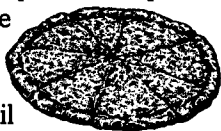




a kids' menu. Don't forget dessert! You can view a sample menu at [www.unos.com/great.html](http://www.unos.com/great.html).

So, go now and circle Thursday, 10/21, on your calendar, because you're eating out that night!

*Easy Directions.* Pizzeria Uno is located along the north side of Sunrise Highway in Massapequa, in a separate building that's on the outskirts of the Sunrise Mall. Take Sunrise Highway east and exit left into Sunrise Mall as you're going under the Long Island Rail Road's trestle (the mall's second entrance). As soon as you enter the mall's grounds, you'll see Pizzeria Uno on your right.



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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 to hear what you can do to help preserve your local environment's health and viability, to hear about local issues that you can help to solve, and to see an interesting program.

Whether you are a beginning birder or someone with a large life list, you will enjoy our weekly Sunday bird walks led by Elliott Kutner, birder extraordinaire. Check out the special events that are mentioned in this *Skimmer*. Attend them yourself, and bring your family and friends too.

You are warmly invited to be an active participant in this vibrant all-volunteer organization comprised of persons who, like you, care about the earth we live on, about our local environment, and about the creatures that live alongside us.

Our new members since the last *Skimmer* are:

- Baldwin..... Natalie Imberman
- East Rockaway ..... Gloria Christiano
- Elmont ..... Jon Katz
- Franklin Square ..... Edwin Purcell
- Freeport..... Carol Feldman, Tracey Gonzalez
- Garden City ..... John DelRosso, Vincent Fornieri
- Massapequa Park..... Shirley Dunn
- Oceanside ..... Donald Behr, Barbara Livingston, N. Tyler
- Plainview ..... Sean O'Connor
- Seaford ..... ? Schamberg
- Valley Stream..... Paul Goldberg
- Wantagh ..... T. J. DeSimone, Lynne Patterson



\*\*\*\*\*

AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP STATUS (800) 274-4201

\*\*\*\*\*

OUR E-LIST [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ssas\\_list](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ssas_list)

\*\*\*\*\*

**BIRD WALKS**

Elliott 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](http://ssaudubon.org).

- Sep. 26 Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
- Oct. 3 Norman J. Levy Park and Preserve
- Oct. 10 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- Oct. 17 Norman J. Levy Park and Preserve
- Oct. 24 Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner\*
- Oct. 31 Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner\*
- Nov. 7 Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
- Nov. 14 Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner\*
- Nov. 21 Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner\*
- Dec. 5 Pelham Bay for Owls (9 A.M.)

\*From Oct. 16 through Nov. 21, you can avoid the \$6 weekend fee at Jones Beach by arriving before 9:30 A.M.

\*\*\*\*\*

(516) 594-0300, Ext 11

Fax: (516) 594-0801

**ARTHUR C. SNOW**  
Certified Public Accountant

41 Front Street, Suite 5 (Second Floor)  
Rockville Centre, New York 11570  
e-mail: [mrblizrd@ix.netcom.com](mailto:mrblizrd@ix.netcom.com)

\*\*\*\*\*

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\*\*\*\*\*

NASSAU COUNTY POLLUTION HOTLINE 739-6666

\*\*\*\*\*

RARE BIRD ALERT (212) 979-3070

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## VOTE FOR NASSAU & TOBAY'S ENVIRONMENTAL BOND ISSUES!

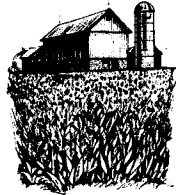
Michael Sperling

SSAS's Board of Directors urges our members to vote yes on Election Day for Nassau County's **Clean Water, Open Space and Parks Trust Fund** and, for those who live in the Town of Oyster Bay, also for **SEA** (Save Environmental Assets) **Fund II**.

The following is a press release I received from my county legislator:

Nassau County Legislative Minority Leader Peter J. Schmitt (R-Massapequa) sponsored and approved a \$50 million referendum aimed at saving the last remaining open spaces and preserving Nassau County's parklands. The unanimous approval by the Legislature means that the referendum will be placed on the ballot for consideration during the November 2nd elections. "We have expanded to all corners of Nassau County. This referendum will allow the County to provide a buffer against the suburban sprawl, maintain the purity of our groundwater, and protect environmentally sensitive areas for future generations," said Legislator Schmitt.

The key component of the law would allow the County to purchase development rights to farmland and horse farms. Only five farms remain in Nassau County. Development rights would ensure that these farms remain for generations to come without the County exercising any maintenance costs.



A portion of the \$50 million bond will be used for acquisition and improvement of the Nassau County parks system. Purchases of available land may be made to increase the size of parkland for both active and passive purposes. County facilities with playgrounds, athletic fields, outdoor concert sites, and equestrian capabilities may all benefit from the proposed referendum. Improvements to Nassau's recreational, historical, and museum facilities may also be made with portions of the bonds; however, routine maintenance to parks will not be covered under the agreement.

In addition to preserving County parkland, a portion of the funds generated will be used on clean water projects designed to protect Nassau's groundwater. Projects that construct or improve sediment collection basins, storm drain catch basins, and end-of-pipe treatment units will all be considered by the County if the referendum passes. Monies raised through the referendum may also be used to rehabilitate brownfields in Nassau County. These sites currently are unusable due to past contamination. Continued cleanup of sites will allow Nassau County to regain control of these lands and put them to proper use within the communities. "The referendum, if passed by the voters, will impact a wide range of programs. This is a very unique chance for the residents of Nassau to approve an

environmental referendum that will not only preserve and reclaim land for future generations, but will protect our drinking water and parklands in the immediate future," added Legislator Schmitt.

The County Executive will make proposals for any land acquisitions, clean water projects, or brownfield rehabilitations. Those proposals will be transmitted to the Nassau County Planning Commission and the Nassau County Open Space and Parks Advisory Committee (OSPAC) for review, evaluation, and recommendation. "Any proposals brought forth will have to go through a series of channels before being approved. This will allow a number of highly qualified individuals to ask questions or make recommendations in an effort to improve all programs. I am very pleased that the Legislature as a whole approved placing this referendum on the November ballot; its cost will be approximately \$7 on each tax bill. That \$7 will go a long way to improving the lives of all Nassau County residents, now and in the future," commented Legislator Schmitt.

*Note:* SSAS's president, George Peters, was appointed to the nine-member OSPAC, thanks to the efforts of Legislator David Denenberg (D-Merrick).

Tobay's SEA Fund II, the proposed sequel to the now-depleted SEA Fund voters approved in 2000, would provide a total of \$30 million (the same as the original did) for open space and parkland acquisition (\$15 million) and park improvements (\$15 million).



Explore the coast  
with the

## AMERICAN LITTORAL SOCIETY

**ASSATEAGUE FALL WEEKEND** (Nov. 4-7). Visit Chincoteague Refuge & Assateague National Seashore along VA coast. See thousands of snow geese, ducks, shorebirds, bald eagle, brown-headed nuthatch, clapper rails, Delmarva fox squirrel, wild ponies, river otter. Cost: \$325 incl. 3 nights at Refuge Inn, marsh boat tour, hikes, slide programs / star watch, seafood buffet. Leaders: Mickey Cohen & Don Riepe

**HOLIDAY PARTY** (Sat., Dec. 4, 5-10 P.M.). Annual fun event at Floyd Bennett Field. Hike @ 3 P.M. Donation \$35 incl. all food & drink, "Ugly Auction," great door prizes, flamenco dancing.

**NEW YEAR'S DAY BEACHWALK**. Meet 11 A.M. at Jones Beach West End 2 parking lot. Leader: Jeff Gottlieb. Free.

**MONTAUK WINTER WEEKEND** (Jan. 7-9). Our 20th year! Enjoy 2 nights at luxurious Montauk Manor, 5 meals, 5 hikes, 2 evening programs. Cost: \$325.

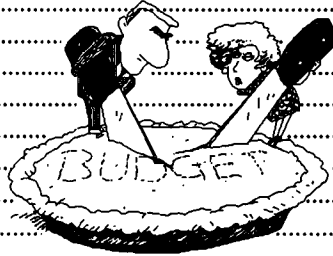
**FLORIDA EVERGLADES** (Jan. 29 to Feb. 6). Tour by van the best birding & wildlife areas of Everglades National Park & southern Florida.

**COSTA RICA** (March 3-12). Visit LaSelva, Poas Volcano, Monteverde Cloud Forest, Carara Biological Reserve, Manuel Antonio National Park. Leader: Don Riepe

For information and free field trip brochure, call/write Don Riepe, (718) 318-9344, [driepe@nyc.rr.com](mailto:driepe@nyc.rr.com), 28 West 9th Road, Broad Channel, NY 11693; [www.alsnyc.org](http://www.alsnyc.org).

## BUDGET 2004-2005

Annual Dinner .....	\$2100
Birdseed Sale .....	\$6200
Brookside Preserve .....	\$1000
College Scholarships .....	\$1000
Conferences .....	\$700
Conservation .....	\$200
Donations .....	\$300
Education/Trips .....	\$500
Festivals .....	\$600
Fund-raising/Raffles .....	\$700
Greening of Long Island.....	\$1000
Insurance .....	\$1200
Library .....	\$1200
Membership .....	\$350
Miscellaneous .....	\$500
Office Expenses .....	\$500
Public Relations .....	\$200
Refreshments .....	\$400
Skimmer .....	\$6000
Speakers .....	\$800
TR Camp Scholarships/Bus .....	\$5000
Total .....	\$30,450



### DAY CAMP FOR DISADVANTAGED YOUNGSTERS: THE 2004 PROGRAM

*Betty Barowsky*

This is the seventh year SSAS has conducted a Summer Day Camp Scholarship Program for youngsters in our area. Each summer, we provide free transportation and tuition for children from economically disadvantaged families to attend one week of day camp at the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary in Oyster Bay. Our program has grown substantially since we began it — from our first year, when, after a great deal of effort, we managed to send just one brave little girl to camp, to this last summer, when we sent 16.

Let me start by thanking everyone who worked to make the camp succeed this year: To our own dedicated members Chris Schmitt, Wendy Murbach, and Alice Blaustein, who accompanied the children on the bus and at camp to make sure they were safe and comfortable; to the staff at the Westbury school district who assisted us at all levels; and to the whole staff at TR (but especially Trish Pelkowski and Karl Brummert), who always make our children welcome, allow us to make many last-minute changes, and who provide a most excellent program for all children who attend the camp. The camp's programs introduce the children to the enjoyment of wildlife and native habitats, while stressing the importance of the environment and conservation.

From the beginning, we knew we would have to work very hard to identify, and then manage to send, children who would really enjoy and grow from the experience, but

who we also knew would never be able to afford it without our help. We were trying to reach the bright, interested children who may not get to museums and zoos because their parents or guardians do not have the money or time to take them. Their families might not even be aware that these resources exist for their children. Parents may be new immigrants; they may not understand English; they may be so poor they have no fixed residence or even telephone; they may move from place to place, or from relative to relative. I have described some of our challenges in earlier reports, so I will not repeat them here — but these are the children we really want to reach.

Over the years, we have fine-tuned our *modus operandi*. For example, we have found that the ideal ages for the camp are between 9 and 11; roughly 4th to 6th grades. Younger children are a little frightened of going to a totally new and strange (for them) place with people they've never seen before. On the other hand, some children over 12 are no longer really interested in camping or spending time in the woods; they are into their teen years, and have other things uppermost in their minds.

In addition, we felt that, to be fair, and to reach as many children as possible, we should work with a different school district each year. This year we worked with the Westbury School District. This district serves an economically diverse population — it draws from among some of the wealthiest families (who may live in Old Westbury) and from among some of the poorest families (such as some who live in New Cassel) in Nassau County.

We were assisted immeasurably by Cherie Alaia, a school counselor at the Drexel Avenue Elementary School. As you may remember, we generally pick up and drop off our children in front of the schools they attend during the year, or the one that's closest to them. This works because most school districts have elementary schools scattered throughout their catchment area, minimizing busing.

In contrast, the Westbury School district has only two schools for children between 9 and 12, and everybody gets bused. This would have made our day camp impossible; it would have meant we'd have to pick up each child in front of their homes — a logistical impossibility. In order to make the day camp happen, Ms. Alaia somehow induced her school to supply a bus to take the children from their homes to the school, then back again at the end of the day. That meant that South Shore only had to provide a bus from the Drexel Avenue School to TR and back.

But Ms Alaia did a lot more than that. She contacted all the parents to make sure they filled in and signed permission slips and medical forms, called the homes of children who failed to come on the first day, provided lunches for the children the first day, and I suspect she did much more that she didn't tell us. The program would not have been possible without her, and the district's children are truly blessed to have such a dedicated, caring professional working on their behalf.

Our second major challenge is funding. Again, when we began we were very, very fortunate to have a school bus provided for free by the Old Navy Company, and to have the tuition largely covered by our portion of National Audubon Society's dues share (a portion of the dues paid by the chapter's members was returned to the chapter). However, since then the Old Navy Company has discontinued its free school bus program and National has sharply reduced its dues share to all local chapters. So, in the beginning we were able to conduct the day camp program with very little budget expense; since then it has become the most expensive program we have.

I know I speak for all of us when I say how much we enjoy those children. They are smart and eager to participate, and I do not think we've ever had a discipline problem. But I think I also speak for all of us when I say that each of us tends to have a favorite each year. For me, this year it was a little boy of 9. (Ask Wendy, Chris, and Alice about their favorites!) On the first day, things as usual were a bit chaotic, and we waited for about a half hour at the school before departing for camp. Wendy (bless her heart!) came up with a game to play while we were waiting — "I am thinking of an animal." The children ask questions and the leader answers, until someone finally guesses what animal is in the leader's mind. So one child was thinking of a snake; another a pussy cat; another a wolf. Then one little boy stumped us all. Nobody could guess WHAT he had in mind. Well, he was thinking of a giant squid! You have to love this kid.

Every winter, struggling with paperwork, trying to reach parents, and doing all the other administrivia we have to do for the program, I ask myself "why am I doing this?" Then, by the end of the first day of camp I am planning for the next year. All of us who participate in the program just fall in love with these children.

This year, although 12 children came on the first day, the full 16 came on the second day, and every single one of them attended for the rest of the week. Some of the children's comments on the first day were:

"I'm NEVER going to be absent."

"We went into the WOODS today."

"We got WET."

"That was so much fun!"



And on the last day, they thanked Chris, Wendy, and Alice for their week at TR. They were really thanking you as well. We all thank you for your support. But we are going to need much more now.

Wendy took some video that we hope to show at a general meeting in the near future. In the meantime, if you are interested in more actively participating in this program, if you have any fund-raising skills or ideas, or have any ideas at all about how to continue and hopefully expand our program, please call me at 764-3596, or e-mail me at [bborow@earthlink.net](mailto:bborow@earthlink.net). I hope to hear from you!

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

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.



### SSAS BACKYARD BIRD SURVEY

Joe Grupp

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, we would greatly appreciate it.

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 a table like the one below. 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. Full-page 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!**

Please mail your data to Mr. J. Grupp, Research Chairperson, 660 Edgemere Ave., Uniondale NY 11553 or e-mail [Birdstudyjoeg02@aol.com](mailto:Birdstudyjoeg02@aol.com).

Submitted by: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Date	Time	Species	No.





**WILD BIRD FEED SAVINGS DAY  
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2004  
TACKAPAUSHA MUSEUM  
9:30 A.M. - 2:30 P.M.**



The museum is located on Washington Avenue in Seaford and lies about 1/2 mile south of Sunrise Highway, just north of Merrick Road. Since there will be only a little extra for sale that day, preordering is greatly appreciated; an order form appears below for your use. Please keep this upper portion as a reminder of the sale date. All preorders must be received by OCTOBER 21. **Please make checks payable to the South Shore Audubon Society. Mail check and order form to Paul Butkereiit, 268 Wallace St., Freeport, NY 11520.**

Help will be needed on the sale date to process orders and to aid in unloading seed. If you wish to volunteer, call (516) 593-1994 and ask for Paul. **PLEASE NOTE THAT WE WILL NOT HAVE A JANUARY SALE!**

My name is \_\_\_\_\_

My address is \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ SSAS Member? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION	PRICE	TOTAL
	25 lb Black Oil Sunflower Seed	9.50	
	25 lb Striped Sunflower Seed	10.50	
	20 lb Premium Seed Mix	7.75	
	40 lb Premium Seed Mix	15.00	
	20 lb Special Mix (1/3 sunflower, no corn)	8.00	
	40 lb Special Mix	15.50	
	25 lb Cracked Corn	7.00	
	25 lb Peanut Splits	21.50	
	5 lb Peanut Splits	5.00	
	25 lb Sunflower Chips	20.50	
	5 lb Sunflower Chips	4.25	
	5 lb Safflower Seed	3.50	
	10 lb Nyjer (Thistle) Seed	9.00	
	12 oz Suet Cake	1.25	
	12 oz Peanut Suet Cake	1.50	

TOTAL AMOUNT: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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- Wendy Murbach, co-Vice Pres. & Membership ... 546-6303
- Laurie Luxner Raisher, Treasurer ..... 378-4025
- Christine Schmitt, Recording Secy. & Educ. .... 887-7713
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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.* 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!**



Yes, I'd like to join:  SSAS only  National Audubon too

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NO.: \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

*Chapter Code R15 7XCH (South Shore Audubon Society)*

