





## DAY OF SUPPORT FOR BETHPAGE STATE PARK

As mentioned in our President's Message, a sixth golf course has been proposed in Bethpage State Park. This would impact virtually all of the remaining woods in the park, moving or eliminating the various bridle paths and the dozens of hiking trails, including a section of the Nassau-Suffolk Greenbelt Trail. The plan includes access roads, parking lots, and a new clubhouse; the golf course would be privately built and operated by a commercial golf corporation.

Bernadette Castro, Commissioner of the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, supports the golf course idea. If you don't, you're urged to attend a "Day of Support for Bethpage Park," sponsored by the Bethpage Trail User Coalition (which includes SSAS), on **Sunday, April 27th**, starting at noon at the Bethpage State Park picnic area (this *Skimmer* was scheduled to be mailed on April 21st, hopefully in time).

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### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Marion Yavarkovsky

Welcome to SSAS, the home of an interesting, knowledgeable, and caring group of people. You will enjoy participating in our many activities. Take some time and find out what SSAS is all about. Join us!

[To receive an application for membership in National Audubon Society and SSAS, please call our Membership Chairperson, Marion Yavarkovsky, at 379-2090. The best time to call is after 4 P.M., Monday through Friday. Introductory membership is \$20 (\$15 for students and senior citizens).]

Amityville .....	Florence M. Goldstein, Gene Ratcliff, Joan M. Stadnik
Atlantic Beach .....	Richard Cohen, Mr. Daniel C. Maldari
Baldwin.....	Michael Andersen, Dora DeLellis, Ms. Diane Finnegan
Bellmore .....	Anthony DiRusso
Bethpage .....	James M. Sivilli
Commack .....	Mrs. Leigh Kluberdanz
East Meadow .....	Robert & Edith Kushner, Mr. Robert Mc Grath, Jane Walls
East Rockaway .....	Russell Cullen
Elmont .....	J. Hayden, Daniel E. Horn, Robert L. Smith
Farmingdale.....	Mr. Gerhard Hirseland, John Longhitano
Floral Park .....	Noel Beebe, Norman Carr, Deborah Mc Garry, Patrick Kenneally, J. C. O'Connell
Franklin Square .....	Janis A. Schoen
Freeport.....	? Heiman (Freeport H.S.), Karen A. Wheeler

Garden City .....	Mary E. Heston, Anita Thompson, Mrs. James Watson, Mrs. Caroline Yrace
Hempstead .....	Audrey Mangold
Hicksville .....	Mrs. Elizabeth Doyle, Marilyn Leon, Ms. Cynthia Murphy
Island Park .....	Miss Laura L. O'Donnell
Levittown .....	Maureen A. Day, Dorothy Smith
Long Beach .....	Ms. Loretta Panarella
Lynbrook .....	Mr. Rowland E. Bell, Muriel P. Schult
Massapequa .....	Matthew J. Billerman, Lillian Ford, Mr. Irving Hamberger, Michael Mack, David Reed, Otto Rychalsky
Massapequa Park .....	Mr. Stephen Fredericks, Debra Rich
Merrick .....	Mr. Mike Eskalyo, Ms. Eileen P. Patten, Carole Richards, Ms. Shirley Sherwin
Oceanside .....	Renee Kaufman, Theodore K. Milberg, Ms. Erin M. O'Reilly, Harry Oster
Plainview .....	Mr. Alan Brussel, V. C. Niedzwiecki
Rockville Centre.....	Constance H. Bades, R. Circillo, Dolores Clancy, Mr. Allan H. Haack, Ms. Lisa Meyers, Ms. Lillian Reyer, Adele Sacks
Seaford .....	Mr. Edward Gallagher
Uniondale.....	Hsiow-Yeng Chen, Florence Glaser
Valley Stream.....	Mr. Joseph A. Duratino, Norma Imershein, Michael Pergola
Wantagh .....	F. Clausen, Dennis Keaney, Charles H. Kiefer, Jean Leib, Maryanne Sellito-Suarez



### AUDUBON CAMP SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

SSAS wishes to congratulate this year's winners of our chapter's camp scholarships. Suzanne Lancer, our Education Chairperson, has already notified our two winners: Christine Schmitt, who will be going to the Audubon Ecology Workshop in Connecticut, and Alexis Alvey, who will spend eleven summer days at the Audubon Youth Ecology Camp in Maine.

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 AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP STATUS (800) 274-4201  
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 AUDUBON'S NY ACTIVIST HOTLINE (800) 414-ACTN  
 TAPE-RECORDED UPDATES FROM ALBANY  
 \*\*\*\*\*  
 AUDUBON ACTIONLINE (800) 659-2622  
 TAPE-RECORDED UPDATES FROM WASHINGTON, DC  
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## TENTH ANNIVERSARY BIRDATHON GATHERING



### AT COW MEADOW

Carole A. Adams



Following the Birdathon on Saturday, May 10th (rain date May 17th), there will be an informal gathering of Birdathoners and those interested in the Birdathon sightings.

Join us at 5:30 P.M. at the Cow Meadow Park and Preserve Administration Building Conference Room (at the foot of S. Main St. in Freeport). We'll eat, we'll laugh, we'll tell tall tales about our bird sightings, but most of all, we'll have fun. Join us, \$10 per adult (get your money to Carole no later than May 5th). For those last minute decision makers, pick up a bucket of chicken, a cake, or pie from your local baker, fresh fruit, some soda, and chips and stop by. Get the picture? An informal gathering of SSAS members and friends just to chat, celebrate our Tenth Anniversary Birdathon, maybe start a new tradition, but most of all, have fun.



### THIS YEAR'S BIRDATHON AND LAST YEAR'S SPECIES LIST

The 1997 SSAS Birdathon is scheduled to begin on **Friday, May 9th** at 5 P.M. and continue until **Saturday, May 10th** at 5 P.M. If it rains on Friday or people wake up to rain on Saturday, the Birdathon will be started from scratch on **Friday, May 16th**. Birdathon details appeared in last month's *Skimmer*, but since we have a lot of new members this month, here's a summary: This is the tenth year that SSAS has participated in the National Audubon Society's Birdathon; participants collect pledges per species seen (or pledges for a flat amount) and the proceeds are split 50/50 with NAS. Participants can join one of SSAS's teams or do their own birding; anyone raising at least \$25 will qualify for prize drawings to be held at our annual dinner. For further info, call Doreen Remsen (472-6830) or James Remsen, Jr. (764-5168 after 8 P.M.).

**Last Year's List.** In May 1996, a total of 177 bird species were identified by SSAS Birdathoners; our three teams recorded 155, 147, and 119 species each in a record-shattering year. Here's what we saw, as compiled by Jim Remsen:

Common Loon, Northern Gannet, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Green Heron, Little Blue Heron, Great Egret, Snowy Egret, Tricolored Heron, Black-crowned Night Heron, Yellow-crowned Night Heron, Glossy Ibis, Mute Swan, Canada Goose, Brant, Snow Goose, Mallard, American Black Duck, Gadwall, Green-winged Teal, Northern Shoveler, Wood Duck, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Hooded Merganser, Red-breasted Merganser,

Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Northern Harrier, Cooper's Hawk, Osprey, Peregrine Falcon, Merlin, American Kestrel, Common Bobwhite, Ring-necked

Pheasant, Clapper Rail, American Coot, American Oystercatcher, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Piping Plover, Black-bellied Plover, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpiper, Willet, Spotted Sandpiper, Ruddy Turnstone, Short-billed Dowitcher, Red Knot, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Sanderling, Least Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Dunlin, Great Black-backed Gull, Herring Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Laughing Gull, Bonaparte's Gull, Gull-billed Tern, Forster's Tern, Common Tern, Roseate Tern, Least Tern, Black Skimmer,

Rock Dove, Mourning Dove, Yellow-billed Cuckoo, Black-billed Cuckoo, Eastern Screech Owl, Great Horned Owl, Whip-poor-will, Common Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Common Flicker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker,

Eastern Kingbird, Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher, Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, Willow Flycatcher, Least Flycatcher, Eastern Pewee, Horned Lark, Tree Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Purple Martin,

Blue Jay, American Crow, Fish Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch,



Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, House Wren, Carolina Wren (pictured), Marsh Wren, Northern Mockingbird, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, American Robin, Wood Thrush, Hermit Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Gray-cheeked Thrush, Veery, Eastern Bluebird,

Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Cedar Waxwing, European Starling, White-eyed Vireo, Yellow-throated Vireo, Solitary Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Philadelphia Vireo, Warbling Vireo,

Black-and-white Warbler, Worm-eating Warbler, Golden-winged Warbler, Blue-winged Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Northern Parula, Yellow Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Pine Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Palm Warbler, Ovenbird, Northern Waterthrush, Connecticut Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Yellow-breasted Chat, Hooded Warbler, Wilson's Warbler, Canada Warbler, American Redstart,

House Sparrow, Bobolink, Red-winged Blackbird, Orchard Oriole, Northern Oriole, Boat-tailed Grackle, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Scarlet Tanager, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Purple Finch, Indigo Bunting, House Finch, American Goldfinch, Rufous-sided Towhee, Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, White-crowned Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, Song Sparrow.

**CONSERVATION REPORT  
An Environmentalist in Thailand**

*Betty Borowsky*

Thailand is a wonderful country. People are friendly to each other and to foreigners, travel is fairly easy, and the country has a rich and beautiful cultural legacy. But it's an environmentalist's worst nightmare.

My recent two-week trip there will provide me with plenty to talk about for quite a while. The first week I spent in the northwestern part of the country, in Mai Hong Son and Chiang Mai. This is the hill country; historically it is tropical rain forest with a relatively sparse population [many of the people who live there are members of about five different Hill Tribes who migrated there originally from China, then into Burma (Myanmar), and finally into northern Thailand, where they have retained their native culture, including language and dress. But that's for another article]. Anyway, I was armed with a wonderful field guide to the birds of Thailand (*Bird Guide of Thailand*, by Boonsong Lekagul and Philip Round, Saha Karn Bhaet Press, Thailand, 1991), which lists about 950 species that have been identified in the country.

My first hint that something was a little screwy was how few birds of prey I saw. The book lists about 48 raptors, including falcons, hawks, harriers, eagles, and vulture types, and, of all the birds, these are the easiest to spot — they're generally big, and either perched in clear view or hovering slowly in the air as they scan for prey. While I may not be able to identify them, I sure know when they're there. But the entire week I saw only one individual. Granted it was the dry season, but in other areas I've visited the dry season is usually the best time to spot raptors. Not this time.

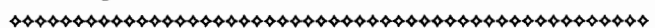
The second clue that something was amiss was that I saw no kingfishers. Believe me, I went to lots of rivers and streams; we were fishing and so I spent considerable time at several typical kingfisher habitats. This was also a big surprise, since even in New York, with our single species, it is a rare day when we don't see at least one individual near likely bodies of water. By the way, the bird guide lists 16 kingfishers in Thailand.



What's going on? The brief answer is that Thailand is a rapidly developing country with just about no organized methods for controlling the decay of its environment. Natural habitat is disappearing at a great rate (although there are now some large areas put aside into protected preserves by the government) and there appears to be no popular will or organized methods for preventing environmental pollution. This is not the only explanation, and I will explore this a bit further in the next article, but I think unregulated development is the main reason for the environmental problems in that beautiful country.

Now, I was only a tourist and can only report my personal observations, but I must tell you that these observations only more strongly reinforced my personal determination to continue to press for stronger environmental laws in the United States. We may not have had unmitigated successes in conservation efforts here, but you should see it there. For example, one day we were sitting by the side of a lovely stream in the countryside while ashes floated down and settled all over us.

Towards the end of the trip I heard from a Thai biologist that if you want to see the birds of Thailand today, you'll have to go to India.



**HEALTHY LAWN, HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT**

*Carole A. Adams*

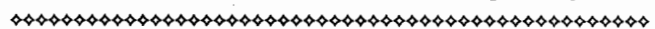
The U.S. Government Printing Office has an informative booklet, "Healthy Lawn, Healthy Environment: Caring for Your Lawn in an Environmentally Friendly Way." This 19-page 50¢ booklet has tips on soil preparation, grasses, watering, mowing, pesticides, and more. SSAS has a number of Spring 1997 Consumer Information Catalogs from the Printing Office. Be sure to get a copy. The Catalog is chock full of very interesting topics, some free, some requiring a small fee.



**TERNS & PLOVERS NEED VOLUNTEERS**

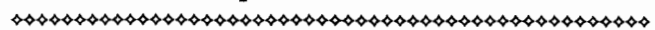
*John Zarudsky*

Volunteers are once again requested to assist the Town of Hempstead Department of Conservation and Waterways in monitoring and protecting Least Tern colonies and Piping Plover nests in the Lido Town Park/Nassau Beach area and at Silver Point in Atlantic Beach. Help is particularly needed on evenings, weekends, and holidays from May through August. If interested, please contact John Zarudsky, Conservation Biologist (and active SSAS member), at 897-4126 (work) or 486-5272 (home). The federal government and New York State have listed the beach-dwelling Piping Plover and Least Tern (pictured) as endangered species.



*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.*





## 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 Society. 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.

*Sunday, May 4th (10 A.M. to 4 P.M., family) — Pelagic Bird & Whale Watch.* We will meet at the Viking Dock in Montauk to take a sea cruise. Expert naturalists will be on hand to help you search for animals that may never be seen from land. TRS members \$50, nonmembers \$60.

*Saturday, May 10th (7 A.M., 9 A.M. to 2 P.M., family) — International Migratory Bird Day.* At 7 A.M. we will have an early morning bird walk to help kick off the day. Staff will be throughout the Sanctuary conducting migratory bird banding studies, leading bird walks, and presenting children's programs for this national event. Free.

*Sunday, May 11th (8 to 10 A.M., family) — Mother's Day Nature Hike.* We will meet at the Hoffman Center on Route 25A (first driveway west of Martin Viette Nurseries). Bring the whole family for a morning of birds, buds, and butterflies. TRS members free, nonmembers \$3.

*Saturday, May 17th (7:30 to 9:30 P.M., adults) — Owl Prowl.* In the evening we will search the Sanctuary for our nocturnal birds of prey. Our captive examples will guarantee the participant a sighting of a live owl. TRS members \$5, nonmembers \$7.

*Sunday, May 18th (9 A.M. to 1 P.M., family) — Nissequogue River Canoe Trip.* A morning excursion onto a tidal section of one of Long Island's four rivers. Canoes will be provided. TRS members \$25, nonmembers \$35.

*Thursday, May 22nd (7:30 to 9:30 P.M., adults) — Night Moves.* Frogs, flying squirrels, bats, insects, and other creatures will send us searching through the Sanctuary. Learn to identify them by using your ears. TRS members \$5, nonmembers \$7.

*Saturday, May 24th (7 A.M., adults) — Morning Bird Walk.* Join our naturalist for a guided bird walk at the Hoffman Center. We will point out bird songs and a variety of avian life. TRS members free, nonmembers \$3.

*Sunday, May 25th (2:30 to 4 P.M., ages 6 to 12) — Nocturnal Animals.* Meet our live resident night creatures and learn about how they may use their senses of smell, touch, and taste to live in darkness. TRS members \$3, nonmembers \$5.

*Thursday, May 29th (7 to 9 P.M., adults) — T.R. Sanctuary — The Nation's First Songbird Sanctuary.* As we approach our 75th year, we will present a slide show on our history as a preserve and as a conservation organization. Learn how environmental views and opinions have changed over the years. Free.

**Bluebird Nest Locations Wanted.** If you know of and have access to a bluebird nest, please call us and ask for Research Coordinator Steve Gomez. We will be mapping existing populations and measuring their productivity in different habitats this summer, under a grant from the Krusos Foundation. We will be initiating the Cornell Nest Box Network on Long Island next year after we begin our monitoring this year; CNBN is part of the collaborative Citizen Science project of the National Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology.

## NOMINATIONS FOR 1997-1998 OFFICERS

At South Shore Audubon Society's general meeting on May 13th, 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, chaired by Dolores Rogers, has recommended the following candidates:

President — Doreen Remsen  
Vice President — Michael Sperling  
Treasurer — Nancy Frame  
Recording Secretary — Christine Schmitt  
Corresponding Secretary — Doris Pirodsky  
Director (to 6/00) — Michael Higgiston  
Director (to 6/00) — Judy Hoyer



WILDLIFE POISONING HOTLINE (800) 356-0560



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**BREAKFAST ON THE BAY** (Saturday, May 31)  
Three-hour ecology tour of Jamaica Bay aboard the 96-foot vessel Dorothy B VIII. Cost: \$25 includes homemade buffet. Call Don.

**MONTAUK WEEKEND** (June 6-8) Extended weekend of natural history exploration. Cost: \$245 covers two nights at Montauk Manor, five meals, five field trips, and two evening programs; optional whale watch. Call Don.

**INTERNATIONAL BEACH CLEANUP WEEKEND** (September 20 & 21) For information on how to get involved at a beach near you, call Barbara Cohen at (718) 471-2166.

For a complete listing of all local and national field trips, contact: Don Riepe  
28 West 9th Road  
Broad Channel, NY 11693  
(718) 634-6467

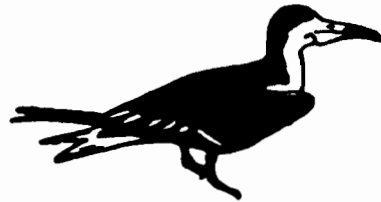


**1996-1997 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

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 .....	378-1790
James Hartnett, Director (6/99) .....	868-6528
Bill Hollweg, Director (6/99) .....	226-2519
Henry Levine, Director (6/98) .....	328-8736
Annie F. McIntyre, Director (6/98) .....	379-2206
Suzanne Lancer, Director (6/97) & Education Chairperson (7 to 9 P.M.) .....	536-6574
Jonathan Staller, Director (6/97) & Environmental Festivals Coordinator .....	822-5957
Sandy Brenner, Program Co-Chairperson .....	249-4919
Paul Butkerei, Bird Seed Savings Day .....	623-0843
Steven G. Goldberg, Program Co-Chairperson .....	798-0335
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
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 .....	766-7397
Diane Singer, Publicity (5 to 8 P.M.) .....	561-6118
Porgy Smith, Environmental Information Chairperson .....	887-2054
Marcia Specht, Hospitality Chairperson .....	694-8229
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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