

SOUTH SHORE SKIMMER



VOL. 17, NO. 2 - SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

OCTOBER 1986

Meeting

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14
FREEPORT MEMORIAL LIBRARY
8:15 P.M.

CLIMBING ON MOUNT RAINIER

SPEAKERS: Carole and Richard Ryder, Curators
of Nassau County Greenspace and
Museum of Natural History at Tackapausha.



This is a story of an expedition with Explorer Post One
to the 14,410 foot mountain in Mt. Rainier National Park.
Explore the snowfields, glaciers, crevasses, and volcanic
rocks "on the edge" with Carole and Rich. See what it
is like to be a mountaineer.

NEXT MONTH November 18, 1986
SEABIRDS AND THE OCEAN ENVIRONMENT

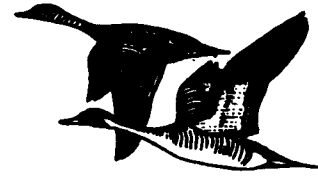
SPEAKER: Carl Safina, Director
National Audubon Society, Scully Scantuary
Islip, New York

SEE PAGE 3



Bird Seed Savings Day®

EDUCATION



Our goal this year is to supply all elementary school teachers on the South Shore with Audubon Adventures. This national publication, designed for children in third through fifth grades, stimulates students while educating them about nature.

At the other end of the spectrum, Elliott Kutner is giving a program which includes a forty minute film followed by discussion. He has provided this service to Franklin Square Seniors as part of the Town of Hempstead's Outreach Program. He is available to present this program to others in the Town of Hempstead.

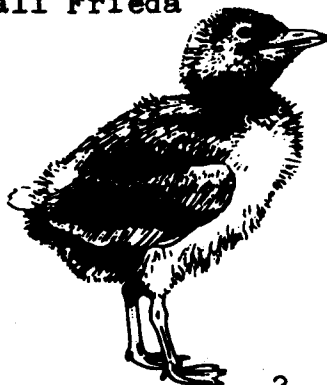
Jerry Bernstein, Lennox Gordon and Elliott Kutner have offered to supply a program to elementary schools and libraries on the South Shore. I have a number of film strips available for loan to teachers or librarians. If you are interested in any of the services offered, please call me at 785-6208.



ROSE ERMIDIS
EDUCATION CHAIRPERSON

The annual Holiday Party for Wildlife will be held on December 13 at Tackapausha Museum, 1:00 - 4:00 P.M.

Volunteers are needed to help the children make bird feeders, play games, and to serve refreshments. If you would like to help, please call Frieda Malament at 795-5842.



NATURE WALKS

Nature walks will be held this fall on alternate Saturdays, 9:30 A.M. at Tackapausha Nature Preserve in Seaford. Walks are led by Jerry Bernstein. Dates are:

October 11
October 25
November 8
November 22
December 6

DINNER

You are invited to a Pot Luck Dinner at the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary in Oyster Bay on November 1 at 7:30 P.M. Bring your favorite dish to share with your fellow Auduboners. Your food is your admission fee.

Space is limited, so reservations are required. Call Tom Torma at 223-7947 if you would like to attend, and, if possible, let him know what you plan to bring.

Plan to join us for an informal evening of fun.

Rare Bird Sightings
(212) 832-6523

BIRD SEED SAVINGS DAY

Sunday, November 2, 1986
 Tackapausha Museum
 9:30 AM - 2:30 PM

The museum is located on Washington Ave. in Seaford, and lies about 1/4 mile south of Sunrise Highway just north of Merrick Rd. Pre-ordering greatly aids us in determining the amount of seed needed, an order form is enclosed for your use. All pre-orders must be received by October 20. Please make checks payable to the South Shore Audubon Society. Mail check and order form to Paul T. Butkerei, 268 Wallace Street, Freeport, N.Y. 11520.

All proceeds from the seed sale go to the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary. Volunteers will be needed on the sale day to take orders and help unload seed. If you want to Help please call 623-0843 and ask for Paul.

Please find my order below. I have enclosed my check for \$ _____

My name is _____

My address is _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ Member? Yes No

QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION	PRICE	TOTAL
	25lb BLACK OIL SUNFLOWER SEED	6 ⁷⁵	
	25lb BLACK OIL and WHITE STRIPE ^{SUNFLOWER} SEED	7 ²⁵	
	40lb " " " " " ^{SUNFLOWER} SEED	11 ⁵⁰	
	25lb REGULAR WILD BIRD SEED	5 ¹⁵	
	50lb REGULAR WILD BIRD SEED	10 ⁰⁰	
	20lb SPECIAL SEED 1/3 SUNFLOWER ^{NO COAN}	4 ⁷⁵	
	40lb SPECIAL SEED 1/3 SUNFLOWER ^{NO COAN}	9 ⁰⁰	
	25lb CRACKED CORN	4 ²⁵	
	50lb ECONOMY WILD BIRD SEED	8 ⁷⁵	
	10lb SUNFLOWER HEARTS	4 ⁵⁰	
	10lb PEANUT BITS	4 ⁰⁰	
	10lb SAFFLOWER SEED	3 ⁰⁵	
	10lb THISTLE SEED	9 ⁵⁰	
	2802 MAINE MANNA SWEET CAKES	3 ⁵⁰	
All blends and mixes are based on current research			
TOTAL AMOUNT:			



Bird Seed Savings Day®

WISE OLD OWL



- Q. How can I attract birds to my garden?
- A. Want a great buy on trees and shrubs? Now New York State has a good deal for you. How about 100 mixed shrubs, including honeysuckle, cranberry, autumn olive, silky dogwood and crabapple for \$15.00? Write the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Saratoga Tree Nursery, 431 Route 50 South, Saratoga Springs, N.Y. 12866.

Ask for the necessary forms for ordering Wildlife Habitat Improvement Packets (W.H.I.P.) The sale is held annually in late February or early March. The plants are delivered for \$2.50 a packet to Mid-Island Conservation Center in mid-April.

These shrubs improve your property and give the birds some free natural food. (I had great success with the seedlings this year and look forward to the fruits of my efforts in spring '87.)

MALCOLM A. MARUM

AS THE CROW FLIES

A little known place for birding with a wide divergence of habitat is Massapequa Park Preserve. Take Southern State Parkway to Exit 30, travel south on Broadway to Pittsburgh Ave., go east to Parkside Blvd. The entrance to the park is opposite the school.

Walk east to a beautiful pond and see waterfowl galore, or, before you get to the pond, take the trail alongside the stream and see birds and mammals. Not only is the birding excellent, but, if you look for the wild berry bushes and with camera and tripod sit on a portable stool, you will enjoy great photography of forage birds.

MALCOLM A. MARUM

TRIP TO GREENWICH

South Shore Audubon is planning a one-day trip to the Audubon Camp and Ecology Center in Greenwich, Connecticut on November 15.

The day will include an orientation, a guided tour of the Center and a walk. Birding is excellent this time of the year and we should have a good time.

Bus transportation will be available for \$13.00 per person. Departure will be from the Merrick Golf Club at 8:00 A.M. We will return around 4:30 P.M.

Make checks payable to South Shore Audubon Society and send to:

Evelyn Blume
313 Smith Street
Merrick, N.Y. 11566

Those interested, please contact me at 378-7122 after 6:00 P.M.

EVELYN BLUME

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The Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary in Oyster Bay is actively supported by SSAS. All proceeds from our seed sale go to the Sanctuary. Visitors can stroll this beautiful and historic 12½ acre woodland any day, 9-5. There is also a small museum open 9-5 weekdays and 1-5 on weekends.

Many activities, including a beginner bird walk every Saturday at 9 and programs in such areas as orienteering, blacksmithing, hawk migration, endangered species and beginning wildlife photography are offered. Please call 922-3200 for more information.

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Volunteers for Wildlife is sponsoring a Wildlife Rescue/Transport Workshop at Uplands Farm on Saturday, October 25. For information call 367-4468 during business hours.

HELP WANTED!

Twin Lakes Preserve is now over a year old. Audubon members, Boy Scouts, fishermen and neighborhood residents have worked together to erase the years of neglect and abuse. We made a good start, but only a start.

On Saturday October 11 at 10 A.M., we have a fall cleanup planned. The worst concentrations of debris are gone, but there are many places that still need attention. For those of you who are younger and able-bodied, we hope to make an effort to improve the isolation of the island. Removing water-logged wood is wet and messy, but important for establishing a nesting area.

Litter bags will be supplied for the removal of paper, cans and other litter.

We will meet at the parking lot of Forest Lake School at the north end of the preserve. For more information call the Marine Nature Study Area at 766-1580.

JIM BROWNE

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to our chapter. Please join us at our monthly meetings and various activities.

BELLMORE
FARMINGDALE
GARDEN CITY
LONG BEACH
LYNBROOK

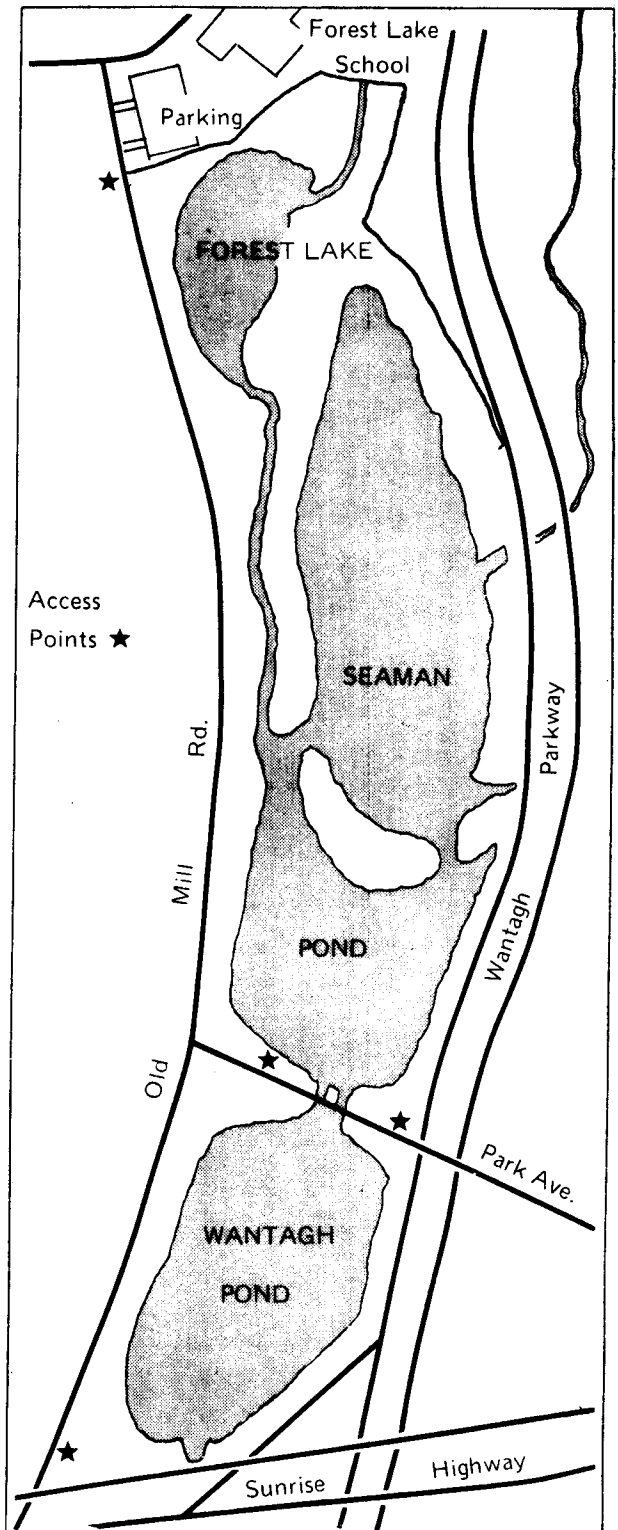
MERRICK
PLAINVIEW

VALLEY STREAM
W HEMPSTEAD

WANTAGH

David Elchholz
Louise G Celenza
Patricia Turner
Mark E Knez
Mr Irwing Safran
Scott Devenish
N. Diamant
Wayne - Estelle Gershberg
Mrs H Okoshkin
Mrs Rosalind Stone
Valerie Battey
Doreen M Rogers
Maureen T Crowe

MARION YAVARKOVSKY
MEMBERSHIP





ROGER TORY PETERSON INSTITUTE

FOR THE STUDY OF NATURAL HISTORY

**Roger Tory Peterson Institute
Seeks Members**

The Roger Tory Peterson Institute for the Study of Natural History began full-scale operations this year with the hiring of its first President, Dr. Harold D. Mahan, former director of The Cleveland Museum of Natural History.

The Institute, located in Jamestown, New York, near Lake Chautauqua, has been designated as the permanent repository for Roger Tory Peterson's artwork, correspondence, slides, movies, and other materials related to his remarkable lifetime achievements.

A \$5-million headquarters facility is currently being designed, with a mid-1988 opening projected. The building will contain permanent and temporary exhibit areas for wildlife art shows (RTP's and other artists), dramatic displays on world-wide natural history, a 400-seat auditorium with 70mm film-capability, an extensive natural history library, and research collections of natural history materials. The Institute's staff will eventually include 45 scientists, program coordinators, writers, and editors, with a mission of developing a high-quality, unique program of natural history experiences and publications on a world-wide scale. Ultimately, the Institute will have facilities and programs throughout the United States.

Early members will receive Field Guide to the Roger Tory Peterson Institute, a bi-monthly newsletter with articles on the progress of the Institute's construction, program development and trip announcements. All members will receive invitations to special events for groundbreaking and dedication of the RTPI building, and notification of Institute programs across the U.S.

Information about the Institute and its membership program may be obtained by writing: Roger Tory Peterson Institute, 525 Falconer Street, Jamestown, NY 14701. (716) 665-5220 ext.448, or 665-3794.

CONSERVATION

NATIONAL: Since 1960, Congress has attempted several times to create The Great Basin National Park in Nevada. This unique area is one of the few ecosystems in the United States not represented in the National Park system.

Time is running out for the 99th Congress to establish this park. The House has proposed a 174,000 acre national park, while the Senate has proposed only 44,000 acres. A compromise must be found by the end of this year when the 99th Congress will end.

Please write your senators and representatives and urge them to support the creation of a 174,000 acre park.

STATE: A \$1.45 billion Environmental Quality Bond Act is to be voted on this Election Day. This Bond Act will (1) provide interest free loans to municipalities to finance the closing of municipal landfill sites, (2) finance the remediation of hazardous waste sites and (3) provide \$250 million for land acquisition; especially additional forest preserve and environmentally sensitive lands, such as deep flow aquifer recharge areas and wildlife habitat.

Please remember to look for this issue on the November ballot.

LOCAL: Nassau County has been robbed of much of its freshwater wetlands due to excessive building, draining, sewerage, filling in and the addition of excessive nutrients into streams.

Those wetlands that are left have been protected by a New York State law which has catalogued these areas and created the necessity of filing permits before any major changes to these properties can be made. Some of these areas are owned by Nassau County and the Town of Hempstead. Preserves and parks like the county-owned Taackapausha Preserve and the Town's Twin Lakes Preserve are wonderful examples of properties that have been protected.

There are, however, many lots that are owned by Nassau County that were part of the Brooklyn Water Works System and previously owned by the City of New York. Recently the County included in a land auction 3.8 acres of wooded wetlands along Brookside Avenue north of, and not including, the Water Works Building in Freeport. These woods are environmentally protected by state law - Buyer Beware!

I feel that the few remaining publically owned wild areas in Nassau County should remain as such and not be jeopardized by development or damage before the new owner becomes cognizent of the restrictions on his new purchase. Audubon members, please write me to let me know how you feel.

JOAN BUTKEREIT

Notes from a Birdwatcher's Log

by Elliott Kutner

The article reproduced below originally appeared in the March/April, 1986 issue of New York Alive.

LASTING IMPRESSIONS

A Walk on the Wild Side

A gaggle of birdwatchers gathered one early Sunday morning at Hempstead State Park on Long Island raise their heads in unison, as if in prayer, in contemplation of the yellow throated warbler. Brilliantly yellow, almost phosphorescent and perfectly proportioned (as all birds seem to be), the yellow throat stares back at us, disinterestedly. This surprises me. Isn't he afraid we humans are out to kill him? Perhaps he knows the difference between binoculars and a gun, if not by sight, then by intuition. Or perhaps his small but adequate mind calculates the distance between us and deems the distance safe. In any case, he sits, unmoving on the tallest branch of the tallest tree in a grove of tall trees.

Spotting this bird through binoculars is nothing short of a revelation to me. It is my first time using binoculars. (My past experience with magnification aids, specifically microscopes, signaled failure. I am probably the only person who went through high school, including three years of science, without ever having seen anything in my microscope except the glint of my own cornea.) I purchase the binoculars the very morning of this birdwalk from a fellow birdwatcher. The profits, he tells me, go to the Audubon Society. For some strange reason, this knowledge makes me feel like a committed naturalist on the order of Teddy Roosevelt.

I am the last person in the group of fifteen to spot the bird, with the exception of my five-year-old son, who has a tiny, cheap pair of children's binoculars and only minimal interest. Several birdwatchers flock to me. "First, put the binocular strap around your neck. Bring the binoculars up until they intersect your line of sight. The bird is on the topmost left branch of that far tree. Now do you see him?"

"Yeah, yeah, I do see him, I do!" I squeal. That I am the last person in the

group to spot the bird does not bother me in the least. Someone has to be the last person to spot the bird. That's simple arithmetic.

Elliot Kutner, the charismatic birdwalk leader of the group, the South Shore, Long Island, National Audubon Society Chapter, seems at first glance to be entirely easygoing. But behind the easy smile and the seemingly unhurried gait is a certain urgency. Our aim is to discover nature. Kutner never lets the group lose sight of this. "Let's get moving," he tells them. The birds are out in full force in early morning and so must we be.

Kutner is a man with a mission: his aim is to convert the newcomer in the group from casual, occasional observers of nature into lifelong lovers of birds. He has two hours' time, the length of the birdwalk. His suntanned face breaks into a smile as he speaks. "You're the new kid on the block. You're going to learn fast, kid. You've got the interest. I can see that." He claps a comradely hand on my shoulder.

Small failures in Kutner's mission do not affect him adversely. One newcomer asks Kutner, "Do you think we'll see any more birds this morning? If not, I'm going to leave the birdwalk early."

"There's no way of knowing what we'll see," Kutner tells her earnestly. "That's the beauty part of birdwatching.

On the lookout for fair-feather friends.



MIKE EDINGTON

There's always that element of surprise." The woman takes his answer to mean that there won't be anything new to see. She leaves the group early. Ever the optimist, Kutner believes that the woman will be back for more birdwalks, if not next week, then some other time in the near future.

We move on only after Kutner makes certain that everyone in the group has seen the bird. We snake our way down a small thornbush-lined path that leads to the lake. I take a random survey of what people in the group do for a living: one man is an actor, one woman is an airline reservations person, a third man is the owner of a corrugated cardboard factory. No absent-minded professors wearing tweeds. A varied group. Kutner looks the opposite of what I used to think a birdwatcher looks like. Trim, handsome and dressed all in white, he looks dapper. I doubt that he has knobby knees, although there's no telling. Kutner wears long pants.

Even though the act of birdwatching is an individual one, this group has a decidedly communal orientation. Their unspoken philosophy is, if one person misses seeing a bird, it is as if everyone did not see the bird. Whenever someone spots a special bird (and as one birdwatcher tells me, every bird is special, even the starling and the crow), he or she immediately alerts the group. A great cry of excitement goes up. After they have observed the bird, the watchers become as garrulous as mockingbirds at five in the morning. "We break all the rules," one veteran of the group tells me (referring to the National Audubon Society's strictures against talking when one is on an Audubon Society chapter birdwalk). According to him, in at least one other staid and reserved birdwatching chapter on Long Island, talking and any other attendant displays of levity are considered untoward and not in the proper birdwatching spirit.

Several people in the group carry scopes. Scopes are binoculars with tripods. They provide greater magnification than binoculars. Each time we see a reasonably stationary bird, the scope-people set their scopes up. They don't seem to mind schlepping their scopes and tripods around. They enthusiastically share their scopes with the group. "Come here, come see this," they call. On this walk, we see fifteen birds, among them, a cedar waxwing, a Baltimore oriole, a flycatcher (who Kutner explains "catches flies on the wing and then flies back to where he was before"), and a semi-palmated plover, a handsome barrel-chested bird with sharply contrasting white and brown feathers.

One of the birdwatchers is a wildflower expert. The birds do not seem to interest her particularly. Her head down, she scours the low-lying growth on the forest floor. She is unsmiling and appears almost stern, but when I approach her and ask her what she is looking at, she amiably points out seven different white wildflowers to me. She reminds me of the stereotype of a small-town librarian (or the stereotype of the birdwatcher maybe?) who communes with nature in a self-contained way.

Before we leave, while we head back to the parking lot and civilization, Kutner assures me that there are large numbers of birds in the Long Island area at any time of the year. "We're located along the Atlantic Flyway," he says.

"Is that a good thing?" I ask him, unsure what the Atlantic Flyway is.

"It's terrific! What it means is we're directly along the path of large bird migrations. In the winter, the summer, whenever, there are always birds to see," he tells me with the enthusiasm of a circuit preacher.

The moment my son and I get home we pull out our Peterson bird book from a far corner of the shelf. To my amazement, he remembers all the names of the birds we saw, without my help. I, of course, remember nothing. ■

Ellen Pober Rittberg is a freelance writer, playwright and video producer. Her essays and articles appear in the Daily News Magazine, Newsday, Nightlife and other newspapers and magazines.

BANDED BIRDS

Patuxent Wildlife Research Center is asking birders to report any color marked birds they see to the Bird Banding Laboratory.

A few thousand birds are marked each year with colored plastic bands, plastic neck collars, plastic streamers or non-toxic dyes.

Many neck collars and streamers have a combination of numbers, letters or both.

These markers are used in various special projects and allow researchers to follow the tagged birds' movements.

The success of these projects depends on reported sightings. If you see any color marked birds, write to Bird Banding Laboratory, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, Maryland 20708. You should include as much of the following as possible:

name and address, date of sighting, exact location, habitat, species, number of individuals of the species present, color of bands or markings, numbers or letters on markers or bands and color combinations of bands.

GEORGE APPOLDT

RESCUE

South Shore Audubon often receives calls about distressed or orphaned wildlife. Because SSAS does not possess any permits, we usually refer such calls to other parties. In order to expedite getting help, we have listed below some places and individuals you can call:

Dr. Eileen Rowan
Animal Hospital of
South Nassau 431-0049

Thomas Litwin
Seatuck Refuge
581-6908

A & A Veterinary Hosp.
437-7222 or 437-8964
(please no orphans)

John Zarudsky
Town of Hempstead
431-9200 Ext. 29

T.R. Sanctuary
922-3200

Tackapausha Museum and
Preserve 785-2802

N.Y.S. Department of
Environmental Conservation
751-7900

Gina Nichol
Volunteers for Wildlife
367-4468

Carl Safina
Scully Audubon
Sanctuary 277-4289

TOM TORMA

BIRD WALKS

OFFICERS

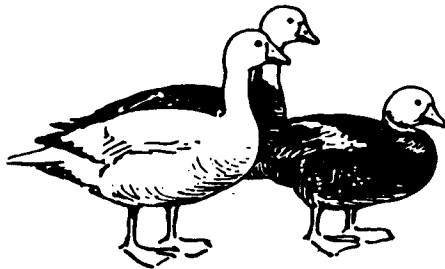
No walk if it rains, snows or temperature is 25 degrees or below.
STARTING TIME - 9:30 A.M.

- Oct. 5 West End #2, N.E. Corner
 12 West End #2, N.E. Corner
 19 Hempstead Lake State Park
 (Peninsula Blvd. Pkg. Lot)
 26 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- Nov. 2 West End #2, N.E. Corner
 9 Tobay - JFK Sanctuary
 16 Zach's Bay, #4, N.E. Corner
 23 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
 30 Pelham Bay - Meet at Throg's
 Neck Bridge, far side of tolls
 at 9:00 A.M.

Betsy Gulotta, President..546-8841
 Tom Torma, Vice Pres.....223-7947
 Malcolm Marum, Treas.....752-0396
 Nora Lorenzo, Rec.Sec.....868-4505
 Ruth Grossman, Corr. Sec.....

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

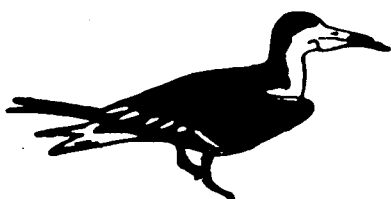
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 Alice Orens, Editor.....431-9537
 Marion Yavarkovsky, Membership
 379-2090
 Joan Butkerei, Conservation
 623-0843
 Jack McLoughlin, Publicity
 889-8092
 Rose Ermidis, Education...785-6208
 Myrna Brier, Hospitality..764-7523



For 30% to 50% savings on Bushnell and Bausch and Lomb binoculars and scopes, see us at meetings and bird walks or call:
 Barbara Tancredi (11 A.M. - 1 P.M.) ... 354-4524
 Bill Herzog (7 P.M. - 9 P.M.) 791-7886

South Shore Audubon Society
P.O. Box 31
Freeport, N.Y. 11520

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