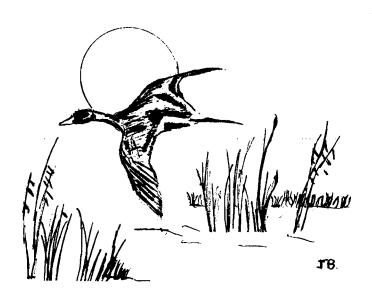
HORE HORE October 8th Meeting Speaker: Joan Scancarelli Topic: Life in the Costa Rican Rainforest

VOLUME 21, NUMBER 2 - SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

OCTOBER 1991

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE Do We Need to Protect Wetlands?

Joan Butkereit



NEXT MEETING

Sandy Brenner

DATE: Tuesday, October 8, 1991

TIME: 8:00 PM

PLACE: Freeport Memorial Library

Merrick Rd. & S. Ocean Ave.

SPEAKER: Not Revealed to Editor

TOPIC: Your Guess Is as Good as Mine!

For those of you who are new members or have never attended one of our monthly meetings, the first hour is normally devoted to South Shore Audubon Society committee reports and a noisy coffee break; the second hour features a guest speaker and his/her slide show (or occasionally her/his film or live animals) about some special part of the natural world. Join us!

IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE WASTE, PLEASE BRING COFFEE MUGS TO OUR MEETINGS

Yes!

Wetlands are a major nursery for life in the oceans; we reap the harvest of the sea these nurseries provide. Salinity is lowered in wetlands to enhance species diversity. Pollution from runoff and air is cleansed in wetlands. Wetlands function naturally as a means of flood control. Wetlands offer a refuge for many species of life.

I urge you to stop the newest attack on our nation's wetlands. Write President Bush and ask him to veto any legislation that would weaken wetlands protection.

Write Senators Daniel Patrick Moynihan and Alfonse D'Amato (U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510) and ask them to vote no on S. 1463.

Write Representative Norman Lent or Raymond McGrath (U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515) and ask him to vote *no* on H.R. 404 and H.R. 1330.

Attend our Wetlands Workshop on October 5th at Cow Meadow Park; see last month's Skimmer for details.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Marion Yavarkovsky

We are pleased to add 79 new members to our chapter this month. It is our hope that you will find the time to participate in our many activities. This is your organization, too. Join in!

[For information on joining the South Shore Audubon Society, please call our Membership Chairperson, Marion Yavarkovsky, at 379-2090. The best time to call is after 4 PM, Monday through Friday.]

Baldwin	Georganne Albanese, M. Ricca, Roslyn M. Stein, Rita M.
	Thoerle, Ellen Wagner
Bethpage	
	Mr. Stan Noren
East Meadow	C. H. Bedford, Elaine Ward
East Rockaway	Ms. Valerie Kenn
Elmont	Miles D. Phillips
Farmingdale	James F. McManus
Floral Park	Mary Normandia,
	Mrs. R. Obeirne
Freeport	Mr. David W. Alves,
	Mrs. Edith Amegod,
	Ms. Debra Rothberg
Garden City	Mr. Henry Dietz,
	Joyce Glassman,
	Mrs. Norma Gregson,
	Mr. Dietrich Helms,
	Mr. William J. Kelly,
	Ms. Margaret C. Wenk
Glen Oaks	John Kurek
Hempstead	Mr. Thomas J. Reilly,
	Mrs. Barbara A. Shapiro
Hewlett	
	Mary Lee Morris
Hicksville	Herbert Cullen, Joseph F.
	Lotufo, D. J. Snyder,
	James White
Levittown	Larry Breslin, Carol J. Connors,
	Austin Lopez
Long Beach	R. A. DeBeer,
	Melanie Finnegan,
	Ms. Laurie Goodrich,
	Mr. George Magee,
	Mr. Jim Prajesh, Iris Quigley,
	Steven Welsher
Lynbrook	John Bosworth, Jay T. Korth
Malverne	Maimi Dewey
Massapequa	Mr. & Mrs. G. DeHart,
	Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Hollan,
	B. Ramirez, Mrs. S. Raynor Jr.
Massapequa Park	Marianne P. Barrett,
	Mr. & Mrs. Richard S. Dorsi,
	0.1.1. 377.1

Sylvia Widerspan

Merrick Priscilla Billig, Gary Ritzer,
Mr. George E. Warrin
Oceanside B. Ferguson, Beth G. Fesco,
Ms. Susan B. Grant,
Suzanne Levy,
Lloyd J. Williams
Plainview Mr. Johnny Siotkas,
Mr. Edward Turner
Rockville Centre Leon Berman, F. Dunlap,
Dr. Benjamin Gold,
Mr. John Laursen,
Mrs. Claudia N. O'Connor
Seaford Mary Jo Beck,
Mr. Joseph Sander
Valley Stream Richard W. Roth,
Judy Schubert,
Mr. Frank T. Williams
Wantagh Mr. Edgar Camas,
Diane Sandler Derby,
Mr. E. R. Edward,
Mr. A. Rosenbaum
West Hempstead Mr. Michael Cuffey,
Irwin Levine,
Miss Nancy J. Pittman

BIRD SEED SAVINGS DAY

Our first Bird Seed Savings Day this season is Sunday, October 20, 1991, from 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM at Tackapausha. All preorders should be sent to Paul T. Butkereit by October 8th (see last month's *Skimmer* for the order form or contact Paul or Michael Sperling for a copy). HELP IS NEEDED to take orders and carry seed. If you'd like to help keep your Editor in working order, please volunteer to help us carry the 40,000 to 50,000 pounds of seed around the parking lot! Help is especially needed at 9:30 AM, since many of you arrive bright and early to pick up your orders.

THE GREENING OF LONG ISLAND TREE FUND

Elliott Kutner

We wish to thank the following for their contributions to our Greening of Long Island project.

Joseph R. Agolia, who enclosed the following note: "Please accept my check in appreciation for help given to me by one of your volunteers, Annie McIntyre. Back in June, she was kind enough to take on a hatchling bird that I found stranded. I don't know whether the chick survived, but it was clear to me that I had given it the best chance. It's people like Mrs. McIntyre who make the world a kinder place for living things of any stripe."

Mr. & Mrs. Elliot DeCastros, whose donation is in memory of Peter Kutner.

BE AN ADIRONDACK ADVOCATE

Eric Siy

(Director, National Audubon Adirondack Campaign)

The real-estate lobby has never been better organized — and more determined — to subdivide and develop the Adirondack Park.

This incomparable region is at a crossroads in its history. We can still prevent overdevelopment and save the Adirondacks — or we can sit back and bequeath a degraded, domesticated Adirondacks to our children and grandchildren.

If you want to help preserve this special place while there's still time to do so, please read on.

The Adirondack Park invites superlatives. It's the largest American park outside Alaska, containing a blend of lakes, rivers, mountains, wild forests, wetlands, farms, and human settlements found nowhere else. It offers the finest range of outdoor recreation opportunities, in a superb natural setting, in the eastern U.S.

It is also the only large U.S. park made up of public and private parcels. As development pressures in recent years have increased on the private holdings, which surround and intermix with the public land, the Adirondacks has also become one of the country's most threatened natural areas.

When the current recession ends, speculators and developers will zero in on the undisturbed lakes, scenic roadsides, and remote backcountry as never before. With our help, such development can be controlled and done with the utmost sensitivity to the park's natural character. With the new infusion of public funds, critical water bodies and landscapes can be added to the "forever wild" Forest Preserve, or permanently secured through conservation easements and tax incentives for open-space landowners.

In the spring of last year, Governor Cuomo's Commission on the Adirondacks issued its landmark report. A sense of urgency pervaded the Commission's recommendations about preserving the park and helping the Adirondack economy.

"The pace of land sales and the breakup of large parcels suggest that the final shape of the Adirondack Park will be determined before the century is over," the Commission found.

Through its Northeast Office in Albany, the National Audubon Society has launched a citizen mobilization campaign to provide lasting safeguards for the Adirondacks. Audubon will be working with the Environmental Planning Lobby, the Sierra Club, and dozens of other like-minded citizen groups — environmental, religious, civic, labor, recreational, professional, educational — to rally support nationwide. An information network has been established to keep all who sign up as Adirondack Advocates informed and activated on issues critical to the future of the park.

A good way to observe the 100th anniversary of the Adirondack Park next year is by teaming up with us now to ensure that the park will be as wild and beautiful for its bicentennial celebration in 2092 as it is today. By joining our information network, you will receive timely action alerts that will keep you abreast of fast-breaking Adirondack issues where your letter, phone call, or visit to a legislator can make a difference. (If you want to do more, so much the better!)

Please write to: Eric Siy, Director, ADIRONDACK ADVOCATES, National Audubon Northeast Office, 1789 Western Avenue, Albany, NY 12203.

The threats to the Adirondack Park have never been greater — but neither have the opportunities to protect this magnificent region for all time. The fate of the Adirondacks now depends on us.

TWIN LAKES PRESERVE FALL CLEANUP Saturday, October 19th — 9:30 AM

Dolores Rogers

Enjoy the colorful fall foliage while helping SSAS members and friends clean up this beautiful preserve in Wantagh. Trash bags will be provided. If there's light rain, it's on; if there's heavy rain, rain date is Sunday, October 20th at 1:00 PM.

Directions: Sunrise Highway to Old Mill Road, north to school parking lot (on Sunrise Highway, Old Mill Road is one block west of the Wantagh Parkway).

BUDGET 1991-1992

Insurance	700.00
Skimmer	6200.00
Refreshments at Meetings	250.00
Library Custodians	200.00
Library Donation	400.00
Library Overtime	360.00
Speakers	500.00
Miscellaneous	1000.00
Conservation Projects	1000.00
Education	2500.00
Holiday Wildlife Party	150.00
Wetlands Conference	400.00
Brookside Preserve	1000.00
National Audubon Conferences	1500.00
Audubon Camp Scholarships	1400.00
Membership Operations	100.00
Corresponding Secretary Operations	75.00
TR Sanctuary	700.00
Donations	1000.00
Bird Box Nesting Project	200.00
Advertisements	500.00
Total	20.135.00

CONSERVATION REPORT

Annie F. McIntyre

Back to the "W" Word. Lois wrote an article in the September Skimmer about Congressional wetlands legislation. In the meantime, the EPA has planned the implementation of revisions to its wetlands manual. I haven't received the documents from EPA yet, but reportedly the criteria for deeming something wetlands will be stiffened, which is a step in the wrong direction in my mind. We now lose 200,000 acres of wetlands a year.

Under the current wetlands manual, which was developed in 1989, lands saturated down to 12 inches for at least 7 consecutive days a year were called wetlands. The proposed new definition would require 15 consecutive days of standing water and 21 days of surface saturation, which would reportedly leave millions of acres newly unprotected. I don't have all the details as we go to print, but the period for public comment will be over by October 15th. If you're interested in going on record for this, please call me for further information.

"Ban the Dam" Bike Tour. The James Bay and Northern Wilderness Task Force has put together a three month bike tour, hoping to serve as a consciousness raiser for the James Bay issue. The tour began July 15th in Syracuse and will end October 12th in New York City. It will be on Long Island from Sept 29th through Oct 3rd, starting in Southampton and riding westward. The riders will stop each night and give a video program. The shows in our area will be Tuesday, October 1st at 7:30 PM at the Freeport Memorial Library and Wednesday, October 2nd at Hofstra, probably also at 7:30 PM. The goal of the tour is to educate – getting information to the general public is the key to winning this battle. Please come. Please tell your friends and neighbors to come. Anyone interested in riding with the bikers, please contact me. [Editor's Note: The September issue of Audubon Activist discusses the James Bay II hydropower project, which was the main topic at two SSAS meetings last year and has been mentioned frequently in the Skimmer. Audubon Activist is available free to all Audubon members who pledge to write two letters and make two phone calls on behalf of environmental issues. Write to Audubon Activist, 950 Third Ave., New York, NY 10022. Sample copies are available at our meetings.]

Fight for the Forests Again. Representative John Bryant of Texas has introduced the Forest Biodiversity and Clearcutting Prohibition Act, H.R. 1969. It will put an end to clearcutting and mandate selection management of federal lands. The bill currently has 22 cosponsors. In August, a few of your fellow Auduboners went to speak to our Congressman, Norman Lent, about this

bill. His schedule was backed up, so we met instead with his executive assistant, Randy Yunker. We found Randy to be well informed on the issue and receptive to our viewpoint. Congressman Lent may be another story. That's where you come in. He needs to hear from you. Just a few lines are needed, simply stating that you're against clearcutting, that selection management makes ecologic and economic good sense, and that you urge him to cosponsor H.R. 1969. We need to help him understand that his constituents are aware and care about the forest issue. It's a simple way to have a real impact on whether our forests will survive. Please work with us on this. As always, any questions, comments, etc., are welcome.

EDUCATION NEWS

Rose Ermidis

Our goal this year for Audubon Adventures subscriptions is 100; last year we had 95. The cost this year is \$30 for a class; we ask for a donation of \$10.

Do you know a teacher, librarian, or boy/girl scout leader who would like to have a subscription? Our deadline for subscriptions will be November 22nd.

A leader's guide and up to 32 copies of the newspaper are included in a subscription, which is mailed every other month from August through June.

This year the issues deal with such important environmental topics as trees; oceans; and land, air, and sea animals.

If you are interested in this superb publication for yourself as a teacher or you know someone who might be interested, call or write me now.

THE NOVEMBER SKIMMER

Michael Sperling

The November 1990 issue was put aside by several post offices, probably due to competition with holiday mail order catalogs. In the event that your issue is delayed this year, please note that our general meeting will be held on the second Tuesday, as usual (November 12th).

AUDUBON HOTLINE	(202) 547-9017
*******	******
RARE BIRD ALERT	(212) 832-6523
*******	******
WILDLIFE POISONING HOT	LINE (800) 356-0560

BIRDATHON RESULTS 1991

Doreen Remsen & James Remsen, Jr.

Ospreys at Cow Meadow Preserve, Oceanside Marine Nature Study Area, or Jamaica Bay. Solitary Sandpipers at Mill Pond or Muttontown Preserve. A singing Scarlet Tanager high in a forest tree. Eyefilling looks at a White-eyed Vireo, Blue-winged Warbler, or Chestnut-sided Warbler. If you were on the 1991 South Shore Audubon Society Birdathon, these were the types of sights to which you were treated.

The fourth SSAS Birdathon, held on May 11, 1991, was great fun for everyone involved. The Butkereit and Grupp-Remsen teams, in feverish competition and starting at Central Park and Mill Pond, respectively, finished in an unprecedented tie: 106 species each. Not to be outdone, Elliott Kutner and his crew at Jamaica Bay racked up 86 species, making him (as he never fails to remind us) the winner! [Editor's Note: Elliott's team saw the most species per hour; whether or not that matters depends on who you ask!] Several members also conducted their own independent bird counts and forwarded lists and pledges, for which we are grateful. One of these, by Pera Gorson in Alaska, added 50 species to our chapter grand total! And our first "non-birder's" Birdathon found 30 species at Brookside Preserve in about two hours.

For the fourth consecutive year, our chapter is the top fund-raiser in New York State, and we have also placed second in the Northeast Region. Our members spotted a total of 135 species of birds (185 including the Alaskan species, the largest chapter grand total ever for South Shore) and raised approximately \$3000, which will be used partly to fund the programs of the South Shore Audubon Society, with the remainder going to fund the following National Audubon programs: Wetlands Campaign and Scully Sanctuary (\$250 each) and Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary in Oyster Bay (the rest of National's share of the funds).

Prizes were awarded at the June dinner to the following individuals.

Largest dollar amount raised:

1st place — Betsy Gulotta
Runners-up — Kenneth & Karen Wenzel
Largest number of sponsors recruited:

1st place — Kenneth & Karen Wenzel
Runners-up — Betsy Gulotta and Joe Grupp

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the team leaders, those who went birding on May 11th, and all our sponsors. Our Birdathons are only as successful as you have made them. Thanks for your enthusiasm and hard work.

BIRD WALKS

Elliott Kutner

All walks start at 9:30 AM; no walk if it rains. Any questions? Call Elliott at 486-7667.

Oct. 6	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Oct. 13	Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner
Oct. 20	Tobay JFK Sanctuary
Oct. 27	Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
Nov. 3	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

NOTES FROM A BIRDWATCHER'S LOG The Pavarotti Sound — August 1, 1991

Elliott Kutner

On Thursday night, Channel 13 presented Pavarotti at Hyde Park. The field was jammed with soaked-to-the-skin listeners enjoying normal British weather. Among those in the crowd, first row center, were the Prince and Princess of Wales, and then people, just one mass of people from all walks of life, every age, every station — people sharing the glory of the Pavarotti Sound. He sang his usual repertoire of arias. As I watched and listened, I became one more face in that crowd. Together, we waited to hear his voice blend with that glorious host of violins, waiting for him to touch, stir, and trigger that corner of us where we each keep the innocence of our youth, our cherished goals and desires. All of these feelings nurtured by hope; hope that tomorrow will be a better day.

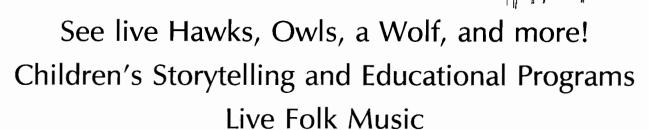
Then it happened! One hour and ten minutes into the program, he sang "Momma," "Sorrento," and "O Solo Mio." We stood as one. We clapped, cheered, and whistled; not the polite grateful handclapping in response to his operatic perfection, but a sound to let him know that he had touched us where we really live. Thank you, Pavarotti. Those few moments of artistic perfection represent the very best of our human experience. The credits at the end of the program revealed that this evening was dedicated to The Prince of Wales Environmental Program to Save the Earth.

Neighbors all, we are children of our mother — Earth. She sustains us with our basic needs — a breath of fresh air, a glass of clear water, and food from the ground and seas about us, so we can dream and live on to achieve and enjoy the fruit of our labor. We have been thoughtless, careless, and gluttonous in our use of our natural resources. It is time for each of us to recognize the real and imminent danger we face if we do not personally join in the battle to clean our rivers and lakes, protect the oceans, and clean the air we breathe. After all, it is all *one*. Without the bounty of things natural, we will lose the glory of our humanity — the Pavarotti Sound.

Wildlife Festival Craft Show

"Wildlife — its gifts and preservation"

November 2nd & 3rd at "The Hay Barn" Planting Fields Arboretum Oyster Bay, N.Y.



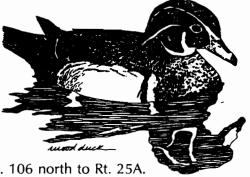
Arts, Crafts, Books,
Pottery, Woodcarvings,
Art Prints, Photography, and much more!

Sponsored by Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary, Inc.

Phone 922-3200 for Information

Hours:

Sat 10am – 5pm Sun 11am – 4pm



Admission: \$4.00 Adults \$2.00 Kids 7–12

Directions
L.I.E. to Exit 41 north; take Rt. 106 north to Rt. 25A.
Turn left and follow signs to Planting Fields.

SHARING A KILLDEER NESTING EFFORT WITH STUDENTS

Peter Martin

I'm an eighth grade science teacher at the Oceanside Middle School and I hope some of you will find this description of a Killdeer nesting, and student and faculty involvement, both interesting and heartening. The Oceanside Middle School is surrounded by playing fields, golf courses, and park lawns, with nearby salt marsh, sand, and mud flats. This is ideal Killdeer nesting habitat. Each spring, when Killdeer arrive on the school grounds and begin calling and displaying outside the classroom windows, I discuss the birds' habits, behaviors, and ecological role. I try to handle this discussion in a way that informs students and enhances their respect for wildlife, while avoiding encouraging undue disturbance of the birds' nesting efforts (i.e., no lessons on "How to find a Killdeer nest"). Therefore, I was somewhat apprehensive when a student informed me that the track team had found a Killdeer nest in the grass next to the track, and the students were trying to catch the "bird with a hurt wing."

Well, with some misgivings regarding the attitudes and behaviors of teenage boys, I decided that an immediate education campaign and protective effort would give the birds their best chance and be of benefit to the students.

After explaining the situation carefully, I brought each class and some interested adults out to the nest. Each time we approached, we observed how the attending parent would first sit tight, then start calling excitedly, occasionally "puff up" and seem to attempt a "bluff charge," and then resort to the typical "broken wing" feigning of an injury, to distract the potential predator and lure it away from the nest site. We observed how well camouflaged the four eggs were and how they retained the warmth of the parent's body. We erected wooden stakes to protect the nest from mowing equipment and installed a small sign explaining the situation. We tried to minimize the amount of time the adults were stressed, and the eggs exposed to the sun and ambient air temperatures, and discussed the possibility that our presence might attract predators to the nest site. After this, we agreed to monitor the nest site from a distance and disturb it as little as possible. I cautioned the students that the nest was in a very vulnerable situation and would not likely make it through the 24-26 days required for incubation, but that if the nesting attempt failed, the season was still early and the birds would probably lay a second clutch, hopefully in a safer situation. Well, after a weekend, we found the nest site abandoned, and the eggs punctured and scattered. It appeared to me to be the work of crows or gulls. At least it didn't appear that we had caused the failure and it did appear that a lot of people had gained in their understanding of and appreciation for wildlife.

I thought that was the end of this particular experience, but, two days later, a single Killdeer began visiting the gravel roof outside a second floor classroom. The next day there were two and by the weekend there was another full clutch of four eggs. I'm not sure they were the same birds, but I think the timing was more than coincidental. I and many students were thrilled, though I was quite jealous that the birds had chosen to nest outside the social studies teacher's room, rather than mine! The social studies teacher was not quite as thrilled, as the calls of the birds as they exchanged incubation duties and the news of the day, or unleashed a torrent of invective at any student whose head appeared at a window, made holding students' attention most difficult on hot May afternoons. As a matter of fact, her complaints became almost as vociferous as those of the birds. However, when I offered to exchange rooms for the duration, and she refused, I realized that her maternal instincts had come to the fore, and that the birds would be safe.

As of this writing, this nesting effort is proceeding and many people hope it will succeed. But even if it doesn't, a lot of good occurred. A large number of students became more aware of and interested in wildlife in our area. Several have discussed articles they have read or their personal observations regarding tern and shorebird nesting and protection efforts along our barrier beaches, and many are now reporting on the activities of birds in their backyards. Despite my misgivings, even our "most difficult" students and video-game jaded adolescents showed a genuine interest and sincere concern for these animals, when involved in a real-life experience. It was also nice to see that many adults had not lost their sense of wonder, and shared this interest. With the exception of one brief period of difficulty in communicating with the Building and Grounds Department on the importance of not moving the first nest site, adults were at least tolerant and often quite interested and supportive. In short, these events provided a pleasant experience in wildlife observation and conservation for a number of people, and I've enjoyed sharing it with you.

Editor's Note: Unfortunately, the second nesting effort also didn't succeed, probably due to predation by crows or gulls over a weekend, but Mr. Martin is hopeful that the birds may have been successful in an undetected third attempt.



1991-1992 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

	2 00 42
Joan Butkereit, President	
James Remsen, Jr., Vice President, Bylaws Review Chairperson, & Birdathon Co-Chairperson 764	
Louise Hillen, Recording Secretary	
Lennox Gordon, Treasurer	
Ruth Grossman, Corresponding Secretary	
Marge Jaeger, Director (6/94)	
Richard Packert, Director (6/94)	7-9683
Tom Torma, Director (6/93) & Fundraising Chairperson	3-7947
Mark Phillips, Director (6/92)	1-0265
Dolores Rogers, Director (6/92)	9-1224
Evelyn Blume, Scholarships Chairperson	
Sandy Brenner, Program Chairperson	
Paul Butkereit, Bird Seed Savings Day	
Rose Ermidis, Education Chairperson	
Joseph Grupp, Duck Survey	1-4208
Betsy Gulotta, Brookside Preserve Committee Chairperson	
Elliott Kutner, Birding / Field Trips Chairperson	
Joseph Lancer, Binocular / Book Sales (7 to 9 PM)	6-6574
Frieda Malament, Holiday Parties 79:	
Annic F. McIntyre, Conservation Co-Chairperson	
Doris Pirodsky, Historian	
George Popkin, Binocular / Book Sales (8 to 9 PM)	8-4467
Dorcen Remsen, Birdathon Co-Chairperson	
Josephine Rosato, T-Shirt / Sweatshirt Sales	
Mary Jane Russell, Hospitality Chairperson	
Lois Bartow Schlegel, Conservation Co-Chairperson (to 8:30 PM)	
Dianc Singer, Publicity	
Michael Sperling, Skimmer Editor	
John Staropoli, Youth Representative	
Marion Yavarkovsky, Membership Chairperson	

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

A CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Americans Committed to Conservation

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