OUTH HORE KINMER

VOLUME 28, NUMBER 7 — SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

APRIL 1998

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Doreen Remsen

'Twas the month before Birdathon and all through the chapter, The excitement is building, like rungs on a ladder. The sponsor sheets are printed and ready to go, So when you are asked, please do not say no! The teams are all anxious and will go early to bed, While visions of warblers will flit through their heads! And I in my sneakers, and Jim in his Birdathon shirt, Will run all over Long Island until our feet hurt. Paul with his clipboard and Joe with his scope, Are ready for high numbers — what a wonderful hope! Though the sun will set, the teams will still prowl, Listening and calling for that Eastern Screech Owl. When the sun comes up, Mike and Bill want a lark; Their quest will certainly lead them to Forest Park! While most of us ramble in muck up to our knees, Elliott and company will munch wine and cheese. For grebes and woodpeckers we all will be hunting, And how wonderful to find an Indigo Bunting! As the day wears on, some of us will feel the strain, And start to wonder --- was that really a Sandhill Crane? Yellowlegs are great, but boy, will we gripe, If we don't find that old Common Snipe! The day will be bright and their energy will renew, If Joe and Jim find that elusive Great Blue! The high point of this most extraordinary day, Is when all the teams meet at Jamaica Bay. We'll laugh and we'll tease, then the leaders will whistle, And away we'll all fly, like down on a thistle. I hope you've enjoyed this Birdathon rendition, And will consider joining South Shore's fun tradition. You see, it doesn't matter if you're tall or you're small, Or if you get confused over birds and their calls. You'll be with the kindest people, who will share and pause, And the dollars you gather go for a great cause! So to one and all I exclaim with all my might: Happy birding to all, and to all, a good night!

My sincerest thanks, and humblest apologies, to Clement C. Moore, the author of *A Visit from St. Nicholas* ("'Twas The Night Before Christmas..."). Without his inspiration, my version would not have been possible.

NEXT MEETING

Sandu Brenner

DATE: Tuesday, April 14, 1998

TIME: 8:00 p.m. ②

PLACE: Freeport Memorial Library

144 W. Merrick Rd. (at 5. Ocean Ave.)

SPEAKER: Elliott R. Kutner

TOPIC: About Spring and Time

How do we know they are here? Listen to the persistent call of the males feeding high in the trees. The buzzing notes of the Blackpoll are unmistakable, as is the pleading "witchety" call of the Yellowthroat.

Watch the leaves in that bush by the stream! A quickening in this or that branch announces the presence of that perfection of color and motion bent on a moment at streamside, to ease a parched throat and wet a dry wing. They feint and dodge at imagined danger. Suddenly, they step out and down to bathe, in a very brief moment of leisure — just as quickly, they are gone.

A Blue Jay pair has sealed a contract with tomorrow. Quiet and intent now, in touch by a whispering whistle, they share a secret all their own. Gone is the raucous call and bully's role at the feeder. They are busy in a spruce nearby, climbing their ladder to tomorrow.

It is quiet now except for the warblers moving north to fulfill a 3000 mile promise.

For our neighbor birds, the challenge has moved from the arena of claim and counterclaim to the hush of the nest, egg, chick, and summer's fledgling.

But, it's *spring!* For one brief moment they pause, in the ultimate wisdom of instinct, to be refreshed by a cool pool, warmed by a friendly sun, to ruffle feathers wearied by travel — travel to that appointed place and task. And when another season is gone, they take up that wandering once more — home wherever night falls. The rhythm of that clock marks the days of our lives.

Elliott Kutner was South Shore Audubon Society's fourth president and has been leading our bird walks with his

1

contagious enthusiasm for over 25 years. This is a chance to see some of Elliott's home movies, featuring **WARBLERSI**

IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE WASTE, PLEASE

BRING COFFEE MUGS TO OUR MEETINGS

+**>+>+>+>+>+>+>+>+>+>+>+**

BIRD LISTS

Mike Higgiston

I have always kept a life list, a New York State list, and a backyard list. I thought this was more than enough. I've encountered birders with day lists, month lists, place lists, state lists, world lists, TV lists, and vacation lists. I was amazed at the list mentality some people exhibited; I intended to keep my birding sane ... until Bill the Birder Hollweg said last December that he had to check his year list to see how he did in 1997. I considered that and decided to tote up my numbers for the year and discovered that I had seen 252 species. I also decided to keep a year list for 1998 from the start of the year. Uh-oh; I suspect a monster stirring.

Early in our birding careers, we had checked the rare bird alert to see what unusual birds had been seen in the New York area. If it wasn't too far, we would decide whether or not to make a run at a particular bird, especially if it was one we had never seen. One memorable Sunday, we found a Barrow's Goldeneye at the north end of the Throgs Neck Bridge by 9 A.M.; continued to Rye Playland for the Tufted Duck, which we got by 10 A.M.; and then drove to Connecticut for a Boreal Owl. What a day!! We once drove five hours to Vermont to see a Northern Hawk Owl and I dragged my family to Portland, Maine last January to see an Ivory Gull. But once I saw the life bird, I never really considered chasing it again. I was content to bird Jones Beach, Massapequa Preserve, Prospect Park, Alley Pond, and Jamaica Bay. We would on a regular basis visit other places to keep from growing bored. January would find us in Montauk, October would find us in Cape May, and if a rarity happened along we would charge out after it. But all those dynamics change when you're keeping a vear list.

I've seen a Eurasian Wigeon in the past; we've had them on SSAS duck surveys. But I hadn't seen them in 1998. So when I found out that one was in Lister Park in Rockville Centre, I had to go. Immediately!! And I did. In the fog, in the rain, I walked around Lister Park. I had to get the bird for my year list. Who knows when I will see this bird again? Hurry! And I saw the bird and I was thrilled. Birding has always been a treasure hunt and there is so much treasure to be found. After birding Jones Beach and Point Lookout one Saturday in January, I stopped for lunch after everyone else went home and headed for Twin Lakes Preserve in Wantagh. I had to go see the Ring-necked Duck that winters there.

We hadn't been to Twin Lakes in quite a while, so it was a revelation to me to see 19 species of birds in barely 30 minutes in the middle of the day, the worst time to bird. Admittedly, most of the birds were the usual suspects, but aside from the Ring-necked Duck there were Redhead, Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, American Wigeon, American Coot, Ruddy Duck, and Hooded Merganser. A Belted Kingfisher rattled by, a Red-bellied Woodpecker called, and a White-throated Nuthatch scolded. Tufted Titmice preened and a Downy Woodpecker drilled. I recall seeing Rusty Blackbird here some years ago, so I think I may find my way back to Twin Lakes later this winter to find them. I must add them to my year list, you see.

[While your *Skimmer* editor was omitting the preceding from last month's issue, the sequel arrived...]

Back to Twin Lakes. There was an SSAS walk scheduled for Jones Beach in early March, so I decided to go earlier in the morning to see what was about. What I found was the late winter doldrums, that period after the coldest days of winter that produce all the winter species that we enjoy and before the spring migration. There were some Oldsquaw, Northern Harrier, Killdeer, and Red-breasted Nuthatch; not much to write about in a birding column.

Since I am doing a year list, I thought to search for the Rusty Blackbird that had begun its early movement through our area already. I had only seen this bird at Twin Lakes Preserve and I headed there from the beach. It wasn't long after arriving that I began to see birds. I wasn't seeing rare species, but instead I kept encountering old friends that we sometimes tend to overlook or dismiss. First of all, there were the ducks: Mallards, Northern Shoveler, Piedbilled Grebe, Green-winged Teal, Hooded Mergansers, and Gadwall were present. There was a flotilla of Ruddy Ducks and American Coots. Mute Swan fed from the bottom. All the time I was reviewing the ducks, Blue Jays and Northern Cardinals were calling, coaxing me away from the water and into the woodlands. Flocks of Whitethroated Sparrows scattered into the brush as I approached. Now, there's a gorgeous bird in breeding plumage (pictured): the white on the crown and the yellow by the bill are so bright. The incessant calling of

Red-winged Blackbirds drew my attention to the treetops, where I also saw Common Grackles. There were Blackcapped Chickadees and Tufted Titmice,

and a Carolina Wren checking out a dense thicket for a possible nesting site. A Red-bellied Woodpecker called out. I walked towards the north end of the preserve and found a Northern Mockingbird inspecting me as I was inspecting him. There was a Downy Woodpecker and, a while later, I found his Hairy cousin. A White-breasted Nuthatch was searching for insects face down while calling out occasionally. I also came across Golden-crowned Kinglets flitting about. I saw 26 species in about an hour in the late morning. I never did see my target bird, but maybe with an earlier start I'll see him next time.

NOMINATIONS FOR 1998-1999 OFFICERS

At South Shore Audubon Society's general meeting on May 12th, 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 — Jonathan Staller Treasurer — Nancy Frame Recording Secretary — Christine Schmitt Corresponding Secretary — Doris Pirodsky Director (to June 2001) — Denise Comeau Director (to June 2001) — Michael Goldsmith ^

★★ WELCOME NEW MEMBERS ★★

Marion Yavarkovsky

New members are just flocking to SSAS this spring. We hope you will join us at the many activities we sponsor. Our weekly bird walks, monthly meetings, and special events are for you to enjoy. Join us soon!

[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.]

Atlantic Beach	Beth Brenner,
	Mr. & Mrs. Michael Geller
Bellmore	Mrs. Rosalie Abbondola,
	Mr. David W. Leibowitz
Bethpage	George Lindemann, Ms. Hilda
	Ronda Smutny, Mr. John Towle
East Meadow	Mrs. Anna Maria Bedell, Joanna
	Gazzola, Mr. Arthur
	Hagenbruch, Dana Kayaian
East Rockaway	
Elmont	Mr. & Mrs. Peter Dioyk,
	Ms. Yolanda Raccioppoli
Farmingdale	Christine Berger, Ovie Ganguly,
	Carol Jacob,
	Mr. John F. Lamneck
Floral Park	Mr. & Mrs. G. Craig, Ms. Virginia
	Fletcher, B. Roper
Freeport	
Garden City	Ms. Sandra Engelke, Mr. Laurence
	J. Kettner, Mr. & Mrs. H. Pickett
Hewlett	
Hicksville	Mr. Ernest Buckner, Ms. Elizabeth
	Daley, North Shore Land
1 6 1	Management Inc., Ashley Oliva,
	Mr. Isador Rubin, Robert W.

Stark, Mr. Joseph Wilkonski

Jericho Amy E. Rothe (Cantiague		
Elementary School)		
Lawrence William Henry, Mark Rubin		
Levittown Rhone Koerner		
Long Beach Diane Gradiska, Brendan Kelly,		
Harry B. Miles, Kathleen Regan Lynbrook John Igo, Rudolph Pellegrini, Americo Snaetti		
Malverne Paul Tully		
Massapequa Joseph DeFalco, Mr. Richard J.		
Hawkey, Mr. Angelo L. Marcial, Zelda Marin, Ms. Vickie Maul,		
J. Romanchek		
Massapequa Park Leocadia L. Phillip,		
Kevin Zdrojeski		
Merrick Ina Bari, Mr. Douglas Dannay,		
? DeRiggi, Mamie Gitelman,		
Ms. Marilyn Lynn Gross,		
Ms. Nicole Russo		
Oceanside Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Albert,		
Ms. Patricia Book, Tom Mitchell,		
C. Schuchman,		
Mrs. Marguerite Scott		
Plainview Mrs. Carole M. Dunleavy, Mr. &		
Mrs. Edmond La Chance		
Rockville Centre Mr. Thomas J. Marshall,		
Adele Rappaport		
Seaford Mr. Andrew Dragunat, Ms. Eva		
Grinberg, Rudolf Musiol Uniondale Ms. Karen Munson		
Valley Stream S. I. Aptekar, Mrs. Lois Ann		
Benedetto, E. Henry,		
Norman C. Seastedt, M. Sydney Wantagh Miss Georgeann Amsler, Ms. Ann		
Wantagh Miss Georgeann Amsler, Ms. Ann Forman, Mr. & Mrs. Steve E.		
Klein, Rosemary Lovely,		
Mr. & Mrs. S. Nestampower,		
Sara Smilko		
West Hempstead Linda Keenan, Ms. Sondra C.		
Longwood, S. G. Smith		
Woodmere Ms. Sherry J. Bass, W. Gutmann		
•		

SSAS Mission Statement — The mission of South		
Shore Audubon Society is to promote environmental		
education, and preserve and restore our environ-		
ment, through resnonsible activism, for the henefit		

ment, 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.

^



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.

March 29	Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
April 5	Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner
April 12	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
April 19	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
April 26	Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
May 3	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
May 10	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
May 17	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
May 24	Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
May 31	Memorial Day Weekend - No Walk J PC
June 7	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)

CONSERVATION REPORT South Shore Estuary Reserve Management Plan Update, Part I

Betty Borowsky

In 1993, the New York State Legislature approved the South Shore Estuary Reserve Act. This law established the South Shore Estuary Reserve Council, which was charged to develop a management plan for the area. It's been almost five years since then and the Council has just issued an Interim Report. This article is a review of the status of this project.

As you already know, Long Island is just a huge, fragile sand bar, threatened by both natural forces and manmade incursions. That the Island is not necessarily a permanent piece of geography comes home to us periodically when we experience a particularly vicious nor'easter and lose part of it. In fact, there is a steady erosion of the eastern tip of the Island, and a gradual deposition of material along the southwestern part of it. The Montauk lighthouse was built 300 feet inland; it is now 75 feet from the shore in spite of the Army Corps of Engineers building a bulkhead of large rocks as protection. In fact, more heroic efforts are planned to prevent further erosion at Montauk Point. On the opposite side of the coin, Fire Island lighthouse was built on the shore; it has effectively been displaced inland by sand deposition.

So Long Island's coastlines are being reshaped naturally. There may be some engineering we can do to slow down or temporarily halt the effects of these natural processes, but it is only temporary, and eventually nature will have her way with our sandbar.

But human activities are affecting our shoreline, too. Fortunately, we *have* control over this. Many of us chose to live on the Island because of its shoreline: its beauty and recreational resources. But with the increase in population density throughout the Island, and with the special

premium on waterfront property, our shores have been increasingly threatened by development, by industrial dumping, by uncontrolled recreational boating, and by domestic runoff.

The problem is that, until now, there had been no overall management plan for the south shore. A plan has already been developed and adopted for the Long Island Sound, and some of the ideas for the south shore plan are coming from this effort.

But a plan for the south shore estuary faces different problems. For one thing, while there can be little discussion about what constitutes the Sound, there has been considerable debate about what constitutes the estuary. One would think this would be the easy part, since everybody knows what an estuary is. An estuary is where fresh water, mostly from rivers and streams, empties into the sea. It is an area which generally experiences tidal exchanges and differences in salinity through the day. In New York, the Hudson River estuary extends from about Tarrytown, down the Hudson, through New York Harbor, and into the New York bight. Jamaica Bay and Raritan Bay are relatively large backwater areas, fed primarily by the Hudson's fresh water, which have salinities that fluctuate between fresh water and sea water (which contains about 32 parts per thousand of salt) depending on the tidal stage and the distance from the ocean.

But because of the prevailing currents, the outwash of the Hudson does not extend far east along the south shore. The primary sources of fresh water into the south shore bays (the Hempstead Bays, Great South Bay, Moriches Bay, and Shinnecock Bay) are the streams and creeks that flow south from the center of the Island. So defining the boundaries was not intuitive, yet was critical for the plan. Do we stop at the shoreline or include all the land that surrounds the feeder rivers? Or do we include part of the rivers or what?

In my opinion, the major accomplishment of the Council to date has been to define the boundaries of the estuary (or what should be included in the "south shore estuary") in a very sensible way: "South to north, the Reserve extends from the mean high tide line on the Atlantic side of the barrier islands to the inland limits of mainland watersheds that drain into the bays." For your information, I have asked our editor to include a small map so you can see the Reserve's boundaries. You should note that the northern boundary is pretty irregular, but it conforms to the major feeder rivers and that is a very practical consideration. Functionally, in order to be sure we are managing the bays, we will have to manage the feeder rivers, since what impacts the latter will, in short order, impact the former.

In the next article, I will describe the other activities accomplished to date. But in the interim, you should know that our chapter is trying very hard to participate in the process and you are welcome to participate too. If you would like to attend committee meetings, or learn more about all this, do not hesitate to call me.

BIRDS AROUND THE ISLAND February & March

Mike Andersen

Blame it on El Niño or any other bizarre weather phenomena, but we have experienced one of the warmest Februaries on record. The birds have undoubtedly been affected by the abnormally warm weather. Most of our common neighborhood birds such as Mourning Doves, Tufted Titmice, Northern Cardinals, and House Finches



have been in full song every day since the first of February. Two of the most well-known harbingers of spring are the Red-winged Blackbird and American Robin; both made early appearances in February and by now are aggressively defending territories.

Places with freshwater marshes like Massapequa Preserve are loaded with singing Red-winged Blackbirds and Song Sparrows, and may also contain a few early migrants such as Rusty Blackbirds.

On a more rare note, Jones Beach West End is continuing to report a few crossbills, but nothing comparable to the numbers from the first half of winter. Other recent sightings from West End include an Oregon Pink-sided Junco and a few returning American Oystercatchers. The Oregon Pink-sided Junco is a subspecies of our common backyard visitor, the Dark-eyed Junco. The Pink-sided normally ranges from the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Coast; however, a few stragglers find their way east most winters.

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge has harbored an assortment of common but sought-after winter residents, including Rough-legged Hawks, Common Goldeneye, and Northern Goshawks. It won't be long now before the marshes of Jamaica Bay and others like it are teeming with egrets, herons, ibis, terns, and Osprey!

HOFFMAN CENTER WALK

Dolores Rogers

On **Saturday, May 16th**, from 9:30 A.M. to noon, at the height of spring migration, a Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary naturalist will lead SSAS on a songbird and wildflower walk at the new Hoffman Center in East Norwich (6000 Northern Boulevard/Route 25A, on the south side of the street, west of Route 106 and one driveway west of Martin Viette Nurseries). Bring lunch; rain cancels, but if it drizzles it's on!

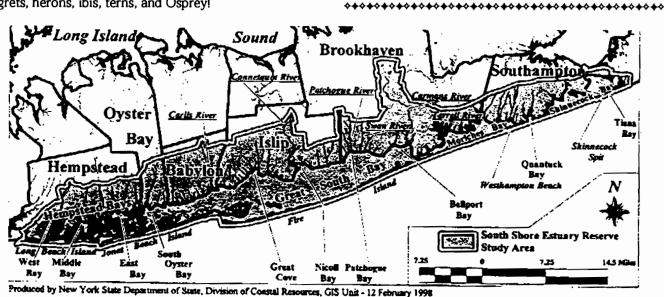


"NEW YORK'S LARGEST WILD BIRD SPECIALTY STORE"

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

OUR ANNUAL DINNER

South Shore Audubon's 27th annual dinner will be held at Pompei Restaurant and Catering in West Hempstead (as usual) on **Tuesday**, **June 9th**, beginning with a cocktail hour at 6:30. Save the date for this always well-attended event (last year there were 141 of us). This year's main courses will be eggplant rollatini, filet of sole arreganata, and chicken francese; cost is \$25 including hot hors d'oeuvres and a complete dinner. Smoking will be prohibited in the Banquet Room; please see next month's *Skimmer* for the registration form.



SSAS ELEVENTH ANNIVERSARY BIRDATHON

Jim Remsen, Jr.

This year, SSAS will conduct its eleventh National Audubon Birdathon. SSAS raises funds through the Birdathon by having members get cash pledges for each species of bird identified during a 24-hour period in May, when the spring migration is at its height.

Mark the dates on your calendar, **Friday**, **May 8th** from 5:00 P.M. until **Saturday**, **May 9th** at 5:00 P.M. (a week later if we rain out), and join one of our intrepid leaders (or go it alone, in which case you choose the turf). Our schedule of starting places and leaders is as follows.

Friday, May 8th at 5:00 P.M.: Meet Ken & Karen Wenzel and Nina Consalvo of Elliott Kutner's team at Mill Pond, Merrick Road, Wantagh/Bellmore; Paul Butkereit at Jones Beach Coast Guard Station; or Joe Grupp and Jim Remsen at Massapegua Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot).

Saturday, May 9th (International Migratory Bird Day): Meet Elliott Kutner at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge at 8:00 A.M.; Paul Butkereit at the Ryan Building behind Mercy Hospital at 6:15 A.M.; or Joe Grupp and Jim Remsen at Mill Pond, Merrick Road, Wantagh/Bellmore at 5:45 A.M. If you need directions to any meeting place, call me. Also please try to notify the team leader of your choice so that they will know how many people to expect (most phone numbers are on the back page; the Wenzels' is 546-7918).

If you aren't going with a team, why not try your own Birdathon? Do a variation on the usual theme of seeing as many species as you can during the count period. Use your imagination. Limit yourself to your backyard, a favorite park or preserve, or even a "couch potato" Birdathon. (For this one, you count as many bird species as you can on television during the 24 hours. Yes, people have really done it, but we suggest you make it clear to your sponsors if you decide to give it a try!)

Sponsors are the heart of the Birdathon. These are people who agree to give you 25¢, \$1.00, or any amount for each species you see (they may also give you a flat pledge not based on number of species; the SSAS team record is 155 species). Pledges are due no later than Monday, June 8th to be eligible for prizes, which will be awarded at our annual dinner the next night. You can submit them to me on bird walks or mail them to me. If you have questions, call me or speak to me at meetings or bird walks. If you need extra full-size pledge forms, I can supply them, too. Dinner attendees will have first choice of prizes (see last month's *Skimmer* for a partial prize list), but you need not be there to win.

Birdathon Chairperson: James Remsen, Jr.; 3264 Park Avenue, Oceanside, NY 11572; phone 764-5168 after

SSAS WEEKEND AT FAHNESTOCK

We've got a couple of dozen people who have let us know that they are planning on joining SSAS on **October 17th and 18th** at the Taconic Outdoor Education Center in Putnam County's 11,000 acre Fahnestock Memorial State Park. If we can reach the 35-person mark this spring, then we'll be able to hold our reservations; only schools and environmental groups can use the Center and we will have it to ourselves.

The Center includes nine heated bed-equipped rustic cabins (ten people per cabin, with rest rooms and showers in an adjacent building) and a main building with environmental exhibits and a chef from the Culinary Institute. Fahnestock State Park is primarily oak and hickory forest, with lakes and ten miles of trails; we are looking forward to seeing fall colors on the trees and going on guided hikes. Cost for the weekend is just \$50 per person. To sign up, please call SSAS *Armchair Activist* Chairperson Mary Jane Russell at 766-7397 now.



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.

FIRE ISLAND HIKE (Saturday, May 9). Hike along the Sunken Forest boardwalk during peak spring bird migration. See beach plum in bloom and learn about the ecology of this barrier island. Cost: \$20 includes round-trip ferry and guides. 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

AUDUBON CAMP SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

SSAS wishes to congratulate this year's winners of our chapter's summer camp scholarships. Suzanne Lancer, our Education Chairperson, notified our two Maine-bound winners and they were introduced to about a hundred fellow members at our March general meeting: Kevin Zdrojeski will spend eleven days at the Youth Camp and Dorothy A. Andrews will attend the weeklong Maine Coast Field Ecology Workshop.

134 Cove Road, Oyster Bay, NY 11771 (516) 922-3200

Many SSAS members were among the hundreds and hundreds of people who attended the wake and/or funeral of TR Sanctuary Director Mary E. Richard, age 33, who we lost suddenly, senselessly, and tragically on February 25th when the TRS minivan she was riding in that night hit a tree in Syosset. The driver, TRS Operations Manager Mike Brust, age 23, another good friend of SSAS, survived but has a long road ahead of him and he is very much in our thoughts.

SSAS will fondly remember Mary for the programs she presented at our general meetings (on neotropical migrants in December 1994 and with Mexican Audubon Society President Susan Smith in May 1996), for her often-humorous impromptu announcements when she attended other general meetings, for our annual chapter visits to TRS and to its hawk banding station on Fire Island, and for all the environmental meetings and events during her seven years as Sanctuary Director where our two organizations worked side by side. A memorial service for Mary will be held this spring at TRS; date to be announced.

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 (programs resumed shortly after Mary's funeral). Space is limited and registration is required. All program fees are required at the time of registration.

Friday, April 3rd (7 to 9 P.M., adults) — Owl Prowl. Participants will meet live owls in the nature center and then join an expert naturalist for a night hike through the Sanctuary. We will call in some local Eastern Screech Owls for you to hear and hopefully see. TRS members \$5, nonmembers \$7.

Saturday, April 4th (12 to 5 P.M.) — Spring Cleanup. We can weed the gardens, spread wood chips on the trails, hose out some cages, and make the Sanctuary look sparkling and new for a beautiful spring season. Refreshments will be served. Free.

April 13th to 16th (9 A.M. to 1 P.M., grades PK thru 6) — Spring Nature Camp. Children can come and have a won-

derful school break while learning about nature. Each day a different natural experience is planned through the use of activities, wildlife, and walks. TRS members \$30/day, \$100/week; nonmembers \$35/day, \$120/week.

Saturday, April 18th (9 A.M. to 3 P.M., adults) — Peconic River Canoe Trip. Join an experienced naturalist on an all-day trip down Long Island's longest river. Bring lunch and dress warmly. TRS members \$30, nonmembers \$35.

Sunday, April 19th (2 to 4 P.M., adults) — Butterfly Gardening. Learn how to plan a garden for butterflies. We'll tell you the proper plants to attract butterflies, the best growing conditions, and which butterflies you can hope to see. TRS members \$5, nonmembers \$7.

Earth Day, Wednesday, April 22nd (7 to 9 P.M.) — Biodiversity. Adults can come and find out what makes diversity of natural elements on our planet so important. We will be sharing information through live animal presentations, video, and activities. TRS members \$3, nonmembers \$5.

Saturday, April 25th (7:30 to 9:30 A.M.) — Early Morning Bird Walk. Adults can join a Sanctuary naturalist to explore the grounds of the Sanctuary during this busy migratory time. We will help you to learn to identify birds by both sight and sound. Please bring binoculars. TRS members \$3, nonmembers \$5.

×****************

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.
\square 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.

1997-1998 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Doreen Remsen, President	472-6830
Jonathan Staller, Vice President & Environmental Festivals Coordinator	. 822-5957
Nancy Frame, Treasurer	520-9016
Christine Schmitt, Recording Secretary & Hospitality Co-Chairperson	. 887-7713
Doris Pirodsky, Corresponding Secretary	. 378-1790
Michael Higgiston, Director (6/00)	
Judy Hoyer, Director (6/00)	. 775-0159
Jim Hartnett, Director (6/99)	
Bill Hollweg, Director (6/99)	. 226-2519
Henry Levine, Director (6/98)	
Annie F. McIntyre, Director (6/98) & Educational Media Chairperson	379-2206
Betty Borowsky, Conservation Legislation Chairperson	. 764-3596
Sandy Brenner, Program Chairperson	249-4919
Paul Butkereit, Wild Bird Feed Savings Day	
Joseph Grupp, Duck Survey	. 481-4208
Betsy Gulotta, Brookside Preserve Committee Chairperson	. 546-8841
Janice Howard, Hospitality Co-Chairperson	
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
Suzanne Lancer, Education Chairperson (7 to 9 P.M.)	. 536-6574
George Popkin, Financial Advisor (8 to 9 P.M.)	. 378-4467
James Remsen, Jr., Birdathon Co-Chairperson	
Dolores Rogers, Welcoming Committee Chairperson	
Mary Jane Russell, Armchair Activist Chairperson	. 766-7397
Michael Shannon, Youth Representative	867-6084
Diane Singer, Publicity (5 to 8 P.M.)	
Michael Sperling, Skimmer Editor	
Marion Yavarkovsky, Membership Chairperson	
• •	

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

A CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Americans Committed to Conservation

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED





U.S. POSTAGE PAID Permit No. 1181 NONPROFIT Freeport, NY