

scientist and environmentalist might have contributed had he lived longer. Ted Parker will be greatly missed.

In the June *Skimmer*, I mentioned with regret the passing of Brigitte Braff, our local advocate of endangered Piping Plovers and Least Terns, who concentrated her efforts at Silver Point Park, a Nassau County Park in Atlantic Beach. About the time the June *Skimmer* was reaching your hands, SSAS forwarded a request to Nassau County Executive Thomas Gulotta that the portion of the park that Brigitte helped protect be named the Brigitte Braff Bird Sanctuary in her memory. I am pleased to report that the County has agreed and we hope to have a dedication of the property this fall. I'll update you at bird walks and meetings as we obtain more definite information on this.

BIRD WALKS

Elliott Kutner

All walks start at 9:30 A.M.; no walk if it rains. Any questions? Call Elliott at 486-7667.

- Oct. 3 Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner
- Oct. 10 Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
- Oct. 17 Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
- Oct. 24 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- Oct. 31 Hempstead Lake State Park (Pen. Blvd.)
- Nov. 7 Tobay JFK Sanctuary

THEODORE ROOSEVELT SANCTUARY

134 Cove Road
Oyster Bay, NY 11771
(516) 922-3200

Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Bird Sanctuary is owned by the National Audubon Society and operated by the Community and three local Audubon chapters, including South Shore Audubon. The following programs are open to the public. Space is limited and registration is required. All program fees are required at the time of registration.

Saturday and Sunday, October 23rd and 24th (11 A.M. to 5:30 P.M.) — Annual TRS Wildlife Festival at Planting Fields Arboretum. This is our biggest fund-raiser and a great way to educate the public about wildlife. Some of the featured guests are: a golden eagle, a bald eagle, a fruit bat, a bobcat, a red fox, falcons, hawks, owls, snakes, and lizards. There will also be crafts, food, environmental organizations, games, and nature walks. Adults \$4, children \$2.50.

Saturday, October 30th (7 P.M. to 9 P.M., Grades 1 to 6) — All Species Day Halloween Program. Our Halloween program with a twist. Participants must come dressed as their favorite animal. Awards will be given for best costumes. We will have activities on endangered species as well as nocturnal animals and traditional Halloween fare. TRS members \$4, nonmembers \$6. ●

FINANCIAL REPORT

Our Treasurer, George Popkin, has provided the following information as determined by our volunteer accountant, Jeffrey Liebowitz of Solomon, Schneider, Orenstein & Liebowitz.

Assets

* General Fund Checking	\$24,260
* General Fund Savings	349
* General Fund Money Market	7,283
* Certificates of Deposit	38,607
Total Assets as of 6/30/93	70,499

Receipts

* Audubon Adventures	455
* Birdathon	3,821
* Business Trips	600
* Donations	230
* Dues — Members	40
* Greening of Long Island	2,904
* National Audubon Society	11,136
* Sales — Bird Seed	19,957
* Sales — Flea Market	1,075
* Sales — Opticals	2,129
* Skimmer Ads	180
* Skimmer Subscriptions	23
* State of NY Grant — Brookside Preserve	20,000
* Interest Income	1,606
* Charity Raffles	198
Total Receipts	64,354

Disbursements

* Bank Service Charge	208
* Brookside Preserve	10,279
* Cleaning — Twin Lakes	8
* Conferences & Conventions	1,217
* Contributions	1,230
* Dues — Membership	50
* Greening of Long Island	2,961
* Licenses (Mailing Permit)	75
* Meetings — Speakers	812
* Miscellaneous	58
* National Audubon — Birdathon	1,726
* Office Expense	186
* Postage	177
* Printing/Mailing — Skimmer	5,735
* Purchases — Bird Seed	15,409
* Purchases — Opticals	1,515
* Rent	340
* Scholarships	1,190
* T. R. Sanctuary	3,037
Total Disbursements	46,213
Net Increase in Fund Balance	18,141



EDUCATION

Carole A. Adams

Just a Reminder. The deadline for enrollment in *Audubon Adventures* is October 22nd. Developed and written by professional educators with a special interest in environmental issues, it is available to educators, scout leaders, librarians, and other group leaders, and covers a wide range of environmental topics. Each enrollment in *Audubon Adventures* includes up to 32 copies of the *Audubon Adventures* newspaper, published bimonthly during the school year, a membership card for each of the youngsters, a Leader's Guide with activity ideas, and a certificate of participation suitable for framing. The chapter cost is \$30 per subscription; we therefore ask for a contribution of \$10 for each enrollment to help defray costs and enroll even more groups. Why not show your support and sponsor an enrollment by submitting a check for \$30 with the teacher or group leader's name, school or group name, mailing address, and grade level of the youngsters to South Shore Audubon Society? You can speak to me at SSAS general meetings or call me at 731-4425.

Video Library. I have some environmental videotapes that are available upon request:

(1) a very short three-minute video of Marvin Gaye singing "Mercy, Mercy Me (The Ecology)," produced by Audubon, Motown Records, and Nitrate Films, showing glimpses of Motown artists and some other celebrities;

(2) an award-winning four-minute Audubon Earth Day 1990 video of the Grateful Dead's "We Can Run," with outstanding wildlife footage and no footage of the band;

(3) "What's the Limit," an Audubon video on the interrelationships between humans and the environment; and

(4) "How to Make a Difference," a 30-minute Audubon video on wetlands (showing Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, if your editor remembers correctly).

Jurassic Ark. Several copies of "Jurassic Ark: If Only Dinosaurs Had Had the Endangered Species Act," Audubon's eight-minute video for children, will soon be available. "Jurassic Ark" emphasizes the success stories of protecting endangered species and urges children to get involved. This video is narrated by 11-year old Lyle Solia-Yates, who founded Pals of Wildlife to save the manatee and other endangered species.

Seed - Feeders
Houses - Baths
Books - Gifts

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Marion Yavarkovsky

South Shore Audubon Society wishes to welcome its newest members. It is our sincere hope that you will all become active chapter members. Come to our Sunday morning bird walks, monthly meetings, and special events. Read our monthly *Skimmer* to become informed about our activities and **Join in!**

[For information on joining SSAS, please call our Membership Chairperson, Marion Yavarkovsky, at 379-2090. The best time to call is after 4 P.M., Monday through Friday.]

Baldwin	Mr. Peter Van Ensbroek
Bellmore	Helen Gerauser, Selig & Selig PC
East Meadow	A. Goldstein
Floral Park	Nancy Belmonte, Anita Heidrich, Mrs. R. O'Beirne
Franklin Square	Brian J. Smith
Freeport	Herbert Jurist, Mr. Hank Liebhart
Garden City	Mr. George Kane, Marion Stuart
Hempstead	Ms. M. Green
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Seaford	Erin A. Kern
Uniondale	M. Saragnese
Valley Stream	Ms. Nan Hansen
West Hempstead	Mr. Bill Pietrzak

BUDGET 1993-1994

Audubon Camp Scholarships	1500
Brookside Preserve	1000
College Scholarship	500
Conservation	1000
Corresponding Secretary	100
Donations	500
Education	2500
Holiday Wildlife Party	150
Insurance	700
Library Custodians	200
Library Donation	400
Library Overtime	400
Membership	100
Miscellaneous	1000
National Audubon Conference Attendance	1000
Publicity	100
Refreshments at Meetings	300
Skimmer	6500
Speakers	500
T. R. Sanctuary	1000
Total	19,450

Feeder Selection. When the ground is covered with snow and ice, it's hard to resist just tossing seed out the door, but it's healthier for the birds to get their "handouts" at a feeding station, off the ground. Regardless of the season, food that sits on the ground for even a short time is exposed to potential contamination by dampness, mold, bacteria, animal droppings, lawn fertilizers, and pesticides. It's best, for the birds' sake, to use a feeder.

You can start simply with a piece of scrap wood, elevated a few inches above the ground. Add a few holes for drainage and you've built a platform feeder. It won't be long before the birds find it.

Whether you buy one or build one, eventually you'll find yourself looking at commercially manufactured feeders. There are literally hundreds to choose from. How do you make the "right" choice? What makes a feeder "good"?

First Consider Placement. Where do you want to watch your birds — from a kitchen window, a sliding glass door opening onto a deck, or a second story window?

Pick a location that has year-round easy access. When the weather's bad and birds are most vulnerable, you may be reluctant to fill a feeder that isn't in a convenient spot near a door or accessible window. Also consider the "mess" factor. Pick a location where discarded seed shells and bird droppings won't be a cleanup problem.

Put your feeder where the squirrels can't reach. Those cute little rodents seem to like sunflower and peanuts as much or more than acorns. Squirrels become a problem when they take over a bird feeder, scaring the birds away and tossing seed all over. What's worse, frustrated squirrels have been known to entertain themselves by chewing right through plastic and wooden feeders.

In the long run, a squirrel-proof feeder or any feeder on a pole with a baffle is the least aggravating solution. The most effective squirrel-proof feeder is the pole-mounted metal "house" type. If you must hang a feeder, select a tube protected with metal mesh. Most plastic "squirrel-proof" feeders, despite manufacturers' claims, may eventually succumb to rodent teeth.

If you have the "right" situation in your yard, a pole with a baffle should suffice. Any wood or plastic feeder can be effective when mounted on a pole with a plastic or metal baffle, if the pole is at least 10 feet from a tree limb or trunk.

Once you've determined where you're going to put your feeder, you're ready to go shopping. In addition to good looks, think about:

- ☞ how durable is it?
- ☞ will it keep the seeds dry?
- ☞ how easy is it to clean?
- ☞ how much seed will it hold?
- ☞ how many birds will it feed at one time?
- ☞ which species will use it?

Durability. There seems to be no end to the materials used in making bird feeders. You can buy "disposable" plastic bag feeders; feeders made of cloth, nylon, vinyl, and metal netting; clear, lexan, colored, and PVC plastic tubes; ceramic

and terra cotta; redwood, western cedar, birch, pine, and plywood; sheet metal and aluminized steel; glass tubes and bottles. How long a feeder lasts depends on how much effort you put into maintaining it, the effects of weather, and whether squirrels can get to it.

Dry Seeds. Water can get into any feeder, regardless of how careful you are to protect it. Seed will spoil when it gets damp or wet. Cloth, vinyl, nylon, and metal netting feeders are inexpensive, but they do not protect your seed. You can improve them by adding a plastic dome.

Most wood, plastic, ceramic, and solid metal feeders will keep seed dry, but water can get into the feeding portals. Look for feeders with drainage holes in the bottoms of both the feeder hopper and the seed tray.

Even bowl-type feeders and trays with drainage holes will clog with seed and bird droppings. Add rainwater and you have an unhealthy broth. Look for shallow platelike seed trays. The purpose of a tray is to catch dropped seeds while allowing spent seed shells to blow away.

Cleaning. Any zookeeper and cage bird owner will tell you that when you feed birds in a confined area, you have to expect bird droppings, feathers, an occasional insect or two, and leftover food mess.

While you don't have to wash the feeder daily, you should clean it regularly. Diseases like salmonella can grow in moldy, wet seed and bird droppings in your feeder tray and on the ground below. It's a good idea to move your feeders (just a foot or so) each season to give the ground underneath time to assimilate the seed debris and bird droppings.

Keeping your feeders clean should not become a major undertaking. The degree of maintenance required is directly related to the types of birds you want to attract.

A thistle feeder for goldfinches should be cleaned about once a month, depending on how often it rains. Feeding hummingbirds requires cleaning at the very least, weekly, preferably more often — two or three times a week. Sunflower and suet feeders may need to be cleaned only once a month.

Feeders made of plastic, ceramic, and glass are easy to clean. Wash them in a bucket of hot, soapy water fortified with a capful or two of chlorine bleach, then give them a run through your dishwasher. Use the same regimen with wood feeders, but substitute another disinfectant for the bleach so your wood won't fade.

How Many Birds. If too many birds at your feeder becomes a problem, you can control their numbers by putting out smaller amounts of seed, by using specialty seeds, or by using restrictive feeders. If you fill your feeder only when it's empty, the birds will look for food elsewhere. They'll return as long as you continue to fill it.

You can virtually eliminate visits by birds you'd rather not see by offering seeds they won't eat. Be selective in your choice of seeds. If you use more than one type of seed, put them in separate feeders. This will reduce wasted seeds, as birds will toss unwanted seeds out of a feeder to get to their favorites.

Birds that visit your feeder have very specific preferences. Most prefer sunflower. Some prefer millet. A few prefer peanuts. None seem to prefer the other grains used in the mixes: corn, milo, red millet, oats, wheat, and canary seed.

If you want to feed only cardinals, doves, and white-throated sparrows (shown here), switch from black oil sunflower to safflower. If you want only finches and an occasional dove and white-throated sparrow, try niger thistle. If you want only jays, titmice, and white-throated sparrows, try peanuts.



Another way to discourage unwanted birds is to use specialty feeders that for the most part allow only “select” birds to feed. The most nonselective feeders are the tray, platform, and house feeders.

You can encourage small birds with feeders that restrict access. Wood feeders with vertical bars and feeders covered with wire mesh frustrate the larger birds. Tube feeders without trays also restrict access to small birds. Remove the perches and you’ve selected only those birds capable of clinging — finches, chickadees, titmice, and woodpeckers. Add vertical perches to tube thistle feeders, and you’ll limit accessibility primarily to the goldfinches.

If starlings are a problem at your suet feeder, you can discourage them by using a suet feeder with access only at the bottom. Starlings are reluctant to perch upside down. Chickadees and woodpeckers don’t find that a problem.

Species Variety. The species you attract is determined primarily by the seeds you offer [and by what birds are found on L.I. — the lists below include species rarely seen here.]

Black oil sunflower is the hands-down favorite of all the birds that visit tube and house-type feeders. White proso millet is favored by birds who visit platform feeders (doves and sparrows). Ducks, geese, and quail will eat corn.

Many of the cereal grains (corn, milo, oats, canary, wheat, rape, flax, and buckwheat) in mixed bird seeds are not favorites of birds that visit tube feeders. Watch a feeder filled with a seed mix and you’ll see the birds methodically drop or kick out most of the seeds to get to their favorite — sunflower. [The birds on the ground below won’t be as choosy.] Seeds that wind up on the ground are likely to be contaminated by dampness and bird droppings. If the birds don’t eat them, rodents will.

The most effective way to attract the largest variety of birds to your yard is to put out separate feeders for each food: a starling-resistant suet feeder, a house feeder for sunflower, a wire mesh cage feeder for peanuts, a nectar feeder, a tube feeder for thistle, a stationary or tray fruit feeder, and a house or platform feeder for millet.

Tube Feeder With Black Oil Sunflower: this may attract goldfinches, chickadees, woodpeckers, nuthatches, titmice, redpolls, and pine siskins. Adding a tray may also attract cardinals, jays, crossbills, purple and house finches [my house finches don’t need a tray], and white-throated and

white-crowned sparrows. [In my backyard, a hanging tube feeder with a tray attracts house finches, more house finches, black-capped chickadees, blue jays, tufted titmice, brave cardinals, mourning doves and rock doves (pigeons) who enjoy a challenge, house sparrows bored with my mixed seed, and the occasional downy woodpecker or American goldfinch; my white-throated sparrows stay on the ground. I highly recommend trying a plastic tray feeder attached to an upstairs window that’s near protective cover and within sight of your other feeders; mine are filled with sunflower hearts or striped sunflower; almost any bird that feeds above ground will visit your window if it’s hungry enough, especially if you put something special in the feeder.]

Tray or Platform Feeder With Millet: doves, house sparrows, blackbirds, juncos, cowbirds, towhees, chipping sparrows, field sparrows, tree sparrows, white-throated sparrows, and white-crowned sparrows.

Tray or Platform Feeder With Corn: starlings, house sparrows, grackles, jays, juncos, bobwhite quail, doves, ring-necked pheasants, and white-throated sparrows.

Platform Feeder or Tube Feeder and Tray With Peanuts: cardinals, chickadees, grackles, house finches, titmice, house sparrows, starlings, mourning doves, white-throated sparrows, jays, and juncos.

Niger Thistle Feeder With Tray: goldfinches, house finches, purple finches, redpolls, pine siskins, doves, chickadees, song sparrows, dark-eyed juncos, and white-throated sparrows.

Nectar Feeder: hummingbirds, orioles, cardinals, tanagers, woodpeckers, finches, and thrushes.

Fruit: orioles, tanagers, mockingbirds, bluebirds, thrashers, cardinals, woodpeckers, jays, starlings, thrushes, cedar waxwings, and yellow-breasted chats.

Hanging Suet Feeder: woodpeckers, wrens, chickadees (shown below), nuthatches, kinglets, thrashers, creepers, cardinals, and starlings.

Peanut Butter Suet: woodpeckers, goldfinches, juncos, cardinals, thrushes, jays, kinglets, bluebirds, wrens, and starlings.

Hanging Peanut Feeder: woodpeckers, chickadees, and titmice.

Coming Next Issue, Space Permitting: how to handle uninvited guests at the bird feeder, plus some questions and answers.

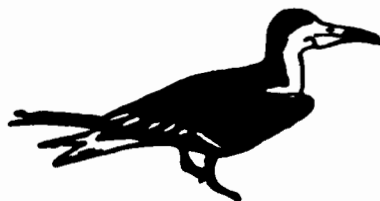


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