

★ WELCOME NEW MEMBERS ★

Marion Yavarkovsky

We are happy to have had another banner month — 106 new members. SSAS welcomes you to our wonderful organization. Please read this newsletter and find out what we are all about. We are certain you will find some activity that you would like to join. Hope to see you soon.

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

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 Garden City John J. Cruise, A. DeCaprariis, Suzanne & Ron Hedgepeth, Dr. C. Liebmann
 Hicksville Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Blaha, Muriel L. Jones, Mrs. Reindalda Nelson, Sister E. Peters, Mrs. Olga Peterson, E. Toovell Profsky, Solomon Schechter School Library, Melanie Seery, Mrs. Gordon W. Van Sise
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 Lawrence Arthur Jacob, Dr. & Mrs. Michael Werner
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- Long Beach Mr. Eugene Colon, Michael Fiederlein, Mr. Leon M. Pollack, Lawrence Shorten
 Malverne Mr. Roger Coleman
 Massapequa Janet Buddine, Ms. Anne M. Burke, Ms. Susan Burke, Mr. Russell Esposito, M. Glasgow, Sue Hough, Jacqueline Thomas
 Massapequa Park Frederick E. Bieber Jr., Frances Guy & Harry Volz, Mrs. Joan Kristensen, Francine Schembri, David R. Strub
 Merrick Mr. Albert Gaynor, Henry Kessin, Mr. Jeffrey Schwartz, Mr. Peter W. Steinmaker, James P. Swiader
 New Hyde Park Peg & Walt Dilts
 Oceanside Jayne Wallace, Leon Weber, Kenneth Wolfe
 Plainview Ruth Costa, Greta Jacob, Sven & Patricia Lossmann, Mr. Robert Reahl, Lorraine Salamone, Ms. Susan Silverman, Mr. Curtis Sloan
 Rockville Centre Flora Humes, Marjorie A. Tietjen
 Seaford Edward W. Speidell
 Uniondale Hsiow-Yeng Chen, Ms. Brenda K. Markert, Jean Morris, Mr. Joseph Ryan
 Valley Stream Mr. Lester Goldstein, ? Laudanos, Ms. Blossom Stein, Mr. John Tanacredi
 Wantagh Vincent Giovanniello, Helen E. Rivadue, Diane Tully

☞ **BIRD WALKS** ☞

Elliott Kutner

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

- Apr. 24 Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner
 May 1 Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
 May 8 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
 May 15 Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
 May 22 Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
 May 29 *Memorial Day Weekend — No Walk*
 June 5 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
 June 12 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Summer Vacation
 Aug. 14 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
 Aug. 21 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
 Aug. 28 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
 Sep. 4 *Labor Day Weekend — No Walk*
 Sep. 11 Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
 Sep. 18 Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner
 Sep. 25 Tobay JFK Sanctuary

A SPRING VOICE

Emilie Petersen

A lovely spring day
I was quietly sitting
In our nest
In a pine tree
Keeping our little ones
Warm and safe
Dad on a nearby branch
Resting from hunting tasks
Suddenly a great crowd arrived
Looking up at us with glee
Pointing out our wondrous golden crowns
Black and white faces
Feather tufts
At the back of our heads
Obviously admiring Dad and me
Called us "Yellow-crowned Night Herons"
Not a bad label



Too polite to stare at these aliens
I noted they had hands, eyes, legs and feet
Of great proportions
No feathers, no wings
Poor undeveloped Giants
Couldn't fly
All were the same
Close together
Reminded me of the cliché
"Birds of a feather, flock together"



BRIGANTINE TRIP

Our bus trip to southern New Jersey's Brigantine National Wildlife Refuge will take place on May 21st. We will be leaving from the Merrick Park Golf Course parking lot at 7 A.M. and will return at about 7 P.M. The Golf Course entrance is on the south side of Merrick Road, just east of the Meadowbrook Parkway. Bring a box lunch — we will provide refreshments for the ride back. If you haven't already signed up, a few seats may still be available (for \$21). Call Diane Singer at 561-6118 for information.



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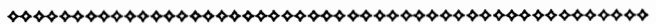


NOMINATIONS FOR 1994-1995 OFFICERS

Elliott Kutner

At South Shore Audubon Society's general meeting on **May 10th**, officers 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 [Elliott Kutner (Chairman), William Hollweg, and Tom Torma] has recommended the following candidates:

- President — Carole Adams
- Vice President — Betty Borowsky
- Treasurer — George Popkin
- Recording Secretary — Louise Hillen
- Corresponding Secretary — Doris Pirodsky
- Director (to 6/97) — Lois Schlegel
- Director (to 6/97) — Jonathan Staller



ENVIRONMENTAL QUOTATIONS

Michael Sperling

While I was having fun experiencing jury duty for the first time, I managed to read a few hundred entries in *A Dictionary of Environmental Quotations*, compiled by Barbara K. Rodes and Rice Odell (published by Simon & Schuster, copyright © 1992), which consists of brief snippets of wisdom and nonsense from all sorts of people. I'm planning on inserting my favorites in many *Skimmers*, starting here:



"Experimental evidence is strongly in favor of my argument that the chemical purity of the air is of no importance."
— L. Erskine Hill, quoted in *The New York Times*, September 22, 1912



"The Ford engineering staff, although mindful that automobile engines produce exhaust gases, feels these waste vapors are dissipated in the atmosphere quickly and do not present an air pollution problem."
— Dan J. Chabek, Ford engineering spokesman, March 1953, quoted in Ralph Nader, *Unsafe at Any Speed*, 1965



"The law locks up both man and woman
Who steals the goose from off the common,
But lets the greater felon loose
Who steals the common from the goose."
— Anonymous, cited by Edward Potts Cheyney, *Social and Industrial History of England*, 1901



"Suburbia is where the developer bulldozes out the trees, then names the streets after them."
— Bill Vaughn, quoted in Jon Winokur, *The Portable Curmudgeon*, 1987



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A WINTER'S TALE

Mort Silver

In the spring of '93, while birding in Alaska, my wife Lynne had the pleasure of sighting a Bohemian Waxwing in the vastness of Denali Park — a few minutes before midnight. I had opted to retire early that night and so missed the only sighting of this handsome bird during our trip. To this day, I have been unable to claim the Bohemian for my own list.

On March 13th, the Connecticut Rare Bird Alert reported the presence of a Bohemian among a flock of Cedar Waxwings (pictured) near Goshen, Connecticut.

Excited by the prospect of seeing this elusive and elegant bird, and as an antidote to the persistent grip of winter that seemed destined to thwart my birding efforts, I rose early the next morning and drove more than 100 miles north to Goshen. Mile after mile, the winter chill deepened and my initial euphoric spirit began to sag.



Finally, I arrived at the area where the birds were last reported. I tramped the snow-covered back roads, listening intently ... but no Waxwings. Everywhere, in the tree groves, were Chickadees and Nuthatches, House Finches and Tufted Titmice. I was surrounded by avian motion — the woods were alive with birds. A flock

of yellow Evening Grosbeaks shared the tree limbs with families of Cardinals. What a welcome sight for one who lives in the world of concrete and jarring sounds.

I moved on to other forested areas, slogging through deep snow drifts and crossing rushing brooks swollen by the melting snow. I made contact with White-throated and Tree Sparrows, Juncos, and drumming Downy Woodpeckers. This was a winter wonderland ... but time was running short. I had to consider the long trip home to the asphalt jungle.

I made a last survey of an old abandoned farm, when suddenly a flash of electric blue caught my eye — an Eastern Bluebird was perched on a dry reed stalk, enjoying the meager sunlight. One can discount the woodchuck or even the Robin, but as the authentic harbinger of spring there is nothing like the sapphire sheen of the Bluebird. This was the perfect ending for my quest for the Bohemian Waxwing.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN 26,000,000 ACRES OF NEARBY FOREST?

Editor's Note: An issue of major concern to National Audubon Society is the future of the forest that spreads from upstate New York to Vermont, New Hampshire, and Maine. In the March *Skimmer*, I reprinted a brochure from Audubon's Northern Forest and Birds in the Balance campaigns that concentrated on the threat that future development poses to

the over 150 species of birds that breed in the area studied by the Northern Forest Lands Council. Until mid-May, you and I have a final opportunity to influence the recommendations made by this Council.

Below you will find an op-ed piece dated 3/18/94 sent to me by the four New York members of the NFLC, followed by the comments of the Northern Forest Alliance (consisting of 21 environmental groups, including big ones — National Audubon Society, National Wildlife Federation, Natural Resources Defense Council, Sierra Club, and Wilderness Society). If you have experienced first-hand the problems facing our Northern Forest, then your personal observations would be particularly interesting to the NFLC. For further information, contact David Miller, Northeast Regional Vice President, National Audubon Society, 1789 Western Avenue, Albany, NY 12203; phone (518) 869-9731. ☺☺☺☺☺

On March 3, 1994, the Northern Forest Lands Council released its draft recommendations report, *Finding Common Ground*, for public review and comment. Interested people can receive a copy and provide feedback to the NFLC until **May 16th**.

In 1988, the Congress and governors of Maine, New Hampshire, New York, and Vermont created the Northern Forest Lands Study and its companion Governors' Task Force, and then in 1990 their successor, the Northern Forest Lands Council. They were created out of concern for potential large scale changes in the traditional ownership patterns and uses which have characterized the Northern Forest for decades. Our report culminates several years of research and discussion about these potential changes and the effects of public policies on the region's forest lands.

We think these issues touch, in one way or another, everyone in the Northeast. The Northern Forest, encompassing 26 million acres in the northern parts of the four states, is the last vast area of continually forested land in the northeastern United States. It is inhabited by nearly a million people. This area is vital to us all as an environment which has supported — and can continue to support — a unique culture, jobs, and a natural landscape for recreational opportunities, a wide diversity of plants, wildlife, and ecosystems, and the trees for a strong timber economy.

But this will only continue into the future if we change certain public policies. These policies make it extremely difficult for the thousands of landowners of this predominantly privately owned landscape to keep it forested, unbroken, and available for the many uses it provides today.

Through its research, the Council learned that while there may be no immediate development crisis on large forest land tracts in the Northern Forest, some lands with the most sensitive environmental values — mostly along shorelines and with scenic views — have been sold as recreational and residential properties.

Most importantly, the Council also learned that the strong forces for change seen in the 1980s are still in place today, potentially affecting all forest lands in the region and beyond. The Council's research revealed layers of subtle but

chronic pressures to change the uses and ownerships of the land in the region. These include:

- * rising taxes, causing conversion of land from natural resource uses

- * pressure for development of high-value areas near shorelines and scenic places

- * jobs lost to competition from other regions and countries, and, thus, taken away from the north country

- * incomplete knowledge of land management techniques to maintain or enhance biological diversity

- * lack of funding and clear priority setting for public land and easement acquisition

- * insufficient attention to and funding for public land management

- * fear of losing public recreational opportunities and access to private lands

- * loss of respect for the traditions of private ownership and uses of private land

- * failure to consider forest land as a whole, as an integrated landscape

- * increased polarization among forest user groups

These forces transcend property lines, county lines, and state boundaries. They affect large and small landowners, public land managers, mill workers, recreationists, residents, and visitors in the region. In the absence of thoughtful action, these forces will inevitably change the landscape of the Northern Forest — perhaps not immediately, but at some time in a way probably not desired by the people who live there or others who care about the Northern Forest. Thus, we have felt compelled to take the long view and anticipate the ramifications of these forces for change well into the future.

In many cases, such undesired change is unwittingly encouraged by public policy. The Council's draft recommendations, then, concentrate on changing public policy to provide ways for landowners, if they choose, to keep their land forested, undeveloped, and providing the multitude of public benefits which a large forested landscape can provide. In many cases, current policies do not give landowners the choice and they are being forced to change the ownership and use of their land.

We encourage you to get a copy of the report (it is even available through an online computer service if you have a personal computer and modem) and let us know what you think. We have built our draft recommendations on the thoughts, comments, and feelings of thousands of people and, once more, we ask that anyone with an interest in these issues comment on the draft recommendations from their point of view. We encourage people to obtain a copy by calling the NFLC office at (603) 224-6590 or by dropping a written request in the mail to the NFLC at 54 Portsmouth Street, Concord, NH 03301. ♻️ ♻️ ♻️ ♻️ ♻️

The Northern Forest — A Legacy for the Next Generation. The great Northern Forest. The North Woods. The Big Woods. Home. By whatever name, it is a vast sweep of forest — twenty-six million acres of dense woodlands,

majestic mountains, rivers, lakes, streams, and wetlands extending from New York's Adirondack Mountains across northern Vermont and New Hampshire to the tip of Maine. Home to one million people. A source of jobs for hundreds of thousands. A source of spiritual renewal and recreation for tens of millions. A refuge for over 250 species of wildlife. A natural treasure we hold in trust for future generations.

What kind of Northern Forest will we leave to our children and grandchildren?

The Northern Forest has provided sustenance for people for centuries, yet we are asking more and more of this forest. More trees for cutting. More places to build our vacation homes and drive our cars. Make no mistake: the Northern Forest is changing.

How we direct this change will determine whether the Northern Forest can continue to provide jobs, recreation, and natural beauty for all to enjoy. Managing change wisely requires that we set our sights not on next year, or the next ten years. It requires that we look ahead a generation and more.

The Northern Forest Lands Council has wrestled with the complex issues that confront the Northern Forest. It has struggled to balance the many interests at stake and has provided a foundation on which to build. Now we must take bold action to save the Northern Forest from the forces that threaten both its ecological health and the long-term economic future of the people who depend on it.

A Forest Threatened. Boom and bust economic cycles have periodically placed the Northern Forest under intense pressure. Huge tracts of Northern Forest land have been bought by speculators who saw a greater short-term return in housing lots than in management of the land for long-term, quality timber. Development on ecologically sensitive shorelines has destroyed wildlife habitat and limited the long tradition of public access that has been valued by hunters, hikers, snowmobilers, anglers, and boaters. Clearcutting and other activities have altered natural processes, caused soil erosion, degraded the timber stock, and scarred the landscape. The forest products industry in the region suffers from recession, global competition, and inadequate investment in aging mills. Taxation policies can discourage long-term stewardship of the land.

Short-sighted decisions have compromised the forest's future. We have taken for granted the forest's role as a filter for cleaning our water and air, as a storehouse for the variety of life that keeps the forest healthy.

If we are to bequeath to our children a Northern Forest that will support their families and refresh their spirits, we must restore what has been lost and regain our respect for what we now take for granted.

Guiding Principles. In making the recommendations that follow, we have been guided by a set of principles that are the foundation of our work to preserve the Northern Forest for future generations.

- * We are stewards of a forest of extraordinary local, regional, national, and international value, and we must act to conserve it for future generations.

* We must leave this land a better place than when we inherited it.

* We must help sustain and restore natural systems over the long term, including the air, soil, water, and the full range of native plants and animals.

* We must respect and build upon the history and culture of the Northern Forest and the connections between people and the land.

* We believe people have a fundamental right to participate in decision making processes that affect them.

* We must respect the rights of property owners while insisting upon the responsibility that all property owners have to the land and the communities of which they are a part.

* We must work to foster partnerships and cooperation among local, state, and federal governments, and landowners and citizens.

* We must recognize that the needs and problems of the Northern Forest states are not identical, but that the future of the Northern Forest depends on interstate cooperation. Our common interests are greater than our differences. Ecological systems and economies know no state boundaries.

* In planning for the future of the Northern Forest, we must recognize that the economic and ecological health of the region are interdependent.

Recommendations. To ensure healthy, productive, managed private lands; permanently protect wild areas of exceptional public value; and strengthen local economies, we are making the following recommendations to the Northern Forest Lands Council. In some cases, these recommendations are consistent with the NFLC's draft recommendations. In other cases, our recommendations call for stronger action at the local, state, and federal levels. There are many other public policy changes that would contribute to a brighter future for the Northern Forest region. These are the most important. We emphasize that no single action will be able to meet the challenges facing the Northern Forest — a comprehensive approach is required.

We offer these recommendations as a starting point and expect to refine them as the public debate takes shape.

To encourage healthy, productive, private Northern Forest lands that provide good jobs for working people for generations to come and protect wildlife and the natural environment, we recommend:

① *Forest Legacy Program.* We support increased federal funding for the Forest Legacy Program, a program that supports the purchase of conservation easements on private lands. Funding for the program for the Northern Forest should be at least \$50 million per year.

② *Forest Management Practices.* We strongly recommend that state governments, landowners, and timber industry groups strengthen the regulations and standards that govern forestry practices to ensure that: (a) trees are harvested in ways that sustain natural processes and mimic natural disturbances; (b) wildlife habitat, sensitive areas, and plant and animal species are identified and conserved; (c) excessive clearcutting and high-grading of the forest is eliminated; (d) scenic and recreational values are promoted; and (e) soil, air,

and water are protected for future use. These regulations and standards must be rigorously implemented.

③ *Research and Education.* Through a combination of state, federal, and private funds, we support creation of a regional Northern Forest Ecosystem Management Center for research and education. The Center's mission should be to improve scientific knowledge and public understanding of the complex Northern Forest ecosystem, to provide practical information for resource managers, and to provide a sound basis for public policy formulation in the future.

④ *Land Use Planning.* Using existing state and local land use planning agencies, land use standards and regulations in the Northern Forest region should be strengthened to encourage forest land conservation by channeling development away from undeveloped forest regions and wildland areas and towards existing communities. Shoreline development standards should be strengthened to ensure public access and protect these most sensitive of natural systems.

To permanently protect wildland areas to assure that Northern Forest lands of special ecological and scenic significance are preserved for future generations, we recommend:

⑤ *Land Conservation.* Together, the state and federal governments should create a land conservation program to provide permanent protection for specific wildland areas in the Northern Forest. These "conservation areas" would serve many important purposes, including: (a) habitat protection for the variety of plant and animal species that is essential to the future health of the Northern Forest; (b) assured public access to Northern Forest lands for hunting, fishing, hiking, and other forms of outdoor recreation; (c) insurance against our lack of knowledge about the long-term consequences of human activities on the forest ecosystem; and (d) assurance that future generations will find forest lands of great natural beauty in this region.

As part of this program, the state and federal governments should work together to research critical regions of the Northern Forest. Based on scientific analysis, public input, and local involvement, areas with high concentrations of ecological, recreational, and scenic values should be identified. Lands of exceptional public value should be permanently protected through public ownership. Other conservation tools including conservation easements and landowner incentives should also be used as appropriate. *Lands should be purchased from willing sellers only.* This program will require state and federal funds for the public purchase of lands.

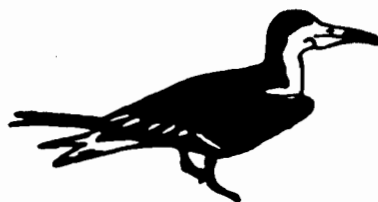
Based on initial research, the groups listed above [the Northern Forest Alliance] have identified ten areas with high concentrations of ecological, recreational, and scenic values. We recommend that the public consider these general areas for the creation of a system of protected lands in the Northern Forest. These areas are: the upper St. John Valley of northwestern Maine, greater Baxter State Park area of north-central Maine, Down East Lakes region of eastern Maine, Boundary Mountains region of western Maine, Upper Androscoggin Valley including the Lake Umbagog and

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