SHORE KIMMER

VOLUME 28. NUMBER 6 — SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

MARCH 1998

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Doreen Remsen

Why open space? If ever there was an issue as perennial as the seasons, it is this one.

As a young girl growing up in Oceanside, I reveled in the outdoors. My neighborhood in the early fifties was one of open fields, small woodland tracts, and nearby marshes. This environment was a never-ending source of grand adventure and discovery. In the spring I saw jack-in thepulpits and skunk cabbages reappear in the nearby woods and watched as Red-winged Blackbirds built their sackshaped nests and called raucously for a mate (I always thought they were calling my name "Dor-een"!). As summer arrived, I was counting daisies and blue cornflowers in the fields, seeing meadow voles run away from me as I walked through their grassy home, and jumping with fright when we unearthed a viper when turning over some earth for a small vegetable garden. To my six-year-old eyes, that garter snake was a viper, but the experience taught me about habitat and geography!

We never closed our garage door in the summer, nor do I remember our car being in that garage much. I do remember sitting by the entrance to the garage during thunderstorms, listening and watching as the storm progressed. I also watched Barn Swallows fly in and out as they would find food for their young, and I was in awe when a female Barn Owl took up residence in the beams and raised her family quite undisturbed by my presence. Fall brought all kinds of leaves in every color imaginable that needed to be collected, and winter brought snows that drifted taller than me on tiptoes. I remember standing outside after one such storm and listening as hard as I could to the quiet. It was wonderful!

My neighborhood, like most neighborhoods in southern Nassau County, no longer has this kind of open space. I know now that our quality of life, the air that we breathe, and the water that we drink depend on the decisions we make as citizens and stewards of this world. Open space is a precious commodity, and foolish decisions will have

NEXT MEETING

Sandy Brenner

DATE: Tuesday, March 10, 1998

TIME: 8:00 p.m. 🕗

PLACE: Freeport Memorial Library

144 W. Merrick Rd. (at S. Ocean Ave.)

SPEAKER: Dave Gardner TOPIC: Raptors

Our next monthly program will focus on birds of prey: how and where to see, identify, and understand hawks, eagles, and owls. Life history, migration, hawk watching, and falconry are a few of the topics to be covered in Dave Gardner's slide show.

Dave Gardner is a past president of the Flushing Camera Club and has been employed in the photographic industry since 1976. His work has appeared in Saul Frank's book *City Peregrines*, Kodak's desk calendar, New York State's magazine *The Conservationist, Bird Watcher's Digest*, and many other publications. He has received numerous photographic honors from the Photographic Federation of Long Island Camera Clubs (PFLI) and has been a judge and lecturer since 1985. Join us!

IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE WASTE, PLEASE

BRING COFFEE MUGS TO OUR MEETINGS

profound ramifications for all of us, regardless of our position in the web of life. It will be the best 15 minutes, or perhaps a half hour, you invest in that future by writing to your legislators and letting them know that open space, such as the Underhill property in Jericho or the Kings Park Psychiatric Center property in Kings Park, is a necessity, not a luxury.

Why open space? For my niece Rachel, whose eyes were filled with gentle wonder when she saw (and touched) her first monarch butterfly that was exhausted from migration and resting on a bush at Zach's Bay. For Jessica, who was endlessly fascinated by a spider who spun her

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web by Nana's back door and turned us all into "spider watchers" one summer (ugh!). For the children of the Franklin Avenue School in Hempstead who, thanks to the generosity of Marge Fischer and Old Navy, and the persistent dedication of Betty Borowsky, will have their first taste of grand adventure in the outdoors at Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary this summer. For all of our children. For all of us.

Marion Yavarkovsky

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.





Explore the coast with the

AMERICAN LITTORAL SOCIETY

NEW YORK AQUARIUM "BEHIND THE SCENES" TOUR (Saturday, March 28). Meet 10 A.M. at the Aquarium entrance for a 2-1/2 hour special tour. See beluga whales, walrus, sea otters, and sharks. Cost: \$15 (kids \$10). Call Don.

ASSATEAGUE SPRING WEEKEND (April 23–26). Explore beaches and wetlands of Assateague National Seashore and Chincoteague Wildlife Refuge. Cost: \$245 includes three nights at Refuge Motor Inn, safari bus tour to the refuge interior, boat cruise through marshes, guided hikes, and a seafood buffet.

MONTAUK WEEKEND (May 29-31). Enjoy extended weekend of natural history exploration and fun at luxurious Manor House. Cost: \$245 includes 2 nights, 5 meals, 5 guided hikes, and 2 evening programs; optional canoe trip.

JAMAICA BAY ECOLOGY BOAT TOUR (Saturday, June 6, 9:30-12:30). Narrated breakfast cruise aboard 96-foot Dorothy B VIII during peak shorebird migration. Cost: \$35.

ICELAND (June 11-21). Call Don for details.

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

JONES BEACH & POINT LOOKOUT

Mike Higgiston

After a week of fog and drizzle, we took advantage of a sunny and reasonably warm January day to visit Jones Beach and see birds. We went there expressly to find Crossbills (pictured below), both Red and White-winged, that had been reported there during the Christmas Bird Counts. We met up with some other birders and decided to walk the median and hope that we would come upon a flock feeding on pinecones. The birds are highly transient and are impossible to stake out.

We saw lots of Myrtle Warblers and gulls and House Finches and crows and Brant and European Starling. We did see a flock of fly-by Cedar Waxwings. Hardly a rousing list. However, a birder must persevere if (s)he is to be successful. We walked both sides of the median and continued into Parking Lot 1 and down to the dunes. There in the distance were two scopes set up and other birders examining something. That will make anyone walk faster. Upon reaching the scopes, we found ourselves examining Lapland Longspurs. A flock of five were feeding on weed seeds along the fence line. They eventually flew and we started back to Short Beach to check for sea ducks. Along the way, we found a Savannah Sparrow scurrying along through the grass. He rarely stopped in the open to give us good looks, but neither did he flee the area. He played hide-and-seek with us awhile before he flew. At Short Beach we saw a flotilla of four Oldsquaws and not much

It was still early, so we decided to walk along the median once again. We heard a Ring-necked Pheasant soon thereafter. At the turnaround we found a single White-winged Crossbill, who didn't linger. We heard a Redbreasted Nuthatch and sought him out. We checked for owls in the area because the nuthatch was so insistent in his calling, but found none. We entered the West End 2 parking lot and found a Cooper's Hawk sitting quietly in a tree. We were amazed that he let us approach so closely. Other birders joined us, and the hawk started to get nervous and flew off to the other side of the thicket. Immediately, four Mourning Doves bolted out of the trees. We headed back to the parking lot and as we reached it were rewarded when a flock of Red Crossbills flew into the



trees on the north side of the lot. We had a bird's-eye look as the crossbills were completely oblivious to our presence and allowed us to approach closely. We enjoyed the sight for quite a while and started to leave once again when

a flock of White-winged Crossbills flew in and joined their cousins. Ouite a spectacle!

Afterwards, some of us decided to visit Point Lookout to look for the Harlequin Ducks that frequent the jetties there every winter. Our first stop was the mudflats area, where we found hundreds of Bonaparte's Gulls, Dunlin, and

Sanderling. Out in the inlet we found Common and Red-throated Loons, Red-necked Grebe, and Red-breasted Merganser (pictured), but no Harlequins. We continued to the beach, where a returning birder directed us to the east side of the farthest jetty. Sure enough, we found a male and a female Harlequin diving along the side of the jetty. But even more exciting were the five immature Common Eiders floating on the ocean. A continued search of the sea brought us looks at a number of Horned Grebes. Quite a successful day after a slow start.

Dareen Remsen

Come join your fellow members of South Shore Audubon Society as we welcome the return of spring on **Saturday**, **March 21st**, from 1 to 3 P.M. at the Tackapausha Museum on Washington Avenue in Seaford. To celebrate the vernal equinox, we will have spring crafts for children, including fish printing and coloring, as well as balancing eggs for luck!

There will be a live animal show presented by the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary of Oyster Bay at 2 P.M.; TRS Operations Manager Mike Brust will talk about changes our wild inhabitants of Long Island experience when spring arrives. All children who attend will be given a chance to win a door prize at the conclusion of the festival and refreshments will be served. So mark your calendars and bring your children, grandchildren, and all those children at heart. The festival activities and refreshments are free with a nominal admission charge to the museum (one dollar for adults, fifty cents for children).

Volunteers Needed: Calling all South Shore Auduboners! We will be at Tackapausha at twelve noon to set up and we need refreshment servers, crayon welders, fish printers, and egg balancers (hopefully we won't need omelet makers!). You can sign up on our bird walks or at our March meeting, or just come on down for whatever time you can spare. Thank you!

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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.

THINK SPRING!

Dolores Rogers

Mark your calendars — on **Saturday, May 16th,** from 9:30 A.M. to noon, at the height of spring migration, a TRS naturalist will lead SSAS on a songbird and wildflower walk at the Hoffman Center in East Norwich (on Route 25A, one driveway west of Martin Viette Nurseries). Bring lunch; rain cancels, but if it drizzles it's on!

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, March 1st and Saturday, March 7th (1 to 3 P.M.) — Maple Sugaring. Find out how to make maple syrup from tree sap. Participants will tap a tree, learn tree identification, and get to taste fresh maple syrup cooked over a hot fire. TRS members \$3, nonmembers \$5.

Saturday, March 14th (1 to 3 P.M., ages 8 to 16) — Day Hunters. Children will experience live hawks, falcons, and eagles up close. An expert naturalist will share information about their lifestyles, conservation, and adaptations. TRS members \$3, nonmembers \$5.

Sunday, March 22nd (1 to 3 P.M., ages 8 to 16) — Night Hunters. Come meet the predators of the night and find out their special nocturnal adaptations. Children can see and touch owls, snakes, and an alligator while finding out about the mysterious life of the night hunter. TRS members \$3, nonmembers \$5.

Saturday, March 28th (10 A.M. to 12 P.M., adults) — Signs of Spring. Visit the property of the Hoffman Center on Route 25A for a guided walk in search of early signs of spring splendor. A Sanctuary naturalist will walk you through this new forested and successional field preserve. The Sanctuary and Hoffman Center are working together to provide the best habitat for wildlife. TRS members \$3, nonmembers \$5.

Sunday, March 29th (1 to 3 P.M., children ages 3 to 6)—
Reptiles. Young children can meet live reptiles and find out
how they live their lives. Bertha the Snake, Puddles the
Alligator, and many other Sanctuary reptiles will be available to meet program participants. TRS members \$3,
nonmembers \$5.

Venezuela Eco-Tour. Spaces are still available for TRS's May 2–10 trip to the ultimate South American destination, featuring a pristine rainforest and wet savannas with incredible wildlife. Call for details.



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. 22	Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner
Mar. 1	Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
Mar. 8	Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner
Mar. 15	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
Mar. 22	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Mar. 29	Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
Apr. 5	Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner
Apr. 12	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
Apr. 19	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Apr. 26	Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
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CONSERVATION REPORT

Betty Borowsky

Two years ago I had one of the most moving experiences of my life. Deep in the woods within a Costa Rican plantation, I and my fellow traveling companions met Alexander Skutch, one of the most famous contemporary ornithologists in Central America. At the time I believe he was close to 90 years old, and in frail health.

Nevertheless, he and his wife, who so graciously received us, were living in the most primitive of conditions. Their home was a very modest shack, with windows that could be shuttered but which lacked screens or glass. I believe there was no electricity either. A horse was hitched to a post in the ground in their side yard. And a bird feeder, a platform with several fresh bananas, was prominent in the front. The site was absolutely still and peaceful. Dr. Skutch and his wife sat on their porch, which was furnished with a hard plank bench and one or two wooden chairs, and we sat on the floor or the porch stairs nearby, while Dr. Skutch spoke about how he had come to Costa Rica and why he had decided never to leave. At that moment, given these surroundings, I think we would all have made the same decision. I am grateful that I was able to videotape most of his conversation and our questions.

This is all a preface for describing why I looked forward to reading his more scholarly works (I am sure that anyone who has visited Costa Rica and is at all interested in birding will have obtained his field guide to the birds of Costa Rica, a birder's bible). The first book I've come across is his *The Life of the Flycatchers*. The book is actually one of a series of similar treatments of birds within the same family that Skutch has published. It turns out that it is really fascinating to read about the typical life history, as well as all of its variations, within a related group. The flycatchers we see in our area are fairly representative of the full 384 species that live in the Western Hemisphere. I don't have to tell all of you how easy it is to decide you're

looking at *some* flycatcher or other, but then how difficult it is to identify its specific species. Especially the empidonax flycatchers. But some flycatchers are quite easy to identify; for example, the Vermilion Flycatcher and the Eastern Kingbird cannot be mistaken for anything else (and your editor's thrown in a picture of a Scissor-tailed Flycatcher).

Dr. Skutch describes the group's feeding behaviors, the various calls and songs, their nests, and their mating behaviors, among other elements of their lives. He also spends some time describing the unusual behaviors of some of them, such as the Piratical Flycatcher, which hangs around a pair of flycatchers of another

species while the female is building its nest. Then, after the female is finished with its construction, and after it has finished laying its eggs, the Piratical Flycatcher goes into the nest and throws out the eggs. One by one. After the nest-builder realizes its eggs are missing, it generally abandons the nest and goes elsewhere to build another one. Then the Piratical Flycatcher moves in. This is extremely advantageous behavior for the Piratical: some of the nests built by flycatchers take a week to construct and are quite complex, with coarse sticks and branches as outside protection, and soft milkweed tufts and feathers or spider webs lining the inside.

But this is just a brief discussion of Dr. Skutch's book. It is written for the layperson, and it's clear from every word how much he loves his subjects, and what a joy it is to him to be able to spend so much time watching them. The reader soon begins to share his feelings. If you enjoy learning a bit more about birds, or even if you want to read something written by a field biologist who loves his work, I would strongly recommend reading this or other Skutch books.

SEEN ANY BANDED CANADA GEESE?

This article is borrowed from *Littorally Speaking*, the newsletter of the Northeast Chapter of the American Littoral Society, where it was titled "Ring Around the Collar":

The Waterfowl Management Unit of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) asks that you report any neck-banded Canada Geese to the nearest DEC office (in Nassau/Suffolk, 444-0345; in NYC, 718-482-4900). Please note:

① color of the collar

② the three- or four-character code (letters, numbers, or symbols)

3 date and location of sighting

number of geese present

Since 1991, over 40,000 Canada Geese have been marked with flexible rubber collars, enabling biologists throughout eastern North America to track their movements between breeding and wintering ranges. Over 200,000 collar observations have already been reported.

DUCK SURVEY DATA USEFUL TO U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Joe Grupp

Sometime last year, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) contacted the SSAS Duck Survey Committee, requesting the input of information on the use of local ponds and inland waterways by waterfowl in Nassau County. The USFWS is gathering data to be used in conjunction with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation in the formation of the South Shore Estuary Reserve Comprehensive Management Plan. During this past fall, Andrew Milliken of USFWS met with me. Using maps, data, and general information gained in the field, a knowledgeable discussion of the local ponds and their relationship to the wintering waterfowl populations took place. The ponds and waterways were subsequently grouped into ecologically significant units. SSAS is now in the process of forwarding census data to USFWS relating to the species that populate these units and their relative numbers.

The duck survey began in February and March of 1989 when a team of two, myself and Jim Remsen, spent a full day in the field making the first counts. That first day resulted in the establishment of 28 sites along the Merrick Road/Sunrise Highway corridor, extending from western Valley Stream to Massapequa, that became the eastern survey area. Paul Butkereit established a second survey area in the western part of Nassau County. It is located in the Lawrence, Woodmere, and Hewlett area and began in February 1990. Since that time, counts have been taken, regardless of weather conditions, five times each winter

on the designated dates, with one exception when snow forced one of the western counts to be taken on the following day. This year's count, therefore, represents the tenth year of the survey, the ninth and eighth full-year counts for the eastern and western censuses, respectively. The amount of data collected is now massive and is analyzed periodically by Jim, Paul, and me. The current plan is to continue the count through the 1998–1999 winter season and then sum-

marize the data and determine the direction of the census beyond that time.

Any undertaking of this type demands a certain amount of dedication to the project, resulting in numerous hours being spent in the field on the five specific dates each year. While a number of people have given some time to this project, its ongoing success must be attributed to the help and dedication of a small core group. That group consists of Paul Butkereit, Marge Jaeger, and Bill Hollweg in the west, and myself, Jim Remsen, Mary Jane Russell, Jim and Gail Brown, and Carole Adams in the east. Both groups can always use a limited number of volunteers who do not need to be skilled in identification, counting, etc. To become active in this project, contact me at 481-4208.

The active members of the committee are pleased to know that the efforts they began as a local independent research project provided some useful input into the South Shore Estuary Reserve Comprehensive Management Plan which should help to preserve a healthy estuarine environment.

INTERNET BIRD COUNT THIS/LAST WEEKEND

Shortly after the February *Skimmer* was mailed out, chapter presidents and newsletter editors received a press release about the *BirdSource Great '98 Backyard Bird Count*. For the first time, National Audubon and Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology are sponsoring a free North American bird count on the internet, from February 20–22, at http://

species of songbirds and hawks by zip code just before spring migration begins. Counts made in neighborhoods or local parks, as well as backyards with or without feeders, are wanted. The

results will be updated on the internet throughout the weekend; this *Skimmer* was mailed to you on February 17th, weather permitting, and we hope it reached most of our members in time.

LET'S SPEND A WEEKEND AT FAHNESTOCK STATE PARK

Taconic Outdoor Education Center in Putnam County's 11,000 acre Fahnestock Memorial State Park is about two hours from SSAS territory. It is only open to school and environmental groups and was the site of the Audubon Council of New York State's Fall 1997 meeting. If we can gather at least 35 people, we will spend the weekend of October 17th and 18th (the first dates not already booked by another group) enjoying evening programs and day and nighttime hikes along the park's lakes and ten miles of trails.

The cost of all activities plus three meals and a night in a heated bed-equipped cabin (with rest rooms and showers in an adjacent building) is just \$50 per person. If you're interested, please call SSAS *Armchair Activist* Chairperson Mary Jane Russell at 766-7397 now.

Seed - Feeders
Houses - Baths
Books - Gifts

FEEDESEED

WILD BIRD CENTER
"NEW YORK'S LARGEST WILD BIRD SPECIALTY STORE"

621 Fulton St. (Rt. 109), Farmingdale, NY 11735 Located between McDonald's & Dunkin' Donuts

BROOKSIDE PRESERVE COMMITTEE MEETING

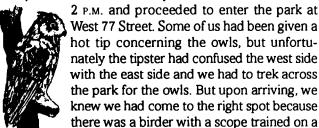
SSAS's Brookside Preserve Committee is scheduled to meet on Tuesday night, February 24th, in Merrick and is always looking for new volunteers. Call Betsy Gulotta at 546-8841 for details. Brookside Preserve is located along Milburn Creek on the Freeport–Baldwin border just north of the LIRR; it is owned by Nassau County and managed by SSAS.

CONNECTICUT EAGLES & CENTRAL PARK OWLS

Mike Higgiston

We decided to see Bald Eagles, which are easier to see in winter than summer. The Connecticut Light & Power Company operates the Shepaug Eagle Observation Area in Southbury. The area is open to the public by reservation only, on Saturdays, Sundays, and Wednesdays from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. from December to March. The phone number for reservations is 1-800-368-8954. It's about a two-hour trip to the observation area and we arrived around 10 A.M. The Observation Area overlooks the dam, and the dam is a magnet for fish-eating birds. Had the weather this winter been colder and more of the lakes frozen, there would have been an even greater concentration of eagles present. There were three adult birds and at least two immatures. They usually remained perched in the trees along the shore, but often they would drop down and fly in circles over the water. You really could appreciate their immense size at those times. There was also the usual concentration of gulls at the dam, and a flock of about 125 Common Mergansers floated below the dam. The Nature Conservancy provides volunteers at the site with scopes to see the action. There is also a large feeder at the observation site and we saw White-throated Sparrows, Northern Cardinals, Dark-eyed Juncos, Black-capped Chickadees, Tufted Titmice, and Blue Jays. There was a Red-bellied Woodpecker on a power line pole and a Golden-crowned Kinglet in the parking lot. Children are encouraged to view the eagles.

After leaving the site, we returned home via I-84 and had lunch in Danbury. We discussed our options and decided to head for Central Park for Long-eared Owls (pictured) and Red-headed Woodpeckers. We arrived around



pine tree 50 feet away. Sure enough, a look through the scope confirmed two Long-eared Owls sitting side by side. It was a good, clear look with no branches to look around

or needles to look through. Fantastic!! These owls are so hard to see that this observation was something to die for. After satisfying ourselves with the owls, we retraced our steps to the locust grove just west of the Great Lawn to search for the Red-headed Woodpeckers. Some birders were already there and we saw at least two adults briefly and an immature for the rest of our time there. The birds were taking food and caching it in the bark of the locust trees. Even more surprising was seeing a flock of American Robins and Common Grackles in January in New York. We certainly have had a warm winter. But warm or cold, we still enjoy getting out into the field to enjoy the birds.

AUDUBON CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS REMINDER

It's not too late to apply for full scholarships to the Audubon camp in Maine. As reported in last month's *Skimmer*, our chapter will pay all costs except transportation for a child age 10–14 to attend the Youth Ecology Camp for eleven days starting July 30th or August 12th, and for an adult to attend the Maine Coast Field Ecology Workshop for seven days starting June 27th, July 4th, or July 11th.

In addition to SSAS's annual scholarships (applications due March 1st), you can apply for National Audubon's Carl W. Buchheister Scholarship for educators and chapter activists — two SSAS members have attended the Maine Coast Field Ecology Workshop after winning that scholarship (applications due March 18th). Last year, Maureen Rube sent us the following note: "Thank you for the opportunity to attend the Audubon Workshop in Maine on the Buchheister Scholarship. I'm looking forward to it with great \square z excitement. I attended the Greenwich workshop a few years ago and enjoyed it tremendously. The programs on recycling had a great impact on me and life has never been the same in our house since. I hope to use the information from this trip to develop units for my students related to ecology. Thank you again for making this available to me."

For scholarship applications and/or a copy of National Audubon's 1998 Summer Camps and Workshops brochure, call SSAS Education Chairperson Sue Lancer at 536-6574 between 7 and 9 P.M.

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NASS	AU COUNTY POLLUTION HOTLINE 739-6666
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	RARE BIRD ALERT (212) 979-3070
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WII	DLIFE POISONING HOTLINE (800) 356-0560
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	AUDUBON ACTIONLINE (800) 659-2622
TAPE-	RECORDED UPDATES FROM WASHINGTON, DC
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COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

South Shore Audubon Society will be awarding two \$500 Jerry Bishop Environmental Scholarships to students who will be juniors, seniors, or graduate students 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, call Betsy Gulotta at 572-7570 (daytime) or 546-8841, or send e-mail to gulotte@sunynassau.edu (yes, that address is correct); the deadline to apply is April 2nd.

The volunteer Super Bowl Sunday seed schleppers and order processors at this season's second and last SSAS birdseed sale in Tackapausha's parking lot are hereby thanked. They were Paul and Joan Butkereit, Clint Combes, Joanne Del Prete, Pat Eagen, Joe Grupp, Mike Higgiston, Bill Hollweg, Marge Jaeger, Sal Navasaitis, and Mike Sperling.

WIN PRIZES IN THE SSAS ELEVENTH ANNUAL BIRDATHON!

James Remsen, Jr.

This year, SSAS will conduct its eleventh annual Birdathon. The Birdathon is the ideal way to support your chapter and have fun doing it!

As most of you know, SSAS raises funds through the Birdathon by having members get pledges for each species of bird identified during a 24-hour period in May, when the spring migration is at its height. This year, following on the success of last year's Birdathon sweep-stakes, we once again offer a special prize drawing for those who help us to generate funds.

Last year we conducted a weighted raffle in which the number of chances a participant received in a prize drawing was based on how much money he or she raised. This year all participants will receive equal weight in the drawing, to allow us to award prizes to the maximum number of people. Of course, the participant raising the most money and the one recruiting the most sponsors will automatically receive a prize, as has been customary since the start of the Birdathon in 1988. Among the prizes we will offer or anticipate offering are: an outstanding variety of bird books, a National Audubon Society birder's pack containing Kodak film and a Stokes field guide, a field guide pouch to keep your birding equipment safe from the elements (field guide included, of course!), nature sounds compact discs or tapes, and more.

How do you get a chance to win one of these prizes? There are two ways: either participate in the Birdathon and recruit sponsors (you can sponsor yourself, if you can't think of anyone else to recruit), or use the coupon below and make a pledge to the Birdathon. You can

sponsor one of our expert Birdathon teams led by some of our chapter's best birders (pledging the amount of your choice for each species the team sees), sponsor the chapter as a whole (pledging the amount of your choice for each species the three teams see combined), or make a flat pledge not based on number of species. Remember, if sponsoring a specific team, that each team will probably see at least 100 species (Paul Butkereit's team holds the current chapter record at 155), and the chapter total may be 150 or greater. So, to paraphrase an old ad campaign, "Pledge with your head, not over it!"

Make sure the form below is completely filled out so we can contact you after the Birdathon and inform you of the amount of your pledge. To be eligible for sweepstakes entries, all pledges must be submitted to me by Monday, June 8th. This deadline will be strictly observed. The sweepstakes drawing will be held at our annual dinner the next day at Pompei in West Hempstead. You need not be present to win, but winners present will receive first choice of prizes.

We are seeking to increase our prize pool. If you are interested in donating a prize, or in soliciting a donation of a prize, please contact me at 764-5168; I'm best reached after 8 P.M.

More on the Birdathon next month!

SSAS 1998 BIRDATHON PLEDGE FORM ☐ COUNT ME IN! I wish to support the SSAS 1998 Birdathon as indicated below. Please enter me in the prize drawing. Name _____ Address ______ Evening Phone Number _____ I want to sponsor Paul Butkereit's Birdathon team at _____ ¢ per species. ■ I want to sponsor Elliott Kutner's Birdathon team at per species. ☐ I want to sponsor Joe Grupp and Jim Remsen's Birdathon team at _____ ¢ per species. □ I want to sponsor SSAS as a chapter at _____¢ per species. ☐ I would prefer not to make a per-species pledge. I am enclosing a flat pledge of \$ toward the Birdathon. ×***************

Please mail the above form (with your check made payable to South Shore Audubon Society, if applicable) to: South Shore Audubon Society, P.O. Box 31, Freeport, NY 11520-0031. Thank you for your support.

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Joseph Lancer, Binocular / Book Sales (7 to 9 P.M.)		
Suzanne Lancer, Education Chairperson (7 to 9 P.M.)		
George Popkin, Financial Advisor (8 to 9 P.M.)		
James Remsen, Jr., Birdathon Co-Chairperson		
Dolores Rogers, Welcoming Committee Chairperson		
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South Shore Audubon Society P.O. Box 31 Freeport, NY 11520-0031

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