

always place any value on it. [Editor's note for our newest members: Piping Plovers are shorebirds that nest on some of Long Island's beaches and are protected by the Endangered Species Act and chapter volunteers.]

That's where we come in. South Shore Audubon Society makes people aware of what they have and what they stand to lose. We must respond from an informed conservation ethic to these attacks on our environment, telling people that poor environmental policy will hurt them both in the pocket-book and in a decreased quality of life. We do not have a right to blindly oppose economic growth, but we do have an obligation to oppose development that is being carried out in an environmentally unsound way, particularly when alternatives are available.

Advancing these goals cannot be done effectively by one person. I will need the full cooperation of all our officers, directors, and committees. Together we create the productive community that is South Shore Audubon Society.



AUDUBON ADVENTURES

Audubon Adventures is the elementary school program created by the National Audubon Society to help children in grades 3-6 discover the marvels of nature — from the delight of observing plants, birds, and other animals in their own backyards or schoolyards, to the thrill of learning about creatures that live under the earth, beneath the oceans, in the frozen arctic, in a tropical rainforest, near a marsh, or in other wild habitats around the globe. Audubon Adventures' classroom materials stimulate curiosity and help develop an early respect for the beauty and diversity of life on this planet.

Audubon Adventures is the largest school-based environmental youth club in the world. Individuals, businesses, and organizations (including SSAS) now sponsor the program in 450 cities and communities throughout the U.S., and more than two million children have enrolled. Each child in an Audubon Adventures classroom (or scouting group; up to 32 copies per subscription) receives six issues of *Audubon Adventures*, the thought-provoking and entertaining nature/environmental newspaper. Topics change each year and might include: oceans, owls, animal tracks, conifers, tropical forests, marine mammals, recycling, songbirds, and more! In April, each child receives a bonus Earth Day recycling packet and a full-color wall poster featuring a critical wild-life habitat. Teachers receive a *Leader's Guide* to accompany each issue of the student newspaper and help them incorporate lessons and activities into the class curriculum.

South Shore Audubon Society usually pays for two-thirds of the \$30 that National Audubon Society charges chapters for each class/group subscription (the average actual cost to NAS is \$70 per subscription). We request a \$10 contribution per class/group, if possible. For further information regarding Audubon Adventures, including details about single-copy subscriptions, please call our Education Chairperson, Rose Ermidis, at 785-6028.

WHAT'S NEW AT BROOKSIDE PRESERVE?

Betsy Gulotta

As many of you know, the New York State grant for the development of Brookside Preserve as an outdoor nature educational facility was approved this spring. This summer has been filled with activity in preparation for spending our grant money on Preserve projects.

Brookside Preserve, a 20 acre freshwater wetland, woodland, and upland field area located just north of the historical Brooklyn Water Works building in Freeport, is a Nassau County preserve under the management of South Shore Audubon Society. The Brookside Preserve Committee, composed of SSAS members and local residents, advises our organization on the management and development of the Preserve into an outdoor educational resource.

Two years ago, SSAS applied for a New York State Legislative grant to help us accomplish some of the projects necessary to develop the Preserve into a functional nature facility. State Senator Norman Levy was instrumental in helping us receive the \$34,000 grant and we publicly thank him for his efforts.

Some of the projects that we will be able to accomplish with our grant are: construction of a fence along the southern border of the Preserve (Nassau County will provide and install a fence along Brookside Avenue), removal of some very large unsightly tanks and debris, planting of the field with native wildflowers and grasses, construction of a pedestrian bridge over Milburn Creek, construction of a raised boardwalk along wet and uneven trails, installation of benches and bird nest boxes, and the printing of a trail guide.

Because of its location in a heavily populated community and its active use, the Preserve requires constant management. The Freeport Girl Scouts have volunteered to help keep the Preserve clean. Each month of the year will be covered by a different troop, which will patrol and clean the trails. Other civic organizations are welcome to participate as well.

We look forward to an exciting year working together and seeing these projects come to fruition. The Brookside Preserve Committee has worked hard in these endeavors and we thank them for their time and efforts. There is still much to be done, and the Committee is always open to new members. If you are interested in joining, please contact Betsy Gulotta at 546-8841.



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Houses - Baths
Books - Gifts

(516) 694-2180



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Located between McDonald's & Dunkin' Donuts

CONSERVATION REPORT

Lois Bartow Schlegel

As we face insurmountable amounts of trash on Long Island, most efforts for relief have been put towards recycling, with great success. I am pleased that great encouragement has been made by my township to *Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Compost*, with the Town of Oyster Bay having been recognized for an outstanding program in the nation.

Success dwells in other parts, too. A friend of mine who lives in Fair Lawn, NJ (Bergen County), claimed his town's recycling program was just super and sent me a mayoral document for my interest (to boast, I'm sure!): Fair Lawn has cut garbage volume by 60% (and was awarded a grant exceeding \$200,000 to help finance the program), reduced garbage collection to once a week, increased recyclable collection to twice a week, and saved \$30 in the town budget for every ton recycled.

Long Island is fortunate to have our residents be highly participative in our recycling programs. We still need to examine our daily routines and see where we can cut waste and reuse items. Our goals should be high, with confidence in their attainability. The quality of our lives and our ecosystem depend upon it.

The following guides to simple composting are taken from the July/August 1992 issue of *Audubon Activist*. [Editor's Note: *Audubon Activist* is sent free of charge to the nearly 100,000 National Audubon Society members who have mailed in the following sentence: "I pledge to take action by writing at least two letters and making at least two phone calls a year on behalf of environmental issues." Mail your pledge, address, and phone number to Audubon Activist, P.O. Box 707, Yorktown Heights, NY 10598-0707. In addition to the eight-page monthly newspaper, you will receive occasional action alerts. Sample copies of *Audubon Activist* are available at SSAS meetings.]

Backyard Composting is simple and can recycle large amounts of materials. Here is what you need to do:

- ❶ Create a compost area. Enclose the area with chicken wire, fencing, brick, cinder blocks, etc. If you prefer, you can purchase a compost bin from Seventh Generation, Smith and Hawkins, Sears, etc.
- ❷ Start a compost pile. Grass clippings, leaves, eggshells, vegetable peels, fruit rinds, unused leftovers, and coffee grounds are all candidates for the compost heap. Food scraps provide nitrogen, which helps speed up the process. Do not add meat, bones, fat, or grease. These attract pests and take longer to decompose.
- ❸ Stir. Mixing the pile every few days allows air to circulate and quickens the composting process. Add a small amount of water to keep the pile damp. Add sawdust if unpleasant odors occur.
- ❹ Reuse. Compost is ready when it has the appearance of dirt. Add to flower beds and gardens or use to replenish yard areas that have lost soil.

Vermicomposting, or worm composting, relies on worms (generally the redworm, *Eisenia fetida*) to consume and decompose food wastes. It is fast and mostly odorless, and is a practical alternative for apartment dwellers. The following tips are from Linda Jones, co-coordinator of Audubon's Community Solid Waste Program, and *Garbage* magazine:

- ❶ Select a bin. You can purchase worm composting bins (see below) or make your own (for instance, from a large plastic food container). The bin should have 1 square foot of area for each pound of food scraps added in a week. It should have a tight lid and holes in the bottom to drain excess liquid.
 - ❷ Choose a location. Place the bin in a dark spot that will stay close to room temperature year round. Elevate over a tray to collect drainage.
 - ❸ Prepare bedding. A layer of bedding absorbs excess moisture and aerates the bin. Shredded scraps of newspaper and cardboard are fine. The bin should be moist but not wet. Add more bedding to combat odor or excess moisture.
 - ❹ Add worms. One pound of redworms is recommended to handle about one half pound of food waste daily. See below for information on ordering worms.
 - ❺ Add food scraps. Worms can digest meat and fish scraps, but make sure the bin is tightly sealed.
 - ❻ Reuse. Add worm compost as fertilizer to houseplants or garden.
- For more information on vermicomposting, as well as worms and other supplies, contact Flowerfield Enterprises, 10332 Shaver Road, Kalamazoo, MI 49002.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT SANCTUARY

134 Cove Road
Oyster Bay, NY 11771
(516) 922-3200

Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Bird Sanctuary is owned by the National Audubon Society and operated by the Community and three local Audubon chapters, including South Shore Audubon Society.

On September 12th and 13th, the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary will be holding its annual **Wildlife Festival and Environmental Fair**, featuring nature walks, crafts, children's activities, and wildlife (an Andean Condor, hawks, eagles, owls, a bat, wolves, bobcats, snakes, lizards, turtles, and many more). Admission is \$4 for adults and \$3 for children; hours are 10 AM to 4 PM on Saturday and 11 AM to 4 PM on Sunday. There will also be a casual party on Saturday night at 8 PM; cost is \$10 per person (call TRS for more information).

RARE BIRD ALERT (212) 832-6523

WILDLIFE POISONING HOTLINE (800) 356-0560

AUDUBON HOTLINE (202) 547-9017

AVIAN FAMILY VALUES

Tom Torma

During this election year, a two second sound bite has become a hot political issue. Suddenly, "family values" can be read on many politicians' lips. Humans often look to the natural world for moral comparisons. If we study avian society, we will discover a world with characters right out of a soap opera.

Many birds are thought to be monogamous. While the idea of fidelity might seem reassuring, it is not realistic. The White-crowned Sparrow and the Indigo Bunting are thought to be faithful to a single partner. Recent scientific research casts doubts about this concept. Scientists studied the genetic relationship between nest mates and their offspring. The study showed that nearly a third of their brood were the result of the female's extra-pair copulations.

In Europe, the Great Reed Warbler sets up an elongated territory on a reedy marsh. He sings his courting song at one end of his territory to attract a mate. After he has secured his primary mate, he moves to the opposite side of his territory to attract a second mate.

Purple Martins usually nest in apartment-like birdhouses. A male will claim several apartments, or windows, for his own. When a female martin collects nest materials on the ground, her mate often watches over her to prevent any attempt by another male to forcibly copulate with her. The male martins will cheat if the opportunity allows. About a month after the adult birds arrive at their nesting location, a second wave of less mature martins arrives. The adult male is tolerant of these younger birds. He will allow them to use his extra nest holes. If the opportunity allows, he will mate with the younger females and fertilize another clutch of eggs. The young naive male will then raise the young as his own.

The Jacana is a species of tropical bird with long toes that walks on water lilies and hyacinths. The female Jacanas are larger than the males and will mate with up to four males. The males then build the nests. The female lays her eggs in the male's nest and then leaves; the male incubates and rears the young. Each male defends his own territory, under the protection of the female, who fends off other females and breaks up fights between the males. This is truly a liberated female.

Judging from what we know about avian society, maybe we will be better off not looking to birds for examples of "family values."



BIRD WALKS

Elliott Kutner

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

- Aug. 23 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- Aug. 30 Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
- Sept. 6 Labor Day Weekend — No Walk
- Sept. 13 Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
- Sept. 20 Bus Trip to Greenwich — Hawk Watch
- Sept. 27 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- Oct. 4 Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner
- Oct. 11 Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
- Oct. 18 Hempstead Lake State Park (Pen. Blvd.)
- Oct. 25 Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
- Nov. 1 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge



BIRDATHON RESULTS

Doreen Remsen and James Remsen, Jr.

The participants in the 1992 South Shore Audubon Birdathon were counting bird species everywhere — from Forest Park in Queens to the Town of Hempstead wetlands. They saw 146 species of birds, from Horned Grebe to American Goldfinch, from Gannets to Gadwalls. And let's not forget the 20 warbler species, including Worm-eating and Hooded Warblers.

Our fifth Birdathon, held on May 9th, was great fun for everyone involved, even though it started in heavy early-morning fog. After the fog (and the smoke) cleared, the Grupp-Remsen team had 113 species (an all-time high for this team), the Butkereit team 108, and the Kutner team 85. Several members conducted their own independent bird counts and forwarded lists and pledges, for which we are grateful. These members are Susan Brychcy, Pera Gorson, and John Zarudsky.

This year our chapter grossed \$2563.95 in Birdathon profits. We have placed third in the Northeast Region for a chapter of 1000 or more members and will once again be receiving prizes from National Audubon. As usual, SSAS is keeping 50% of the Birdathon proceeds, and the remaining 50% has been evenly divided among the Scully Science Center in Islip, the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary in Oyster Bay, and the National Audubon Society's newest high-priority campaign — the reauthorization of the Endangered Species Act.

Prizes were awarded to our chapter's top fund-raisers and sponsor recruiters at the June dinner: Carole Adams and Kenneth & Karen Wenzel.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the team leaders, those who went birding on May 9th, and all our sponsors. Our Birdathons are only as successful as you have made them. Thanks for your enthusiasm and hard work.

ENDANGERED SPECIES FOR SALE

Mark Phillips

During your daily travels in our area, you may well encounter live specimens or products of endangered species for sale. Make no mistake about it, there are folks out there who will try to tap into this lucrative market, despite the best efforts of law enforcement officials at both the state and federal levels. Ever-tightening budgetary constraints and a burgeoning workload are giving these same officials all they can handle. Law enforcement efforts are being spread dangerously thin. Any input from the public can only make the whole program that much more effective. If you see something that you think may be illegal, please contact: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, (718) 553-1705 or (718) 553-1767; and NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation, (516) 751-7900 or (718) 482-4885.

Responding to your inquiry may take some time, so please be patient. You never know what your efforts may lead to. After all, an aware, involved public will invariably be the best deterrent we have against those who would abuse the resource for economic gain.

1991 NYS ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION

Michael Sperling

In the May *Skimmer* (call me if you would like a copy), I summarized the Environmental Planning Lobby's 1991 Voters' Guide. After discussing EPL's comments on the overall situation in the New York State Legislature and giving EPL's scores for Nassau County's Assemblymen and State Senators, I started reprinting their descriptions of the bills used to rate our legislators. The 14 bills mentioned in the May *Skimmer*, all of which EPL supported, break down as follows: 8 bills were approved by the Assembly but not by the Senate, 1 bill was approved by the Senate but not by the Assembly, 1 bill passed both houses but was recalled at Governor Cuomo's request, and 4 bills passed both houses and were signed into law by Cuomo. Four more bills were covered in the June *Skimmer*; two were good bills signed into law, one was a good bill that reached Cuomo's desk before being recalled, and one was a bad bill that passed both houses as a proposition to be placed on the November 1991 ballot (an Adirondacks land swap). Here are some of the remaining bills:

More Signs in Catskill Park. Much too often, the beauty and integrity of New York's scenic areas are compromised by overzealous billboards, signs, and other advertisements for the area's commercial interests. However, current regulation allows the Catskill and Adirondack Parks to preserve much of their beautiful vistas that keep tourists coming back again and again. This bill would undermine existing regulation and allow businesses in the Catskill Park to post up to four additional directional signs. S1658-B (Cook) passed the Senate, but had no Assembly sponsor.

A similar bill, A7372 (Hinchey) passed the Assembly Environmental Conservation Committee but was held from reaching the Assembly floor.

Allow Improper Landfill Closure. Landfills contain many toxic and hazardous substances that can severely damage the environment and threaten public health if not carefully treated. This bill would allow communities to improperly close their overflowing landfills based upon insufficient information about the landfill's history, for purely economic reasons. The measure would begin the practice of reversing environmental standards when localities are having difficult fiscal times, despite historical proof that pollution only becomes more expensive to clean up when allowed to bloom into crisis proportions. S4211-B (Bruno) passed the Senate; there was no Assembly sponsor.

Reduction of Mercury in Batteries. In order for new and existing solid waste facilities to operate as cleanly and safely as possible, toxic and hazardous materials must be separated out and recycled or disposed of properly. Household batteries that are buried in landfills or incinerated release toxic mercury and other chemicals. This bill recognizes the public health and environmental threat posed by batteries, and requires that mercury content be reduced in certain types of batteries and a plan be developed for recycling and properly disposing of batteries. A7029-B (Hinchey) / S4275-B (Johnson) passed both houses and was signed into law by the Governor.

Balloon Release Ban. Mass balloon releases may look pretty, but they spell death for many birds, fish, whales, and other marine life that ingest the plastic or become entangled in the strings. This bill prohibits the release of 25 or more balloons within a 24-hour period, with some exceptions. A5278 (Grannis) / S5695 (Holland) passed the Assembly but was held in the Senate Environmental Conservation Committee.

Jeopardize NYC Water Supplies. This bill restricts the NYC Department of Environmental Protection from having any meaningful ability to protect New York City's sources of drinking water. Currently, the DEP has the ability to reasonably regulate development patterns in the Catskill and Delaware watersheds, which provide the metropolitan area with drinking water. These watershed areas have been heavily impacted by development, pesticide and fertilizer use, and traffic congestion, among others, resulting in a marked decrease in NYC's water supply quality. S4419 (Cook) passed the Senate but had no Assembly sponsor.

Restore Deleted Groundwater Provision. A key provision in the Environmental Conservation Law that prohibits the pollution of both surface water and groundwater was unintentionally deleted during an amendment process in 1961. Without action to restore the deleted phrase, polluters will continue to slip through this loophole by merely claiming that their contamination of groundwater due to chemical spills or leaking toxic dump sites was not a "direct discharge." A4788 (Hinchey) passed the Assembly but had no sponsor in the Senate.

**BIRD SEED SAVINGS DAY
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1992
TACKAPAUSHA MUSEUM
9:30 AM — 2:30 PM**

The museum is located on Washington Avenue in Seaford and lies about 1/2 mile south of Sunrise Highway, just north of Merrick Road. Preordering greatly aids us in determining the amount of seed needed; an order form appears below for your use. **Please keep this upper portion as a reminder of the sale date.** All preorders should be received by OCTOBER 13th. **Please make checks payable to the South Shore Audubon Society. Mail check and order form to Paul T. Butkerei, 268 Wallace St., Freeport, NY 11520.**

Once again we are offering three types of sunflower seed: black oil seed, large white striped seed, and a blend of the two consisting of 60% oil and 40% striped. We will also be offering a 10% reduction on Bird Feeders. Help will be needed on the sale date to take orders and to aid in unloading seed. If you wish to volunteer, call (516) 623-0843 late evenings and ask for Paul. **Our next sale will be JANUARY 31, 1993.**

My name is _____

My address is _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ S.S.A.S. Member? Yes No

QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION	PRICE	TOTAL
	25 lb Black Oil Sunflower Seed	7.00	
	25 lb Striped Sunflower Seed	7.50	
	40 lb Blended Sunflower Seed	11.00	
	25 lb Regular Wild Bird Seed Mix (sunflower, millet, cracked corn, milo, wheat)	5.50	
	50 lb Regular Wild Bird Seed Mix	10.50	
	20 lb Special Mix (sunflower, millet, milo, wheat, peanut hearts)	5.25	
	40 lb Special Mix	10.00	
	40 lb Premium Mix (sunflower, millet, cracked corn, niger seed, peanut hearts)	10.50	
	25 lb Cracked Corn	5.50	
	10 lb Sunflower Hearts	6.00	
	10 lb Safflower Seed	4.50	
	10 lb Peanut Bits	5.25	
	10 lb White Proso Millet	2.75	
	10 lb Thistle Seed (Niger)	10.00	
	Maine Manna Suet Cakes	3.90	
	Bird Feeding System (A Great Gift Idea: 5 lbs mixed seed, 2-1/2 lbs sunflower seed, 10 oz suet cake, tube feeder, and 23-page wild bird feeding brochure, all in a box)	19.00	

All blends and mixes are based on current research

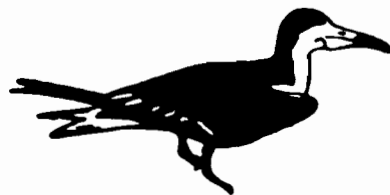
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Americans Committed to Conservation



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