VOLUME 25, NUMBER 6 — SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

**MARCH 1995** 

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Carole A. Adams

Hang in there. Spring should be just a few weeks away. As of the writing of this message, we've only had one snow-storm and deep freeze. Of course, with the time gap between the writing, printing, and your reading, a whole lot could (and probably will) change. Here's hoping Punxsutawney Phil has this shadow stuff down pat.

Just to bring you up to date on past and future: Betty Borowsky, Michael Sperling, Porgy Smith, and I attended the Long Island Audubon Council meeting in Stony Brook on January 28th. LIAC is comprised of the seven Long Island Audubon chapters. I'm very pleased to say that all seven were represented, and we were joined by Suzanna Dwyer (Audubon's New York State Representative), Marilyn England (Grassroots Organizer for National Audubon's Living Oceans Program), Mary Richard (Director of T.R. Sanctuary), Ned Boyajian (from New York City Audubon Society), and Geoffrey Ryan (also from NYCAS and Vice President of the Audubon Council of New York State).

As a result of this meeting, two ad hoc committees were formed and of course SSAS members were right in there volunteering. An LIAC Action Committee was formed to sort, prioritize, and reach common agreement on local and national issues that affect Long Islanders. To achieve the greatest impact, they will be negotiating island-wide membership telephone chains and mailing lists. The second ad hoc group will be working on an LIAC event put together by all seven chapters. I will certainly keep you up to date on this project, because I'd like to see you all there, wherever "there" is.

Our friends at North Fork Audubon Society could use our support on their Inlet Point Park takeover project. Just think — a new birding spot. You will be hearing more about this too.

Other topics addressed at the meeting included CompuServe and its Audubon Forum; Armchair Activist programs; the NYS Audubon Council meeting in Albany, set for Saturday, March 25th; Earth Day's twenty-fifth anniver-

# **NEXT MEETING**

Sandy Brenner

DATE: Tuesday, March 14, 1995

TIME: 8:00 P.M. ②

PLACE: Freeport Memorial Library

Merrick Rd. & S. Ocean Ave.

SPEAKERS: Harold & Kathy Lindstrom

TOPIC: Alaska

Harold Lindstrom is a well-known nature photographer whose work has appeared in major birding magazines, National Audubon calendars, and in a just-introduced line of greeting cards. He and Steve Goldberg presented lots of their bird photographs last year on an episode of Cablevision Channel 12's Family Pet program that is still being frequently aired. Our guest speakers for March will present slides of various locations throughout Alaska, featuring the state's flora and fauna.

IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE WASTE, PLEASE
BRING COFFEE MUGS TO OUR MEETINGS

sary, to be celebrated on Saturday, April 22nd; Lobby Day in Albany on April 24th; and the Northeast Council meeting in Vermont, scheduled for April 28th through 30th.

Our birdseed sale was quite successful, as always. Very special thank you and job well done to Paul Butkereit, Mandy Neet, Steve Goldberg, Marge Jaeger, Dick Packert, Porgy Smith, Bill Hollweg, Mike Higgiston, Lisa Borbee, Paul Devendittis, Joan Butkereit, Clint Combes, and Michael "how does he do it all" Sperling.

As always, save the best for last. We are no longer the "best kept secret." We're gonna be on TV. I would really like to say proactive outreach is extremely effective, but I'm not sure that's what happened here. I received a call from Valerie Forte, a producer for About Long Island, a program on Telicare, Cablevision's Channel 25. Ms. Forte invited me to appear and talk about South Shore Audubon Society. Of

course I said yes; I also said yes for our Vice President, Betty Borowsky. The interview will be aired on Tuesday, March 28th, at 7 P.M. Tell your families, friends, and neighbors. This is your Audubon chapter we'll be talking about — please join us.

Before I sign off, just a quick reminder: Keep the energy up on the Endangered Species Coalition Medicine Bottle Campaign (see last month's *Skimmer*) — several of our members who sent out the specially labeled medicine bottles have already gotten written responses from the recipients. Now that's the way to go!

Enough for now; see you out there on the bird walks and at our meetings.

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# \*\* WELCOME NEW MEMBERS \*\*

Marion Yavarkovsky

Spring is a lovely time to get acquainted with SSAS. Join us on Sunday mornings to witness the spring migration; come to our monthly meetings and our 25th anniversary dinner. You will enjoy yourself and learn new things. Join us!

[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.]

Bethpage	Claire Donohue (Bethpage High
D' 11'11	School)
Dix Hills	
East Meadow	
-	Gisela Maurer-Zanelli
Elmont	
Floral Park	Mr. Vincent Drzewucki, Jr.;
	Ms. Kathleen M. Slavin
Garden City	Stephanie Bird
Hicksville	Wanda S. Dillard
Levittown	Suzanne E. Berkeley,
	Lesley Davey,
	Paula Lederkramer,
	C. LoGuisto
Long Beach	Toni Deutschman,
	Ms. Elizabeth Mosca
Lynbrook	Mrs. Kathryn Doughty,
	William Moser
Malverne	John Auricchio
Massapequa	Charles Tyrrell
Northport	Gregory Bush
	Fran Biehl, Ms. Lynn M. Yglesias
Plainview	
Rockville Centre	Carol Kinigstein
Valley Stream	Pat Gonzales
Wantagh	Mr. James K. Lowe
Westbury	V. Drzewucki (Hicks Nurseries)
	Mr. William J. Janetschek,
•	George S. Lidback

# HEY, YOU!

Annie F. McIntyre

Here's an opportunity for you to have a direct impact on the survival of an endangered species. The Piping Plover,

returning to our busy beaches in early spring, needs our help.

For just a few hours a week, you can become personally involved in the survival of these charming little birds. No experience necessary. For more information, call me [Annie's



our ex-Conservation Legislation Chairperson] at 379-2206. The best time to call is in the evening.

#### P BRONX ZOO TRIP - BUS #2 □

Due to the large number of SSAS members and friends who have already registered for our zoo trip, we are looking to add a second busload. On Saturday, April 1st, SSAS will once again be visiting the Bronx Zoo, thanks to arrangements made by Diane Singer and Evelyn Blume. Because the zoo is nearby, we decided to use school buses for transportation, which reduces the cost to \$9 per person — less than the cost of tolls and parking if you go alone. The zoo has agreed to charge us a reduced entrance fee of \$2.50 per person (\$1 for seniors).

The bus (or buses) will leave from the Merrick Road Park Golf Course parking lot in Merrick (just east of the Meadow-brook Parkway; entrance is on the south side of Merrick Road) at 8:30 a.m. and leave the zoo at 3:15 p.m. We will be led on morning and afternoon tours by docents; bring lunch with you or buy fast-food zoo cuisine.

Checks for \$9 made out to South Shore Audubon Society should preferably be received before March 1st (in the event that we don't have enough people signed up by then, the second bus will be canceled, since SSAS doesn't subsidize bus trips). Please send checks to Diane Singer, 118 Kent Road, Valley Stream, NY 11580 (phone number 561-6118) and include the following form:

NAME:	 
ADDRESS:	
PHONE NUMBER:	 
NUMBER OF PEOPLE:	 
AMOUNT ENCLOSED:	

#### MY TRIP TO VENEZUELA

Betty Borowsky

In early January, I and five other Auduboners went to Venezuela. Now I could tell you what we did each day, in chronological order, and describe the hotels we stayed at and what we ate, but I find travelogues of that sort profoundly boring when I haven't been one of the travelers. Besides, if you go on the trip next year you won't have the pleasures of discovery. Suffice it to say we were accommodated and fed in the grand style, and let me tell you the highlights of the trip.

This tour was for serious birders — the final count was over 260 different species seen or heard by at least one person in the group. Personally, I got a really good look at about 150 birds, and of these, about 50 were new species for me. Now, while I like to add to my life list as much as anybody, this is not the prime motive for my bird-watching. I really like to look at birds. I am forever amazed at their beauty, diversity, and unique behaviors, and on this trip I saw some birds I never thought I'd live to see.

For example, I saw macaws — two species. When the Scarlet Macaws that were flying overhead tilted toward us and into the sunlight, they incandesced with red, yellow, and blue color, and we gasped. Another species I was thrilled about was the King Vulture, a very large white vulture with a dark ruff around its neck. We saw several of them roosting in a distant tree; the spotting scope brought the details of the orange, yellow, and blue-black of their heads into sharp focus. These are truly majestic birds.

A bird that I was particularly happy to see was the Whitetipped Quetzal. We made a special early morning trip to see it, and believe me it was worth it. For over a half hour, a male and a female hung around, flying among the low branches of trees near us. They are so magnificent (emerald, metallic green back and crimson breast) that the Aztecs chose them to be the model for their most important god, Quetzalcoatl.

For me, the greatest thrill was seeing the Hoatzins. I first read about these birds many years ago, and in the context of "missing links." Hoatzin chicks have claws on the crooks of their wings. This is a primitive trait and is hard evidence that Hoatzins and, indeed, all birds have descended from reptiles. Hoatzin chicks need those claws. Since the birds nest over the water's edge, and because they are unbelievably clumsy, the chicks sometimes fall out of their nests and into the water below. When they do, they use their claws to help them climb back into the nest. Falling out of the nest is particularly risky for Hoatzins, because the waters are filled with piranhas and caiman (the chicks lose their claws about two weeks after hatching).

The Hoatzins are interesting for other reasons as well. First of all, they are among the few birds that eat leaves exclusively. To permit their digestion and assimilation, the bird has evolved a multisegmented intestinal tract somewhat reminiscent of the four stomachs of ruminants like the cow and, as with other vertebrates, cellulose digestion is accomplished by microbes that reside in their stomachs.

However, the Hoatzins themselves are a sight to behold. They have a shaggy crest which looks like they're having a permanently bad hair day. In contrast to the majority of birds, which are graceful and mellifluous in the extreme, these great lumbering hen-like creatures crash through the branches, screeching at the tops of their lungs. While they do fly from time to time, the flight more closely resembles a running leap than anything else, and one breathes a sigh of relief when they alight safely on their next perch.

One day we really got lucky. On one tree, which was in fruit, we saw three very rare species. We landed at the base of the tree because one of our guides had spotted a Yellow-knobbed Curassow. When we looked at the base of the tree, we saw a Sunbittern and a Chestnut-bellied Heron as well. All of these birds are elusive, and the heron is very rare indeed. Oh — there was a Greater Ani present as well.

I don't want to forget to tell you about the hummingbirds. There are at least 73 species of hummingbirds in Venezuela. Our group saw nine of them; I clearly identified four. The male of one species, the Long-tailed Sylph, has an electric blue and green forked tail about twice as long as its body which flutters gracefully behind it when it flies. The most exciting thing was having a hummingbird rest on my finger while she was drinking from the feeder set out at Rancho Grande in Henri Pitter Park. Before this trip, I never imagined I would experience a hummingbird perching on my finger.

There is plenty more to tell — like watching a Yellow-headed Caracara dust-bathe, or a White-tailed Kite hunting in the tall grass, or the flight of hundreds of Scarlet Ibis winging past the full moon at dusk. However, this piece is long enough already and I can't end this travelogue without a thank you to our guide, David, and to my fellow travelers. David is surely the best birder I have ever met. I guess we realized this during our stay, but it was really brought home when we met up with an American couple who had planned and executed their own birding trip to Venezuela. We compared checklists, and the couple were in awe of ours. There was one species in particular, the Pale-headed Jacamar, that the couple had tried very hard but failed to find, that David had led us right to.

Anyone who travels with a group knows how important it is to have congenial companions and I couldn't have asked for a better group. Thanks to all for this wonderful experience — I would go again tomorrow.

# (S) EARTH DAY AT TACKAPAUSHA (S)

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Carole A. Adams

Come celebrate Earth Day's 25th anniversary at Tackapausha Museum on Washington Avenue in Seaford. On Saturday, April 22nd, from 1 to 3 p.m., there will be crafts and games for children (adults too). Volunteers will be needed. Sign up at SSAS meetings or bird walks, or call me at 731-4425.

#### A BROOKSIDE PRESERVE OPEN HOUSE A

Brookside Preserve is a 20-acre parcel of natural woodlands and freshwater wetlands owned by Nassau County and managed by South Shore Audubon Society. With help from a New York State grant, SSAS has added trails, boardwalks, and a bridge over Milburn Creek; planted all sorts of green things; produced two booklets about the preserve; and done lots more. Our preserve's entrance is located on the west side of Brookside Avenue near the Freeport–Baldwin border, just north of Sunrise Highway (at the intersection of Brookside and Sunrise you'll find a traffic light, Freeport High School, and Lee Myles Transmissions).

Open House will be held on Saturday, April 8th, starting at 1:00 P.M. and will include guided tours, refreshments, and cleanup activities.

SSAS's Brookside Committee usually meets on the fourth Tuesday evening of each month at the Merrick Library Wing; call Betsy Gulotta at 546-8841 if you'd like to help manage our preserve.

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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, March 4th (1 P.M. to 4 P.M., adults) — Zero Population Growth Workshop. A free workshop for educators, with materials provided.

Sunday, March 12th (2 P.M. to 3:30 P.M., ages 6 to 10) — World of Reptiles. Visit with our naturalist to find out what makes these creatures so fascinating. Meet live animals, play games, go for a walk, and learn to love a reptile. TRS members \$3, nonmembers \$5.

Wednesday, March 22nd (7 P.M. to 9 P.M., adults) — Owl Prowl. Please register for this program early; it is very popular. Meet live captive owls and then take a night walk at TRS to find wild ones. TRS members \$5, nonmembers \$7.

Monday, March 27th (7 P.M. to 8:30 P.M., adults) — Wildlife Landscaping. Discover how you can make your property desirable to wildlife. We've been doing it here at the Sanctuary for 72 years. See live local animals and learn how to create your own refuge. TRS members \$3, nonmembers \$5.

Saturday & Sunday, April 1st & 2nd (8 A.M. to 12 P.M., adults) — Bird Workshop. Learn the natural history, identification, and importance of birds. Participate in banding and censusing research, take a field trip to a birding hot spot, and meet our resident captive birds. TRS members \$35, nonmembers \$40.

#### **WE NEED YOUR SSAS PHOTOS & SLIDES!**

For our 25th anniversary dinner celebration on June 13th at Pompei Restaurant in West Hempstead, we're planning on putting together a program using slides and photos of South Shore Audubon's past and present. If you have anything that we could borrow and make copies of, please call SSAS's director Steve Goldberg at 798-0335 as soon as possible.

# CORN THIEVES, DEVIL-DIVERS, AND TIMBER-DOODLES

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Steven G. Goldberg

An elderly neighbor told me a "Sparrow Hawk" was regularly visiting his backyard. I had no idea what bird this



common name referred to. Well, this piqued my curiosity. After some research I came across a book titled "Birds Of America" by T. Gilbert Pearson, Doubleday 1917, which listed all common bird names of that time and in some cases the derivation. My neighbor's bird was a Sharpshinned Hawk (pictured) and the following are some other interesting names found.

# **Early Common Name**

Bonnet Martyr Lady of the Waters Bog-trotter, Frog Hawk Bogsucker, Timber-doodle Bottle-head, Chuckle-head Devil-diver, Water-witch Saddleback, Coffin-carrier

Sea Swallow Cutwater, Scissorbill Water Turkey, Shag

Common Wild Duck, Stockpot Little Yelper, Stone Snipe Hen Hawk, Buzzard Hawk Pigeon Hawk, Blue Corporal Duck Hawk, Tercel Corn Thief, Blue Coat Silver Tongue, Ground Bird Preacher, Little Hang-nest Torch Bird Fire-tail Pied Creeper, Whitepoll

Wood Wagtail, Teacher Chickenbird, Black-capped Thrush

# Modern Name Snowy Egret

Tricolored Heron

Northern Harrier American Woodcock Black-bellied Plover Horned Grebe Greater Black-backed Gull Tern **Black Skimmer** Double-crested Cormorant Mallard Lesser Yellowlegs Red-tailed Hawk Merlin Peregrine Falcon Blue Jay Song Sparrow Red-eyed Vireo Blackburnian Warbler American Redstart Black-and-white Warbler Ovenbird **Gray Cathird** 

### **AUDUBON CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS**

As detailed in last month's *Skimmer*, SSAS once again will be awarding two full scholarships, one to an adult and one to a child age 10–14, to attend an Audubon camp. Applicants or their parents should be members in good standing and be interested in sharing their camp experiences with fellow members, the community, and/or schools. Financial need is not a basis for receiving a scholarship; the winners must provide their own transportation.

The Youth Ecology Camp in Maine takes place on Hog Island and will be offered August 2-12 and August 15-25.

This year's adult scholarship is for the Audubon Ecology Workshop at NAS's 485-acre nature sanctuary in Greenwich, Connecticut. Subtitled "Introductory Field Ecology for Educators," this workshop includes bird identification; on-site hikes through forests, meadows, lakes, ponds, and streams; a visit to Long Island Sound; lecture and lab work; and more. The Workshop will be offered July 2–8, 9–15, 16–22, and 23–29; July 30–August 5; and August 6–12 and 13–19.

For copies of National Audubon's Ecology Camps and Workshops brochure and for a scholarship application (due **March 7th**), call SSAS Education Chairperson Suzanne Lancer at 536-6574 between 7 and 9 P.M.

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The Workshops section of the Audubon Camps and Workshops program, under the direction of Peg Abbott, is moving to a new headquarters and partnership with the Audubon Center of the Northwoods in Minnesota. Peg will work with Mike Link and the staff of Northwoods to continue the exciting workshops that Audubon has offered throughout the year since 1989. Over 15 week-long destinations will be featured in the 1995 calendar, along with International Ecology Tours in Costa Rica, Venezuela, Belize, Panama, Trinidad and Tobago, Kenya, Argentina, and the Amazon. Our new address is: National Audubon Ecology & Photography Tours, P.O. Box 530, Sandstone, MN 55072; phone (612) 245-2648; fax (612) 245-5272. [Editor's note: In exchange for the preceding plug, SSAS will receive a \$50 gift certificate good for any of the above programs (which don't include the Connecticut and Maine camps mentioned elsewhere in this Skimmer, but do include tours in California, Washington, South Dakota, Minnesota, Texas, Arizona, Wyoming, Montana, Utah, and Manitoba); we're yet to determine what we're doing with the certificate.]

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RARE BIRD ALERT (212) 979-3070
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WILDLIFE POISONING HOTLINE (800) 356-0560
<b>+*+*************</b>
AUDUBON ACTIONLINE (800) 659-2622
+++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++
AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP STATUS (800) 274-4201
****



Elliott Kutner

All walks start at 9:30 A.M.; no walk if it rains or snows or temperature is below 25°F. Any questions? Call Elliott at 486-7667.

Feb. 26	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
Mar. 5	Cedar Beach [head east on Ocean Parkway
	until you're about 5 miles into Suffolk
	County; use first entrance on right]
Mar. 12	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Mar. 19	Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner
Mar. 26	Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
Apr. 2	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
Apr. 9	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Apr. 16	Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
Apr. 23	Hempstead Lake State Park (Penin. Blvd.)
Apr. 30	Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner
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# TREASURE IN OLD NEWSLETTERS

Michael Sperling

While I was scanning SSAS's April 1972 Newsletter for pieces of our chapter's history, I came across something called "The Ecologic of Nursery Rhymes," credited to ENVIRONMENT & the Quality of Life, whatever that was (or is). Here's the piece in its entirety:

Jack and Jill See-saw, Margery Daw,
Went up the hill Jenny's employed as a blaster;
For water, so they mooted,
Because low down And a mountain of pure alabaster.

Around the town

It's usually polluted.

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Betty Borowsky

The new state budget will result in sharp cuts in Department of Environmental Conservation funding. We anticipate sharp cuts in federal funding for environmental initiatives as well. However, legislators listen to their constituents. Your South Shore Audubon Society is forming an emergency telephone chain to allow us to respond instantly to threatened cuts. If you would like to join your voice to ours and be part of this telephone chain, please send your name and phone number to me at 17 Amherst Court, Rockville Centre, NY 11570 or call me at 764-3596 by March 8th.





## THE HISTORY OF SSAS, PART TWO

Michael Sperling

On October 12, 1970, our second general meeting was held, this time at the Long Beach library. The program concerned the Gateway National Recreation Area; project manager David Dayne of the Department of the Interior spoke to an audience of 25 people.

Rewarding field trips were held in September and October, with 52 species spotted at Jamaica Bay on September 20th. On October 17th, Richard Roberts led a group to the top of Hawk Mountain, Pennsylvania, where 75 hawks were seen flying directly below, mostly Red-tailed. Marge Fischer remembers magnificent views of various hawks, including Red-shouldered. Ten members of the Friedman, Fischer, and Roberts families went on the trip — parents and kids.

Board meetings were held at least once a month at the Friedman home. During the October meeting, Mina Goldstein became Corresponding Secretary; Susan Ross, Membership Chairperson, assisted by Bert Lindner; and Elliott Kutner, Field Committee Chairman. SSAS planned a meeting with the Oceanside Sanitation District regarding a cooperative recycling venture. The meeting was arranged by Alfred Reinharz, a district director.

SSAS joined the Long Island Environmental Council, an umbrella organization of 40 local groups; the Council was involved in legislative, educational, and publicity activities.

At the November general meeting, the director of the Oceanside Nature Study Area, Mr. Zaretski, presented a slide program of the area. Alvin Friedman provided free samples of nonphosphate laundry and dishwashing soaps in an effort to acquaint the public with the environmental problems inherent in phosphate cleaners. Subsequent use found the dishwashing product a very poor one.

The oldest newsletter currently in our possession is Volume I, No. 3, consisting of six mimeographed typeset pages. It announced the December 17th meeting, held at the Oceanside Public Library, which featured Elliott Kutner and his two-reel film "Birds in My Backyard." Also mentioned is that on January 3, 1971, SSAS would assist the Baldwin Bird Club in the Christmas Bird Count. The number of SSAS members had reached 200.

The January meeting was held at the Nassau County Natural History Museum in Seaford (Tackapausha), where assistant curator Lee Netter gave a program on the ecology of Fire Island's Sunken Forest.

The fourth newsletter, four pages long, announced the February 25th meeting, held at the Freeport Memorial Library. Future SSAS president Mike Smiles presented a movie and talk on Oceanic Ecology.

The fifth newsletter was the first one with an editor's name on it, Asa L. Starkweather. The March 24th meeting, attended by 45 people, was held at the Baldwin Public Library and featured a program by Leo and Fidelus Romalewski on Rare and Common Rocks and Minerals — Where and How to Find Them.

The April newsletter, three legal-size pages long, included a successfully tested remedy for Herring Gulls dropping clams on homes with flat roofs, a problem experienced by Mrs. Catropa of Freeport — paint the roof blue or green or greenish blue, and maybe add waves (the gulls will think they're flying over water or grass). Following that was Elliott Kutner's article about the first weekly Sunday walk he led, when eight people, including three teenagers and two couples, saw Common Merganser, Lesser Scaup, Snow Goose, Marsh Hawk, and Sparrow Hawk at the west end of Jones Beach on a cold, overcast February day. The March 14th walk at Tobay included 23 birders, who saw 25 species, including Wood Duck, Common Merganser, American Widgeon, and a Short-eared Owl (pictured on opposite page). The March 21st walk abandoned Jones Beach West End #2 and moved to Tobay due to strong winds; 19 members and friends saw 28 species, including Red-breasted Merganser, Pintail, Black Duck, Oldsquaw, Brant, Canvasback, and Tree Swallows. On March 28th, 25 people saw 21 species at Tobay, including a pair of Blue-winged Teal, which was followed by a picnic on the dunes.

On April 26, 1971, the general meeting was held at Oceanside High School, with an award presentation for the chapter's "What Conservation Means to Me" essay competition and a film on pollution entitled "Run-a-Round."

The May meeting took place at the Levittown Library, with guest speaker Nina Gehringen discussing the need to contain our population's growth.

In SSAS's tiny archives we have quite a few letters thanking Elliott Kutner for film/talk programs that he gave in the chapter's early days; he and other chapter members have continued to do community outreach programs ever since. The earliest letter, dated May 1971, is from the Assistant Principal of P.S. 106 in Brooklyn, in which she expresses feelings of guilt that not all of the children were present at his assembly and asks Elliott to repeat his program on birds of our community just two weeks after his first visit.

There was no newsletter in May; issue No. 7, dated June 5th and with its two sheets efficiently printed on front and back, announced that National Audubon Society had decided to start automatically assigning members to local chapters and that SSAS welcomed "all of you who may be

surprised to find you are members of South Shore." Three new names were listed among the officers and committee leaders: Clara Thrush, Program Chairman; Mrs. Elizabeth Tocknell, Library Committee Chairman; and Albert Lemke, Publicity Chairman.

On June 9th, astronomer Peter A. Leavens showed an award-winning film, "Universe"; screened the color record of the 1970 solar eclipse; and discussed future spectacles in the sky at the Nassau County Natural History Museum.

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Newsletter Volume I, No. 8, published on September 10, 1971, with new Assistant Editor Miriam E. Raynor, announced that all meetings in the next year would be held at 8:15 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month at the Freeport Memorial Library, at which SSAS had already established an Audubon Bookshelf. The September 14th meeting featured Al Lemke's program on wildlife of South Africa. Field trips were scheduled for every Sunday, starting at 10 a.m.: J. F. Kennedy Sanctuary (Tobay), 9/12 and 10/3; Jamaica Bay, 9/19 and 10/10; Mill Neck Conservancy in Oyster Bay, 9/26; Riis Park, 10/17; Quogue, 10/24; and Jones Beach West End, 10/31.

SSAS's October 12th meeting presented Professor Henry C. Courten, an astronomer from Dowling College, who discussed the object Zoe which he had discovered and tentatively identified as a new and 10th planet. The October newsletter, still four pages long and still titled "Newsletter," achieved three firsts — it included drawings in addition to the National Audubon egret that had been present since at least the third issue (we still frequently use bird art from the same U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Wildlife Clip Sheets used there); it turned the four pages sideways, folding into eight 5-1/2 by 8-1/2 inch pages (an idea that lasted until late 1972); and it established SSAS's tradition of being incapable of consistently counting newsletter volumes and numbers, by not being numbered at all and coming between issues numbered No. 8 and No. 9.

The November 9th meeting featured Thomas Macres, Jr., of the Committee on Resource Management, who discussed his group's efforts to stop Atlantic Ocean offshore oil drilling. Also included were a 15 minute speech by Roland Hyler, Chairman of the Nassau County Commission on Environmental Quality, on parkland development on the plains of Mitchell Field and on the dangers of oil drilling off the Long Island coast, and a speech by Representative Norman Lent's Community Relations Assistant Richard L. Overgaard on three bills introduced by Lent in opposition to local oil drilling and other perks given to the oil industry (ironically, by the time he retired in 1992, Lent would consistently be rated as one of New York's least environmentally conscious Congressmen).

Scheduled bird walks included Gilgo Beach, 11/7, 12/26, and 1/23; JFK Sanctuary, 11/14, 12/12, and 1/2; Zach's Bay, 11/21; Jones Beach West End, 11/28 and 1/16; Point Lookout, 12/5 and 1/30; Cedar Beach, 12/19; and Jamaica Bay, 1/9. The November JFK Sanctuary outing yielded

confirmed sightings of Wilson's Phalarope, Dunlin, Roughlegged Hawk, Evening Grosbeak, Osprey, Bufflehead, Pintail, Eastern Meadowlark, Myrtle Warbler, Blackpoll, Palm Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Hermit Thrush, Chickadee, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Junco, White-throated Sparrow, Dickcissel, Field Sparrow, Marsh Hawk, White-winged Scoter, Gannet, Chipping Sparrow, Eastern Phoebe, Little Blue Heron, House Finch, and American Goldfinch.

At the December 14th meeting, Elliott Kutner presented his movies "Birds in My Backyard" and "Birds at Jamaica Bay."

On January 11, 1972, the general meeting featured National Audubon's film "The Bald Eagle."

Volume 2, No. 1 of the Newsletter announced the February 8th and March 14th meetings, with scheduled programs by a representative from the Department of Public Works in support of a controversial planned sewage outfall pipe in Wantagh and by Morris Carl Jacobson on seashells, respectively. The Newsletter's mailing list was now 450 names long. Adrian Dignan of the Baldwin Bird Club was a last-minute replacement guest speaker in March, with slides on birds, butterflies, wildflowers, and landscapes; the seashells program was rescheduled for May 9th.

The April 11th meeting featured Mrs. William Brookes' program on wildflowers and their habitat.

At the May meeting, new officers were elected for terms starting in September: Albert Lemke, President; Michael Smiles, Vice President; Audrey Roberts, Treasurer; Laura Friedman, Recording Secretary; and Miriam Raynor, Corresponding Secretary.

The first annual dinner meeting of SSAS, co-chaired by Margaret and Charles Keller and preceded by a cocktail hour, was held on June 13, 1972, at King's Castle in Lynbrook. Dinner cost \$5 including gratuities, with drinks extra.



# 1994-1995 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

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Carole A. Adams, President	
Betty Borowsky, Vice President & Conservation Legislation Chairperson	
George Popkin, Treasurer (8 to 9 P.M.)	378-4467
Louise Hillen, Recording Secretary	546-6147
Doris Pirodsky, Corresponding Secretary & Historian	378-1790
Suzanne Lancer, Director (6/97) & Education Chairperson (7 to 9 P.M.)	536-6574
Jonathan Staller, Director (6/97) & Environmental Festivals Coordinator	822-5957
Lisa Borbee, Director (6/96)	897-9589
Steven Goldberg, Director (6/96)	798-0335
Paul Devendittis, Director (6/95)	489-0547
Bruno Leporati, Director (6/95)	735-4904
Sandy Brenner, Program Chairperson	249-4919
Paul Butkereit, Bird Seed Savings Day	623-0843
Joseph Grupp, Duck Survey	481-4208
Betsy Gulotta, Brookside Preserve Committee Chairperson	546-8841
Marge Jaeger, Fund-raising Chairperson	536-9166
Elliott Kutner, Birding / Field Trips Chairperson	486-7667
Joseph Lancer, Binocular / Book Sales (7 to 9 P.M.)	536-6574
Amanda Neet, Special Events On-Site Coordinator	
Richard Packert, Special Projects	437-9683
Doreen Remsen, Birdathon Co-Chairperson	
James Remsen, Jr., Past President & Birdathon Co-Chairperson	764-5168
Dolores Rogers, Welcoming Committee Chairperson	
Mary Jane Russell, Hospitality Chairperson	
Diane Singer, Publicity	
Porgy Smith, Environmental Information Chairperson	
Michael Sperling, Skimmer Editor	
Marion Yavarkovsky, Membership Chairperson	
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# South Shore Audubon Society P.O. Box 31 Freeport, NY 11520-0031

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Americans Committed to Conservation

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