# OUTH HORE KIMMER

VOLUME 35, NUMBER 7 — SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

**APRIL 2005** 

### **NEXT MEETING**

Enid Klein

DATE: Tuesday, April 12, 2005

TIME: 7:30 p.m.

PLACE: Freeport Memorial Library

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

SPEAKER: Tom Torma

TOPIC: Birds of Long Island

From the wooded bluffs overlooking Long Island Sound to the marshes and beaches of our South Shore, with all of the different habitats and located on the Atlantic flyway, Long Island is a great place for bird-watching. This digital program will highlight many of the birds seen on Long Island. The discussion will include how to identify the birds and where to find them. Join us!

Tom is a past president of SSAS and chaired numerous committees, including the Program committee. He is currently a Nature Interpreter at the Theodore Roosevelt Nature Center in Jones Beach. Some of his photography may be viewed at his Web site, www.natureshorizons.net.

**Pre-Meeting Program on Birds.** Starting at 7 P.M. each month, Scott Oglesby will be discussing birds in the room beyond our coffee-break tables. Topic suggestions for future talks are welcome.

**Parking Lots.** In addition to the parking lot adjacent to the library, there's a lightly used, well-lit, and fairly close municipal lot on the east side of S. Ocean Ave., on the near (south) side of the Gulf station that borders Sunrise Highway. Also, SSAS has a verbal pledge from neighboring Citibank that cars will no longer be towed from their lot during our meetings, but we can't guarantee this.

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

### SPRING CLEANUP AT BROOKSIDE PRESERVE

On **Sunday, April 10**, 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.

# COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

Thanks to the perennial 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 toward 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 Betsy Gulotta at 546-8841 or e-mail gulotte@ncc.edu (yes, that's spelled correctly). Applications are due by April 30; as of early March, we haven't received any!

SSAS Mission Statement — The mission of South Shore Audubon Society is to promote environmental education; conduct research pertaining to local bird populations, wildlife, and habitat; and preserve and restore our environment, through responsible activism, for the benefit of both people and wildlife.

### **★★ 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 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.

alongside us.
Our new members since last month's Skimmer are:
Baldwin Roberta Migdalof
Bethpage A. Burford, Viola Hoffmans
East Meadow Mary A. Gottlieb, Leonard
Norton, George Sacher,
Theodore Schneiderman,
Mrs. Anita S. Ullman
East Rockaway Lucille Fox, Steven Lander
Elmont Violet Herth
Farmingdale William Engle, Michael Skevofeliv
Floral Park Harriet Peaceman, Mr. Lester
Troupp
Franklin Square Mr. Victor J. Caroddo, Loretta
Minor, Dale Stanley
Freeport John Farrell, Ann Jochems,
Harriet Johnson, Laura
Parrondo, Carol A. Quiros,
Daisy Rivera
Hicksville Robert H. Buttner, Mr. Aaron M.
Schein, Philip Scholnick
Levittown Tulie Gay, Terry Grace, Terence
Lobue, Dorothy Rizzo
Long Beach Robert Abrams, Susan Andrews
Malverne Joseph A. Liccione
Massapequa Angela DiStefano, Jennifer Lopez,
Thomas McAniff, Maria T.
Ortolani
Massapequa Park Mr. John W. Hillman, Jim
Thompson
Merrick Aldo Caperna, A. Colacino,
S. Stahl Oceanside Marcia Churchill, Ms. Eileen

Kronenberg

Plainview Warren E. Strittmatter
Rockville Centre Colette Hinton
Seaford? Grieshaber, Barbara S. Kramer,
Elaine Sorrentino
Stewart Manor Robert Hoenig, Mark Sackstein
Valley Stream Ms. Mildred Beim,
John Calderone, Joan Naso
Federman, Armen Jermakian,
Victor Pajonas, Irwin Purisch,
Leonard Stern
Wantagh Pauline DiGiovanni, Miriam
Morgenstern, Thomas Seddio
West Hempstead Ailene Cavaliere, Mary Ellen
Lasko, Jill Lessne, Gina Milici,
Mattia Raciti, Lubomira Rydl,
Paul Selhorn, Marcel Teitelbaum
Woodmere Stanley Thalen
<b>********************************</b>
AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP STATUS (800) 274-4201
<b>***************************</b>

# FAHNESTOCK WEEKEND FOR TWO AUDUBON CHAPTERS

If you've read recent *Skimmers*, you know that Mary Jane Russell has arranged for us to spend **June 4 and 5** in Clarence Fahnestock Memorial State Park. The park and its Taconic Outdoor Education Center (where we'll stay) are located off the Taconic Parkway in the highlands of Putnam County, about 90 minutes away. The cost of this weekend outing will be \$65 for SSAS members and \$70 for nonmembers.

Fahnestock is part of an Audubon Important Bird Area and consists of over 11,000 acres of oak, hickory, and hemlock forest, with lakes and ten miles of trails. We'll use Fahnestock's rowboats and have arranged an easy canoe trip along the shore of the Hudson River at the nearby Constitution Marsh Audubon Center and Sanctuary. The optional canoe trip will begin on Sunday at 10

A.M. for an additional \$15 (\$20 for nonmembers) and will have a maximum of 15 participants.

Three meals prepared by students of the Culinary Institute of America will be provided for all registrants (lunch and dinner on Saturday, breakfast on Sunday). Most rooms have five beds, so be ready to share your sleeping space with your fellow Auduboners and friends. SSAS's first weekend there was in October 1998, which was before they added indoor plumbing to the heated/electrified cabins

A \$10 deposit, payable to South Shore Audubon Society, will hold your reservation. Please call Mary Jane at 766-7397 if you're interested. We must have 35 advance registrants for this trip to occur. In order to make it easier to reach this minimum, in early March we invited Great South Bay Audubon Society to join us.

### **EARTH DAY CELEBRATION AT TACKAPAUSHA**

Therese Lucas

This year, we are celebrating the wonders of our earth and its preservation at Tackapausha Museum and Preserve on **Saturday, April 23** from 1 to 3 P.M. SSAS will have a display table promoting membership. A cleanup and two guided nature walks are scheduled. Lending a helping hand at the cleanup would be an ideal activity, as Tackapausha was adopted by SSAS via the Adopt-a-Park program. Hope to see you there!

Tackapausha's entrance is on Washington Avenue in Seaford, about 1/2 mile south from Sunrise Highway and just north from Merrick Road.

The usual museum admission fees will apply; \$2 for adults and \$1 for children (ages 4 to 14; free for younger children accompanied by an adult).

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.

# EVENTS AT THE HEMPSTEAD PLAINS

### FRIDAY LUNCH WALKS

Enjoy early blooming wildflowers on the prairie. See the Bird's-foot Violet, Nassau County's official flower. Learn about our efforts to save this rare habitat. Join Friends of Hempstead Plains at our Friday Lunch Walks from 12:00 to 2:00 PM (weather permitting) on April 15, May 6 & 20, June 3 & 17, and July 8. Bring your cameras, binoculars, and sneakers.

WEEKEND VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY WORKDAYS
Help restore the native prairie at Nassau Community
College. Remove invasive species. Join Friends of Hempstead Plains for our Weekend Workdays from 9:00 AM to
12:00 PM on April 16, May 7 & 22, and June 5 & 18. Bring
gloves, rakes, and clippers. Free; for more information,
contact the Friends (see below).

# SPRING POETRY WORKSHOP (for Seasoned and Budding Poets)

Saturday, May 14, 2005 at the Hempstead Plains with Long Island nature poet Maxwell Wheat and introducing nature poet Edgar Carlson

- 9:30 Welcome and Introductions
- 9:45 Presentation: Hempstead Plains Natural History
- 10:00 Walks Led by Naturalists
- 11:15 Human History of the Hempstead Plains
- 11:30 Writing Session
- 12:00 Lunch
- 1:00 Continue Writing Session and Sharing
- 2:00 Conclusions & Announcement About Next Habitat Poetry Workshop

Free for members, \$10 for non-members; become a member for \$25. Registration is necessary; call 516-572-7570 or e-mail info@friendsofhp.org to register.

# VOLUNTEER ANIMAL REHABILITATOR NEEDS HELPERS!

Gayle Wertz, the former *Skimmer* editor who lives in Massapequa and has spent decades rescuing wildlife, needs help in the rescue and transportation of trapped and/or injured waterfowl and other wildlife. Anyone who would like to volunteer to help can call her at 798-4215.

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At South Shore Audubon Society's general meeting on May 10, 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 (chaired by Wendy Murbach and including Betty Borowsky and Dolores Grupp) will provide a list of recommended candidates in next month's *Skimmer*.

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### NATURE TALES FROM A WANDERER Eagles at Reelfoot Lake, Part II

Joe Grupp

Editor's note: Part I of this article was in the March issue of the Skimmer, which will be available online as a PDF file at ssaudubon.org in early April.

We met in the morning at the entrance of the inn, at Reelfoot Lake State Park in Tennessee, and boarded a bus with about thirty others who were taking the morning State Park Eagle Tour. We got off the bus at one point on the tour for a single mature Bald Eagle perched in a tree relatively close to the road. The view of the bird was excellent through both binoculars and scope. The bird's white head and tail were pure and unspoiled, the large yellow bill appeared fearsome, and the yellow eyes looked at us as we looked at it. It blinked a few times, then looked away and then back again.

At another point, three eagles spooked a very large flock of Snow Geese (pictured) that rose in a confusing

mass, circled in what appeared to be a random manner, gained altitude, and eventually formed lines and Vs in the sky as it dispersed to other locations. It was easy to see how difficult it might be for a predator

to pick a single bird out of such a milling mass of geese.

Two of the three eagles drifted off to our side of the rising goose flock. Fairly close together, they circled, wings outstretched, catching the rising air of a thermal, the air doing all the work against gravity. They drifted farther and farther apart until they were about opposite each other, at which point they went into a shallow dive approaching one another. At the last moment, they slowed their dive and swooped slightly upward into a position where body and talons faced each other. They extended their talons as they stalled in the air, then grasped a talon of each other and tumbled together for a short distance. Releasing talons, they spread their wings again, catching the rising air, and repeated the process again and again. I lost track of the number of times it occurred, but it was probably five to eight. Chance alone allowed us to witness their prenuptial performance.

The trip ended around noon and we headed for the other side of the lake to find the Visitors' Center (VC) of the Reelfoot Lake National Wildlife Refuge (NWR), as we had scheduled an early morning eagle tour with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) the next day. Upon arriving, we found large fields spreading out into the refuge, bordered by strips of woodland that hid the main portion of the lake. Off to one side of the VC, an approximately mile-long trail ended at a small pond bordered by woods. Part of the trail emphasized plantings to attract birds. Birding the trail, we got an excellent view of a Pileated Woodpecker chopping away on a low stump as it foraged for food. Add that observation to two pairs of Purple Finches at the VC's feeder, along with a dozen or so other birds that we listed,

and we felt that we had a pretty good day even as we had only a few hours of light left before the short winter's day was over. We spent those hours exploring other areas around the lake.

The next morning, we were pleased to find that we were the only two people signed up for the early morning USFWS eagle tour, as it was a work and school day. Our tour took us through the gates and into the refuge, which was closed to the public to serve as a safe place for the wintering waterfowl, as hunting is a popular activity in the surrounding areas. Frequently, the report of gunfire near and far could be heard, resulting in a lot of pressure on the birds when they were not on refuge lands.

We saw a good number of eagles on the refuge. None were really dramatic observations; most were pretty good and we found them in a pristine environment because we and the USFWS naturalist were the only ones on the refuge. The best was yet to come, however, as we left and the naturalist took us to other areas outside of the refuge, some of which we had also visited the previous day. Around the corner at one location was a lone tree, a fair distance away across a grassy, shrubby wetland. The naturalist pulled the van to a good vantage point, and we got out and started counting the eagles that were in that tree... 6, 7, 8, 9, another flew in -10, then another -11. A 12th glided in, almost landed in the tree, then dropped to the ground out of sight. The naturalist assumed that a carcass was there and the eagles had gathered to feed. Eleven eagles concentrated in one tree is one of nature's better observations.

Our tour ended, as the previous day's did, near noon, giving us the afternoon to explore on our own—which we did, finding, among other birds, an Eastern Bluebird and getting an excellent view of a Loggerhead Shrike, adding them to our bird list. As the day began to ebb, we swung by the tree that held the eleven eagles earlier and found only two. We viewed them through the scope as they sat fairly close together on separate branches, one above the other. We realized they must be a pair, as one was much larger than the other and the females are known to be much larger than the males.

After we took a 20 minute walk on the levy that separates the bottomlands from the Mississippi River, we raced the then-setting sun and returned to the NWR to observe the sunset at an observation platform overlooking Reelfoot Lake. Turning into the road to the platform, we stopped to observe a Barred Owl in a low, small roadside tree, no binoculars needed. Driving on, we noticed a small herd of deer walking through the woods. The sun was already below the horizon when we reached the platform, but the stream of clouds running in a line across the lake was only beginning to change color. Over time, their white became yellow, then blended into red, then dull blue, and the colors reflected from the calm lake's surface as a beaver swam, slapped its tail on the water, and dove, then did it a few more times. Just as the color faded

and dusk turned to dark, an immature Bald Eagle glided by and settled in a nearby tree. All of which made our two days at Reelfoot Lake just about perfect.

**\*** 

### ! SSAS'S FLEA MARKET IS COMING !

Belty Borowsky

It won't be too long now — our flea market will be on Sunday, May 1 in the parking lot at the northwest corner of Sunrise Highway and Brookside Avenue (opposite

Freeport High School, near the Freeport-Baldwin border). We'll be collecting your contributions beginning at 10 A.M. that day, we'll begin selling at about 11 A.M., and we'll finish up



by 5 P.M. We ask that you bring your contributions directly to the site of the sale and help us set a value on your donation. Tax exempt receipts will be available there.

We plan to either discard or donate to another organization anything we fail to sell that day. So if you only wish to donate something for SSAS's benefit, come back in the evening to pick up your item if it hasn't been sold.

All proceeds will go toward SSAS's programs, including our annual Day Camp Scholarship Program for financially disadvantaged children. We hope to fund a week of day camp at the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary in Oyster Bay for 25 youngsters in our area this summer.

What should you bring? Books, CDs, videos, cameras, toys, dishes, glasses, kitchen utensils, pots and pans, artwork, costume jewelry; basically, anything you can carry that you feel has value. If you are a baker, bring cakes, cookies, etc. If you create crafts, bring those — for example, birdhouses and pot holders. If you have extra house plants, bring those. Whatever you can contribute will be very welcome.

However, please do NOT bring: old computers or parts, or large appliances (small appliances, like can openers & microwaves will be OK, since we'll have a generator on site to show that they work). If you are not sure, just call one of the co-chairs. Also, if the weather appears inclement, our rain date will be Saturday, May 7. Again, if you're not sure about the weather, call one of us:

Betty Borowsky, 764-3596; Wendy Murbach, 546-6303; or Judy Wolosoff, 678-1676

On the day of the sale we will need help to set up, to sell, and to clean up afterwards; we will also need some folding tables to hold our sales items. If you would like to work with us (we're fun people), give us a call; we'd love to have you.

We are really looking forward to this event — we hope you can join us.

**\*** NASSAU COUNTY POLLUTION HOTLINE 739-6666 

### PROPOSED BYLAWS AMENDMENT

Michael Sperling

At our May 10 general meeting, SSAS's Board will ask our members to approve the following amendment to our bylaws (revised language is in bold letters):

Article III, Section 5: A majority of the elected Board members and Standing Committee chairpersons, **combined**, shall constitute a quorum at any meeting.

Explanation: Article III is entitled "Board of Directors." We are seeking to replace the current wording, which has "members of the entire Board" instead of the bold type above, because recently your Board has been increasingly

unable to reach a quorum at some of its meet-



ings, primarily due to the infrequent attendance of Amenoment many of the nonstanding committee chairpersons

(the bylaws do not require these people to attend). Everyone on the back page of the Skimmer is currently considered in the quorum requirement; if the amendment is approved, quorums would consider the presence of the president, vice president(s), treasurer, recording and corresponding secretaries, the six directors, and the six standing committee chairpersons (Membership, Program, Conservation, Field Trip, Publications, and Education).

**\*** RARE BIRD ALERT (212) 979-3070



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# **AMERICAN** LITTORAL SOCIETY

MONTAUK SPRING WEEKEND (June 3-5). Explore the beaches and bluffs of Montauk during peak orchid and heather blossom time. Visit the Walking Dunes, Montauk lighthouse and bluffs, Napeague Beach, and Accabonac Harbor (optional canoeing). Cost: \$325 includes 2 nights at the luxurious Montauk Manor House (pools, Jacuzzi, sauna, spacious lobby), 5 meals, 5 guided hikes, 2 evening programs and star watch, plus free pickup at LIRR station.

ASSATEAGUE SPRING WEEKEND (May 19-22). Hike trails, beaches, and woods at Chincoteague Wildlife Refuge and Assateague National Seashore. See eagles, river otter, dolphin, Sika deer, brown-headed nuthatch, and many other species of songbirds and shorebirds. Cost: \$325 includes 3 nights at Refuge Inn (double occ.), boat tour of marshes, guided hikes, evening slide lectures, a star watch, and a Saturday night seafood buffet. Leaders: Mickey Cohen, Don Riepe.

JAMAICA BAY SUNSET CRUISES (May 28 & June 11, 5 p.m.). Three-hour narrated tours of the backwater marshes of Jamaica Bay Refuge. Cost: \$35 includes wine, cheese, fruit, snacks. Boat leaves from Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn.

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.



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. 27	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)			
Apr. 3	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge			
Apr. 10	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)			
Apr. 17	Norman J. Levy Park and Preserve			
Apr. 24	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge			
May 1	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)			
May 8	Norman J. Levy Park and Preserve			
May 15 & 22	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge			
May 29	Memorial Day Weekend — No Walk			
June 5	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge			
<b>******************************</b>				

### **ANNUAL CENTRAL PARK WALK**

Ann Marie Pozzini

On **Saturday, May 7**, SSAS will be in Central Park for our sixth 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. In previous years, we've tallied 45 to 70-plus species in under three hours.

The cost of the walk is \$6 for members and \$8 for nonmembers. Please send your check payable to South Shore Audubon Society, along with your e-mail address and phone number, to: Ann Marie Pozzini, 93 Weaving Lane, Wantagh NY 11793. Registration is required prior to Friday, April 29. If you meet us on the train or in the park and have not previously registered, your cost will be \$8 if you're a member and \$10 if not, so register early! Per the SSAS Field Trip Guidelines published in the *Skimmer* a year ago, 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.

I prefer to be reached by e-mail (rockgeek56 @yahoo.com); please put "Central Park" in the subject line so I don't delete your message. If you're not part of the information highway yet, you can call me at 579-3353.

For train schedule information, please contact the Long Island Rail Road at (516) 822-5477 or http://lirr42.mta.info/index.asp; there are a group of members that will be in one of the front cars of the Babylon line train that is scheduled to depart from Massapequa at 7:26 and arrive in Penn Station at 8:25. Please note that at many of the LIRR stations, including Massapequa, ticket windows are now closed on weekends. However, a penalty fare of \$4.75 to \$5.50 is applied if you do not purchase a ticket at a window or using the machines located at the stations. A

\$4 MetroCard is required for the subway to and from Central Park; it too can be purchased from the LIRR's ticket agents or machines.

We will be meeting Chris & Lloyd in Central Park around 9:30 A.M. If you will be meeting us in the park, I will let you know where once the location has been determined. 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 there!

Some Highlights From Last Year's List: Wood and Hermit Thrushes; Green Heron; Baltimore Oriole; Ruby-crowned Kinglet; Northern and Louisiana Waterthrushes; Eastern Screech-Owl; American Kestrel; Rose-breasted Grosbeak; Brown Thrasher; Northern Parula; American Redstart; Common Yellowthroat; and Black-and-white, Black-throated Blue, Black-throated Green, Hooded, Magnolia, Nashville, Yellow, and Yellow-rumped Warblers.

### 

Jim Remsen

Hard to believe, but this year SSAS will conduct its eighteenth 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 13** from 5:00 P.M. until **Saturday, May 14** at 5:00 P.M. The rain dates are one week later at the same time. Full details will be in the next *Skimmer*.

# OUR ANNUAL DINNER'S NEW LOOK

Therese Lucas

The surroundings will be different this year as SSAS's 34th annual dinner is held at Coral House, 70 Milburn Avenue in Baldwin, on **Tuesday, June 14**.

We are continuing the expanded raffle programs that started at the 2004 dinner. We will hold a Chinese auction, silent auction, and 50–50 drawing for all attendees, and there will be a drawing for all Birdathon participants.

If you attended last year's function, you will readily recall the fun that was had by all and the extensive variety of prizes, ranging from gift certificates at local eateries and online retailers to tickets to sporting events, to name just a few. How can you resist circling this date on your calendar?

The cost will be \$32, which includes a cocktail hour with hot hors d'oeuvres, choice of entree, dessert, etc. Look for the registration form in next month's *Skimmer*.

### SSAS 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. Additional 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!

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

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George Peters, President
Mary Jane Russell, Armchair Activist & Hospitality 766-7397

### 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. To join NAS and your all-volunteer local chapter, 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 \$0 unless you join through us). 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.

**Renewing?** Please send NAS renewals directly to NAS (we now get \$0 for all NAS renewals).

Donations to SSAS are always welcome!

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