

another genus altogether — you would never confuse the two except for their similar names). At the same time, you can people-watch in the park. Most tourists to New York seem to wear western clothing. But in Kensington and Hyde Parks, many people from the former British colonies wear full native dress, including chadors, which cover women from head to foot except for their eyes. But all spoke beautiful English with a British accent. We just don't see that in Central Park.

Another great birding place was at Stratford-on-Avon, at Anne Hathaway's house. Anne Hathaway was Shakespeare's wife, and the daughter of a gentleman farmer. The Hathaway family was sufficiently well-to-do to have a two-story house of some size; something few people had in those days. It was really fascinating to see its construction, of large oak beams in the form of an "A," and thinner oak branches connecting the beams to form the skeleton of the wall; then the walls constructed of a mixture of mud, grass, dung, and whatever else was lying around. Then the inside and outside walls were all whitewashed, except for the major beams. Then, for a roof, a very thick layer of thatch, made of local sedges. Needless to say, the walls and floors were uneven: on the other hand, that house was occupied by descendants of the Hathaways until the early 1900s, so it lasted, with minor maintenance, for 400 years. The birds were in the orchard and several wooded areas surrounding the house. There were Chaffinches (pictured below), a Tree Creeper, blackbirds, a Great Spotted Woodpecker, and many other birds, most of which were so well hidden that they could not be identified.

By the way, that was pretty typical. Many times one could hear a bird calling not more than a few feet away, yet it was perfectly hidden from view in the foliage. English pastureland is divided into small plots by hedgerows. These are great attractants for the birds, but they are so very dense that often the bird is obscured by the leaves. It is rare in our area that a bird is so lost in the greenery. Most often we can spot it eventually by moving around a bit. I suspect that the difference is that there is so much more precipitation in England than New York.



Another good birding area is the New Forest, south of London and extending almost to the sea. Mind you it was "new" in 1066 or so, when William the Conqueror decided he needed lots of woods to keep the deer he planned to hunt. So they converted the area from farmlands, allowing it to overgrow naturally. Today it is an area of some diversity and supports a variety of interesting species.

Oh, and you wouldn't want to miss the ravens at the Tower of London. Although their wings are clipped, they have free run of the grounds, and they lend a wonderful air of the macabre to the place.

At one point we were tempted to visit what was called "The Swannery" on the map, thinking it would be a bird sanctuary. Well, we just didn't have enough time for it, so we didn't go. But, just as well. It turns out that what's there are the descendants of swans that friars had begun to breed for food some 500 years ago.

Well, those are the best birding sites we encountered this trip. And, by the way, the English countryside turned out to be as beautiful as promised.

Oh. And "twitching"? At one of the bed and breakfasts we stayed at the proprietor noticed our field glasses, and said "oh, you're twitchers." Somewhat taken aback, we said "is that a derogatory term?" (because it sure sounded like it). But she said "Oh, no, no no no." However, later on, the proprietors of another B & B turned out to be avid bird-watchers too, and spoke of themselves in self-deprecating terms as "twitchers." Frankly, I prefer "birder."

MASSAPEQUA PRESERVE LISTS WANTED

In May, the Nassau County Legislature approved an \$860,000 feasibility study for a projected \$10 million "revitalization" of Massapequa Preserve's streams, vegetation, and pathways.

In order to help SSAS make sure that the revitalization doesn't destroy important habitat, we need to know as much as possible about what species are living there. SSAS director Mike Higgiston is compiling a birding checklist for Massapequa Preserve; please call him at 538-8376 if you have any info to share.

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.

Seed - Feeders
 Houses - Baths
 Books - Gifts

(516) 694-2180



"NEW YORK'S LARGEST WILD BIRD SPECIALTY STORE"

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

THE JANET LOUISE
1-4 Passenger • 23 ft. Dory Skiff

Bird Watching
Scenic Excursions to the Tidal Creeks & Marshes
of Hewlett, Woodmere, and Lawrence

U.S.C.G. Licensed • Fully Insured
Two-hour trips: \$10 for adults, \$5 for kids

Captain Ed Maday (516) 374-4943



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Jackie Richichi

You've joined SSAS just in time to catch the fall migration on our free friendly Sunday morning bird walks, to see live raptors in the Freeport library at the next monthly meeting, and more. We're a very active all-volunteer group, the third largest of 32 NAS chapters in New York State (after NYC and Buffalo); give us a try!

To receive an application for membership in National Audubon Society and SSAS, please call our Membership Chairperson, Jackie Richichi, at 826-1187, or send e-mail to Jacee13@aol.com. Introductory membership is \$20; \$15 for students and senior citizens.

- Baldwin Ms. Lynn McGrory; Eugene McInerney, Jr.; Mr. Roger Murray; H. Pacella; Ms. Deborah Ross
- Bellmore William & Eilie Kolchin, Ms. Marie A. Shkursky, Robert Sowers
- Bethpage Anthony Romano, Mrs. Elayne Zink
- Cedarhurst Blanche Koff
- Copiague Theresa Perez
- East Rockaway Mr. Irving Singer
- Elmont Mr. William J. Campbell, Lynn Lyons
- Farmingdale Ann M. Irvin, Laurette Listro
- Floral Park Lillian M. Cahill, Mr. Richard Fuchs, Kevin Rohan
- Flushing Davida & Joel Weber
- Franklin Square Mr. Bert Nelson, Ms. Giroloma Winter
- Freeport Irving Borman, Eileen Goldbach, Mr. Edmond Luyckx, William Morris, J. I. Rindler, Molly Sigman, Jacqueline Soreff
- Garden City Ms. Marion Iamascia, Ms. Lily Kiyasu, P. G. Prager, Jeannette Sabatelli, Ms. Marie West
- Hempstead Mr. Robert Donnelly
- Hewlett Mr. Robert Solomon



- Hicksville Sr. E. Peters, Patricia Rothstin, Gerard Wojahn
- Island Park Ms. Harriet Izower, G. Zimmer
- Levittown Mr. & Mrs. John Furno, John Panebianco, Cecelia Sommers
- Long Beach Mr. Don Axelrod, Sylvia Cohen
- Lynbrook Ms. Marianne Kuhnle, Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Sherman, Timothy Sorensen, Eileen Thrusttum
- Massapequa Ms. Christine Batik, Joseph Nagle, Adrienne Sturm
- Massapequa Park Ms. Sharon Ackermann, Ms. Susan L. Martin
- Oceanside Rita Kaikow
- Plainview Kayli Covington, Robert Reahl, Francine Unger
- Rockville Centre Mr. Robert E. Palmer, Mr. Martin Pegler, Ms. Jennifer Ryan, Eileen Schmitt
- Valley Stream Charles David, Ms. Harriet Mediate, Naomi Radler
- Wantagh Barbara Biscardi, Gail Hasson, Eva Wood
- West Hempstead Diane Henry, Mary Johnson, Ms. Judith Levine, Melvin Lippe, William I. Thompson



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

FIRE ISLAND HIKE (Sat., Sept. 26th). Hike the boardwalk, dunes & beach at the Sunken Forest during peak bird/butterfly migration. Cost: \$20 includes round-trip ferry, guides.

JAMAICA BAY ECOLOGY BOAT TOUR (Sat., Oct. 24th, 10 A.M.-1 P.M.). Cost: \$35 includes a guided tour of the wildlife refuge and breakfast-on-the-bay. Learn about the history, birds, fish, and ecology of this 9,000 acre preserve.

ASSATEAGUE FALL WEEKEND (Nov. 5-8). Cost: \$245 covers three nights at Refuge Motor Inn (heated pool, jacuzzi), guided hikes at Chincoteague Refuge, Assateague beaches. See Bald Eagles, Peregrines, Snow Geese, Brown Pelicans, wild ponies, river otter, red fox, Sika deer, and maybe a White Pelican. Close-up views of herons, ducks, and other wildlife. Trip fee includes Saturday night "All-You-Can-Eat" seafood buffet and safari tour of back dune areas.

HOLIDAY PARTY (Sat., Dec. 5th). For \$35, you get a guided walk at Fort Tilden/Breezy Point, beer & wine, dinner, a FLAMENCO DANCE performance, plus a chance to participate in the "Ugly Auction" and bring home a treasure.

For information and free field trip brochure,
call/write Don Riepe, (718) 634-6467,
28 West 9th Road, Broad Channel, NY 11693

WHEN DOES IT COUNT? Part I

Michael Goldsmith

I admit it. I'm into birding for the checks. Not the kind that you deposit in the bank. I am referring to the ones you make on the Peterson Field Guide's life list.

Now, once the decision has been made to embark on a quest for checks, one needs to establish rules for when to take credit for a bird.

At first glance, this seems like a simple matter: See a bird, identify said bird, check off aforesaid bird on one's life list; boast about aforementioned check to birder wife (the last part is optional). In practice, however, it isn't always that cut and dry.

For example, it is generally recognized by most birding authorities that you don't earn a check for a captive bird (I was forced to erase all my Bronx Zoo Bird House checks). What about birds caught in the wild?

My wife, Lorraine (who actually studied ornithology), bird bands at the Theodore Roosevelt Bird Sanctuary. Last year, I saw her take a Worm-eating Warbler out of a mist net. After my eyes lit up, and checking pen clicked, she declared in an authoritative voice, "No, you can't get a check because the bird is in captivity." I thought for a second and said, "How about I get the check when you let it go? It will be back in the wild by then." "That would be cheating," she replied. "How about...." I proposed, "I count to ten after you let it go to give it a head start, and then go look for it?" Lorraine just gave me a look and, sadly, the Worm-eating Warbler remains unchecked in my Peterson's to this very day.

Therefore, to spare others the pain of an unrequited check, I am humbly proposing that South Shore Audubon adopt the following guidelines for acceptable checks:

① Road kill counts. Birds in the frozen food section at your local grocer do not.

② Confusing fall warblers: Since they all look alike, just check off the one you need. Who can say it is not what you checked off?

③ Extra credit (a free check) should be given for all birds spotted before 10 A.M. when the temperature is below 32 degrees.

④ Checks should be transferable. Why should they be wasted on a nonbirder or someone who already has a check? (Anyone have any doubles they would like to trade?)

⑤ SSAS board members get Executive Checking Privileges, enabling them to check off anything they want (author's note: the author is a board member).

WHEN DOES IT COUNT? Part II

Lorraine Bandl-Goldsmith

I am Lorraine, the "birder wife" mentioned in the previous article. In defense of those who are not check-obsessed, I would like to offer the following information:

My husband, Michael, began birding a little over a year ago, at which time he bought himself a brand new Peterson Field Guide. The first thing he did was turn to the life list pages and proceed to check off every bird he remembered ever catching a glimpse of in his life. The second thing he did was to pick up my very old Peterson Guide, look at my checklist, and exclaim "Wow, you have a lot more checks than I do." To which I responded, "Well, I've been birding for 15 years and you've been birding for 15 minutes. I'd like to think I have a few more checks than you." And thus began Michael's quest for checks.

In the last year, I have been hounded by requests for checks: "When does it count? If you catch it in the net, can I check it? Did you see it? Are you going to check it? I saw its tail as it flew away; does that count? I didn't see it that clearly, but an expert identified it, so can I check it off? Can we go birding with so & so; they're really good and I need to get my 100th check?" After hearing these questions more times than I care to remember, I explained to Michael that your life list is your own business. You can check off anything you want, up to and including the Dodo (pictured) and Ivory-billed Woodpecker. I further explained that there is no Audubon Security, Peterson Police, or Field Guide Enforcers that come around to see if your checks are legitimate. It's not a contest and there's no prize for whoever has the most checks. So, when does it count? To save my sanity, whenever he wants it to!



to get my 100th check?" After hearing these questions more times than I care to remember, I explained to Michael that your life list is your own business. You can check off anything you want, up to and including the Dodo (pictured) and Ivory-billed Woodpecker. I further explained that there is no Audubon Security, Peterson Police, or Field Guide Enforcers that come around to see if your checks are legitimate. It's not a contest and there's no prize for whoever has the most checks. So, when does it count? To save my sanity, whenever he wants it to!

BUDGET 1998-1999

<i>Armchair Activist</i>	500
Audubon Camp Scholarships	2500
Brookside Preserve	2000
College Scholarships	1500
Conferences/Council Meetings	2000
Conservation	400
Corresponding Secretary	150
Donations	1000
Education: <i>Audubon Adventures</i>	500
Education: Media Development	500
Festivals & Parties	500
Insurance	900
Library Custodians	300
Library Donation	500
Library Overtime	500
Membership	100
Miscellaneous	1000
Publicity	500
Refreshments at Meetings	400
<i>Skimmer</i>	6500
Speakers	800
Sanctuaries	1000
<i>Total</i>	\$24,050





**WILD BIRD FEED SAVINGS DAY
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1998
TACKAPAUSHA MUSEUM
9:30 A.M. - 2:30 P.M.**



The museum is located on Washington Avenue in Seaford and lies about 1/2 mile south of Sunrise Highway, just north of Merrick Road. Since we can no longer return extra seed for credit, preordering is greatly appreciated; an order form appears below for your use. Please keep this upper portion as a reminder of the sale date. All preorders should be received by OCTOBER 13th. **Please make checks payable to the South Shore Audubon Society. Mail check and order form to Paul T. Butkeret, 268 Wallace St., Freeport, NY 11520.**

Help will be needed on the sale date to process orders and to aid in unloading seed. If you wish to volunteer, call (516) 599-0395 late evenings and ask for Paul. **Our next sale will be JANUARY 31, 1999.**

My name is _____

My address is _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ SSAS Member? _____ Yes _____ No

QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION	PRICE	TOTAL
	25 lb Black Oil Sunflower Seed	9.00	
	25 lb Striped Sunflower Seed	10.00	
	20 lb Premium Wild Bird Seed Mix	6.75	
	40 lb Premium Wild Bird Seed Mix	12.75	
	20 lb Special Mix (no corn, 1/3 sunflower)	6.90	
	40 lb Special Mix (no corn, 1/3 sunflower)	13.00	
	25 lb Cracked Corn	5.75	
	5 lb Sunflower Chips	3.75	
	25 lb Sunflower Chips	17.75	
	5 lb Peanut Splits	3.75	
	25 lb Peanut Splits	17.75	
	5 lb Safflower Seed	2.80	
	8 lb Niger Seed	7.00	
	12 oz Pine Tree Suet Cake	1.50	
	12 oz Pine Tree Peanut Suet Cake	1.75	
	28 oz Maine Manna Suet Bell	3.75	

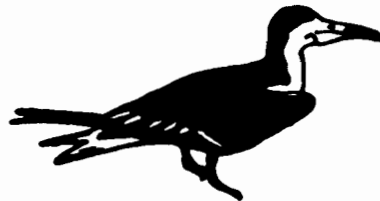
TOTAL AMOUNT: _____

1998-1999 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	887-7713
Doris Pirodsky, Corresponding Secretary	378-1790
Denise Comeau, Director (6/01).....	437-7133
Michael Goldsmith, Director (6/01)	822-5272
Michael Higgiston, Director (6/00)	538-8376
Judy Hoyer, Director (6/00).....	775-0159
Sandy Brenner, Director (6/99)	249-4919
Bill Hollweg, Director (6/99)	226-2519
Betty Borowsky, Conservation Legislation Chairperson	764-3596
Paul Butkerei, Wild Bird Feed Savings Day	599-0395
Joanne Del Prete, Special Trips Chairperson	433-0739
Joseph Grupp, Duck Survey	481-4208
Betsy Gulotta, Brookside Preserve Committee Chairperson	546-8841
Janice Howard, Hospitality Chairperson	420-9468
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
Annie F. McIntyre, Educational Media Chairperson.....	379-2206
George Popkin, Financial Advisor (8 to 9 P.M.)	378-4467
James Remsen, Jr., Birdathon Co-Chairperson	764-5168
Jackie Richichi, Membership Chairperson	826-1187
Dolores Rogers, Welcoming Committee Chairperson	599-1224
Mary Jane Russell, <i>Armchair Activist</i> Chairperson	766-7397
Michael Shannon, Youth Representative	867-6084
Diane Singer, Publicity (5 to 8 P.M.).....	561-6118
Michael Sperling, <i>Skimmer</i> Editor	541-0805
Tom Torma, Program Chairperson	223-7947

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

A CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
Americans Committed to Conservation



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

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

 PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

DATED MATERIAL