SHORE KIMMER

VOLUME 43, NUMBER 1 — SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER 2012

NEXT MEETING

John Gaglione

DATE:

Tuesday, September 11, 2012

TIME:

7:30 P.M.

PLACE:

Freeport Memorial Library

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

SPEAKERS: Bobby & Cathy Horvath TOPIC: Rehabilitation of Wildlife

After our coffee break, Bobby & Cathy Horvath of the nonprofit organization Wildlife in Need of Rescue & Rehabilitation (WINORR) will demonstrate what it takes to be a wildlife rehabilitator. Sick, injured, and orphaned animals they rescued but were deemed unreleasable are now used as educational ambassadors; join us to meet some of these creatures up close, such as Augie the Eurasian Eagle-Owl and Gryphon the American Kestrel, and hear their amazing stories! The rescued animals they choose to bring can be photographed, so bring your camera.

The Horvaths are licensed volunteers. Their organization receives no funds from federal, state, or county agencies; it is totally dependent on donations, grants, and fundraisers to pay for its daily operation, and a handful of local veterinarians generously donate their time and expertise to help. Our area does not have a wildlife rehabilitation center; a small network of home-based rehabilitators fill this void. You can read about WINORR's activities on Facebook (no account needed; just search for it on Google or at www.facebook.com/directory/pages).

Pre-Meeting Program on Birds. Starting at 7 P.M. most months, Scott Oglesby expands our birding horizons 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 under-construction gas station that borders Sunrise Highway.

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



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.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE A New Year

Jim Brown

This past year has been a very exciting one for our chapter. We actively confronted many important environmental issues and problems. We can take pride in our efforts and our accomplishments regarding a host of activities and initiatives we have pursued.

We were active in finally, we hope, defeating LNG developments that were slated for the Atlantic Ocean just off our shores. The Liberty Natural Gas project was the last to be defeated, and for that we are very happy indeed! We worked with our coalition partners, especially Clean Ocean Action, for many years on this, to be where we are today on this important issue.

We lobbied and worked to keep the Tackapausha Museum and Preserve open; in that regard some of our members have been very active in the creation and jump-starting of a new Friends of Tackapausha group. We continue to insist that the County move to hire a full-time museum director to work with this new group.

SSAS has taken a strong stand against "hydrofracking" in the Marcellus shale, recommending that New York State ban the procedure. We have also insisted that no fracking

waste, in case fracking is ever approved over our strong objections, ever be brought to Long Island to endanger our waters.

Nassau County has finally reached agreement to purchase the Brooklyn Water Works property using Environmental Bond Act and Open Space Fund money. The fact that the County has moved on this issue will ensure the continued environmental integrity of Brookside Preserve, the County preserve that SSAS has managed for many years. A huge development that was planned for the Water Works property would have threatened the wildlife, wetland habitat, and meadows of this "hidden jewel" of the Nassau County preserve system. A hurdle or two may still exist before the purchase becomes reality, but we hope that the deal worked out between the County and the owner of the property will withstand any possible challenges. Members of SSAS have worked on getting this done for many years and we now have great reason to be optimistic that our work has not been in vain!

This past year, the chapter — that is the membership, the board, and our friends — has ably continued its many important ongoing activities. We have done many things for which we can be proud: We have provided exciting and interesting programs, spiced with good snacks, coffee, book and movie reviews, and raffles. We have engaged in important citizen-science research projects, including surveys of waterfowl and other birds, and managed

Brookside Preserve through trail mainte-

nance, cleanups, invasive species removal, and community outreach. We continue with many bird walks, expertly led, that have attracted new birders. SSAS has offered trips to places far and wide, such as Central Park in the west and Morton National Wildlife Refuge in the east. We were able to send children to a nature camp at the TR Sanctuary in Oyster Bay. The chapter has aided the "greening" of Long Island by providing plants to educate the students of Farmingdale State College. We have maintained a website and expanded our electronic reach through the increased use of Facebook. Our activities have been well publicized and all our members can be proud of a well-crafted and edited newsletter, our Skimmer. All this was supported by board members who have maintained our membership lists, taken down the minutes of our meetings, and kept our books to keep us solvent, which we are! We have brought scholarships to both high school and college students, and again sponsored a successful Birdathon.

This past June's Annual Dinner was a huge success. The dinner committee, headed by Wendy Murbach and including Marilyn Hametz, Therese Lucas, and Dolores Rogers, did a great job in organizing the event, which was held at the Pompei Restaurant in West Hempstead this year. Beginning with this 41st Annual Dinner, our annual conservation award has been officially named in honor of Elliott Kutner, a chapter founder and leader who accomplished so much for the South Shore Audubon Society and

for environmental conservation over his rich career. We were honored to give the first Elliott Kutner Conservation Award to Cathy and Bobby Horvath, dedicated and tireless wildlife rehabilitators who will be our guest speakers in September.

As I finish composing this message, the end of summer is approaching. The fiscal year of our chapter runs from summer to summer, so September essentially inaugurates the beginning of a new year for us. Welcome all to this new year with the all-volunteer South Shore Audubon Society — may we all advance our mission and reach our goals! LIKE US! http://facebook.com/SSAudubon

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★★ 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 (third Tuesday in February 2013) 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. 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:

Our new member	ers since the last <i>skimmer</i> are:
Baldwin	Aston Forrest, Edith Schlamm
Bellmore	Cornelius Hosey, George Zogg
Bethpage	Kathleen Clark
Cedarhurst	
East Meadow	Marge Henderson, Howard Sprintz
Farmingdale	Cathleen Colella, Sue Hess, C. F. Paladino
Floral Park	Susan Rhodes
Franklin Square	Elizabeth Desiderio, J. Juray
Freeport	Jim Miller, Stephanie & Michael Radus, Miriam Sosa
Garden City	Herbert Hummers
	Joseph Castaldi, Celine Paulus
	Elizabeth A. Maier, Donna Panzarino
Hicksville	
Island Park	Joy Berg, Michael Spinelli
Levittown	Mohammad I. Baig, Victoria Meagher,
	Dianne B. Mundy, Geraldine Raab, Helen Taylor, Pam Thiede
Lido Beach	Lynn Eskenazi
Long Beach	
	Patricia Caponi, Gina Donegan
Malverne	Daniel Araoz, Mary A. Larkin
Massapequa	Rose Dalessio, Henry Entenberg, Michael
	Newman, Anita Stramezzi, Mrs. Morton Tanenbaum
Massapequa Park	Barbara Kaufmann, Audrey Nowotarski
Merrick	Pamela Clark, Ms. Theresa Whitney, Joan D. Zacconi
Oceanside	Theodore Fischer, Frances Pecci
Plainview	Mary Levin
Rockville Centre	Annette E. Fenton, Clayton McKenna, Ann Niemczyk, Betty Shelby, Amy Stivelman, Marsha Uzar
Seaford	John Akeson, Kevin Fischer, Kim Leibold
Uniondale	
Wantagh	
West Hempstead	
Woodmere	

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BROOKLYN WATER WORKS UPDATE

Michael Sperling

Much has happened regarding the fate of the Brooklyn Water Works property in the four months since the last *Skimmer* went to the printer. After over a decade of six-story construction proposals on the southern border of SSAS-managed Brookside Preserve in Freeport/Baldwin, we are very close to having the 4.2-acre property, which borders the LIRR from Brookside Avenue to Milburn Avenue, added to 20-acre Brookside Preserve.

SSAS was contacted by Nassau County in early April, setting up an April 13 meeting with the Acting Director of the Office of Real Estate Services, Michael Kelly. At that meeting, we learned that an agreement had been reached to purchase the property from developer Gary Melius (thanks to new appraisals and presumably also to strong community opposition to an apartment building that would have been the largest building in Freeport). We confirmed that SSAS continues to be very willing to manage the property, which we had nominated for acquisition under the 2004 and 2006 voter-approved Nassau County Environmental Program Bond Acts and had been recommended for acquisition as open space in both Bond Acts' Advisory Committee Reports.

On May 21, SSAS was in the audience when the Nassau County Legislature unanimously approved the purchase of the property, with Jim Brown addressing the Legislature prior to the vote. Ten days later, we attended a second meeting with Michael Kelly, this time accompanied by his boss, Deputy County Executive Charles Theofan, to discuss future steps.

As of August 10 (when I spoke to Mr. Kelly), the Phase I and II Environmental Site Assessments have been completed, both indicating that an underground storage tank may be on the property. Water Works Realty (Gary Melius's company) has been instructed to dig in order to identify what's down there and to remove the tank if indeed there is one. All of the purchase approvals needed from the County have been completed and the Nassau County Interim Finance Authority (NIFA) has been notified that it will be formally asked to approve the County's issuance of a bond in accordance with the Environmental Program Bond Act (bonds for open space acquisitions are issued separately each time the County reaches agreement to purchase a property using Bond Act funds). Also, SSAS's management agreement with the County is being revised as needed. Stay tuned for what should be more good news soon.

PLUM ISLAND DEIS RELEASED

Editor's note: Exactly two years ago, the Skimmer contained an update from John Turner of the Preserve Plum Island Coalition, which includes SSAS and Long Island's six other Audubon chapters among its members. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) mentioned in that article was released this past July, preceded by the announcement that appears as the first three paragraphs to the right. In 2008, Congress authorized the sale of Plum Island. First, here's an update from John:

One place that reflects much of the life that represents Long Island Sound, but compressed into a much smaller area, is Plum Island, an 843-acre pork-chop shaped island that juts out from the bony finger of Long Island's North Fork. Given its diversity and abundance, it's hard not to speak in superlatives.

Researchers have documented nearly 180 bird species on the Island, including federally threatened Piping Plovers that nest here and federally endangered Roseate Terns from the nearby breeding colony at Great Gull Island that often rest on the Island. There are eight Osprey nests scattered throughout, as well as an active Bank Swallow [pictured] colony situated in the middle part of

the southern bluff of the Island. The offshore waters host thousands of eiders, scoters, and other sea ducks during the winter, amidst the largest seal haul-out site in southern New

England, found at the Island's eastern edge. Additionally, rare plants and plant communities are scattered throughout

However, this precious gem is currently in danger. The federal government is looking to move the Plum Island Animal Disease Center to a new location in Kansas and, in the process, attempting to sell the Island to the highest bidder. In its recent Draft Environmental Impact Statement, the General Services Administration recommends selling the Island without any provisions written in for conservation. This is extremely worrisome since more than 90% of Plum Island is currently pristine, undeveloped, undisturbed, lush habitat. A sale without conservation would displace the wildlife that call Plum Island home and disrupt the habitats on the Island.

In an effort to better document and catalog the ecological resources and features of the Island, the New York Natural Heritage Program recently undertook a comprehensive review of the species and natural communities occurring on the Island. Entitled *Biological diversity and ecological potential of Plum Island, New York*, this report [posted online] documents this richness. Funding for the NHP report was provided by The Nature Conservancy's Long Island and Connecticut chapters.

If you would like to get a better sense of our Treasure Island or learn how to get involved in protecting the Island, visit the Preserve Plum Island Coalition's website at www.preserveplumisland.org.

The U.S. General Services Administration and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security acting as Joint Lead Agencies, along with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region Two and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Northeast Region as Cooperating Agencies, have completed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Public Sale of Plum Island, New York in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). An electronic copy of the DEIS is available online for review and retrieval at www.plumislandny.com. Physical copies of the report are available to the public at the Southold Free Library in Southold, New York and the Acton Public Library in Old Saybrook, Connecticut.

An official notice of the report's availability will be [was] published on July 20, 2012, in the Federal Register. This publication will start the 60-day NEPA comment period. Two public meetings will be scheduled in September, one occurring in the Town of Southold, New York and the other in Old Saybrook, Connecticut.

Comments can be submitted online at www.regulations.gov or by mail to Mr. John Dugan, Office of Real Property Utilization & Disposal, U.S. General Services Administration, Thomas P. O'Neill Federal Building, 10 Causeway Street Room 1010, Boston, MA 02222.



Steve Schellenger

All walks start at 9:30 A.M.; no walk if it rains. Any questions? Call Steve at 987-8103. Directions and summaries may be found at ssaudubon.org.

Aug. 26	Marine Nature Study Area, Oceanside
Sept. 2	Labor Day Weekend — No Walk
Sept. 9	Hempstead Lake State Park (Southern
• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	State Parkway Exit 18 south, Field #3)
Sept. 16	Norman J. Levy Park and Preserve
Sept. 23	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
Sept. 30	Marine Nature Study Area, Oceanside
Oct. 7	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Oct. 14	Tackapausha Museum and Preserve
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	RARE BIRD ALERT (212) 979-3070
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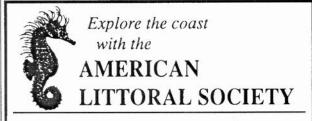
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Steven W. Schellenger

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SHOREBIRD FESTIVAL (Sat., Aug. 25, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.). Seventh annual shorebird festival at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. Free but donation requested. Contact Don to reserve.

JAMAICA BAY SUNSET CRUISES (Sat., Sept. 8, 4–7 P.M. and Sat., Oct. 13, 3–6 P.M.) Leave from Sheepshead Bay, Brooklyn for a special narrated tour aboard the "Golden Sunshine." Learn about the ecology and history of the bay and see a variety of birds, including falcons, osprey, herons, egrets, ibis, shorebirds, and waterfowl. Cost: \$45 includes wine, cheese, fruit, and other snacks and refreshments. To purchase by credit card, go to http://jamaicabaysunsetcruises.eventbrite.com. To purchase by check, please mail to address below.

CAPE MAY HAWK WATCH (Sept. 28-30). Cost: \$210.

CHINCOTEAGUE NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE (Nov. 1–4). A weekend of great wildlife viewing along the Delmarva Peninsula. Visit Cypress Swamp and Bombay Hook Refuge on the way home. Cost: \$395/person includes 3 nights lodging, safari bus tour of refuge, and seafood dinner on Saturday night (all the oysters you can eat).

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

"KITTYCAM" RESULTS

Editor's note: On August 6, the American Bird Conservancy and The Wildlife Society published a media release entitled "'KittyCam' Reveals High Levels of Wildlife Being Killed by Outdoor Cats." The release (posted at www.abcbirds.org/newsandreports/releases/120806.html) includes the following paragraphs:

A new study of house cats allowed to roam outdoors finds that nearly one-third succeeded in capturing and killing animals. The cats, which wore special video cameras around their necks that recorded their outdoor activities, killed an average of 2.1 animals every week they were outside, but brought less than one of

every four of their kills home. Of particular interest, bird kills constituted about 13 percent of the total wildlife kills. Based on these results,

American Bird Conservancy and The Wildlife Society estimate that house cats kill far more than the previous estimate of a billion birds and other animals each year. The study was carried out by scientists from the University of Georgia and the National Geographic Society's Crittercam program.

"The results were certainly surprising, if not startling," said Kerrie Anne Loyd of the University of Georgia, who was the lead author of the study. "In Athens-Clarke County, we found that about 30 percent of the sampled cats were successful in capturing and killing prey, and that

those cats averaged about one kill for every 17 hours outdoors or 2.1 kills per week. It was also surprising to learn that cats only brought 23 percent of their kills back to a residence. We found that house cats will kill a wide variety of animals, including lizards, voles, chipmunks, birds, frogs, and small snakes."

Loyd and her colleagues attached small video cameras (dubbed "Crittercams" or "KittyCams") to 60 outdoor house cats in the city of Athens, Georgia, and recorded their outdoor activities during all four seasons. Loyd said the cats were outside for an average of 5–6 hours every day. Volunteer cat owners were recruited through advertisements in local newspapers, and all selected cats were given a free health screening. Each cat owner downloaded the footage from the camera at the end of each recording day.

Editor's note: The following was the Summer 2010 Myth Buster, part of an ongoing series from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation that's archived at www.dec.ny.gov/public/45772.html.

Myth: Bug zappers are an effective solution to mosquitoes.

Busted! Bug zappers kill thousands of harmless and beneficial insects and, percentage-wise, few mosquitoes. Such wholesale electrocution of a wide range of insects deprives insecteating birds of their food. These devices often use ultraviolet (UV) light to attract

insects; however, mosquitoes are attracted to carbon dioxide, not UV light. Some zappers emit a mosquito-attracting pheromone or CO_2 , which work but may end up drawing more mosquitoes to your yard than they kill.

Control mosquitoes by reducing the places that they breed. Get rid of standing water in old tires, gutters, and bird baths. If you have a pond, introduce fish that feed on mosquito eggs or use dunks containing the larvicide Bti (bacteria that target mosquitoes). Mosquitoes aren't strong fliers, so placing a fan in the area you're in may help keep them off you. Protect yourself with bug repellant. Products containing DEET have proven to be most effective, and may be necessary where mosquito-borne diseases are likely. If you dislike the smell and feel of products with DEET, try repellents containing Picaridin or oil of lemon eucalyptus.

SSAS HIGH SCHOOL SCHOLARSHIPS

The recipients of our annual high school scholarships in June, arranged by Joe Landesberg, were as follows: Colin Bedney from Freeport H.S., Rachel Convertino from Long Beach H.S., Joseph Marchese–Schmitt from Baldwin Senior H.S., and Kasey Ng from South Side H.S. in Rockville Centre. We congratulate them and wish them a successful future.

BOOKS FOR BIRDERS

R. U. Aburdar II

Welcome back from your summer vacations. This year we'll try to review books that are aimed at improving our birding skills. We'll start with an interesting book entitled

The Verb 'To Bird' by Peter Cashwell. The author is an aspiring birder who also happens to be an English teacher; what a combination! He has written a whimsical and sometimes critical book about his

perceived birding obsession.

This book is part memoir, part natural history, and part apology for his failures as a birder. It will enlighten and entertain all of us who read it. We birders, as well as some of us who are just interested in birds, will enjoy this witty and informative meditation. Mr. Cashwell excels at describing his fascination with observing and listening to birds. While he is fond of birding alone, he enjoys (?) getting up at dawn and meeting other birders and logging species together. Interestingly, while the author's personal experiences are engrossing commentaries on the history of birding and the means by which certain species were introduced into the United States, he also talks about the birds he dislikes, such as the European Starling — which I find a nuisance, too! He has birded in his own backyard (haven't we all?), as well as many other places.

So this English teacher rhapsodizes on both birds and birding in examining the quirky nature of his obsession. He manages to dissect his birding obsession and, at the same time, give us nuggets of information that will make us laugh out loud. I'd love to go bird-watching with this man because even if we saw no birds, I'd have a great time and I'd probably come home smarter for the effort. His enthusiasm for birding and his skill with the English language will keep you smiling. So, if you love stories about family, friends, travel, and birds, this book is for YOU! Also, he is a self-styled victim of Birding Compulsive Disorder—and haven't we all suffered from the same ailment at some point in our lives? Read it and ENJOY!!

STATE AND TRIBAL WILDLIFE GRANTS PROGRAM

In early August, SSAS was contacted by National Audubon Society's Assistant Director of Government Relations, Taldi Walter. We promptly signed onto a letter to U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee leaders that opposes the U.S. House of Representatives' "proposed massive (50%) cut to the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program for the fiscal year starting in September. This program has already been cut by over 30% since 2010... The program provides funding to combat invasive species, improve management on public and private lands, support research and monitoring, provide technical assistance, address wildlife disease problems, protect native habitats, and facilitate critical partnerships between local,

state, federal, tribal, and nongovernmental organizations... The State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program is the only federal program with the purpose of preventing endangered species listings by proactively conserving at-risk fish and wildlife... Since its inception in 2001, the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program has had bipartisan support because it is nonregulatory, incentive-based, and focused on results... The State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program leverages tens of millions of dollars in state, private, and tribal funds each year and serves as the main source of funding to implement congressionally required State Wildlife Action Plans. The program not only helps to sustain fish and wildlife and their habitat, but also enhances local economies and jobs by benefiting the nation's 70+ million active wildlife watchers who spend over \$60 billion on wildlife-related recreation each year."

27TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP

When: September 15, 2012 (mostly)

Where: All beaches of New York State, including Jamaica Bay, Long Island Sound, the Hudson River, Atlantic Ocean, the Great Lakes, Finger Lakes, and many NY creeks and bays.

Who: You and thousands of other volunteers, led by Beach Captains from local environmental groups, schools, scout leaders, corporate public service directors, divers, civic associations, and faith-based groups.

Why:

- To clean the beaches and document what litters our shores
- To compile data to devise strategies to combat pollution
- To increase public participation in solving the problem of pollution
- To increase public awareness and appreciation of the coastal environment

How: To organize or find a cleanup in your area, contact Natalie Grant, NY State Beach Cleanup Coordinator, at alsbeach@nyc.rr.com; American Littoral Society, 26A W. 9th Rd., Broad Channel, NY 11693-1112; or (718) 474-2643.

The American Littoral Society Northeast Chapter has coordinated the beach cleanup in New York State for the past 26 years. Last year, 6,368 volunteers cleaned and documented 93,644 pounds of debris along 262.18 miles of New York State's shoreline. For an expanding list of 2012's cleanup sites, visit www.alsnyc.org.

55A5 BACKYARD BIRD SURVEY

For several years, SSAS's Research Committee has been conducting a study to document the bird species found in the SSAS area and to estimate their numbers. We greatly appreciate input from anyone that feeds and/or observes birds in their yard or neighborhood.

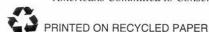
To participate, simply record the birds that you see in your yard, neighborhood, or at your feeder; the date, time, and the number or approximate number of each species; and fill in the table provided below. If you have more recordings than lines in the table, please attach an additional piece of paper 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

A CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY Americans Committed to Conservation



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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 \$20 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 by joining Audubon through us for the same price that it costs if you join through NAS (we get \$0 from your dues 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.

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

Donations to SSAS are always welcome	
Yes, I'd like to join: \square SSAS only \square National	Audubon too
NAME:	
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