OUTH HORE KIMMER

VOLUME 30, NUMBER 3 — SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

NOVEMBER 1999

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Jonathan Staller

What does autumn mean? It's when the leaves change colors and the weather starts to get cool. This is a very important time for birds too — fall migration. When the temperature goes down, so does the supply of insects that birds feed on. They fly south where their small delicacies are more plentiful. Now, when the songbirds migrate south, the hawks and falcons follow them right behind (for they are hungry, too, and they eat the songbirds).

So, if we live in the north and the birds fly south, why do we still see birds in the wintertime? Because, although we live in the north and think it's cold outside, for the birds that live way up in the Arctic or in Alaska and Canada, the weather is more frigid. Some parts even have 24 hours of darkness! So these birds fly south to New York, Long Island, and the south shore of Nassau County — Snowy Owls, Dark-eyed Juncos, White-throated Sparrows, and Snow Buntings, just to name a few.

Join Elliott at one of our many bird walks and see warblers fly south and falcons trying to catch them. Also see our northern visitors migrate down to us and stay for the winter. We'll watch as the leaves turn colors too.

Wanted: Someone to Chair Underhill Property. We're looking for someone to chair a newly formed committee to help preserve the Underhill property in Jericho. The 96 acre property, which is ranked first in Nassau County on New York State's Open Space Conservation Plan, sits atop the first federally designated Sole Source Aquifer and is one of only three state-designated Special Groundwater Protection Areas in Nassau. Instead, there's a proposal to build a 270 unit residential subdivision on 81 acres (see last month's Skimmer). The development would threaten groundwater quality and result in the loss of significant open space. If you're interested in joining or chairing the committee, call me.

Long Island Audubon Council Meeting. Twice a year, activists from all seven Long Island chapters get together and discuss what we as a group can do to make LI a better

NEXT MEETING

Tom Torma

DATE: Tuesday, November 9, 1999

TIME: 8:00 p.m. ②

and Arctic tundra.

TOPIC:

PLACE: Freeport Memorial Library

144 W. Merrick Rd. (at 5. Ocean Ave.) Alaska's National Wildlife Sanctuaries

The scenic beauty, ecological significance, and sheer size of Alaska's national wildlife refuges make them a cornerstone of wildlife protection in this country. Alaska's 16 national wildlife refuges constitute 83% of the entire nation's refuge lands. The diverse ecosystems they support range from rain forests and islands to boreal forests

For tonight's meeting, Audubon's Wildlife Refuge Campaign has provided us with "a stunning 10-minute video of wild Alaska by noted nature photographer Art Wolfe and a hard-hitting issues-oriented slide program on Alaska's wildlands created by the Alaska state office." Several SSAS board members viewed this "Bringing Home Alaska" program last summer; the slide show encourages activism to protect the refuges from oil development, roads, helicopters, etc., while showing you the beauty of some of our refuges. Join us.

IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE WASTE, PLEASE

BRING COFFEE MUGS TO OUR MEETINGS

place to live for us and our children. On **November 6th**, at Tackapausha Museum starting at 10 A.M., SSAS will host the next meeting. Light refreshments and lunch will be served. If you have any questions, call me at 482-7963.

1



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

Oct. 24	Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner
Oct. 31	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
Nov. 7	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Nov. 14	Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner
Nov. 21	Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
Nov. 28	Pelham Bay for Owls (pull over to street
*	on extreme right after going through
	Throgs Neck Bridge toll; meet at 9 A.M.)
Dec. 5	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Dec. 12	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
Dec. 19	Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner
Dec. 26	Season's Greetings! — No Walk
Jan. 2	Happy New Century! — No Walk
Jan. 9	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Jan. 16	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
Jan. 23	Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
Jan. 30	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Feb. 6	Pelham Bay for Owls (9 A.M.)
Feb. 13	Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
Feb. 20	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
Feb. 27	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Mar. 5	Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
****	····

QUOTATIONS FROM ALASKA'S DELEGATION

Audubon's Refuge Campaign provided us with a collection of quotations from Frank Murkowski (chair of the U.S. Senate's Energy & Natural Resources Committee) and Don Young (chair of the U.S. House of Representatives' Resources Committee). Here are some highlights:

"If you can't eat it, can't sleep under it, can't wear it or make something from it, it's not worth anything." — Rep. Don Young. National Journal. 4/8/95

"That's what the environmentalists — the self-centered bunch, the waffle stomping, Harvard-graduating, intellectual idiots that don't understand that they're leading this country into environmental disaster..." — Rep. Don Young, National Journal, 4/8/95

"It's an absolute outrage to consider putting this into wilderness... it is a travesty." — Sen. Frank Murkowski on proposed wilderness status for the Arctic Refuge, *Juneau Empire*, 10/17/91

"Toxic wastes, by the best current science, may shorten the lifespan of the average American by just four days..." — Sen. Frank Murkowski on regulatory reform to States News Service (date not provided)

"I don't believe the government, unless it's a communist government, should own lands." — Rep. Don Young on Alaska Public Radio Network, 2/14/96

** WELCOME NEW MEMBERS **

Jackie Richichi

SSAS welcomes this month's new members. We hope that you'll become active members of our very active chapter — join us at a meeting, weekly bird walk, or special event.

[To receive an application for membership in National Audubon Society and SSAS, please call our Membership Chairperson, Jackie Richichi, at 691-1855, or send e-mail to Jacee 13@aol.com. Introductory membership is \$20; \$15 for students and senior citizens.]

with the stadents and senior crazents.
Baldwin Evelyn Greenfield, Dan Mullen, Margaret Robinson, Yvonne Ruediger
Bellmore Paula Migliaccio, Karen Triola
East Rockaway Joan Carneglia
Farmingdale Nicholas Skula
Floral Park Kenneth Yaw
Franklin Square Marie M. Seibert
Freeport
Hempstead Mary E. Mulhearn
Hewlett Steven Landau
Hicksville Patricia P. Bonica, Nicole Brown,
Florence Hogan, Loren Kaye,
Jessica A. Klauber,
Matt McDonnell
Inwood Joanne E. Williams
Levittown Larry Breslin, W. Fischer
Long Beach Michael Gallagher
Lynbrook M. Schreiber, E. Vislocky
Massapequa Charles Daleo, Louise M.
DesCesare, Gloria Hamilton,
Carmella Maskulyak,
Kathleen M. Mundy
Massapequa Park Clare L. Kaiser, Sallie Moore
Plainview James Ford Costa,
Gavin Richard Goldsmith,
Joan Roberts
Seaford Harry Kologiy
Valley Stream Theresa Listort
West Hempstead Robert Borgwald

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

EVERGLADES

Mike Higgiston

Soon after I visited the Everglades for the first time in 1990, I knew I wanted to return. This past January, I finally was able to do so. There were a number of birds that I missed on my first trip and there is always a possibility of some vagrant from the Caribbean visiting south Florida. I hired a guide whose specialty is south Florida and off I went.

I arrived in Homestead, which is about 20 miles south of Miami, and immediately appreciated why people like to visit Florida in January. It was in the high 60s and there was a cool breeze. After settling in, I decided to bird the grounds around the motel. The motel was situated at the edge of town and the surrounding area was not built up. There were fields, brushy areas, palm trees, and some flooded areas. It was enough. There were Eurasian Collared Doves and Common Mynas on the telephone wires, Boat-tailed Grackles squawked while perched on the signs along the main road, and an American Kestrel enjoyed a meal at the top of a telephone pole. Killdeer called from the field while White Ibis passed overhead.

The next day, a Loggerhead Shrike greeted us from the wire on our way to breakfast. We decided to visit the Everglades first, but stopped at a suburban feeder before getting there. We found Western Kingbird and Scissor-tailed Flycatcher on the wires, and Ground Doves everywhere on the ground, naturally. At the feeder we saw Whitewinged Doves, but missed the Shiny Cowbirds that had been seen there previously. We entered the Everglades and stopped soon after to scan both sides of the road. Least Bittern called frequently, but we were unable to spot these secretive marsh birds. American Anhingas perched in the open, drying their wings. Red-shouldered Hawks perched also, resting while they scanned for food possibilities.

We drove the Pa-hay-okee Overlook Trail and parked at the end. There is a boardwalk that allows birders to look out over a vast expanse. So, of course, the first bird we saw

was a King Rail at our feet, walking through the reeds. Limpkin were quite numerous and a White-eyed Vireo called to us as we walked the boardwalk. We continued deeper into the Everglades and saw Wood Stork, Black Vulture, and Sora. At Eco Pond, we saw Common Moorhen, Short-tailed Hawk, Roseate Spoonbill, and White and Brown Pelicans

(pictured). There were also many butterflies about and that added to the fun. We had lunch at the marina and a Bald Eagle sailed by while we watched Osprey on a nest. A Great White Heron, white morph of the Great Blue Heron, dropped in and Greater Flamingos were spotted at the end of Snake Bight Trail.

On our return to the motel, we stopped at Homestead to see Smooth-billed Ani, which is threatened by loss of habitat in the area. The Greater Miami area is the fastest growing area in America and wildlife is suffering as a result. My first life bird on this trip was the Snail Kite, which we spotted near the Indian reservation on the Tamiani Trail west of Miami. We watched as the kite slowly glided over the marsh, similar to a Marsh Hawk's actions, searching for snails. After seizing a snail, the bird would inevitably return to its favorite perch to dine. Later we saw a White-crowned Pigeon, a species usually confined to the Keys. Dusk found us under an overpass watching the West Indian race of Cave Swallows return to their nightly roosting spots under highway bridges.

The next day was spent touring Kendall for parakeets and Spot-breasted Orioles. Across from the Baptist Hospital there is a neighborhood that hosts them all. We found a Monk Parakeet's nest and saw two parakeets land and enter the nest. Two Spot-breasted Orioles were in the bushes below the parakeet nest. A Red-whiskered Bulbul also made an appearance. We drove to another location and found both the White-winged and Yellow-chevroned Parakeets. They are really not hard to find, considering all the racket they make. Another part of town provided us with Hill Myna, another Miami exotic. On our way north, we stopped to search for Miami's newest exotic, the Purple Swamp Hens. The birds, similar to gallinules but bigger, have taken up residence in a lake in a suburban development. They are prolific and the flock already numbers over 150 birds. Residents of Central Asia, they're no doubt escapees. But if they continue to increase their numbers, they will become another south Florida specialty, much sought after by listers.

We headed north into Florida prairie country and along the way were graced with Mottled Duck, Crested Caracara, Florida Scrub Jay, and Vermilion Flycatcher. We stopped at a place called Venus Flatwood to look for Redcockaded Woodpecker, a bird of particular requirements. It depends on mature open pine woodlands maintained by fire and on pines infected with heart fungus for nest cavities. Such habitat is increasingly rare. We were fortunate to see one woodpecker, but failed to see its mate. There were also Red-headed Woodpecker, Eastern Bluebird, Sandhill Crane, House Wren, and Eastern Meadowlark. Our last day in Florida gave us good looks at Pileated Woodpecker, Wood Duck, Common Snipe, Pine Warbler, and Purple Gallinule. We visited Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge and found five Smooth-billed Anis. Nearby. at Wakodahatchee Wetlands, there is an extensive boardwalk over a sewage treatment area. We saw Sora, Purple Gallinule, and American Bittern. All the birds were seen at close quarters and didn't seem bothered by people. It was only a three-day trip, but we managed to see 104 species. many of them only accessible in Florida. That and the warm weather give me reason to visit south Florida next winter.

BINDCULARS 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 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 \$125): "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 × 42 magnification and a 341' field of view. Comes complete with vinyl carrying case with 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).

BIRDSEED SALE REMINDER

SSAS's annual birdseed sale will take place on **Sunday**, **October 31st**, starting at 9:30 A.M. Eastern Standard Time in Tackapausha Museum's parking lot. Tackapausha is on Washington Avenue in Seaford, south of Sunrise Highway and just north of Merrick Road; from Sunrise Highway, Washington Avenue is three traffic lights east of the Seaford-Oyster Bay Expressway.

Preorders were strongly encouraged, but there will be some extra seed available (first come, first serve). Help is greatly appreciated anytime up to 2:30 p.m. in our all-volunteer sale. We will be selling black oil and striped sunflower, mixed seeds, cracked corn, sunflower chips (no shells), peanut hearts, safflower, niger (thistle), suet bells (no feeder needed), and suet cakes. For more details, call Michael Sperling at 541-0805 (evenings). For info on any post-sale leftovers, call birdseed sale chairperson Paul Butkereit at 599-0395.



"NEW YORK'S LARGEST WILD BIRD SPECIALTY STORE"

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

YOUR PART IN MOSQUITO CONTROL

Jackie Richichi

Although the weather is getting colder and the county is spraying, I wanted to share some mosquito info with you. I assume many are nervous about going on our bird walks because of the West Nile-like encephalitis scare. The mosquito that carries this disease is *Culex pipiens*. It is a freshwater species that breeds in *fresh* stagnant water. *C. pipiens*, or the house mosquito, prefers water high in organic matter, so watch those wet vegetative areas. The salt marsh mosquito, *Aedes sollicitans*, breeds in saltwater environments. This species you would most likely find biting you at Jones Beach and Jamaica Bay. If you happen to kill one of these, notice the black and white bands on their legs.

To protect yourself on a walk:

Wear hats.

Wear socks.

Wear loose-fitting clothes, preferably long sleeves and pants.

Apply, carefully, a repellent that has a small percentage of DEET. Do not apply repellents on bare skin or face and hands.

When I noticed a high population of mosquitoes in my parents' backyard, I decided to take a walk around the neighborhood. I went door to door, informing people of the potential breeding sites of mosquitoes and what they could do to help control the population. I was surprised to find that many people didn't think to check their own backyards. Mosquitoes do not travel far from their breeding sites to feed, so take a look in your backyard and check for stagnant water in:

R Birdbaths — empty them or change water daily

Pots and pot saucers

Pails that hold water — especially if there is vegetation in them

Pools and pool covers — empty kiddie pools and check pool covers

** Boat canvas — you can use a broom to sweep water away

Gutters — if leaves build up and block water, they are perfect breeding habitat

Ponds — PUT FISH IN THEM!

Anything else that is holding stagnant water

Adult mosquitoes will readily enter homes at night to feed. Lights are beacons for mosquitoes, so point outside lights away from the house or turn them off, keep doors closed, and fix those broken screens.

CONSERVATION REPORT

Beltu Borowsku

By the time you read this, the world's population will be past six billion persons. That's 6,000,000,000 — 6×10° people on the earth. We actually reached this number on October 12, 1999. But the exact day is really immaterial; the reason we are recognizing this date is because it represents a new watermark in the size of our population and confirms a tripling of the number of people on our planet in this century. The earth simply cannot sustain this rate of growth.

Most ecologists understand that the underlying cause of the loss of habitat and the creation of pollution at health-threatening levels is the vast number of people we are asking our planet to support. Most of the growth is occurring in the undeveloped countries.

About one billion people live in India now, which has one of the greatest rates of population growth. Many Indians live in indescribable squalor. Those who have some income also endure conditions that we cannot conceive. I remember the recent description of how persons who live outside a major city commute to work. There is simply not enough room on the train for everyone. The train may not even come to a full stop at a station. People have to run after it and jump on, hanging off the side for however long it takes to commute to the city. Groups of commuters must band together to save a small space on the train so they can all fit, and fight off contenders for that spot. Although the LIRR leaves much to be desired, at least we can normally all get inside!

The more people you have, the more housing you need. And this inevitably leads to development of areas which should best be left untouched. When unusual weather conditions occur, there can be a disastrous loss of life and real misery for the survivors. The most recent one was the heavy rains in Puebla and other states in Mexico, where 330 persons (known as of this date) died and at least 200,000 people have been left homeless. In areas where poverty is prevalent, a natural disaster like this inevitably leads to diseases from unsanitary conditions.

We haven't escaped problems from development here, either. Hurricane Floyd made that all too evident. Development of wetlands eliminated the natural buffer for absorbing excessive precipitation. If the wetlands had not

been developed, rivers and the brooks that feed them would have filled with water and would probably have flooded their banks, but the water would have flowed over forest or grasslands where the effects of the heavy rainfall would have been dissipated. Instead, North



Carolina residents saw the flood waters destroy their homes and threaten their lives. Near us, in Ossining, the Hudson and its tributaries filled with water, washing out bridges, overflowing Metro North tracks, and forcing people to boil their water and be left without electricity for some time.

Overdevelopment is only one consequence of overpopulation; there are many others as well. Extreme poverty is the most poignant: it is estimated that about 2.3 billion people live without adequate sanitation, and at least 1.3 billion live in absolute poverty on the equivalent of one U.S. dollar a day. There's inadequate food, inadequate medical care, pollution of all kinds, stresses from crowding, and on and on.

Now there are stopgap measures, like recycling, and various pollution reduction methods and strategies; and there are sensible development strategies, like "smart growth," which urges the development of areas within older communities rather than developing pristine, natural areas. But these really cannot offset the effects of the surge in the number of people for long: each additional human being requires additional resources. And once they're here we must do all we can to prevent suffering and deprivation. There is no simple answer to this situation. It is very clear, however, that the first thing we must do is educate the public about the impact of overpopulation. After that, society must discuss strategies for reducing population growth, and adopt those methods which are consonant with its belief system. But we cannot do nothing.

MOTHER NATURE: A TALE OF A TAILLESS CAT

Jonalhan Staller

If you're a cat lover, then don't read this story. But if you love nature and the cycle of life, I've got a story for you. Everything really happened, as told to me by my cousin's friend outside of Detroit, Michigan.

She has a family of cats that live under her porch. There's a mother cat that has three kittens. All of the kittens are 8 weeks old and one is missing a tail. His name is Bobbitt (named after John Wayne Bobbitt).

One gorgeous Saturday morning, the three kittens were playing in the yard. The mother cat was out hunting and



my cousin's friend was on the porch watching the kittens. All of a sudden, out of nowhere, a Golden Eagle swept down from

the sky, grabbed Bobbitt the tailless kitten, and flew away. My cousin's friend was frantic and didn't know what to do.

She called my cousin and he called me. I told them that, just like the cat has to hunt for the kittens, the eagle has to eat too! That really didn't calm her down, so I told her how Mother Nature takes care of herself. Out of the three kittens, one wasn't perfect, so nature took out the weak one so the strong ones can survive.

P.S.: I thought cats had nine lives! (ha ha)

A reminder from your editor: Cats should be kept indoors no matter how well fed; they kill millions of birds each year. For info, check www.audubon.org or call us.

SSAS HOFFMAN CENTER DUTING

Joanne Dei Prete

Join a Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary naturalist on Saturday, **November 20th** at 10 a.m. as we explore the grounds of the Hoffman Center, a 155 acre preserve in East Norwich managed for wildlife diversity. The estate was built in the 1920s for the Brewster family, but fell into disrepair in the 1970s. Under the ownership of the Hoffman Foundation, the mansion is being renovated and, in partnership with TRS biologists, the grounds have become the site of the largest grassland restoration project in Nassau County. TRS, on 12 acres in Oyster Bay, was established in 1923 as National Audubon's first sanctuary and is supported by SSAS; for information on their programs and hours, call 922-3200.

Directions: Northern State Parkway to Exit 35 North (Routes 106 & 107 North). After Milleridge Inn and after the ramp to Route 25 (Jericho Turnpike), bear to the right for Route 106.

Make a left on Route 25A (Rothman's Steak House is on the corner). Go 2 miles west and make a left into the driveway right after (west of) Martin Viette Nurseries. There is a locked gate, but TRS staff will have it opened for us early. Make the left and park on the property inside the driveway. Wait there.

Rain cancels the trip. Call me prior to November 20th regarding possible cancellation/rescheduling if bad weather is predicted.

RSVP Requested but not Required. TR Sanctuary would like an estimate of how many of us are coming in order to determine if we should have one or two groups. If you're definitely coming, please leave a message for me at 433-0739 or e-mail me at jdp4@erols.com.

BROOKSIDE PRESERVE CLEANUP TIME!

SSAS's annual Brookside Preserve fall cleanup will take place on **Sunday**, **November 7th**, starting at 1 P.M.

place on **Sunday**, **November 7th**, starting at 1 P.M. Brookside is a 20 acre freshwater wetland, woodland, and



upland area owned by Nassau County and managed (and rescued from oblivion) by SSAS. With help from a state grant, we published a trail guide and an educational freshwater wetland guide, and continue to add native plantings for wildlife.

The Preserve is located on the Freeport-Baldwin border, along Milburn Creek; park at the main entrance on Brookside Avenue just north of Sunrise Highway and the LIRR (turn north at the traffic light that's just east of Freeport High School). Bring gloves, rakes, bags, and/or friends (young and old).

The Brookside Preserve Committee will probably be meeting on Tuesday, October 26th at 7:30 P.M. in Merrick. For details, call chairperson Betsy Gulotta at 546-8841.

NASNY RESOLUTIONS STATUS REPORT

Editor's Note: The following is our first installment of a report on the 41 legislative resolutions approved by the Audubon Council last spring. The report was produced by National Audubon Society of New York State (our field office based in Albany) and distributed in early October to the State Board of Directors and the Audubon Council of New York State (our state's 32 Audubon chapters). I've added summaries of the resolutions; they're taken from the most recent (Spring 1999) issue of *Audubon Advocate*, a newspaper distributed to all NYS Auduboners.

Introduction. Over the past year, there have been great achievements made in the pursuit of the National Audubon Society of New York State (NASNY) Conservation Agenda. The NASNY Conservation Agenda is based on the input and involvement of chapter leaders, supporters, and staff from across the State as well as from the leadership of our State Board of Directors. NASNY has reached a new level of influence with the hosting of major conferences, lobbying with state officials for federal funds, meetings with the Governor and legislative leadership, and appointment to new task forces. These issues are integrated into state campaigns on birds, forests, wetlands, and wild-life. Below is a breakdown of every policy resolution, with actions taken since last summer and future objectives for these issues.

General Conservation Issues

1. Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act: Support of the Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act and its implementation, including citizen input, and following existing management plans to ensure success.

To date: Successfully lobbied for funding in Open Space, Long Island Sound, and other categories, ensuring state plans are being followed. Long Island Sound received \$50 million in the Fiscal Year 1999/2000 State Budget — highest level ever.

Future Actions: Support new higher levels in Long Island Sound funding (\$50 million), Open Space funding

(\$80 million), and other categories as it specifically relates to other Council resolutions for FY 2000/2001 State Budget.

Continue to monitor expenditures to make sure conservation goals are obtained.

2. Environmental Protection Fund: Support for increased funding of the Environmental Protection Fund to \$125 million a year.

To date: National Audubon pushed hard for increased funding to the EPF for stewardship and an additional \$25 million was appropriated in the final FY 1999/2000 State Budget.

Future actions: Support full EPF funding in the Executive Budget for FY 2000/2001, with an ongoing stewardship fund and with greater emphasis on more biodiversity research funds.

3. Citizen Suits: Support for Citizen Suits legislation empowering citizens to pursue legal action against polluters.

To date: Reintroduced in the State Assembly in 1999. No concerted effort on this bill with no Senate sponsor.

Future actions: Monitor this issue in the legislature and plan accordingly.

4. Land and Water Conservation Funding: Support the revitalization of the Land and Water Conservation Fund with equitable state and federal funding, and without incentives for increased offshore oil leases.

To date: Participated in the Empire State Task Force on stateside funding of the LWCF and lobbied the Congressional Delegation. Worked with national AHR [Americans for our Heritage & Recreation] coalition.

Future Actions: Focus on support of the New York State Congressional Delegation and work with New York State (Parks Commissioner Castro/DEC Commissioner Cahill) in gaining support and passage of new funding in Congress.

Smart Growth: Support smart growth legislation and executive action, as well as bring together all interests to make smart growth work for the future quality of life for all New Yorkers.

To date: Staff worked on smart growth concept and legislation with other groups and legislators. Hosted a successful Smart Growth Conference with over 300 in attendance. Have received commitment from Executive Branch on a Smart Growth Executive Order in the fall.

Future actions: Pursue Smart Growth Conference consensus and legislation, and implement Governor's Smart Growth Executive Order.

Birds and Habitats

6. Important Bird Areas: Support Audubon's Important Bird Areas program and continued implementation of State Bird Conservation Area Law.

To date: Implemented program, released book, and got Bird Conservation Area Law off to a strong start with five designations including Catskill High Peaks. Passed \$200,000 in State Budget for the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC)'s Bird Conservation Area program.

Future actions: Develop conservation plans on some priority sites, ensure ten new designations at the state level over the next year, and increase funding to \$500,000 for the Bird Conservation Program at the DEC.

7. Montezuma Wetlands: Support additional land protection programs for Montezuma Wetlands Refuge in central New York.

To date: Secured Bond Act funds for conservation easement at the refuge, as well as increased public education effort with the Muckrace [a birding competition].

Future actions: Develop long-term management plans for the refuge with local chapters and partners, as well as continue to work with refuge staff and chapters on future protection strategies for lands surrounding Montezuma. An Important Bird Areas display and exhibit are being developed for next year.

8. Galeville Nature Preserve: Support transfer of Galeville Army Base [in Ulster County] to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a new wildlife refuge.

To date: Audubon has worked hard with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to present to the town another option for this Important Bird Area site instead of ball fields. The State (Governor's office) agreed to provide Corrections land as alternative site for ball fields. Working with Congressman Hinchey's office, town, state, U.S. FWS, and others to find other alternative sites and any funding if needed. Galeville has become part of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's refuge system.

Future actions: Complete discussions with the town and finalize agreement for a non-Galeville site alternative for ball fields with the help of NYS through available Correctional land.

Future Skimmers: The Niagara River Corridor and Kings Park Psychiatric Center resolutions, plus the ones on forests (Great Northern Forest, Adirondack Park, Allegany State Park, Southwestern Catskills Watershed, Sterling Forest, Hunter Mountain Catskill Forest Preserve, Long Island Pine Barrens Preservation/Management, Stewart Airport Buffer Lands, Acid Rain, New York City Park Property, and State Parks and Golf Courses), wetlands, and wildlife.



ASSATEAGUE FALL WEEKEND (Nov. 11-14). Visit Chincoteague Refuge and Assateague Seashore in Virginia for great fall/winter birding. See Bald Eagles, Peregrines, Merlins, shorebirds, Snow Geese, Tundra Swan, and White Pelican. Also wild ponies, river otter, and Delmarva fox squirrel. Easy hiking. Cost: \$250 cc./ers 3 nights at Refuge Motor Inn, safari tour, guides, and seafood dinner.

MONTAUK WINTER WEEKEND (Jan. 7-9, 2000). Enjoy quiet winter beaches and dunes during the off season and peak winter waterfow time. See seals, loons, mergansers, scoters, elders, razorbilis, and maybe a bald eagle. Cost: \$260 includes 2 nights at the luxurious Manor House, 5 meals, 5 guided hikes, 2 evening programs, and free pickup at LIRR. Visit bluffs overlooking the ocean, "Walking Dunes," Napeague Dunes, Hither Woods, and "Seal Haulout" site.

FLORIDA EVERGLADES (March 10-18, 2000). Explore the East and West coasts and visit Ding Darling Refuge, Loxahatchee Refuge, Shark River, Corkscrew Swamp, Anhinga Trail, Key Largo, and other birding hotspots. Cost: \$1595 includes Rt airfare to Miami, van rental, 8 nights motel (double occupancy), park entrance fees, everglades boat tour, admission to Butterfly World and Fairchild Gardens, guides.

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

1999-2000 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Jonathan Staller, President 482-7963 Michael Goldsmith, Vice President 822-5272 Nancy Frame, Treasurer 520-9016 Christine Schmitt, Recording Secretary 887-7713 Alice Blaustein, Corresponding Secretary 221-1870 Sandy Brenner, Director (6/02) 249-4919 Scott Oglesby, Director (6/02) 798-4871 Therese Lucas, Director (6/01) 221-8654 Marcia Specht, Director (6/01) (to 9 P.M.) 694-8229 Michael Higgiston, Director (6/00) 538-8376 Judy Hoyer, Director (6/00) 775-0159 Mike Andersen, Youth Representative 546-5352 Betty Borowsky, Conservation Legislation Chairperson 764-3596 Paul Butkereit, Wild Bird Feed Savings Day 599-0395 Joanne Del Prete, Special Trips Chairperson 433-0739 Joseph Grupp, Duck Survey 481-4208
Nancy Frame, Treasurer 520-9016 Christine Schmitt, Recording Secretary 887-7713 Alice Blaustein, Corresponding Secretary 221-1870 Sandy Brenner, Director (6/02) 249-4919 Scott Oglesby, Director (6/02) 798-4871 Therese Lucas, Director (6/01) 221-8654 Marcia Specht, Director (6/01) (to 9 P.M.) 694-8229 Michael Higgiston, Director (6/00) 538-8376 Judy Hoyer, Director (6/00) 775-0159 Mike Andersen, Youth Representative 546-5352 Betty Borowsky, Conservation Legislation Chairperson 764-3596 Paul Butkereit, Wild Bird Feed Savings Day 599-0395 Joanne Del Prete, Special Trips Chairperson 433-0739
Christine Schmitt, Recording Secretary 887-7713 Alice Blaustein, Corresponding Secretary 221-1870 Sandy Brenner, Director (6/02) 249-4919 Scott Oglesby, Director (6/02) 798-4871 Therese Lucas, Director (6/01) 221-8654 Marcia Specht, Director (6/01) (to 9 P.M.) 694-8229 Michael Higgiston, Director (6/00) 538-8376 Judy Hoyer, Director (6/00) 775-0159 Mike Andersen, Youth Representative 546-5352 Betty Borowsky, Conservation Legislation Chairperson 764-3596 Paul Butkereit, Wild Bird Feed Savings Day 599-0395 Joanne Del Prete, Special Trips Chairperson 433-0739
Alice Blaustein, Corresponding Secretary 221-1870 Sandy Brenner, Director (6/02) 249-4919 Scott Oglesby, Director (6/02) 798-4871 Therese Lucas, Director (6/01) 221-8654 Marcia Specht, Director (6/01) (to 9 P.M.) 694-8229 Michael Higgiston, Director (6/00) 538-8376 Judy Hoyer, Director (6/00) 775-0159 Mike Andersen, Youth Representative 546-5352 Betty Borowsky, Conservation Legislation Chairperson 764-3596 Paul Butkereit, Wild Bird Feed Savings Day 599-0395 Joanne Del Prete, Special Trips Chairperson 433-0739
Sandy Brenner, Director (6/02) 249-4919 Scott Oglesby, Director (6/02) 798-4871 Therese Lucas, Director (6/01) 221-8654 Marcia Specht, Director (6/01) (to 9 P.M.) 694-8229 Michael Higgiston, Director (6/00) 538-8376 Judy Hoyer, Director (6/00) 775-0159 Mike Andersen, Youth Representative 546-5352 Betty Borowsky, Conservation Legislation Chairperson 764-3596 Paul Butkereit, Wild Bird Feed Savings Day 599-0395 Joanne Del Prete, Special Trips Chairperson 433-0739
Scott Oglesby, Director (6/02) 798-4871 Therese Lucas, Director (6/01) 221-8654 Marcia Specht, Director (6/01) (to 9 P.M.) 694-8229 Michael Higgiston, Director (6/00) 538-8376 Judy Hoyer, Director (6/00) 775-0159 Mike Andersen, Youth Representative 546-5352 Betty Borowsky, Conservation Legislation Chairperson 764-3596 Paul Butkereit, Wild Bird Feed Savings Day 599-0395 Joanne Del Prete, Special Trips Chairperson 433-0739
Therese Lucas, Director (6/01) 221-8654 Marcia Specht, Director (6/01) (to 9 P.M.) 694-8229 Michael Higgiston, Director (6/00) 538-8376 Judy Hoyer, Director (6/00) 775-0159 Mike Andersen, Youth Representative 546-5352 Betty Borowsky, Conservation Legislation Chairperson 764-3596 Paul Butkereit, Wild Bird Feed Savings Day 599-0395 Joanne Del Prete, Special Trips Chairperson 433-0739
Marcia Specht, Director (6/01) (to 9 P.M.)694-8229Michael Higgiston, Director (6/00)538-8376Judy Hoyer, Director (6/00)775-0159Mike Andersen, Youth Representative546-5352Betty Borowsky, Conservation Legislation Chairperson764-3596Paul Butkereit, Wild Bird Feed Savings Day599-0395Joanne Del Prete, Special Trips Chairperson433-0739
Michael Higgiston, Director (6/00)538-8376Judy Hoyer, Director (6/00)775-0159Mike Andersen, Youth Representative546-5352Betty Borowsky, Conservation Legislation Chairperson764-3596Paul Butkereit, Wild Bird Feed Savings Day599-0395Joanne Del Prete, Special Trips Chairperson433-0739
Judy Hoyer, Director (6/00)775-0159Mike Andersen, Youth Representative546-5352Betty Borowsky, Conservation Legislation Chairperson764-3596Paul Butkereit, Wild Bird Feed Savings Day599-0395Joanne Del Prete, Special Trips Chairperson433-0739
Mike Andersen, Youth Representative546-5352Betty Borowsky, Conservation Legislation Chairperson764-3596Paul Butkereit, Wild Bird Feed Savings Day599-0395Joanne Del Prete, Special Trips Chairperson433-0739
Betty Borowsky, Conservation Legislation Chairperson 764-3596 Paul Butkereit, Wild Bird Feed Savings Day 599-0395 Joanne Del Prete, Special Trips Chairperson 433-0739
Paul Butkereit, Wild Bird Feed Savings Day
Paul Butkereit, Wild Bird Feed Savings Day
Joseph Crupp Duck Survey 491 4209
Joseph Grupp, Duck Survey 401-4200
Betsy Gulotta, Brookside Preserve Committee Chairperson
Janice Howard, Hospitality Chairperson
Marge Jaeger, Fund-raising Chairperson
Elliott Kutner, Birding / Field Trips Chairperson
Joseph Lancer, Binocular / Book Sales (7 to 9 P.M.)
Suzanne Lancer, Education Chairperson (7 to 9 P.M.)
Annie F. McIntyre, Educational Media Chairperson
George Popkin, Financial Advisor (8 to 9 P.M.)
Doreen Remsen, Past President
James Remsen, Jr., Birdathon Chairperson
Jackie Richichi, Membership Chairperson
Dolores Rogers, Welcoming Committee Chairperson
Mary Jane Russell, Armchair Activist Chairperson
Diane Singer, Publicity (5 to 8 P.M.)
Michael Sperling, Skimmer Editor
Tom Torma, Program Chairperson

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

A CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Americans Committed to Conservation

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED





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