rupp for your donation for bird food. Also a sincere thank you to Jenny Cameron for your donation for bird food and the desperately needed large cage. You made a big bird *very* happy! Every penny of these donations has already been spent on wildlife bird food. It would be a nice gesture to thank these good ladies in the *Skimmer*.

As Easter draws near, baby Pekin ducks will be sold to families. Most of these helpless tiny chicks will be fed improperly, housed improperly, and handled improperly. Then, even though most are extremely young, unaware of predators, probably *not* waterproof, and unable to locate food on their own, the "family" will release them at a pond, lake, canal, or beach!

They leave, feeling that they did a good thing, "returning them to nature." Untrue. Pekins are raised for food or to be kept as protected pets. They are unable to fly. Boaters run



them over. Other inhabitants of these waters attack and kill these terrified newcomers, either for food or sport. They can perish from exposure and/or starvation. They approach other humans, hoping they are the "family" re-

turning to rescue them. These other people abuse or kill

My husband Dick and I know all these things occur, because we have been involved in these tragedies for over 28 years. Most of the Pekins we have rescued have had to be euthanized for various ailments. We have spoken with the people at Agway for many years, begging them to stop the sales of these innocent, delicate ducklings and chicks. They refuse to stop, because they not only make money on the sale, but also make money selling the feed for them.

<b>*****</b>	*******
NASSAU	COUNTY POLLUTION HOTLINE 739-6666
<b>****</b>	+++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++
]	RARE BIRD ALERT (212) 979-3070
<b>****</b>	+++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++
AUDUB	ON MEMBERSHIP STATUS (800) 274-4201
****	******

#### AT THE FREEPORT MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Michael Sperling

When you attend SSAS's general meetings, before you start heading towards our meeting room, you can walk a few dozen feet in the opposite direction and recycle household batteries, cell phones and chargers, eyeglasses, and coupons. The boxes for these are in the small bookcase that's behind the desk that precedes the magazine racks and computers.

Before you enter the library, though, you'll presumably look for one of its increasingly elusive parking spots. If you have difficulty finding a nearby spot, I recommend a well-lit free municipal lot that's not far away. It's located on S. Ocean Ave., on the south side of the Gulf station that's on Sunrise Highway.

# YOU'RE INVITED TO SSAS'S ANNUAL DINNER!

An enjoyable evening awaits everyone at our 33rd annual dinner, which will be held at Pompei Restaurant and Catering in West Hempstead on **Wednesday**, **June 9**, 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 once again we're planning a raffle/auction. Pompei is located at 401 Hempstead Ave. Take Southern State Parkway Exit 17 north about 1-1/2 miles. Please join your fellow South Shore members and bring your friends.

Advance registration is required; the cost is \$27 per person (\$22 for ages 18 and under), which also includes salad, cake, and coffee. Please mail the following form and your check, payable to *South Shore Audubon Society*, to: Shirley Kutner, 461 Dunster Ct., West Hempstead, NY 11552-2805. Any questions? Call Diane Singer at 561-6118 or Shirley at 486-7667.

<b>*****************</b>
NAME:
ADDRESS:
AMOUNT OF CHECK:
NUMBER OF PEOPLE:
NUMBER OF EACH MENU CHOICE:  Chicken Marsala
Grilled Chicken
Filet of Sole
Roast Beef
Eggplant Rollatini

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

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Wendy Murbach, co-Vice Pres. & Membership 546-6303
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