

SOUTH SHORE SKIMMER



VOLUME 29, NUMBER 4 — SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

DEC. 1998 & JAN. 1999

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Doreen Remsen

At this magical time of the year, most of us become very focused on the search for the perfect gift for those we love and cherish. We want that gift to reflect what is in our hearts and be so special that the recipient returns to it over and over again during the year. I'm sure most of you can recall one or two of those gifts from your childhood and later years that had that magic. For me, the Christmas I received my deluxe farm set (page 87 of the Sears 1956 Christmas catalog!) was one of those experiences. I just couldn't get enough of setting up the corrals for the horses, cows, pigs, and chickens; planting rows of lettuce, corn, and tomatoes in the plastic dirt; and using the conveyor belt to store all those bales of hay in the two-story barn! Best of all, every Saturday morning at 7 A.M., I would drag my big carton containing my farm set in front of the TV and tune into *The Modern Farmer*, a half-hour show that discussed various issues facing farmers during the 1950s. I learned much about the importance of caring for the soil, learned the proper way to care for chicks in their early weeks of development, and heard about a substance called D.D.T.— a substance this show had misgivings about.

My farm set is long gone; why, I don't know... I'll have to check with Mom. The next magical experience came some time later, when I gave my brother a gift membership to National Audubon, which in turn came with an issue of the *Skimmer*. The bird walks were listed inside and we were given binoculars by Dad. The first bird walk we attended was quite a learning experience, and listening to Elliott explain about the food chain, the cycle of life, why birds migrate and how they use the moon and stars to navigate, El Niño (we laughed then!), and about bird species in general, was a gift and an incentive to keep on coming.

And keep on coming we did! And so do those magical gifts...finding a small brown bat sleeping on phragmites (reed grass), getting our feet soaked [see p. 2 after coffee]

NEXT MEETINGS

Tom Torma

DATE: Tuesday, December 8, 1998
TIME: 8:00 P.M. Ⓛ
PLACE: Freeport Memorial Library
144 W. Merrick Rd. [at S. Ocean Ave.]
SPEAKER: Hank Meier
TOPIC: The Grass-blade Jungle

Hank Meier has been a wildlife photographer for over 25 years, with special emphasis on the micro world of insects and spiders. He has won many awards, including first place at the Photographic Federation of Long Island's prestigious annual photo contest, and his work has been published several times in *Petersen's Photographic* magazine. Tonight's slide show will take us up-close and personal with many common and uncommon insects and spiders that populate our gardens, parks, and nature preserves. It reveals the ingenuity that characterizes insect and spider life, explaining the relationships of these creatures to their different environments in a manner that provides a better understanding of these animals in a miniature and populous world. Emphasis is on mating habits, life stages, predator/prey relationships, and defense mechanisms. Join us!

[Note: Due to an unprecedented scheduling mixup, this program was announced for last month but was replaced by John Brokos' Florida slide program. This time, Tom assures us it will really happen.]

DATE: Tuesday, January 12, 1999
TIME: 8:00 P.M. Ⓛ
PLACE: Freeport Memorial Library
TOPIC: Member Participation Night

Our annual members' night is your chance to find out where your fellow members have been and what they've seen. Please bring up to ten of your slides and share them with us. Last year we were treated to slides of birds (of course), beetles, seals, dragonflies, lions, camels, donkeys, flowers, bees, grasshoppers, butterflies, flies, spiderwebs,

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 from September 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. First-year membership is \$20; \$15 for students and senior citizens.]

- Baldwin Charles R. Frank; Marianne K. Horowitz; Karne Perreault; Edward Small, Jr.; Ms. Teresa Zimmardi
- Bellmore Anthony Bianco, Isabelle Ramel
- Bethpage Doris Pardo
- East Meadow Patricia M. Carlson, Mr. Seymour Frost, Kathleen Glasberg, K. Hammesfahr
- East Rockaway C. P. Hill
- Elmont Robert Bianchetto, John Rothmeier, Cazimer Stachowicz
- Farmingdale Joanne Bihary, Richard Capote, Ms. Helen Files
- Floral Park Ronald J. Baxley; Steven Belfer; Philip Spletzer, Jr.
- Franklin Square Irene Cotty, Steve J. Zaffuto
- Freeport Valerie Gordon, Michael Levine, Dr. Howard Pottak
- Garden City Beatrice Driscoll, Barbara & William Head, Bob Rumsey, Richard Sanzo, Karen Thomas
- Glen Oaks Ms. Diane C. Kubler
- Hempstead Mary Marsden, Clara Nicosia, Faith Yoman
- Hewlett Mrs. Florence Goldsmith
- Hicksville Ms. Grace Connors, Chris Sauerland
- Inwood Mamie H. Francis, Barbara Padjack
- Island Park Mr. Albert Buehler, Teresa J. Smyth
- Levittown William MacKenzie
- Long Beach ? Silverman
- Lynbrook Joseph J. Caputo, Mr. Kenneth Gibbons, Ann Himmelman, Marshall Trusttum
- Massapequa Lauren Johnson, Jacqueline Long, Daniel Miale, Kristin M. Middleton, Keith Zaharia
- Massapequa Park Walter J. Henry



- Merrick Vincent Santonicola, Graham R. Stancliffe
- Oceanside Mr. B. Jorglewich, Louis Kozinn, Marvin Miller, Joseph J. Perri, Joseph L. Quinto
- Plainview Helen Cohn, Ms. Evelyn Jensen, Ms. Marion Lind, Leonore Unger
- Point Lookout L. Mullany
- Rockville Centre Eileen Carpenter, Thomas F. Horan
- Seaford Herman Chester, Ms. Marie J. Fasano
- Valley Stream J. W. Davis, Louise Horn, Clara Kerpen, Eugene Limerick, Bruce MacDonald, Mr. Harry C. Seebinger, L. Weintraub
- Wantagh Emma De Grasse, Richard Heeseler, Jessie M. King, Elsa Klarenbeek, Charlotte Marshall
- West Hempstead Ms. Elaine Adler, Raymond LaCasse, Edward Langlieb, Margaret Wagner



EVERGLADES PROGRAM IN BETHPAGE & NORTHPORT

SSAS shares Long Island with six sister Audubon chapters, most of which preceded us and all of which have fewer members. One of them, Huntington Audubon Society, has recruited the witty Executive Director of National Audubon's Everglades Conservation Office, Stuart Strahl, to present illustrated 7:30 P.M. discussions about the Everglades Ecosystem Restoration Campaign on **December 1st** at Bethpage Public Library (47 Powell Ave.) and **December 2nd** at Northport Public Library (185 Larkfield Rd.). They're inviting members of all chapters and the general public to attend either night and, since Bethpage is in SSAS's assigned territory, this is an opportunity for our northeastern members to attend an entertaining slide program close to home. Reservations are required; call HAS prez Maria Kelly at 673-0937 or HAS director Eileen Keenan (a familiar face at SSAS meetings, too) at 921-1951 before November 25th to be sure of a seat.



THANK YOU BIRDSEED SALE VOLUNTEERS!

Michael Sperling

At our October birdseed sale, the order-takers and seed schleppers who joined me were Alice Blaustein, Joan & Paul Butkereit, Joe Grupp, Mike Higgiston, Bill Hollweg, Sue & Joe Lancer, Jonathan Staller, and Barbara Wakefield. Thanks to one and all!

HELP WANTED!
SSAS Is In Need of an Accountant!

Doreen Remsen

For several years, South Shore Audubon's annual summertime financial report and nonprofit tax statements (IRS Form 990, NY's G750-497) were expertly handled by Ben Borowsky. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Ben for his service to our chapter and for his advice at our long-range planning meeting. We wish you continued success in your career!

If you are an accountant, or know of an accountant, who would be willing to assist South Shore Audubon with our annual financial/tax statements on a pro bono basis, please contact either myself or our wonderfully talented treasurer, Nancy Frame. Our numbers are on the back of the *Skimmer*. Thank you!

HOW TO MISREAD A BIRD TAG

[Editor's Note: SSAS member Edward S. Erlich mailed me the following item, thinking I might find it amusing. I did, so here it is.]

According to the Knight-Ridder News Service, the inscription on the metal bands used by the U.S. Department of the Interior to tag migratory birds has been changed. The bands used to bear the address of the Washington Biological Survey, abbreviated "Wash. Biol. Surv.," until the agency received the following letter from an Arkansas camper:

Dear Sirs:

While camping last week I shot one of your birds. I think it was a crow. I followed the cooking instructions on the leg tag and I want to tell you, it was horrible.

The bands are now marked "Fish and Wildlife Service."

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



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RARE BIRD ALERT (212) 979-3070

WILDLIFE POISONING HOTLINE (800) 356-0560

THANK YOU FALL FEST VOLUNTEERS!

Doreen Remsen

I want to thank all the "brave" South Shore Auduboners who did not allow the ghosts and goblins to scare them away and turned out to help make our Halloween celebration at Tackapausha a success! Thanks to Alice Blaustein, Pat Eagen, Carole Jacobelli, Therese Lucas, Doris Pirodsky, Christine Schmitt, Diane Singer, Marcia Specht, Michael Sperling, and Jonathan Staller.

FALL MIGRATION AT ITS BEST

Jonathan "The Birdman" Staller

Some bird-watchers enjoy fall migration by going to Fire Island and seeing birds of prey. Others drive to either Hawk Mountain in Pennsylvania or the National Audubon Center in Greenwich, Connecticut. For me to enjoy the migration, I just sit in my backyard and watch our fine feathered friends as they flock to my feeders.

My yard has seven stations where I feed the birds, and I put different seeds at each one. The Northern Cardinals love the safflower seeds as I watch the adult male feed his son. The fledgling flaps his wings and calls as his father passes the seed from one bill to the other.

Male and female Downy Woodpeckers take their turns as they each grab a mouthful of suet. The Black-capped Chickadees and Tufted Titmice eat the sunflower chips; one by one, they take the seed, fly to a nearby branch, and enjoy their tasty treats.

Up in the pines there's an unusual bird. It's a Myrtle (Yellow-rumped) Warbler (pictured), a new lifer on my backyard bird list. Although it doesn't eat the seeds in the feeders, it's attracted to the yard because of all the action from the other birds.



Fall migration brings an average of about 15 different species of birds to my yard each day. I saw a Brown-headed Cowbird foraging on the lawn with a large flock of European Starlings.

Red-bellied Woodpeckers and Blue Jays eat the peanuts that I put on a tray feeder. Usually the gray squirrels eat them first, but not this time!

Occasionally a Red-tailed Hawk or Peregrine Falcon flies over the house, but that never lasts long as a family of Common Crows will fly up there and chase it away.

Even the calls of the birds are different. The sounds of Gray Catbirds and House Wrens singing are replaced by Northern Mockingbirds, Dark-eyed Juncos (pictured), and White-throated Sparrows.



No matter how far you drive to see the beautiful birds that pass through our neck of the woods, just remember that you don't have to go that far. Just look out your window or sit in your yard. That's what I do.



**WILD BIRD FEED SAVINGS DAY
SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 1999
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. All 20 and 25 lb bags come with handles. Preordering is greatly appreciated and highly recommended if you wish to guarantee that we'll have what you want; 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 JANUARY 19th. **Please make checks payable to the South Shore Audubon Society. Mail check and order form to Paul T. Butkerei, 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 in OCTOBER 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 (Thistle) 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: _____

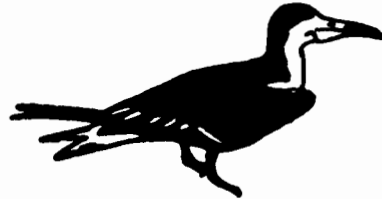
We will be selling some BIRD FEEDERS on the sale date, including window feeders.

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
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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
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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



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