OUTH HORE KIMMER

VOLUME 22, NUMBER 5 — SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

FEBRUARY 1993

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

James Remsen, Jr.

This month I bring the Audubon message of conservation about as close to home as I possibly can. Brookside Preserve, the Nassau County-owned property on Brookside Avenue in Freeport which is managed under agreement between the County and South Shore Audubon Society, is in danger of being impacted by proposed development of the neighboring Brooklyn Waterworks building, which has been purchased by a developer. Nassau County has been asked to grant a drainage easement to the development company onto Brookside Preserve so that a water main can be placed under the field on the Preserve's southern border. The required excavation will directly conflict with some of South Shore's current Preserve projects and may even result in the loss of some Preserve land.

Let me make clear that neither South Shore Audubon Society's Board of Directors, nor its Brookside Preserve Committee, wishes to stop development on someone else's privately owned land. However, the nursing facility proposed for the Brooklyn Waterworks building could be altered such that construction could proceed without conflict with our objectives. Therefore, we will advocate to the County that this easement not be granted. We are working with the County to try to assure this and have received a generally supportive letter from County Executive Thomas Gulotta, but it would help if each of you wrote and asked for support of our position (Honorable Thomas Gulotta, County Executive Building, 1 West Street, Mineola, NY 11501). As I write, no decision on this has been made and details are still unfolding.

Here are excerpts from our correspondence with the County on this issue: "In 1988, Brookside Preserve was saved from development and became the first preserve in the County's Perpetual Preservation Program. South Shore Audubon Society contracted a management agreement with Nassau County to preserve, protect, and develop Brookside Preserve into an environmental education facility for the community. The management agreement gives the Audubon Society sole permission to 'perform nature preserve management

NEXT MEETING

Sandy Brenner

DATE: Tuesday, February 9, 1993

TIME: 8:00 PM

PLACE: Freeport Memorial Library

Merrick Rd. & S. Ocean Ave.

SPEAKER: David Cohen

TOPIC: Environmental Protection and Nature

Conservation in Israel

The Outreach Director for the American Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel will present a unique slide show on the flora and fauna of the country's diverse areas (desert, highlands, coral reefs, springs and streams, etc.), and will discuss the education, research, conservation, and public action programs of ASPNI. In addition, SSAS's Eileen Sobel will display her wonderful photographs of Israel.

IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE WASTE, PLEASE

BRING COFFEE MUGS TO OUR MEETINGS

responsibilities' (Article 2) and the right to 'provide operation and maintenance of Brookside Preserve for the term of this agreement' (Article 3).

"The management of Brookside Preserve is one of the most popular and important projects of South Shore Audubon Society. Many volunteers, including Audubon Society members and neighborhood residents, became involved and generously donated their expertise and hours of their time to cleanups, trail trimming, planning, and developing educational programs for the Preserve. Many have led school and community groups on tours through Brookside Preserve and have witnessed the enthusiasm of children and adults who realize that this oasis of wildlife exists in their backyard and is worth protecting.

"South Shore Audubon Society is a not-for-profit conservation organization. The Brookside Preserve Committee worked many months on a grant proposal to obtain \$34,000 from New York State to manage and improve Brookside

Preserve and had to wait approximately two years following funding approval to receive the first installment of the grant money. Some of these funds have already been spent on grading and planting the field adjacent to the Waterworks property. Others are about to be used to fence the southern border of the Preserve. If the facility, as currently proposed, is ultimately constructed on the Waterworks property, the fencing and part of the newly seeded field could be excavated. There is also the question of potential impact on adjacent freshwater wetlands.

"The Brookside Preserve project is a perfect example of County residents cooperating to help the County in its current economic crisis. It is also an example of volunteers who have a particular interest and expertise making use of their skills to help the community. Any alteration or loss of any part of the Preserve without South Shore Audubon Society approval would not only be a breach of contract but also would be devastating to our membership."

SURPRISES AT THE BIRD FEEDER

Mary Richard

Have you found piles of feathers around your feeders or seen a blur zip off with one of your seed eaters? The visitor is probably a Sharp-shinned Hawk (Accipiter striatus). The Sharp-shinned Hawk is 10-14 inches long with a gray back, long squared-off tail, and a red horizontally striped breast. The female is up to one-third larger than the male. They are stalkers which feed on small birds. They are very similar to the larger Cooper's Hawk (Accipiter cooperii), but more common on Long Island. Immature birds (under a year old) are brown. These accipiters have learned to stake out bird feeders in order to survive the winter. They have been eating a number of Mourning Doves (Zenaida macroura) here at the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary. Am I upset? No Way. Sharp-shinned Hawks are forest dwelling raptors whose numbers have been decreasing at an alarming rate over the past five years in the northeast. The reasons for this decline are not known and the problem is being studied. Most "Sharpies" migrate to southern climes in the winter, but many have learned to visit feeders. Have you ever seen your feeder birds "freeze" and sit absolutely still? There is probably a raptor around. The hawk will visit your feeder until the birds leave for a few days and then may travel elsewhere. Remember, it's all part of nature and your station is part of a food chain. [Editor's Note: Mary Richard is Director of TR Sanctuary, Audubon's oldest bird sanctuary. I stole the preceding article from *Trailside*, the TRS newsletter.]

SCHOLARSHIPS

Evelyn Blume

South Shore Audubon once again is offering to our membership <u>free</u> scholarships for one adult and one youth (age 10-14), for the summer of 1993. The only requirement is that you be an SSAS member in good standing and have the desire to share your knowledge, derived from your summer experience, with your fellow members, community, and schools.

By attending these camp sessions, you will take home a new awareness of how nature works, how life is interdependent, and how you can protect it. The adult session on ecology is a week long in Connecticut. The youth session is 10 days in Maine.

If you are interested, please call Evelyn Blume at 378-7122 after 9 PM for an application. The deadline for the application to be in will be March 12, 1993.

The following descriptions are taken from the 1993 Audubon Ecology Camps and Workshops brochure, which includes programs in Arizona, Belize, California, Connecticut, Costa Rica, Kenya, Maine, Minnesota, Panama, Texas, Trinidad & Tobago, Utah, Venezuela, Washington, and Wyoming. Copies are available from Evelyn Blume, or write to National Audubon Society, 613 Riversville Road, Greenwich, CT 06831.

Youth Camp in Maine. At the Youth Camp in Maine, a sense of wonder prevails. Children 10 through 14 learn more about themselves, about nature, and how they relate to their natural environment. Participants learn by doing — if we talk about something, we'll also see it, feel it, touch it, experience it.

The primary aim of Audubon's Youth Ecology Camp is to instill a love and respect for the natural world. While working toward this goal, we hope to aid your child in acquiring the knowledge and skills to understand the environment and the human impact upon it. The National Audubon Society's Youth Ecology Camp has been designed to enhance scientific literacy in children and challenge them to learn more about themselves, their environment, and how they relate to the natural world.

The staff are dedicated science educators from throughout the country who have a proven knowledge of science as well as a strong background working with middle school-aged children. Staff are selected based upon their commitment to the natural world and their desire to learn with young people. The camper-instructor ratio of 5 to 1 and the enrollment of 48 campers creates a warm, personal atmosphere. Each child will be part of a small group of campers and one instructor. The staff maintains a commitment to the highest standards of boat and camper safety.

Young campers dredge the ocean floor for marine creatures, search for organisms in tide pools, and learn about seabirds, seals, and other wildlife. The evenings are filled with night hikes, stargazing, special guests, and songfests.

There are few dry eyes when it comes time to leave. But it doesn't end there. This experience is designed to stay with these camp "graduates" and illuminate the course of their lives for a very long time to come. Dates: August 1-11, 1993 or August 14-24, 1993.

Ecology Workshop in Connecticut. A Pileated Woodpecker may be your alarm clock as its drumming breaks the silence of the New England forest. This is one of nearly 100 avian species you could see during your stay here — though you'll do much more than identify birds. Our purpose is to learn how birds and all other species are tied together in an intricate web of life.

You'll take leisurely hikes on our beautiful 485-acre nature sanctuary in Greenwich, through magnificent deciduous and hemlock forests, across lush meadows, alongside (and sometimes in) life-filled lakes, ponds, and streams. And you'll explore beach, intertidal, and marine ecosystems on Long Island Sound. Lecture and lab work supplement field studies, while optional classes might include nature photography and microcomputer use. There's also ample time for stargazing, book browsing, meadow lounging, and camp camaraderie.

Many educators come to improve their professional skills in sessions that emphasize practical teaching techniques for school classes, youth groups, and local Audubon chapter education programs. These workshops offer total immersion in the major natural habitats and ecosystems of New England. Modern facilities include a library, auditorium, and double-occupancy rooms furnished with private baths. Dates: July 4-10, 11-17, 18-24, or 25-31; August 1-7 or 8-14, 1993.

BIRD SEED SAVINGS DAY REMINDER

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Our second and last Bird Seed Savings Day is Super Bowl Sunday, January 31, 1993, from 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM at Tackapausha Museum, located on Washington Avenue in Seaford (between Merrick Road and Sunrise Highway). Although the deadline for preorders has passed, extras of all types of seed will be available on the day of the sale. Help is needed to take orders and to aid in unloading seed. If you wish to volunteer, call Paul Butkereit at 623-0843 late evenings.



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

CONSERVATION REPORT

Fighting Olympus — NIMBY or Aquifer Protection

Annie F. McIntyre

Olympus has struck a deal through the New York State Urban Development Corporation (UDC) to move its operations from two sites in Nassau County to one corporate headquarters on 53.7 acres within the Huntington/Dix Hills Special Groundwater Protection Area (SGPA).

An SGPA is an area, designated by the state, which is considered vital to groundwater recharge within a Sole Source Aquifer Area (meaning the residents rely on their aquifer as their sole source of potable water). Long Island is a sole source aquifer area. Nine areas on L.I. have been designated as SGPA's. These areas are mandated by Article 55 of NY State Law to restrict development to ensure nondegradation of the aquifer.

The Olympus facility will include almost 500 employees and will encompass administrative offices, research and development, and "light manufacturing." To believe no degradation to the groundwater can be insured is folly.

There are many intricacies to this issue, several of which would make even the disinterested raise an eyebrow. One is that the middleman — the developer who will build this building — has a 99 year lease on the property, with an option to buy the land in 10 years. Not only is this privatizing protected state lands, but the price the developer will pay is approximately \$134,000 per acre. This is over \$500,000 per acre less than Swissair paid when it moved to Pinelawn Rd. in Melville. Swissair had to pay the market commercial price.

Neither the developer, Parr, nor Olympus will pay any sales, mortgage, transfer, or NY State gains tax. Olympus will pay modified real estate taxes, 10% the first year, 20% the second, etc. (Wouldn't we all like a break like that?)

Coupled with this is the fact that there is an almost 30% vacancy of already available office space along the commercially zoned Rt. 110 corridor.

Here's some food for thought: I imagine that one reason for us all living here on L.I. is its natural beauty and varied habitats. Town zoning laws help to maintain that. This land was zoned 2-acre residential by the town of Huntington. The UDC has overridden Huntington's code (the town is suing). If the UDC can come in and override 2-acre zoning within an SGPA, will any place on Long Island truly be protected from its reach?

Please don't believe Newsday — this is not a NIMBY issue. We all depend on our aquifers for fresh water and our town zoning codes for protecting our towns. Please write or call Governor Cuomo. Tell him that the UDC action is wrong! Write to Governor Mario M. Cuomo, Executive Chambers, Albany, NY 12224, or call (518) 474-8390 or (212) 417-2100 (his NYC office).

MORNING AT DENAL!

Tom Torma

It was May and I was in Denali National Park, Alaska. The sky was a cloudless blue; the setting sun painted the snow-covered mountains a bright shade of pink. A nearly full moon was rising above the frosty scene. The sun set quickly, and I was soon in my sleeping bag, falling sleep to the distant music of howling wolves. My mind continuously imagined all the wildlife photo opportunities available to me the next day.

Denali National Park embraces more than 3000 square miles of Alaskan wilderness. It is 235 miles north of Anchorage and 123 miles from Fairbanks. The park is accessible by car via the Glen Highway and Alaska Route 3. In the summer, the Alaska State Railroad has daily service with vistadome cars from both Anchorage and Fairbanks. The highest mountain in North America is located in the park. Denali, also known as Mt. McKinley, is 20,230 feet high. The single park road passes through tundra, mountain scenery, forest, and wetland as it penetrates the park interior. The road is open from June 1st to September 10th.

Waking early the next morning, a hot cup of coffee returned some warmth to my chilled body. The park had not yet opened for the season. Only the first twelve miles of the park road had been plowed. Driving my car as far as possible, I parked and walked out onto a brushy field — a field that stretched to the nearby mountains. My morning at Denali had begun.

While walking around the field, I spotted some Moose and a Snowshoe Rabbit. Since some backpacking was planned during this trip, a lighter load would save some wear and tear on my back. I decided not to bring a lot of heavy camera equipment. This decision would limit some of my photographic opportunities. In this case, I was able to take some Moose pictures, but failed to catch the shy Snowshoe Rabbit on film.

Returning to the car, I spotted a small grouse called a Willow Ptarmigan. It was a male, all white in color, except for some red combs above the eyes which gave an appearance of a strange eyebrow. Ptarmigan have the ability to camouflage themselves; in winter they are white to match the snow. In summer they turn a mottled chestnut brown, again to match the surrounding terrain. Another bird nearby had already begun to turn. His body was white, but his head had changed to the chestnut brown. These birds proved to be surprisingly tame; crawling up to them was easy, resulting in a series of full-frame pictures.

Willow Ptarmigan, the Alaska state birds, have characteristics designed to protect them in the frigid arctic weather. For example, in winter they are feathered to the tips of their toes. They prefer to live on open tundra and the upper edge of the tree line; in winter they like sheltered valleys. In harsher winters they will migrate south, sometimes as far as Minnesota. In summer these birds feed on tender leaves and flowers of willows, birches, and alders; they will sometimes

eat various berries, fruits, and insects. In winter they survive on buds and twigs of willows, catkins and buds of Dwarf Birch, and other trees and bushes.

While returning to my campsite, I spotted a black and white chicken-sized bird at the side of the road. It was a Spruce Grouse. Stopping the car to take a picture proved to be a futile effort. The Spruce Grouse quickly ran into the woods. Needless to say, I followed, until the grouse suddenly stopped and posed. My camera was soon focused on the bird. As the picture was about to be taken, the bird ran off again. It seemed that we were playing a game, for this routine was repeated several times. Eventually the bird must have become bored with me; he stopped running, posed, and allowed me to take his picture.

Spruce Grouse live in the northern coniferous forest. They range across North America below the tundra, south to the northern tier states of the U.S. This bird is usually a tree dweller that feeds on needles and buds of spruce, jack pine, fir, and



larch. They also eat berries, seeds, mushrooms, fern fronds, and a few insects.

The next day I had to catch a flight out of Anchorage, so my visit to Denali was short. At the park exit were some people with binoculars and scopes. They were at the side of the road, looking up at the mountains. Naturally, I had to stop. One of the scopes was focused on a herd of Dall Sheep grazing on the mountainside. Another scope was pointed to a rocky pinnacle jutting out of the side of the mountain. At the top of the spike was a huge nest. Soaring above the mountain was the nest's occupant, a Golden Eagle. This was an incredible finish to a memorable morning at Denali National Park.

YOU'RE CORDIALLY INVITED

John Staropoli

All members are cordially invited to attend a recital, free of charge, to be presented by SSAS Youth Representative John Staropoli. The performance will take place on Saturday, March 13, 1993 at 4:00 PM in C. Michael Paul Recital Hall, the Juilliard School, 60 Lincoln Center Plaza (enter from W. 65th St. at Plaza level). The program will include works by Leclair, Grieg, de Sarasate, Rachmaninoff, and Bartók.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Marion Yavarkovsky

Start your New Year with a resolution to become acquainted with the benefits your membership in SSAS offers to you. Come to meetings, bird walks, and special events. You will meet a wonderful group of people who share your interest and commitment to the natural world.

[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	Anthony Filandro, Weis
	Middleton, Leon Ross,
	Marie Souza
Bellmore	Chester Gazda, Vivian Strauchler
Cedarhurst	Ms. Christina Carlson
Deer Park	Mary Ann Aiello
East Meadow	Mr. Paul Grobelny, Bolaji
	Ogunsakin M.D., Bruce Rifkin
East Northport	Gisela Maurer-Zanelli
East Rockaway	
Elmont	Ramakrishna Maganti,
	John E. Mazurowski
Farmingdale	John Capuano III, Ms. Gail
	Cunningham, Daniel Donza,
	Mr. & Mrs. Nicholas J. Sofos,
	Doreen Valencia
Floral Park	Denyse A. Cope, P. Del Franco,
	Charles Glasser,
	Brian K. Mac Kay
Franklin Square	Art McNally, Michael Mills,
	L. B. Speiser
Freeport	Daniel A. Flaumerbau, Ms. Sarah
	E. Kent, Ms. Betty Selby
Garden City	Ms. Mary J. Bolter, Mr. George
	W. Bowen, Mrs. Connie M.
	Burks, Diane Chen, Patricia A.
	Hyland, William K. Taylor
Hempstead	Robert A. Riegl
Hicksville	Mr. Peter Goetz,
	John Logoskiy Sr.
Jamaica	
Levittown	Mrs. John D. Cullen, Mrs. Shirley
	Rabkin-Muff, Brian Vogt
Long Beach	Olivia Lerum, Mr. John Mosca,
	Joseph G. Osienski
Lynbrook	Doris Kunick
Massapequa	
Massapequa Park	Mrs. Arthur B. Ruben,
	Mr. J. Vassalli
	Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Caruso
	Carol A. Evans, J. Kasper
Plainview	
Rockville Centre	Mr. Albert Klugman, S. Nachbar

Romanelle Chitty
loyce Reilly
Joanna Wilson
John Alongi, Linda Epstein,
Mr. Dennis Lane,
Ms. Carol A. Scheid
Carolyn Lynch, Helen Mahoney
Thomas Hrica, F. Krason
Mr. Jeff Schamberry,
G. F. Wagman
I

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. The following programs are open to the public. Space is limited and registration is required. All program fees are required at the time of registration.

Saturday, February 6th (2 PM to 4 PM) — Oyster Bay Waterfowl Walk. Meet at the Sanctuary to learn the fundamentals of duck identification. We will view slides and specimens at the Sanctuary and then visit great duck spots of Oyster Bay. Bring binoculars and dress for the weather. TRS members \$3, nonmembers \$5.

Tuesday, February 16th (7 PM to 9 PM) — Owl Prowl at TRS. We will learn about the natural history of owls and meet our live owls and specimens. Afterwards we will walk the trails and attempt to call in some of the wild owls that live here. TRS members \$5, nonmembers \$7.

Friday, February 19th (1 PM to 3 PM, children) — World of Birds. This program consists of games, a bird walk, live birds, crafts, and costumes to teach children about the tools and types of birds they may encounter. TRS members \$3, nonmembers \$5.

Elliott Kutner

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

Jan. 31	Pelham Bay Park for Owls (pull over to
	street on extreme right after going
	through Throgs Neck Bridge toll; meet
	at 9 AM)
Feb. 7	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Feb. 14	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
Feb. 21	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Feb. 28	Hempstead Lake State Park (Pen Blvd.)

Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner

Mar. 7

BIRD WALK REPORT

Betty Borowsky

The November 29th SSAS Bird Walk was at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. There is always a great variety of birds at Jamaica Bay, especially waterfowl, and we were not disappointed today. In particular, we encountered several large flocks of migratory birds.

The group began the walk at the Ranger Station and made its way slowly around the gravel path that circles West Pond. There were the usual species; among others, Scaups, Buffleheads, Pintails, Ruddy Ducks, and several Blackcrowned Night Herons were spotted. At the Turtle Path we turned off the main road to bring us closer to the salt marsh. This path is closed in the spring and summer, to prevent disturbing the birds during the nesting season. As we approached the edge of the marsh, we came very close to a flock of about forty Snow Geese that were resting in the Bay. Snow Geese regularly stop over at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge on their migrations between Canada and South America. All the birds were white except for one, which had slaty blue plumage. White and blue-phase Snow Geese can freely interbreed, but ornithologists report that individuals prefer to mate with other individuals of the same color.

After some heated discussion and much adjustment of the spotting scopes, it was decided that the grebes we saw in the Bay were Horned Grebes. Grebes have some of the most unusual habits I have ever heard about. Their courtship display is flashy, energetic, and downright silly looking. They carry their newly hatched young on their backs. And they eat feathers.

One theory about why they eat feathers comes from Ehrlich, Dobkin, and Wheye's *The Birder's Handbook*. These authors suggest that the feathers protect the birds' digestive systems from damage from the bones of the fish they eat. Birds' gizzards serve to grind hard foods into small sizes suitable for digestion or for safe passage through their digestive systems. But grebes' gizzards are relatively small for their sizes. Whatever the feathers are for, they must be important, since they are found in the stomachs of birds that are only a few days old and because sometimes they occupy half of the adults' stomachs.

Farther along we saw an unusually large number of Northern Shovelers (shown at right) in the freshwater pond. This duck is considered a "dabbler" because it does not submerge its entire body when feeding, as do the diving ducks. Shovelers spend a good portion of their feeding time swimming slowly in circles with their bills in the water. The bills are broad and have fine comblike structures along their edges. When feeding, they are oriented so they can skim the surface of the water, permitting them to strain plankton and debris from the surface of the water. Shovelers also eat invertebrates, including snails and insects which are in the mud along the edge of the water. Feeding by straining microscopic food particles from the water has evolved in

many groups. Some other animals who feed this way are Blue Whales, Sunfish, and Nurse Sharks.

As we approached the woodlands area, we came upon another large flock of birds; this time they were Cedar Waxwings. These birds are also migratory, wintering as far south as Panama. Their name comes from a red waxy exudate that older adults secrete from their primary feathers. We could see that some of the birds had these red spots.

None of the birds we saw today are rare at this time of the year at Jamaica Bay, so our enjoyment came from the opportunity to observe several species closely. The pleasures of bird-watching are cumulative; each time we go, we observe the birds differently. Maybe they're breeding, or maybe they're in their winter plumage. And each time we learn a little more about them. The interesting thing is that the more we learn, the more pleasure there is in watching them. Maybe you can figure out why.



1992 NYS ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION

Michael Sperling

In the last Skimmer, I started reprinting descriptions of the bills that the Albany-based nonprofit and nonpartisan Environmental Planning Lobby used to individually rate our State Senators and Assemblymen last year. All six bills covered so far were given three trees; all six passed the Assembly, but only one passed the State Senate (call me if you'd like copies of old Skimmers).

EPL weighs bills based on their potential impact on New York's environment. Each bill that EPL took a position on in 1992 received one of six ratings:

- 3 Trees. Proposed legislation would be of significant assistance and benefit to help resolve a pressing problem facing New York's environment.
- 2 Trees. Proposed legislation would provide substantial benefit to New York's environment.
- 1 Tree. Proposed legislation would be beneficial to some aspect of New York's environment.
- 1 Stack. Proposed legislation would be detrimental to the cause of environmental protection in New York.

2 Stacks. Proposed legislation would do substantial harm to New York's environment.

3 Stacks. Proposed legislation would likely result in major or lasting harm to New York's environment.

We now resume our 1992 recap, with the hope that, even though the November elections largely maintained the same cast of characters (featuring one Long Island Republican as the all-powerful Senate Majority Leader and another as the all-important Senate Environmental Conservation Committee Chairman), maybe the State Senate will have a change of heart in 1993. The more letters we send to our legislators, the more likely it is that they'll listen to us.

Lead Poisoning Prevention Act (LPPA) **. Lead poisoning is the number one environmental health threat for young children. The federal Centers for Disease Control last year recognized that even very low levels of lead can have serious, often irreparable effects on a child's neurological system, ability to learn, motor coordination, and overall development. This bill provides for a comprehensive prevention program to be administered by the State Department of Health which includes universal lead screening for all young children and pregnant women, community outreach, a training and certification program for lead abatement workers, and an Advisory Council to create a strategic plan for the eradication of lead as a health threat. A11670-C (Eve) passed the Assembly. The original version of this bill (S8559) was sponsored in the Senate by Senator Dale Volker. A weaker version of this bill was passed by both houses and was signed into law by the Governor.

Renewable Energy A. This bill requires electric or gas utilities to provide financial assistance to residential and agricultural customers who install solar, wind, biogas, fuel cell, or geothermal equipment. The measure would help lessen New York's dependence on foreign fuel sources and increase reliance on environmentally sound, renewable energy resources. A11697 (Tonko) passed the Assembly but did not have a Senate sponsor.

Pesticide Use Reduction . Overwhelming public concern about the wide use and abuse of pesticides has prompted other states such as New Jersey, New Hampshire, and California to adopt strong pesticide legislation. In New York, however, information on pesticide sale and use is insufficient at best, and the state has not yet taken an aggressive role in reducing unnecessary pesticide use. This bill would require state and local agencies to establish pesticide reduction policies and implement less toxic, least impact pest management strategies. An annual report documenting the statewide sale and use of pesticides is also called for. A1793 (Hinchey) passed the Assembly but was not sponsored in the Senate.

Road Salt Storage A. Road salt may seem innocuous, but its use has become a serious environmental problem in New York State. Improper storage and application of road salt leads to drinking water contamination and the destruc-

tion of trees, plants, and wildlife habitats. This bill establishes much needed regulations for the proper storage and handling of road salt, and creates a task force to investigate environmentally sound road deicing techniques for New York State. A2285-A (Hinchey) / S1335-A (Johnson) passed the Assembly but was held in the Senate Environmental Conservation Committee.

Adolescent Tobacco-Use Prevention Act . Vending machines, free tobacco samples, and persuasive advertising are effective lures for adolescents to get hooked on tobacco. With many more health-conscious adults quitting the habit, and many tobacco users dying from its effects, the tobacco industry has increasingly been targeting young people as a new market for this dangerous product. This bill would insure that New York State enforces existing law that bans the sale of cigarettes and other tobacco products to minors by prohibiting unrestricted access to tobacco products. A3900-D (Grannis) passed the Assembly but was not sponsored in the Senate. A weaker version of this bill passed both houses and was signed into law by the Governor. Because of time constraints, EPL was unable to include the weaker bill in the Voters' Guide.

Anti-SLAPP Suits . Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPP suits) are all too often used against vocal civic and environmental activists by their industry or government opponents. Their purpose: to intimidate the public, tie up citizens' money and time defending themselves in court battles, and squelch the public participation of would-be activists. This bill safeguards the rights of citizens to participate fully in the democratic process by allowing the courts to dismiss SLAPP suits quickly and require that the plaintiff pay for any legal fees or damages incurred by the citizen. A4299 (Bianchi) / S5441 (Marchi) passed both houses and was signed by the Governor.

Groundwater Protection . This bill restores a key provision in the Environmental Conservation Law that was unintentionally deleted during an amendment process in 1961. The missing provision specifically prohibits any pollution of both surface and groundwaters. Without action to restore the provision, 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 Senate sponsor.

Health Monitoring at Superfund Sites . This bill specifies a step-by-step health monitoring program to be undertaken by the state Department of Health (DOH) at inactive hazardous waste sites. The measure also allows the state to recover all costs of health monitoring from the parties responsible for the hazardous materials at the site. This bill would help DOH establish comprehensive health assessments for people exposed to toxic substances in their community. A4944 (Gottfried) passed the Assembly but did not have a Senate sponsor.

1992-1993 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

James Remsen, Jr., President	764-5168
Mark Phillips, Vice President	731-1341
George Popkin, Treasurer (8 to 9 PM)	378-4467
Louise Hillen, Recording Secretary	546-6147
Doris Pirodsky, Corresponding Secretary & Historian	
Paul Devendittis, Director (6/95)	
Bruno Leporati, Director (6/95)	
Marge Jaeger, Director (6/94)	
Richard Packert, Director (6/94)	
Evelyn Blume, Director (6/93) & Scholarships Chairperson	
Tom Torma, Director (6/93) & Fundraising Chairperson	
Sandy Brenner, Program Chairperson	
Joan Butkereit, Wetlands Conference Committee Chairperson	
Paul Butkereit, Bird Seed Savings Day	
Rose Ermidis, Education Chairperson	
Joseph Grupp, Duck Survey	
Betsy Gulotta, Brookside Preserve Committee Chairperson	
Elliott Kutner, Birding / Field Trips Chairperson	
Joseph Lancer, Binocular / Book Sales (7 to 9 PM)	
Annie F. McIntyre, Conservation Chairperson	
Doreen Remsen, Birdathon Chairperson	
Dolores Rogers, Welcoming Committee Chairperson	
Mary Jane Russell, Hospitality Chairperson	
Diane Singer, Publicity	
Michael Sperling, Skimmer Editor	
John Staropoli, Youth Representative	
Marion Yavarkovsky, Membership Chairperson	
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South Shore Audubon Society P.O. Box 31 Freeport, NY 11520-0031

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Americans Committed to Conservation

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