

# SOUTH SHORE SKIMMER



VOLUME 18, No. 4 – SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

DECEMBER—JANUARY 1988

## **IN JEOPARDY HEMPSTEAD PLAINS!**

### **PUBLIC HEARING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT HEARING**

**DECEMBER 1, 1987  
10:30 AM  
TOWN OF  
HEMPSTEAD HALL  
WASHINGTON AVE.  
& PENINSULAR BLVD**

December 1st marks the date for the important environmental impact hearing concerning the Marriott Hotel expansion. At this meeting, any individual can voice their concern about the proposed expansion onto 6 acres of County owned Hempstead Plains Preserve. This property is to be used for parking and relocating James Doolittle Boulevard. We feel that the land should be left as part of the nature preserve, with the Hotel's parking needs being served by building of a parking garage. This property represents some of the only remaining evidence of Hempstead Loam, the soil which gave rise to the prairie that flourished in the area. If this land is lost to a parking field, it will represent a major setback in trying to preserve this unique habitat. A certain per cent of land is needed as a buffer zone between large scale development and the existing prairie community. No one knows how small is too small.

We recognize that a parking garage is more costly than an open parking field, but should represent little economic hardship to the prosperous Marriott Hotel chain. Nature Preserves, while not contributing directly to the county's economic growth, do provide important hidden economic values. This nature preserve provides fine educational resources, vital water recharge land, wildlife habitat for rare species, an enhancement of the aesthetic quality of the region, and in every way represents the criteria for open space preservation. Without this preservation of the remaining open space in Nassau County and the Town of Hempstead in particular, many of us will not feel that the quality of life in this area is worth staying for. Please consider coming to the Environmental Impact Hearing on December 1st. For further information, call Joan Butkerei at 623-0843 or 593-4554.

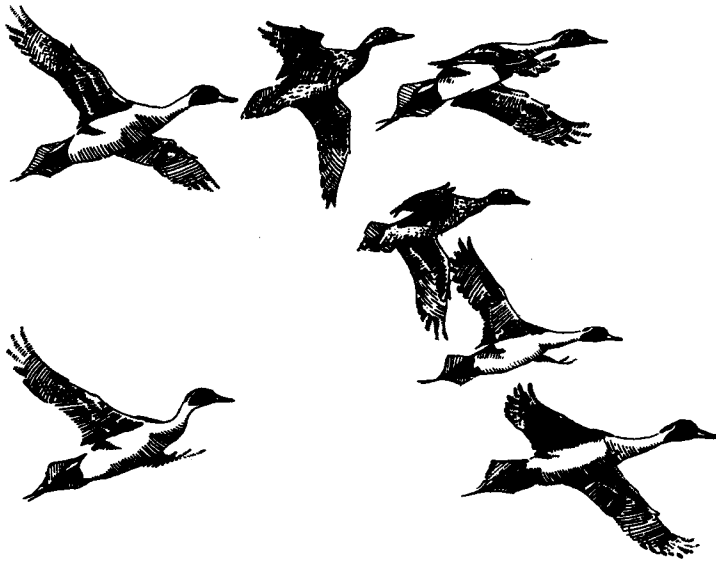
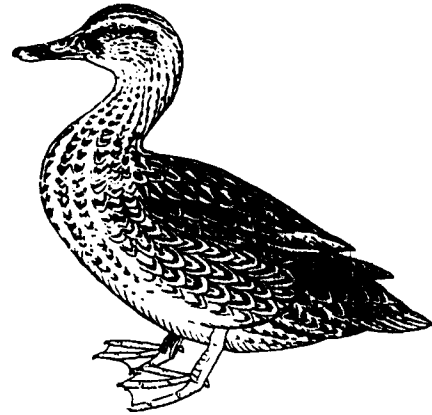
# MEETING

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1987, 8:00 P.M.**

**Subject: Black Ducks**

**Speaker: Mr. Steven Jay Sanford**

Mr. Steven J. Sanford is the Senior Wildlife Biologist for New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Stony Brook, New York. His specialty is Endangered Species, Wet Lands Protection, and Water Fowl. Mr. Sanford will present a program on the Biology and Management of Black Ducks.



**TUESDAY, JANUARY 12, 1988, 8:00 P.M.**

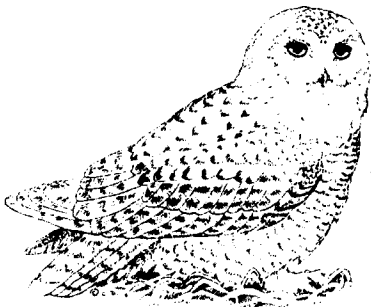
**Subject: Members Night**

This is the evening that all South Shore Audubon Members are invited to share their expertise with all the other members. Members are encouraged to bring five or ten of their favorite nature slides, art work, arts and crafts, etc. This is always an enjoyable evening because the talents of our membership are very impressive.

## BIRD OF THE MONTH

### SNOWY OWL

*Nyctea Scandiaca*

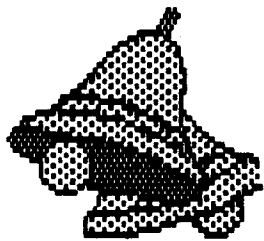


The Snowy Owl is one of the most beautiful of all birds of prey. It is a large bird, 21 to 28 inches tall, and has a wingspan of 50 to 65 inches. When perched, the bird has a smooth, heavy appearance. Its head is rounded and lacks feather tufts. It has bright yellow eyes, a black beak, and thickly feathered legs and feet.

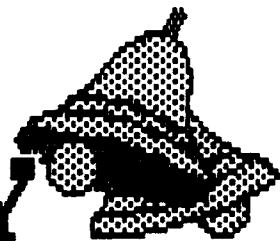
Male and female Snowys can be told apart, something which is not always possible in other species. The female is larger than the male, as in all owls, but the recognizable difference is that the adult male is almost pure white, while female has dark, heavy flecking.

The Snowy Owl is a bird of the Canadian tundra, but can occasionally be found on Long Island during the winter. It prefers open country such as fields, pastures, coastal beaches and airports.

These winter visits to our area depend on the availability of food in its Arctic home, not on the severe weather there, which the bird is well equipped to endure. Periodically, in cycles of from four to eight years, the populations of the Snowy's usual northern prey species decline. Then these owls begin a southward movement in search of food and we are afforded a chance to see one of nature's masterpieces.



**HOLIDAY PARTY  
FOR THE  
BIRDS!!**



**SATURDAY, DEC. 12  
1:00 - 4:00 P.M.**

**GAMES, MOVIES,  
LIVE ANIMALS,  
MAKE GIFTS FOR  
THE ANIMALS,  
REFRESHMENTS**



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25 CENT ADMISSION**

## WHAT'S NEW AT TACKAPAUSHA?



Tackapausha Museum is planning to get a face-lift; in fact a complete renovation and updating of the museum is now being planned by Nassau County.

Established in the 1960's as Nassau County's first natural history museum, Tackapusha's exhibits illustrated a generalized theme of nature and evolution. The new plan calls for changing the focus of the exhibits to emphasize local Long Island habitats; i.e., the sand dune, the marsh, the uplands, the forests and the fresh water ponds.

The exhibits, which will utilize modern clever audio-visual techniques, will be designed to interest and educate elementary school children, since the bulk of visitors fall into that category.

In addition, the theatre will be renovated, the facilities for the animal care program will be completely redone, a new greenhouse will be added, and the restrooms will be modernized and made accessible to the handicapped.

Funding for this project will come largely from grants from the New York Natural Heritage Trust Fund obtained through the New York State Legislature. Senator Norman Levy is involved with a grant for \$35,000 for renovating the Little Theatre. Assemblyman Fred Parola is involved with a grant for \$18,000.00 for planning and renovating the major exhibit section.

You can help by writing letters to Senator Levy and Assemblyman Parola, urging them to support these grants. Their addresses are:

Senator Norman Levy	Assemblyman F. Parola
30 S. Ocean Ave.	3700 Hempstead Turnpike
Freeport, N.Y. 11520	Levittown, N.Y. 11756



## ACID RAIN ON THE HEMPSTEAD PLAINS

The acid content of rain water is being analyzed on the Hempstead Plains, as part of a study involving a Nationwide Citizens Acid Rain Monitoring Network sponsored by the National Audubon Society.

Betsy Gulotta, President of the South Shore Audubon Society regularly tests the pH (or acid content) of rain water collected during each rainfall. The normal pH of water is 5.6, but the pH of rain on the Hempstead Plains is averaging slightly under 4.0. The figures reveal a 100 fold increase in acidity of rain water on the Hempstead Plains.

Preliminary data analysis indicates that the Network has been reporting pH values comparable to values reported by the National Atmospheric Deposition Program.

The Citizens Acid Rain Monitoring Network consists of volunteers across the country who are scientifically testing the pH of rainfall in their communities. At this time, there are 300 stations in 31 states. The project was created by the National Audubon Society to better educate Americans about the environmental and health hazards posed by acid rain, and the need for Congressional action to reduce the major sources of acid rain production emissions from power plants, industrial sources, and motor vehicles.

Although the Environmental Protection Agency collects and analyzes acid rain data, it can take up to two years until the information is released. The Citizens Acid Rain Monitoring Network will quickly provide the much needed local data on the extent and severity of acid rain precipitation nationwide.

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### CALL FOR PHONE TREE ACTIVISTS

South Shore Audubon is organizing a phone tree. Often a short and well-timed phone call to representatives in government is crucial in affecting environmental legislation or meeting other environmental goals. Each member of the phone tree communicates the message to the next member and makes their own phone call to the targeted office or government official. If you would like to be involved in the phone network, complete and mail the coupon below to **Chiarrà Nuzzo, 655 Forte Blvd., Franklin Square, N.Y. 11010**. When the phone trees are assembled, you will receive your copy in the mail. Thanks for your participation!

Name.....  
 Address.....  
 Day Phone.....Eve.Phone.....  
 Which issues would you like to be involved in?  
 National Clean Air Campaign  
 Other National Environmental Issues.  
 Local Environmental Issues.

**BIRD SEED SAVING DAY  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 1988  
TACKAPAUSHA MUSEUM  
9:30 A.M. — 2:30 P.M.**

The museum is located on Washington Avenue in Seaford, and lies about ½ mile south of Sunrise Highway just north of Merrick Road. Pre-ordering greatly aids us in determining the amount of seed needed, an order form is enclosed for your use. Please keep this upper portion as a reminder of the sale date. All pre-orders must be received by January 15. 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**.

This year we will offer three types of sunflower seed; black oil seed in 25 lb. bags, large white stripe seed in 25 lb. bags, and a blend of the two consisting of 60% oil and 40% stripe in 40 lb. bags. All proceeds from the sale go to the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary. Help will be needed on the sale day to take orders and to unload seed. If you wish to volunteer, call 516 623-0843 late evenings and ask for Paul.

MY NAME IS .....

MY ADDRESS IS .....

PHONE NO. .... MEMBER SSAS:  YES       NO

Quantity (No. of Bags)	Description	Price	Total
	25 lb Black Oil Sunflower Seed	7.05	
	25 lb. Striped Sunflower Seed	8.30	
	40 lb. Blended Sunflower Seed	12.00	
	25 lb. Regular Wild Bird Seed	5.50	
	50 lb. Regular Wild Bird Seed	11.00	
	20 lb. Special Seed (No Corn, 1/3 Sunflower)	5.25	
	40 lb. Special Seed (No Corn, 1/3 Sunflower)	10.50	
	25 lb. Cracked Corn	4.50	
	50 lb. Economy Generic Brand Mix	10.00	
	10 lb. Sunflower Chips	5.00	
	10 lb Peanut Bits and Pieces	5.00	
	10 lb Safflower Seed	4.00	
	10 lb Niger (Thistle) Seed	9.75	
	Maine Manna Suet Cake	3.75	

**TOTAL AMOUNT:** \_\_\_\_\_



**Bird Seed Savings Day®**

# "Acid Rain"

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*In the past nature tended to balance our destructive actions, the depredations of man, the thoughtless ravaging of our environment, the plundering of our natural resources, as we raced headlong to establish a modern and material Utopia.*

*Now, today we have a choice, a challenge. We are confronted with what is probably the world's most destructive man-made pollution in the form of acid rain. Yes, acidification is laying waste major areas of our planet.*

*We, the inhabitants of Earth, have created this menace. But we have also created the technology to diminish or even eliminate it. Certainly it will be costly. But the cost of not coping with it will be far greater.*

*We owe it to the future of Earth, to future generations of mankind. It will be a relatively small investment for each of us — and the dividends will be substantial.*

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## WHAT IS ACID RAIN?

Acid rain is caused by the emissions of sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) and nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>). Once released into the atmosphere, these substances can be carried long distances by the prevailing winds, and return to earth in acidic forms of rain, snow, fog, or dust. When the environment cannot neutralize the acid being deposited, damage occurs.

## WHAT ARE THE SOURCES OF ACID RAIN?

The main sources of sulfur dioxide emission in North America are coal-fired power generating stations and non-ferrous ore smelters. The main sources of nitrogen oxides are automobiles and other vehicles.

## WHAT IS THE IMPACT OF ACID RAIN?

Acid precipitation can have many harmful effects. It can increase the acidity of lakes and streams to a point where fish and other aquatic creatures such as frogs and salamanders cannot reproduce — ultimately, they become extinct in overly acidified bodies of water.

The most vulnerable areas of our continent are those where the soils are thin and the bedrock is granite. They cannot counteract the action of the acids. The hardest hit areas are Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and New York. Effects are also appearing in Michigan and Minnesota, as well as a few more westerly states. Major parts of the South-

eastern States are vulnerable, and mountain lakes in Colorado and California are becoming acidic.

- About a dozen rivers in Nova Scotia—far removed from local upwind pollution sources no longer support healthy populations of Atlantic Salmon.
- About 200 lakes in the Adirondacks no longer support fish life and thousands more are slowly losing their capacity to buffer acid rain.
- A U.S. Government study estimated that 55% of the lakes and 42% of the stream-miles in the eastern U.S. are currently being subjected to acidic deposition which will eventually lead to deterioration.

## ACID SHOCK

In Canada and the northeastern U.S. sudden and intense acid doses occur in the spring. As snow melts, pollutants stored in the snowpack are abruptly released. The meltwater has been measured to be as much as 100 times more acidic than normal. This happens at the worst possible time for fish and amphibians—at spawning time.

Studies have clearly demonstrated that trout and Atlantic Salmon are particularly sensitive to low pH levels which interfere with reproductive processes and frequently lead to skeletal deformities. Many species of amphibians (frogs, toads, and salamanders) breed in temperate pools formed by spring rains and melted snow. The eggs and developing embryos are exposed to the acids and deformity or death occurs. Field work has established that 80% of the

salamander eggs failed to hatch in waters with a pH level below 6.0. For the cricket frog and spring peeper an exposure with a pH level of 4.0 resulted in more than 85% mortality. Amphibians are important members of both land and water ecosystems. They are major predators of aquatic insects and in turn serve as high protein food for many birds and mammals—important links in the food chain.

### HOW ACID RAIN EFFECTS OUR FORESTS

The environmental and economic value of our forests cannot be overestimated.

- They regulate the flow of many of our lake and river systems.
- They prevent soil erosion.
- They are home to a highly diversified range of wildlife.

In addition, our forests provide a unique setting for a multi-billion dollar recreation and tourism industry. Any threat to our forests must be carefully watched. Acid rain poses an insidious and potentially devastating threat to our forests. A recent study has shown that seedlings can be damaged by moderately acidic rain (pH 4.6). The cumulative effect of sulfuric acid in rain and snow building up season after season in the forest soils is now being studied.

### FOOD THREAT

Some lakes which are becoming acidified show evidence of increasing mercury contamination in the food chain. When fish with elevated concentrations of mercury in their tissues are part of the regular diet, human health may be threatened. As the acidic level of recreational lakes and rivers increase, human activities in these waters are questioned. Scientific evidence, to date, indicates no adverse reactions should be expected from recreational activities in acidified water. Acid deposition liberates toxic metals in some groundwater, in drinking water supply systems, and in cisterns. While no adverse effects from drinking such water have yet been reported, this requires careful research and attention.

There are signs that we are entering a new stage in the acid rain issue—an increasing conviction that the cost of the damage to our environment outweighs the cost of cleaning the rain. There can be no quick solutions. The clean-up may take decades even if we start today.

### WHAT YOU CAN DO

You can help to overcome this problem by keeping aware of the dangers imposed by acid rain and by continuing to remind your local and national elected government officials of your concern.

JWB

## CLEAN AIR AND ACID RAIN POSTER CONTEST

Rose Ermidis, Education Chairperson . . . . . 785-6028

South Shore Audubon is most concerned about the problems of Acid Rain, Clean Air and the depletion of the Ozone Layer. We would like to encourage our legislators to act with responsibility concerning these issues. We hope to stimulate their interest through a Poster Contest for children in the South Shore Public Schools. We hope that teachers will want their students to enter the contest.

Rules of the Contest:

1. Work should be submitted by December 15th.
2. Medium: Painting, Drawing, Calligraphy, Colage (flat without projecting elements).
3. Size: All work should be 16 x 20, vertical or horizontal in format. Please do not mat or frame the work.
4. Work will be judged on the basis of class level. The best entry in grades three through sixth will be awarded a United States Savings Bond worth \$50.00. One for each of the four grade levels will be awarded in January 1988.
5. Choice of any of these three intertwined topics may be chosen. The theme should reflect originality and creativity in the work of the students. The theme should be interpreted in the widest and most personal sense.

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### NOTICE

### CLEAN AIR FORUM

A Clean Air Forum and Workshop on the Clean Air Act will be held at Hofstra University Law School, Room 206, on December 6, 1987 from 9:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. sponsored by the Long Island Clean Air Coalition. Representatives from the National Audubon Society, Sierra Club, American Lung Association, Adirondack Council, and Nat'l Clean Air Coalition will present programs on various aspects of Clean Air and Acid Rain. Continental Breakfast and snacks will be served. Members of SSAS are encouraged to attend. There is no fee for this forum. For reservations, call Mark Bettinger (231-5864).

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**SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY  
REVOLVING SCHOLARSHIP  
PROGRAM**

**MEMBERSHIP**  
Marion Yavarkovsky, Chairperson . . . . . 379-2090

Joseph Grupp . . . . . Scholarship Chairperson

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

*Welcome One and All  
We're so happy that you joined our Society  
We hope that you will come out on our Sunday walks  
and join us at our monthly meetings*

The Board of Directors of SSAS has approved a two year revolving scholarship program for deserving members who wish to attend the National Audubon Summer Camp Program at Greenwich, Connecticut or Hog Island, Maine. Scholarships will be awarded as outlined below.

**Year 1 – Summer 1988**

- Scholarship 1. Field Ecology for Educators at Greenwich, Connecticut (1 week).
- Scholarship 2. Introduction to Field Ecology at Greenwich, Connecticut (1 week).
- Scholarship 3. Ornithology at Hog Island, Maine (2 weeks).

**REQUIREMENTS**

1. One scholarship will be awarded to a candidate who is an active SSAS member and who will be involved in an educational role in the chapter, community, or school, etc.
2. One scholarship will be awarded to a candidate who is an active SSAS member and who will serve on one or more chapter committees.
3. One scholarship will be awarded to a candidate who is active and will remain active in attending chapter meetings, birdwalks, etc.
4. If no candidate meets the upper level requirements the awarding of the scholarships will revert to the next lowest level so that all scholarships will be awarded.

**Year 2 – 1989**

- Scholarship 4. Field Ecology at Hog Island, Maine (2 weeks)
- Scholarship 5. Youth Ecology Camp (ages 10–15) Hog Island, Maine (1 week)

**REQUIREMENTS**

5. Scholarship 4 will be awarded to a candidate who is an active SSAS member involved in education in either the chapter, community, etc., and or is willing to serve on a chapter committee. If no candidate meets those requirements, it will be awarded to a candidate who is active in attending chapter meetings, etc.
6. The youth scholarship will be awarded to a young person recommended by an active SSAS member.
7. If there is no candidate applying for the above scholarships, they will be awarded on the Year 1 basis so that all scholarships will be awarded.

Recipients will be chosen by the Scholarship Committee whose members are Betsy Gulotta, Malcolm Marum, James Remsen, and Joseph Grupp.

If you have any questions or are interested in a 1988 scholarship, contact Joe Grupp at 481-4208.

- Atlantic Beach . . . . . Brigette Braff
- Baldwin . . . . . George Lovitt, Richard Riley, Spencer Bell
- Bellmore . . . . . Saul Mines, Barbara Bunting, Nate Rind
- Bethpage . . . . . Robert Rock, Gustav Hackebell
- Brooklyn . . . . . Harlan Sutiff
- Cedarhurst . . . . . Mrs. Schuyler Merritt II
- East Meadow . . . . . Art Charney, Irene Schlagman, A. Desimone, Daniel Reinharth, John Smith
- E. Rockaway . . . . . Fred Comploier, James Miller, Shirley Sabbeth
- Elmont . . . . . George Moran
- Farmingdale . . . . . Leo Dileillo Jr., Charles Selock, I.J. White Corp., Adrianna Harris
- Floral Park . . . . . Henry Hochuli, Vikki Tarallo, Anita Tritell, Dorothy Weber, Sherman Glass
- Franklin Sq . . . . . Jo Finan, Paul Mantell, W. Volentine
- Freeport . . . . . Bertrum Cooper Jr.
- Garden City . . . . . Edward Cumming, Kathryn Agrell, Nathalie Barrul
- Glen Oaks . . . . . Karen Prince
- Hempstead . . . . . Robert Perez, F. Tobani
- Hicksville . . . . . Nancy Lucas, Ron Richichi, Ms. Nuding, William Spettmann Jr., Muriel Weippert, Victoria Piccione, Edward Parker, Gerald Ente, J. Murray, D. Snyder
- Island Park . . . . . Rosemary Holtmeyer
- Levittown . . . . . S. Jaret, Riter Butler, K. Schiller, Lawrence Berke
- Long Beach . . . . . George Waitword, John Kulpa, Susie Siegel, Harry Pollack, Joanne Scully, Ruth Margeson, Theresa Samperi
- Lynbrook . . . . . Nancy Nagel, J. Wetchler
- Malverne . . . . . Sharyn James
- Massapequa . . . . . Matthew Craine, Paul Ryf, Philip Flaxman, Dr. Curtis Freed, Martin Evans, N. Waldron, Douglas Kaiser, Millicent Wall
- Merrick . . . . . T. Peterson, Joyce Becker, Mrs. L. Koster, James Abercromby, Edward Werth
- Oceanside . . . . . Raphale Klein, Thomas Andron, Mrs. David Knapp, Stacey Nadell, Vicki Gillman, R. Van Houten
- Old Bethpage . . . . . E. Brennan
- Plainview . . . . . Mrs. Robert Hurley, Stephen Lee
- Rockville Ctr . . . . . Steve Werner, John Stackowitz, James Berg, Patricia Ciccone, Carolevan Maier, Dr. Irving Gelston
- Seaford . . . . . Barbara Coburn, Thomas Meehan, Mrs. E. Honig
- Uniondale . . . . . Laurie Waranis
- Valley Stream . . . . . Bernard Panto, W. Nimphius, A. Goldman
- W. Hempstead . . . . . Susan Rutkowski, Phyliss Braunstein
- Wantagh . . . . . Diane Higgin, Saul Richman
- Woodmere . . . . . Alvin Boretz, Martin Rudolph, A. Pomina



**BIRD WALKS**

Elliot Kutner, Chairperson .....516 486-7667

All walks start at 9:30 A.M.  
No walks if it rains, snows, or temperature  
is 25° or below.

- Dec. 6 Hempstead Lake State Park (Penninsula Blvd. Parking Lot)
- 13 Zach's Bay, Jones Beach, Field No. 4, N. E. Corner
- 20 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- 27 No walk
- Jan. 3 West End No. 2, N. E. Corner, Jones Beach
- 10 J. F. Kennedy Sanctuary, Tobay Beach
- 24 Pelham Bay Park (Meet on Service Road after going through Throg's Neck Bridge Toll Plaza, 9:00 A.M.)
- 31 Cedar Beach

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**RARE BIRD ALERT**  
212-832-6523

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**SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY**  
Post Office Box 31  
Freeport, New York 11520

**1987-1988 SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY  
OFFICERS, DIRECTORS,  
AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

- Betsy Gulotta, President ..... 546-8841
- Joseph Grupp, Vice President ..... 481-4208
- Louise Halpern, Recording Secretary ..... 546-6147
- Malcolm Marum, Treasurer ..... 752-0396
- Ruth Grossman, Corresponding Secretary ..... 378-8809
- George Appoldt, Director ..... 678-4964
- Arthur Atlas, Director ..... 223-2327
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- Lois Schlegel, Director ..... 822-1546
- James Browne, Director & Preserve Chairperson .. 889-9330
- Evelyn Blume, Director & Trip Chairperson ..... 378-7122
- Joan Butkerei, Conservation Chairperson ..... 623-0843
- Paul Butkerei, Bird Seed Sales ..... 623-0843
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- Marion Yavarkovsky, Membership Chairperson ... 379-2090
- Jack McLoughlin, Publicity Chairperson ..... 889-8092
- Len Gordon, Program Chairperson ..... 223-1365
- James Remsen, Youth Representative ..... 764-5168
- Bill Herzog, Binocular & Book Sales(7-9 PM) ... 791-7886
- Myrna Brier, Hospitality Chairperson ..... 764-7523
- Frieda Malament, Holiday Parties ..... 795-5842
- Jerry Bernstein, Skimmer Editor ..... 623-8255

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