

CONSERVATION REPORT
Summer Day Camp for Low-Income Youngsters

Bethy Borowsky

This was the first year that we were able to offer a week of day camp at the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary in Oyster Bay to youngsters of low-income families who live in our area. We have many people to thank for their contribution to this effort. First, thanks to all the dedicated professionals at the Franklin School in Hempstead: the principal, Mr. John Moore, Ms. Yvonne Brown, Ms. Fran Edmonds, and all the teachers (whose names I don't know), who worked so hard to select scholarship candidates and to explain the idea of the scholarship to the children's parents. They all spent a great deal of time on this, just to offer something special to their students. Thanks also go to Maureen Rube and Chris Schmitt of SSAS, who accompanied the children on the bus and at the camp; an adult chaperone was one of the requirements for the donation of Old Navy's bus. And very special thanks to the Old Navy Company, who donated their full-sized school bus for so few of us! Transportation was absolutely critical because of the distance of TRS from the Franklin School, and because most parents had no car and/or had to work during the day.

The only disappointment was in not being able to send more children to the camp this year, although we had planned to. There were many challenges. First, we had a fairly small pool of eligible children. We insisted that only children who were truly needy should be offered the scholarship. Next, it was often difficult to contact the parents of the candidates who had been selected by their teachers. Many families just don't have telephones. But

even those with telephones were difficult to reach, because parents and guardians were working during the day, when school staff tried to reach them. The next challenge was explaining the idea of the scholarship program to parents. Most parents had never heard of us, or TRS, and knew very very little about the environment. After that, as per requirements of TRS, parents and/or guardians had to complete a medical form and permission slip. And this is where some families dropped out! I suspect that some of the letters failed to reach parents, because some of the families moved.

Finally, at the start of camp, we had three children. Then one of them broke his leg just before camp began! The second attended two of the four days. (Look: not everybody enjoys the outdoors.) But our third little girl attended the whole week and loved it. And, by the way, everybody loved HER. We consider this a very good beginning, but we are anxious to expand the program to include many more children. So what do we do next year? First of all, we welcome suggestions. If you have any ideas, and/or would like to work with us on any aspect of the scholarship




program, please call me at 764-3596. Second, we will continue to work with staff and students of the Franklin School — word of mouth is very important, and kids have a very good time at TRS.

But we need to do more, too. First, we need to educate the parents; perhaps we can offer a program at a PTA meeting. Second, we need to educate the *children* — both about the environment and about TRS. Perhaps we can arrange some field trips to the Sanctuary. And third, we need to get more schools involved, just to increase our pool of candidates. We learned a lot this year. We may have to work harder on it than on some other SSAS activities, but I do believe it will be the foundation of our deepest legacy.

BIRDSEED SALE REMINDER

SSAS's birdseed sale is/was **Sunday, October 25th**, starting at 9:30 A.M. Eastern Standard Time in Tackapausha Museum's parking lot (off Washington Avenue in Seaford, just north of Merrick Road). Preorders were strongly encouraged, but there will be some extra seed available (first come, first serve) and help is greatly appreciated anytime up to 2:30 P.M. in our all-volunteer sale. Next sale is January 31st; there'll be an order form in the next *Skimmer*.





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

ASSATEAGUE FALL WEEKEND (Nov. 5–8). Cost: \$245 covers three nights at Refuge Motor Inn, guided hikes at Chincoteague Refuge, Assateague beaches. See Bald Eagles, Peregrines, Snow Geese, Brown and maybe White Pelicans, wild ponies, river otter, red fox, and Sika deer.

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.

NEW YEAR'S DAY BEACHWALK (Jan. 1). Meet at West End 2 parking lot (blue bldg.) in Jones Beach at 11A.M. for a brisk celebratory walk led by naturalist Jeff Gottlieb. Perhaps you'll see a Snowy Owl or Harlequin Duck. FREE.

MONTAUK WINTER WEEKEND (Jan. 8–10). Visit Montauk during quiet yet peak winter birding time. See loons, scoters, eiders, oldsquaw, and other waterfowl species around the Lighthouse point. Visit harbor seal haulout sites. Cost: \$250 includes 2 nights at luxurious Manor House, 5 meals, 5 guided hikes, 2 evening slide programs, and star watch. Free pickup at LIRR station in Montauk.

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

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Jackie Richichi

You've just become a member of one of National Audubon's largest and most active all-volunteer chapters. We hope you'll join us at one of our friendly Sunday morning bird walks or at a Freeport meeting on the second Tuesday of every month through May. Walks and meetings are free and all are welcome!

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.

Amityville	Ms. Susan Burke
Baldwin.....	Lawrence Clegg, Mrs. Charles F. Myers, Mr. & Mrs. Paul Stephan
Bellmore	Ms. Betty Betts, Ms. Janet Buddine, Lori Caifa, Scott Jones, Barbara M. Kross, J. L. Romm
Bethpage	Mrs. Helen Pospisil
East Meadow	Mr. Harold Cohen
Elmont	Mr. Charles Rowan
Farmingdale.....	Victoria E. Love; Gilbert L. Parachini, Sr.; Mr. Raymond R. Thomas
Floral Park	Jack Terrana
Franklin Square	Ruth Rosenbaum
Freeport.....	Lori Glick, Philip Haas, N. McKenna
Garden City	Ms. Marion E. Cassese, Frank & Cheryl Fischetti, Mrs. J. R. Miller, Mrs. Robert Myron, Patricia M. Odell, Edward Siems, Mr. & Mrs. James B. Sulli, Gloria Weinrich
Glen Oaks.....	Dr. M. Kalepu
Hempstead.....	Ollie L. Roeback
Hewlett.....	Daniel Goldstein
Hicksville.....	Pearl J. Curran, Lucille Marschhauser, Ms. Virginia Perry, Milton Thrush
Levittown	Mr. R. Hesdorfferr; Mr. Joseph Shay, Jr.
Long Beach	Anne Gilbert, Ms. Carol Lapidus
Lynbrook	Meg Viola
Malverne	Shirley Brodwin, Mrs. Sharyn S. James
Massapequa	Pamela J. Brady, Mr. Richard F. Heanina, Mr. Edward Kaercher, Carol C. Kauffmann, William Keyser
Massapequa Park.....	Sheldon L. Gottlieb, Ms. Phyllis J. Oehler, Ms. Alice Scheferston, Karen Torgersen



Merrick	Mrs. Kenneth Lowe, Mr. Paul Prince
Mineola.....	Kevin A. Jones
Oceanside	Linda Horowitz, Mr. & Mrs. Fred Hunn, Lloyd Miller, Ms. June Mallowney, Ruth Sills
Plainview	Mr. & Mrs. Percy Evans, W. Piecuch, Lenora Solomon
Point Lookout.....	R. Dimin
Rockville Centre.....	Sue Ennis, Edmund Fried
Uniondale.....	Mr. Robert Pombonyo
Valley Stream	Jimmy G. Pecoraro
West Hempstead	Mr. Robert M. Decker, Louise Liverpool, Mr. Robert G. Martino
Woodmere.....	Mr. Asher J. Mathathias

LEGISLATIVE CONTACT PERSON WANTED

South Shore Audubon's Board of Directors is looking for someone who would like to attend (or already attends) the Nassau County Legislature's meetings in Mineola and would be willing to keep us informed about what they're up to environment-wise. Most of the 19 meetings in 1998 were scheduled for Mondays at 10:30 A.M., but 3 were scheduled for 6:30 P.M., 2 for Thursday, and 2 for Friday. According to a tentative schedule in this year's League of Women Voters of Nassau County's "They Represent You" booklet, meetings are scheduled for October 23rd, October 29th (at 6:30), November 16th, and December 14th. To volunteer, please call Doreen Remsen at 472-6830.

BINOCULARS AND FIELD GUIDES FOR SALE

For many years, South Shore Audubon has been selling the complete line of Bausch & Lomb / Bushnell binoculars and spotting scopes at competitive prices. Joe Lancer (536-6574, 7 to 9 P.M., or ask at meetings and bird walks) keeps a supply of National Audubon Society Natureview binoculars (pictured) and can order other items. A very familiar bird feeding catalog describes these binoculars as follows (and sells them for \$169.95; we sell them for \$110): "Focus in on feeders and trees to get a better, more interesting view of your backyard visitors. Binoculars can truly add to the pleasure of backyard wildlife watching. And these are a great choice. Natureview has been selected as the official binoculars of the National Audubon Society. Exceptional clarity with 8 x 42 magnification and a 341' field of view. Comes complete with vinyl carrying case and neck strap."



In addition to the binoculars, Joe has copies of the *Stokes Field Guide to Birds: Eastern Region* (\$15, filled with color photos; list price is \$16.95).

After California, New York receives the largest number of immigrants. In 1996 the greatest numbers came from the Dominican Republic, China, Ukraine, and Jamaica.

After its population fell to 7.1 million in 1980, the "Big Apple" added 58,000 people during the 1990s, reaching 7.4 million in 1996. New York City's suburban counties have grown at a much faster rate than the city.

New York City is home to 41% of the state's population, down from 53% in 1950.

Much of upstate NY has struggled to adapt to a service-based economy. The Buffalo-Niagara Falls area has lost 14,000 persons during the 1990s, and three upstate counties — Broome, Oneida, and Clinton — have lost at least 5% of their populations since 1990.

Natural Resources and Wildlife Issues in NY

Manufacturing plants released 35.1 million pounds of toxic chemicals to the air, waterways, and soil [no year specified; your editor guesses 1996]. This represents a 68% decline from the 94.4 million pounds released in 1988.

Air quality in NY has shown considerable improvement since the 1970s. For example, the level of sulfur dioxide has been reduced to one-fourth of the 1970 level.

The Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, Piping Plover, and Chittenango ovate amber snail are among NY's endangered and threatened animals. The American hart's-tongue fern and Houghton's goldenrod are endangered and threatened plants.

Socioeconomic Factors in NY

The income gap between the wealthiest and the poorest families is greater for NY than any other state. In the mid-1990s, the wealthiest 20% earned an average of \$132,390 per year, while the poorest 20% averaged \$6,787.

If NY were a country, it would have the world's 10th largest economy.

In 1995, tourists spent \$24.3 billion in NY, visiting such diverse attractions as New York City, the Adirondack and Catskill Mountains, the Finger Lakes region, and the beaches of Long Island.

Facts for New York (and Brazil)

Population, 1997: 18.1 million (160.3 million)
Projected population, 2025: 19.8 million (212.9 million)
Annual growth rate: 0.0% (1.1%)
Doubling time (at current rate): not applicable (63 years)
Average number of children per woman: 2.0 (2.5)
Infant deaths per 1000 live births: 7.7 (48)
Life expectancy: male 71, female 78 (64, 70)
Persons per square mile: 384 (49)
Percent urban: 84 (76)
Endangered/threatened animals: 8 species (240)
Endangered/threatened plants: 6 species (463)
Percent of land protected: 10 (3.8)
Wetlands loss, 1780-1980: 60% (not available)
Daily water use per capita: 928 gallons (178)
Water use for domestic purposes: 20% (22%)

Water use for agriculture: 0.4% (59%)
Water use for industry: 2% (19%)
Water use for energy production: 78% (not listed)
Cropland per capita: 0.3 acres (1.0)
Energy use per capita: 37.1 barrels of oil equiv. (3.9)
Persons per motor vehicle: 1.8 (10)
Adults who are high school graduates: 82% (not listed)
Elected officials who are women: 19% (7% of national legislature)
Labor force in agriculture: 1% (25%)
Labor force in industry: 14% (25%)
Labor force in services: 84% (50%)
Gross state/national product per capita, 1994 (1995): \$31,379 (\$4,360)

HALLOWEEN FUN FEST REMINDER

On **Saturday, October 31st**, from 1 to 3 P.M., SSAS will celebrate Halloween and autumn at Tackapausha Museum on Washington Avenue in Seaford. There'll be door prizes, contest judging, crafts, refreshments, and animal stories. Volunteers are needed, as are children (preferably dressed as their favorite animals). To volunteer, please call Doreen Remsen at 472-6830. The event is free, but the usual Tackapausha admission will be in effect (\$1 for adults and 50¢ for children).

WILDLIFE POISONING HOTLINE (800) 356-0560

AUDUBON ACTIONLINE (800) 659-2622

TAPE-RECORDED UPDATES FROM WASHINGTON, DC

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 (516) 694-2180
Houses - Baths
Books - Gifts



"NEW YORK'S LARGEST WILD BIRD SPECIALTY STORE"

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

SSAS SAYS NO TO PROPOSED BIKEWAY

Michael Goldsmith

On October 6th, the SSAS Board of Directors voted to oppose the NY State Department of Transportation's proposed bicycle path through Bethpage State Park.

The Bethpage bikeway is a portion of a \$4 million plan to construct an 8-1/2 mile bikeway roughly paralleling the Nassau-Suffolk Greenbelt Trail, linking Bethpage State Park to the Cold Spring Harbor train station. Work is scheduled to commence in mid-1999.

The DOT plans to build the paved bike path because it is required to promote "alternative forms of transportation" to receive federal funding for road projects. The monies for the bikeway come from the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Funds, a type of ISTEA (Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act, pronounced "iced-tea") grant, according to DOT spokeswoman Eileen Peters as quoted in the Herald newspapers on September 9th.

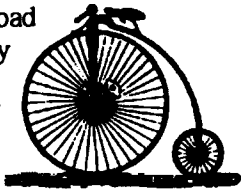
"In part, the idea behind CMAQF grants is to promote transportation uses other than driving alone in your vehicle," Ms. Peters told the Herald.

Richard Schary, a board member with the Long Island Greenbelt Trail Conference, believes that in order to construct the trail, the state "would have to tear hillsides apart" to flatten the grade. "The Greenbelt corridor," according to Mr. Schary, "which is used by hikers, birders, mountain bikers, and joggers, is only 400 feet wide through most of its length. In many spots it is not more than a couple of hundred feet wide. The proposed bike trail is to be 13 to 16 feet wide, with approximately 8-foot shoulders on each side. It would destroy the integrity of the Greenbelt Trail."

Lorraine Bondi-Goldsmith, an SSAS member serving on the Bethpage Trail Use Committee, believes that the proposed bike trail would do very little to develop "alternate forms of transportation": "Who commutes from Cold Spring Harbor to Bethpage State Park?," she asked. "This is clearly a recreational bike trail, of no environmental benefit whatsoever."

David Kunstler, a wildlife manager who also serves on the BTUC, assessed the environmental cost of the plan in Bethpage State Park: "I estimate that 172,800 square feet, nearly 4 acres, of park forest would have to be destroyed. The path would be cut through several habitats, including oak forest, successional southern hardwood, and shrub land. This would result in an edge effect, detrimental to forest interior birds. It makes no sense to destroy one part of our environment to protect another."

According to Mr. Schary, many civic and environmental groups are lining up against the proposed bikeway. Mr. Schary has proposed several environment-friendly bikeways, including one along the Meadowbrook Parkway



connecting the Nassau "Hub" to Jones Beach and/or Point Lookout, with a side leg to the top of the new Senator Norman Levy Overlook Park on the old Merrick landfill. Mr. Schary has also proposed a Sunrise trail along the Long Island Rail Road corridor from Valley Stream to Massapequa Park. Mr. Schary pointed out that the DOT is scheduled to begin construction along the Freeport LIRR corridor in a few months.

HOW TO STOP SOME TYPES OF JUNK MAIL

As we approach the peak of junk/bulk mail season, here's what you can do to reduce *Skimmer* delivery time and save some natural resources. The following comes from *Littorally Speaking*, the newsletter of the American Littoral Society's Northeast Chapter:

If you don't like getting unsolicited "preapproved" credit card offers in the mail, call one of the three major credit bureaus at a toll-free number to have your name excluded from lists sold to credit card marketers: Equifax (800-556-4711), Experian (800-353-0809), or Trans Union (800-680-7293). [Your editor did this a few months ago; you don't even have to speak to a human, and it works! They give you an option as to how long you'd like to be excluded.]

To stop other types of junk mail (i.e., catalogs), write to Direct Marketing Association Mail Preference Service, P.O. Box 9008, Farmingdale, NY 11735-9008.

BIRD WALKS

Elliott Kulmer

All walks start at 9:30 A.M. except for Pelham Bay; no walk if it rains, snows, or temperature is below 25°F. Any questions? Call Elliott at 486-7667.

Oct. 25	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
Nov. 1	Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner
Nov. 8	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Nov. 15	Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
Nov. 22	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
Nov. 29	Pelham Bay <i>for Owls</i> (pull over to street on extreme right after going through Throgs Neck Bridge toll; meet at 9 A.M.)
Dec. 6	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Dec. 13	Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
Dec. 20	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
Dec. 27	<i>Season's Greetings — No Walk</i>
Jan. 3	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Jan. 10	Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner
Jan. 17	Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
Jan. 24	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Jan. 31	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
Feb. 7	Pelham Bay <i>for Owls</i> (9 A.M.)

RARE BIRD ALERT (212) 979-3070

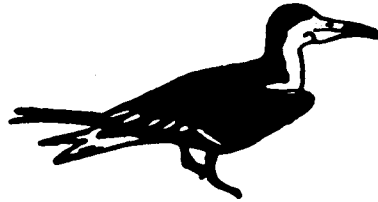
1998-1999 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

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