





NINTH ANNUAL  
SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON BIRDATHON

*Doreen Remsen & James Remsen, Jr.*

On the evening of **May 10th** and during the day on **May 11th** (rain dates May 17/18), the South Shore Audubon Society will take part in the 1996 Audubon Birdathon. Our members will use their birding skills to raise funds for South Shore's local programs here in Nassau as well as national environmental research, education, and action programs by getting sponsors who will pledge a certain amount for each species they see on Birdathon day.

This year, the official Birdathon count period will start at 5:00 P.M. May 10th and continue until 5:00 P.M. on May 11th. Starting points and times for our Birdathon teams are as follows:

*Team 1.* Leaders: Carole Adams (731-4425) and Elliott Kutner (486-7667). Meet at Mill Pond, Merrick Road, Wantagh, 5:00 P.M. May 10th or at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge 8:00 A.M. May 11th.

*Team 2.* Leader: Paul Butkerei (623-0843). Meet at Jones Beach Coast Guard Station 5:00 P.M. May 10th or at Hempstead Lake State Park 6:30 A.M. May 11th.

*Team 3.* Leaders: James Remsen (764-5168) and Joe Grupp (481-4208). Meet at Massapequa Preserve, LIRR parking lot, 5:00 P.M. May 10th; Mill Pond, Merrick Road, Wantagh, 5:45 A.M. May 11th; or at Muttontown Preserve (exact time TBA but probably 8:00 A.M.) May 11th. Muttontown meeting time will be confirmed a few weeks before the Birdathon; call Jim Remsen or see him at bird walks or meetings if you plan on coming to Muttontown Preserve.

People wishing to participate should notify either the leader of their chosen team or the Birdathon chairpersons in advance of the event. The teams will move, at their discretion, from location to location throughout the day. Participants may leave at will. Members unable to attend on Birdathon day should feel free to seek pledges and count whatever birds they see, wherever they happen to be that day, and forward their pledges and bird lists to the Birdathon chairpersons.

We would like each member to be an active Birdathoner, a sponsor in his/her own right, and a recruiter of additional sponsors from both *within and without* the South Shore Audubon Society.

Sponsors will be expected to pledge the amount of their choice (25¢, \$1, or other amount) per species identified by the Birdathoner and his/her team. A preselected sum, pledged regardless of number of species seen, is also acceptable.

Birdathoners will be responsible for notifying sponsors after the Birdathon, collecting their checks (made payable to *South Shore Audubon Society*), and forwarding them with their sponsor pledge form(s) to the Birdathon Chairpersons by **June 5, 1996**. Those bringing in the largest number of sponsors, as well as the largest dollar amount, will be recognized and awarded prizes at our June dinner.

Additional sponsor pledge forms and information will be available at meetings, bird walks, or by contacting Doreen Remsen, 865 1-2B Broadway Ave., Holbrook, NY 11741, phone 472-6830; or James Remsen, Jr., 3264 Park Ave., Oceanside, NY 11572, phone 764-5168 (after 7:30 P.M.).


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O BROOKSIDE CLEANUP ON MARCH 30th O

Brookside Preserve is a 20-acre freshwater wetland, woodland, and upland field area owned by Nassau County and managed by SSAS. Our annual spring cleanup will be held from 9 A.M. until noon, rain or shine. Bring gloves and volunteers of all ages (and boots if you'd like to wade into Milburn Creek and help retrieve some of the widely varied forms of debris sent to us by the civilization upstream).

The Preserve is located on the Freeport-Baldwin border; park at the main entrance on Brookside Avenue just north of Sunrise Highway (turn north at the traffic light that's just east of Freeport High School).

The Brookside Committee's next meeting is scheduled for April 23rd at 7:30 P.M. in Merrick; call Betsy Gulotta at 546-8841 if you'd like to attend. Also, volunteers are very much needed to lead school groups through Brookside using the trail guides produced by SSAS; a tour guide training session is scheduled for April 13th at 10 A.M. — please call Betsy.

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*Explore the coast  
with the*  
**AMERICAN  
LITTORAL SOCIETY**

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**NEW YORK AQUARIUM** (Sat. April 20) Special 2 1/2 hour "behind the scenes" tour. Cost: \$12.00, kids \$8.00. Call Don at (718) 634-6467 for reservations.

**FULTON FISH MARKET** (Tues. April 23) Cuddle cod, fondle flounder, stare at sturgeon. FREE. Call Don for reservations.

**FIRE ISLAND ECOLOGY** (Mon.-Wed., June 10-12) ALS members join AMC members at their bayside lodge in Atlantique. Cost: \$20.00/night + \$10.00 ferry. Call AMC (212) 603-9896 for info and reservations.

**MONTAUK SUMMER WEEKEND** (June 14-16) 2 nights at Montauk Manor house, 5 meals, 5 hikes, 2 evening programs. Cost: \$245 per person. Call Don.

**GALAPAGOS EXPEDITION** (July 11-20) Spend 10 days exploring the islands by boat, do a little snorkeling, and take an optional 4-day excursion into the jungles of Cuyabeno.

**AMERICAN LITTORAL SOCIETY** is a coastal conservation organization concerned with protecting wetlands, beaches, marine life, and estuaries.

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For information and free brochure  
contact: Don Riepe  
28 West 9th Road  
Broad Channel, NY 11693  
(718) 634-6467

## COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP

South Shore Audubon Society will be awarding a \$500 scholarship to someone who will be a junior, senior, or graduate student this fall at any college. Applicants must be working on a degree in an area related to the environment, such as ecology, marine biology, forestry, ornithology, mammalogy, or animal behavior. For information, contact Betsy Gulotta very soon at 546-8841; the deadline to apply is April 10th.

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## PATAKI'S PROPOSED 1996 BUDGET

[Editor's Note: The following is excerpted from an alert issued by the Emergency Committee to Save New York's Environment, a coalition of statewide and regional environmental groups. The budget isn't expected to be approved until after Earth Day Lobby Day, so read the invitation to visit Albany provided by National Audubon's NYS Legislative Representative, Suzanna Dwyer, that appears on the next page (for the record, Suzanna's design has been mimicked by me, since I ran into an out-of-order computer when I asked a coworker to scan and resize her better-looking original), sign up to be a letter-writing *Armchair Activist* (call Mary Jane Russell at 766-7397, who will send you free legislative info on National Audubon's monthly state or federal issue), and/or call the 800 numbers in this and every *Skimmer*.]

### Governor Pataki's 1996 Budget Will Harm New York's Environment and Citizens — Contact Your State Legislator Today!

Governor Pataki's proposed budget cuts for 1996 will have a devastating impact on New York's environment and the health and safety of its citizens. Please call the Governor, Speaker, Majority Leader, and your local legislators to oppose the cuts at 1-800-767-6336 and mail them a letter.

Write to Governor George Pataki, Executive Chamber, State Capitol, Albany, NY 12224; Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno, Room 330, State Capitol, Albany, NY 12247; and Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Room 349, State Capitol, Albany, NY 12248; also, please contact your own State Senator and Assemblymember (same addresses as for Bruno and Silver, respectively, omitting room numbers).

➤ *Governor Pataki's cuts would seriously weaken many environmental programs including air and water quality, land protection, monitoring and enforcement of polluting industries, and the cleanup of leaking waste dumps. The Department of Environmental Conservation, alone, is targeted for 205 staff cuts plus significant reductions in "non-personal service" which includes supplies, equipment, travel, and contractual services. Major impacts of these proposed cuts include [the first eight items here are DEC cuts; for space reasons, I've omitted the details on everything except the Environmental Protection Fund]:*

✓ A 31% reduction in staff and a 20% reduction in non-personal services at the Divisions of Air and Water Resources.

✓ A 29% reduction in staff and a 32% reduction in non-personal services at the Divisions of Solid, Hazardous Materials & Hazardous Waste Remediation.

✓ A 16% reduction in environmental enforcement staff. Enforcement will be seriously jeopardized. For instance, the Hudson Valley's Region 3 has over 1200 cases awaiting enforcement or permitting action and their legal staff has already been essentially cut in half.

✓ A 12% cut in Fish and Wildlife and 2% cuts in Lands and Forests will degrade programs to protect New York's forests, parks, fish, and wildlife.

✓ A 15-person reduction (4 from Fish and Wildlife, 4 from Marine Resources, and 7 from Regulatory Services) will leave no effective mechanism to protect our wetlands.

✓ DEC on-site monitoring staff at hazardous and solid waste facilities are targeted for major cuts.

✓ The Governor's proposed cuts will make a rigorous environmental permitting program virtually impossible. According to Commissioner Zagata, DEC will now use general permits for an increasing number of environmentally harmful actions.

✓ \$10,000 to publish the Toxics Release Inventory report is targeted for elimination.

✓ **Environmental Protection Fund.** Governor Pataki would divert a third of the \$100 million EPF for non-Fund purposes. Legitimate needs — open space protection, waste reduction and recycling, and landfill closure — already exceed the amount of funds available, *without* piling on personnel costs, or an unnecessary tire study, and remediation at state facilities, as the Governor's plan proposes. [Also, any money not used would be returned to the state's general fund rather than kept in the EPF for next year. Of the \$24.5 million set aside for land acquisition, approximately \$20 million is already committed for two projects, the Long Island Pine Barrens and Sterling Forest.]

✓ **Adirondack Park Agency.** Under the Governor's proposal, the already lean APA would lose 16% of its 62-person staff.

✓ **Transportation.** The Governor's proposed transportation budget leaves most of the state's mass transit programs shortchanged.

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**SSAS Mission Statement** — *The mission of South Shore Audubon Society is to promote environmental education, and preserve and restore our environment, through responsible activism, for the benefit of both people and wildlife.*

**SSAS Post Office Statement** — *South Shore Skimmer is published monthly from September through December and February through June by South Shore Audubon Society, P.O. Box 31, Freeport, NY 11520-0031.*

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## 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.

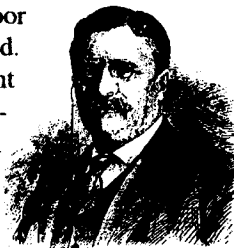
*Saturday, April 6th (1 to 2:30 P.M.) — Eggcetera.* An "egg" citing program for the whole family. We'll discuss the many different types of eggs and will meet some of the animals which lay them. You'll even create and camouflage your own egg. TRS members \$4, nonmembers \$6.

*Tuesday, April 9th through Friday, April 12th (9 A.M. to 1 P.M.) — Spring Nature Camp.* Children grades PK-4th can have a fun and educational vacation while taking hikes, playing cooperative games, participating in nature activities, and coming face-to-face with our live wildlife. TRS members \$100, nonmembers \$110.

*Wednesday, April 10th (7:30 to 9:30 P.M., adults) — Owl Prowl.* Learn about owl identification and natural history with six live owls in the hand and then hike with us to find wild ones. TRS members \$5, nonmembers \$7.

**Expert Birders Needed.** We will be conducting migratory forest bird research at four key points on the north shore of Long Island in late April and all of May. We will also be running a special banding station and breeding bird census of some nearby property in June, July, and August. We are relying upon some bird-watchers to come forward and volunteer. Competent sight identification of migrating birds and local breeders is required and song identification is a big plus. Volunteers must be reliable and available at least one day each week. Call the Sanctuary and ask for Randall Moore or Mary Richard if you are interested. This could be a great way for you to get involved in important research about Long Island's bird populations.

**SSAS Visits TRS.** On Saturday, May 4th, from 9:30 A.M. until about 12:30 P.M., our chapter will visit TRS in order to watch their songbird banding station in action at a time when there should be plenty of migrating warblers and other songbirds. In the event of rain, an indoor live animal program will be substituted. The Sanctuary is adjacent to President Roosevelt's grave (in Young's Memorial Cemetery) and about a mile from Sagamore Hill National Historical Site. Take the Long Island Expressway to Exit 41 north, take Route 106 to the village of Oyster Bay, make a right turn on East Main Street, and go 1-1/2 miles; you will see signs for TRS parking. The gravel parking lot is on your right, followed by the Sanctuary's entrance.



"When the People Lead... the Leaders Follow"



# Earth Day Lobby Day

**Monday, April 22, 1996**  
**State Capitol • Albany**

Decades of bipartisan support for environmental protection is in jeopardy. Fundamental environmental programs are at risk. Unless citizens mobilize and become part of a grassroots effort to remind state lawmakers that we will not tolerate any rollback of environmental protection, the consequences will be immense. The purpose of the Lobby Day is to block state programs that will hurt the environment, but more importantly, to lobby for innovative and effective new laws that will protect our health and environment. We need scores of citizens in Albany to demonstrate that environmental protection is a top-priority issue. Newcomers and students are especially welcome!

These are just some of the issues you may be lobbying on...

• **Clean Air and Water •**  
• **Adirondacks • Forests and Open Space • Wildlife • Pesticides •**  
• **Recycling • Superfund •**

After you contact us and register, we will make legislative appointments for you. We will inform you of any bus or carpooling opportunities and send you a packet of material in advance. Lobby day will begin at 9 A.M. and end at 5 P.M. You will be trained on lobbying skills and be part of a lobbying team. You will hear from legislative leaders in the morning and participate in an Earth Day Rally at noon, followed by an afternoon of lobbying. You will be given your lobbying schedule when you arrive in Albany. For more information and to register, contact the following person:

Michael Sperling  
541-0805 (after 7:30 P.M.)

**Join us in Albany on April 22.**  
**Make a difference this Earth Day!**

Make a Difference This Earth Day!

**OUR 25th ANNUAL DINNER**

One of SSAS's longest-running traditions will continue on **Tuesday, June 11th**, when our annual dinner will once again be held at Pompei Restaurant and Catering in West Hempstead. Cocktail hour starts at 6:30, with dinner (filet of sole arreganata, chicken francese, eggplant rollatini, roast beef, broiled sole, or broiled chicken) starting at 7:30. The cost will remain \$20 per person and the registration form will appear in the next two *Skimmers*. This year, we will *not* be accepting payment at the door, so please hold the date and watch for the next newsletter (if you ask the post office to hold your mail or your address changes, keep in mind that the post office doesn't forward third class mail, but charges SSAS 32¢ to return an "address corrected" *Skimmer*; call your editor after 7:30 P.M. for any missing issue).

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**GARDEN CITY BIRD SANCTUARY EVENTS**

As mentioned in last month's President's message, SSAS now has a contract with Nassau County regarding use and occupancy of the Garden City Bird Sanctuary/Nature Refuge that was created at Nassau County Stormwater Basin #232 by Rob Alvey and his Garden City Environmental Advisory Board's Land Use Committee, with help from SSAS. The Sanctuary is located on Tanners Pond Road between the LIRR tracks and Colonial Avenue; for further information, contact Rob Alvey, 44 Fenimore Ave., Garden City, NY 11530, phone 326-1720.

*Saturday, April 6th (11 A.M. to 4 P.M.) — Litter & Debris Removal.* A major effort is needed to remove the immense quantity of litter and debris, and prepare sections for planting later in the month. Rakes, work gloves, garbage bags, wheelbarrow, and pruners needed.

*Saturday, April 20th (11 A.M. to 4 P.M.) — Tree Seedling Planting.* Scout and school groups are scheduled to plant a NYSDEC shipment of 380 tree and shrub seedlings, install nesting boxes, and complete slope repair and a trail section. Volunteers are welcome.

*Monday, April 22nd (8 to 9:30 P.M.) — Public Meeting.* Public meeting at the Garden City Library, 60 7th Street, on the status and development of the Bird Sanctuary.

*Saturday, April 27th (10 A.M. to 4 P.M.) — Arbor Day/Community Planting Dedication.* Community planting of tree seedlings and shrubs will take place, with final installation of nesting boxes. A brief dedication ceremony will be held at 2 P.M. to note the "formal" establishment of the Bird Sanctuary. Community supporters, guests, and hopefully about 100 boy and girl scouts will participate, with all Audubon Society members invited. ♻️

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RARE BIRD ALERT (212) 979-3070

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WILDLIFE POISONING HOTLINE (800) 356-0560

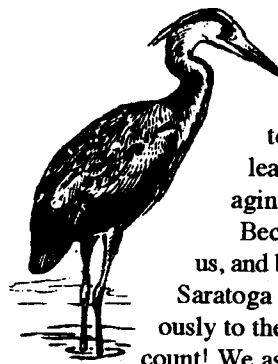
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**NYS OFFICE OF PARKS AND WRECKREATION**

[Editor's Note: Although Governor Pataki has blocked the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation's attempt to introduce commercial logging into one of our state parks (see Betty Borowsky's Conservation Report), the OPRHP continues to inspire *Armchair Activist* letters of the month and National Audubon Albany hotline messages. The following is taken from the much more detailed March letter of the month; the new spelling of recreation comes from *The Green Sheet*, published by Environmental Advocates.]

A proposal to blast a truck route (also known as a bypass) through a wildlife-rich wetland located within Saratoga Spa State Park's southern boundary has gained favor over the years, especially from those with an eye toward industrial expansion of the city of Saratoga Springs' west side. Fortunately, for years this proposal was resisted by Park stewards. Then, Governor Pataki's Parks Commissioner Bernadette Castro and her deputies suggested that the agency would no longer rule out this truck route proposal even though it was through one of the Park's most wild and vulnerable sections. Senate Majority Leader Joe Bruno, whose district includes the Spa Park, promised to find the estimated \$8-11 million needed for the new road in this year's state transportation budget.

Park officials refuse to rule out this proposed scarring of public parklands despite the damage the road would cause to



a wetland inhabited by Great Blue Herons (pictured), Wood Ducks, and Red-shouldered Hawks. Instead, they stress the need to cooperate with local business leaders in order to finance the agency's aging park infrastructure.

Because our state parks belong to all of us, and because so many New Yorkers visit Saratoga Springs each year and add generously to the local economy, your opinions do count! We ask you to make your voices heard; write to Governor Pataki, Commissioner Bernadette Castro (Office of Parks, Agency Building 1, Empire State Plaza, Albany, NY 12238), and Senator Joseph Bruno (please see the budget article for the other addresses).

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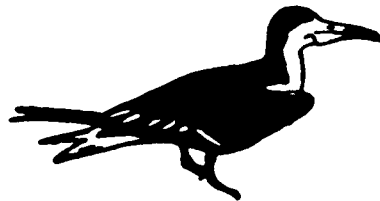


**1995-1996 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

Carole A. Adams, President .....	731-4425
Betty Borowsky, Vice President & Conservation Legislation Chairperson .....	764-3596
Nancy Frame, Treasurer .....	520-9016
Christine Schmitt, Recording Secretary .....	887-7713
Doris Pirodsky, Corresponding Secretary & Historian .....	378-1790
Evan C. Dribbon, Director (6/98) .....	826-3422
Henry Levine, Director (6/98) .....	328-8736
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
Sandy Brenner, Program Chairperson .....	249-4919
Paul Butkereiit, 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 .....	798-0335
Richard Packert, Special Projects .....	283-3872
George Popkin, Financial Advisor (8 to 9 P.M.) .....	378-4467
Doreen Remsen, Birdathon Co-Chairperson .....	472-6830
James Remsen, Jr., Birdathon Co-Chairperson .....	764-5168
Dolores Rogers, Welcoming Committee Chairperson .....	599-1224
Mary Jane Russell, <i>Armchair Activist</i> Chairperson & Hospitality Chairperson .....	766-7397
Diane Singer, Publicity (5 to 8 P.M.) .....	561-6118
Porgy Smith, Environmental Information Chairperson .....	887-2054
Michael Sperling, <i>Skimmer</i> Editor .....	541-0805
Marion Yavarkovsky, Membership Chairperson .....	379-2090

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

A CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY  
*Americans Committed to Conservation*



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