

VOLUME 23, NUMBER 5 — SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

FEBRUARY 1994

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

James Remsen, Jr.

The calendar has turned once again and with that change comes a new year full of environmental challenges for us to face. Throughout our 24 years, South Shore Audubon Society has been committed to making it easy and fun for our members to aid the cause of conservation. This month, I'd like to briefly mention a few of the ways you can increase your own environmental awareness in the months ahead and lend a helping hand to our chapter at the same time.

First, let me say that I am proud of South Shore Audubon Society's accomplishments in the past few months. They speak well for what can be done by dedicated volunteers giving whatever amount of time their schedules will allow. Our Education Chairperson, Carole Adams, has put the Audubon message into the hands of hundreds of schoolchildren by enrolling nearly 45 classrooms in the Audubon Adventures program. (Also, she and the other South Shore Audubon volunteers who came to the recent Holiday Party for Wildlife at Tackapausha Museum deserve special mention for their patience and popcorn-stringing above and beyond the call of duty. The party swamped the museum with nature-loving youngsters.)

Through the persistence and initiative of our Conservation Chairperson, Betty Borowsky, we have successfully placed representatives on the Citizens Advisory and Technical Advisory Committees of the South Shore Estuary Reserve Council. Sandy Brenner has recruited a variety of exciting speakers for our meetings, Paul Butkereit has run two more birdseed sales with dedication and sheer sweat, and Elliott Kutner's field trips remain a cornerstone of our organization. These, of course, are only examples of what we have done.

So how can you contribute? Perhaps the most direct way to help the environment is to appeal to those decision makers whose votes will affect the future of environmental legislation. Those of you who were regulars at our meetings last year may remember our "Letter of the Month" campaign, in which our Conservation Chairperson Anne McIntyre presented a pre-written letter on a current environmental issue

### **NEXT MEETING**

Sandy Brenner

DATE: Tuesday, February 8, 1994

TIME: 8:00 p.m. ②

PLACE: Freeport Memorial Library

Merrick Rd. & S. Ocean Ave.

SPEAKER: Mary E. Richard

This month's guest speaker has frequently appeared in the crowd at our general meetings and is the Director of Theodore Roosevelt Bird Sanctuary, the National Audubon Society's oldest. Mary will be bringing us lots of slides and some live examples of neotropical migrants (a peregrine falcon and a merlin are likely attendees). Her program will include discussion of the Sanctuary's participation in Project Tanager and in a census of Mexico's birds.

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

for you to write and sign. This month, we are launching a similar program under the direction of her successor, which will hopefully get some of you who don't regularly attend our meetings or bird walks involved in conservation. We are joining the Armchair Activist network — National Audubon Society's way of putting in your hands at home the information you need to make letter-writing on conservation issues (both national and local ones) quick and easy. Participating takes only a few minutes a month. See this issue of the Skimmer for more information on how it works and how to sign up. At present, SSAS (unlike two neighboring chapters that have also joined) will subsidize the cost of getting the information to those of you who choose to participate, so it costs you nothing except the price of the stamps to mail the letters to your representatives in government.

If you are looking for activities that will expand your environmental awareness and get you outdoors at the same time, we have plenty of those scheduled in the near future. In addition to our ongoing bird walks, our Brookside Preserve Committee is always looking for new help to assist in the maintenance of the nature preserve in Freeport that has become our chapter's responsibility. We anticipate a cleanup of Cow Meadow Preserve, also in Freeport, in the spring. If you enjoy this month's scheduled meeting speaker, Mary Richard of Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary in Oyster Bay, then you may be interested to know that we are planning a special program and tour of the Sanctuary for the month of April (more about this next month). May will bring our seventh annual Birdathon and a special field trip to Brigantine National Wildlife Refuge in New Jersey.

All of this is scheduled for you, and for success all of these activities will have to involve you! Make 1994 your year to learn more about your environment and how you can protect it.

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#### SCHOLARSHIPS TO AUDUBON CAMPS

Each year, South Shore Audubon Society awards two full scholarships, one to an adult and one to a child between the ages of 10 and 14. Applicants (or their parents) should be SSAS members in good standing and be interested in sharing their camp experiences with fellow members, the community, and/or schools.

This year, both scholarships are for summertime programs in Maine. For information about Audubon Ecology Camps and Workshops to be held in the United States, Caribbean, South America, and Africa, write to National Audubon Society, 613 Riversville Road, Greenwich, CT 06831 for their brochure. The following program descriptions are taken from last year's brochure, since the 1994 edition won't be available until early February and will probably say the exact same things about these two programs.

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 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.

The camp is 11 days long and is offered twice, in early and late August. Last year's scholarship winner, Anna Fischer, sent us the following letter: "Dear South Shore Audubon, I had a great time at Hog Island camp. I especially enjoyed learning about the Puffin Project. My favorite activity was the island solo. I enjoyed learning new things and meeting new people. I hope I can return next year. Thank you for sending me." You're welcome!

Maine Coast Field Ecology (for Adults). Muscongus Bay, site of the Audubon Camp in Maine, is the southernmost outpost of many northern birds and marine mammals. Harbor seals bask in the sun. Mosses, lichens, and mushrooms abound. Daily classes explore island, pond, forest, and estuarine ecology in one of the most pristine maritime environments in the East. You'll not only see marvelously diverse life-forms — you'll come to know their habitats and ecological roles. These ecology workshop sessions will provide you with a comprehensive introduction to the natural beauty of the Maine coast.

Established in 1936 as a pioneering experiment in nature education for teachers and other adult leaders, the Maine camp occupies the 333-acre Todd Wildlife Sanctuary on Hog Island, a wild paradise that seems a million miles from the urbanized workaday world. Today the camp attracts nature lovers from all walks of life. Hearty meals are served in the "Bridge," a restored 19th century farmhouse. Living quarters are at the water's edge in a mixture of wood-frame dormitories and double rooms with centralized bath and shower facilities. A library and laboratory, fresh and saltwater aquaria, and microscopes are readily available.

The camp is 7 days long; dates are July 2 to 8, 9 to 15, 16 to 22, and 23 to 29.

How to Apply for an SSAS Scholarship. For an application, write or call our Education Chairperson, Carole Adams, at 65 Cliff Lane, Levittown, NY 11756; # 731-4425. Applications must be returned by March 8th.

Our Thanks to Evelyn Blume. Due to the illness of her daughter, our long-time Scholarships Chairperson, Bronx Zoo trip organizer, and past Director recently submitted her resignation. The SSAS Board of Directors wishes to thank Evelyn for everything that she has done in her 16 years as an Audubon member and hopes that she will be able to join us at future events. Best wishes, Evelyn.

#### \*\* WELCOME NEW MEMBERS \*\*

Marion Yavarkovsky

1994 has brought us many new members. We hope you will enjoy being a part of SSAS and become active members. Our many activities and committees are for you. Join us!

[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 P.M., Monday through Friday.]

Baldwin	Mr. Sam Kestin, Ralph R. Roennau, Ms. Deborah Ross
Bellmore	Osvaldo L. Cussatti, Helen Klimovich, James R. Taranto
Bethpage	Christine M. Berger, Diane Frost, Mr. Neil Shapiro
East Meadow	
Elmont	Mr. & Mrs. Friedlander, Deborah W. Hoses, Lynn Lyons
Farmingdale	Mr. Dominick Marzigliano
	L. M. Eng, Robert Filer
Franklin Square	C. Tomeo
Freeport	Laura Guerin, Mr. Neal Holtzer,
	Mr. Calvin E. Meyer, Lorraine
	S. Rosenberg, Mary K. Wood
Garden City	Neil Battinelli M.D., Mr. William
	Corley Jr., Jane F. Gilman,
	Ms. Lorraine A. Grady, Ursula
	E. Lashen, Richard L. Seiser
Hempstead	Annemarie Balduf,
	Joseph Klaire Co.
Hewlett	
Hicksville	Ms. Mona Bebergal, Mr. Edwin J.
	Draycott, Alice Hayden,
	Anthony Hoda, Mr. Ed Keegan,
	Ms. Janet R. Marzo, David F.
	Parker, Mary Ellen Porrazzo,
	Mr. Joseph Wilkonski
Island Park	Barbara A. Donohue,
	Lorraine Krueger
	David Isbister, Daniel E. Rourke
Long Beach	Mr. William Atwood, Mr. & Mrs.
	C. Borbee, Ms. Rosemarie
	DiLello, Mrs. T. Kurosawa,
	Mr. Herbert B. Mass, Devora
	Mitrany, Aaron Netburn, Ms.
	Barbara Spadanuta, Nathaniel
	Sutain, Robert Szel, S. Tydings
Lynbrook	
	Joanne Conte, Melvin Scherer
Massapequa	Ms. Barbara M. De Vincent, Mrs.
	Cathy Gentile, Marie Jackson,
	Alice Lenz, Betty Leong,
	George Motz, Frank & Kathleen
	Nuzzo, Lance Ullger

Massapequa Park Ms. Sharon Ackermann,
Hugh P. Daly
Merrick Mr. Douglas Drobbin
Oceanside Harold Fichter,
Ms. Judy Friedman
Plainview Mr. & Mrs. Paul Borsky, Karel
Bott, Mrs. Bernice Schindler
Rockville Centre R. Coleman, Bill Davenport,
Karen Guigliano, John K.
Henesy, S. Kriss, L. H. Loeffert,
Frances X. Peters,
Ray Schumack
Seaford Mrs. Sondra Blum
Uniondale D. Bruner
Valley Stream Mr. Michael L. Marino,
John W. Pope
Wantagh Ms. Jennifer J. Clark, Ms. D. M.
Majkowski, Daniel Streeseman
West Hempstead Regina Flugmacher, T. Zelster
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#### **™ BIRD WALKS**

Elliott Kutner

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

Pelham Bay Park for Owls (pull over to

	street on extreme right after going
	through Throgs Neck Bridge toll; meet at
	9:00 a.m.)
Feb. 6	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Feb. 13	Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner
Feb. 20	Hempstead Lake State Park (Pen. Blvd.)
Feb. 27	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Mar. 6	Connetquot (see below)

Directions to Connetquot River State Park Preserve. Connetquot is in Oakdale and occupies 3473 acres, including a grist mill, fish hatchery, bridle paths, deer, and nature trails. Admission is by permit only, so tell them you're with South Shore Audubon Society. Take the Southern State Parkway to Exit 44 (Sunrise Highway, Route 27; not 27A) east for about two miles. Sunrise Highway is a divided highway out there and the Preserve entrance is on the north side, so you have to make a U-turn as soon as you pass the Preserve ( $\pm$  at Pond Road) and slowly head back west on Sunrise Highway (the Preserve entrance is somewhat hidden, but we're confident you'll find it).

Jan. 30

#### BRIGANTINE TRIP \*\*

Diane Singer

It is the time of the full moon!! Watch the horseshoe crabs laying their eggs and hundreds of migrating shorebirds devouring them! See the warblers and many other migrating birds! Our bus trip to Brigantine is on May 21, 1994. We will be leaving from the Merrick Park Golf Course at 7 A.M. and will return at about 7 P.M. Bring a box lunch — we will provide refreshments for the ride back. The price is \$21. We must have 35 people paid up by April 21st or the trip will be canceled. Please fill out the form below and send it to Diane Singer, 118 Kent Road, Valley Stream, NY 11580.

Name:	
Address:	
No. of People:	Amount Enclosed:
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# **& BICYCLING TO WORK &**

Ken Kranz

[Editor's Note: The following article was written by an Audubon member who serves as the Bike to Work Coordinator of Paumanok Bicycle Clubs, an umbrella organization for all of Long Island's bicycle clubs.]

As part of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990, corporations are required to reduce the number of car trips their employees make to work. Cleaner air through traffic mitigation is the desired goal. Some suggested alternative means of transportation include mass transit, car pools, ride sharing, telecommuting, walking, running, roller blading, and biking.

Bike to Work (BTW) Week is an annual event sponsored by the League of American Wheelmen during the month of May. Its purpose is "... to educate bicyclists and nonbicyclists alike that the bicycle is a sensible and beneficial means of transportation, to make basic information on commuting available to potential riders, to encourage people to try commuting, and to increase the general public's awareness and respect for bicycles."

During the week of May 16th, the Paumanok Bicycle Clubs will coordinate BTW for Long Island; the New York State Department of Transportation has agreed to be a sponsor. The goal is to help make bike commuting a normal part of daily living on Long Island. Because of a lack of efficient mass transit and the distances involved, the bicycle is the only viable alternative to the automobile. It is hoped that people who live within 5 miles of work and try bike commuting will make it part of their routine. You don't have to commute five days a week to be a bike commuter. Once a week and seasonal commuters also help alleviate traffic and reduce air pollution.

#### Bicycle to Our Next Massapequa Preserve Bird Walk.

New York State and Suffolk County have approved plans for the addition of bike lanes on many of Long Island's roads. Furthermore, bike lockers are planned or are already installed at the Massapequa [they're on Broadway], Huntington, and Ronkonkoma railroad stations. More work is yet to be done. [If you'd like further information, contact the Skimmer Editor, who abandoned his last long-forgotten bike at a nearby street corner a few years ago, accompanied by a sign that said "Please Take." Someone took it.]

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#### 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. 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.

Sunday, February 6th (1 P.M. to 3 P.M.) — 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.

Saturday, February 19th (2 PM. to 4 PM., children) — World of Birds. This program consists of games, a bird walk, live birds, and costumes to teach children about bird tools and types of birds they may encounter. TRS members \$3, nonmembers \$5.

Wednesday, February 23rd (7 P.M. to 9 P.M.) — 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.

Saturday, February 26th (2 P.M. to 4 P.M.) — Maple Sugaring. Join us once again for this annual event! Learn the history, the tree dynamics, and the process for making maple syrup the colonial way! See tapping demonstrations and enjoy fresh syrup over a corn cake cooked on an open fire.

Free Teacher Training Workshops. Our next workshop, Where Does Our Garbage Go?, will be offered on the first three Saturdays in February. This workshop includes field trips to a recycling facility and landfill/compost site. We will teach and do activities on papermaking, worm composting, un-nature trails, and other hands-on activities. The workshops are free for any educator and can be done at any other site for ten or more people. Other upcoming workshops will be on endangered species, pine barrens, Long Island Sound, and groundwater. Please call 922-3200 for a brochure.

## **▲ CONSERVATION REPORT ▲**

Betty Borowsky

## New Bill to Prohibit Clearcutting in National Forests.

There are many strategies for cutting lumber, some less harmful to the forest than others. One of the most devastating methods is clearcutting, the practice of teveling all trees in a forested area. The result of the loss of all the vegetation is that roots no longer hold the soil in place, and rainwater causes soil erosion and depletion of minerals and organic materials necessary for regrowth. Thus, clearcutting actually makes sustainable logging very difficult, because once the soil is adversely affected, trees may not be able to grow back naturally. In other words, clearcutting makes trees a nonrenewable resource. In addition, of course, by removing the entire tree cover of an area, the habitat of all tree-dwelling species is removed. This will pretty effectively eliminate most bird habitats in the forest.

However, clearcutting is the least expensive way to cut the trees in an area, so it is preferred by the industry. Large machines must be employed for the process, and these can only get into the forest through paved roads. At present, clearcutting is permitted in national forests, at least in a limited way, and taxes pay for the paved roads which permit it.

There is currently a bill pending in the House of Representatives, sponsored by John Bryant (D-Texas), called the "Forest Biodiversity and Clearcutting Prohibition Act," which aims to end the practice of clearcutting and prohibit the building of logging roads in public forests.

In reviewing the list of sponsors for bill H.R. 1164, our chapter's conservation committee noticed that none of our local representatives were listed as sponsors of the bill. This may be because we have no public forests locally; nevertheless, it is an important national issue, and we urge our members to write to their local representatives and ask them to become sponsors of this important bill.

[Note: All of the information contained in this article came from National Audubon Society.]

Next Conservation Committee Meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for February 16th at 7:30 P.M. in Rockville Centre. All SSAS members are invited to participate; call Betty at 764-3596 for details.



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

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#### BIRD SEED SAVINGS DAY REMINDER

Our second and last Bird Seed Savings Day is Sunday, January 30, 1994, from 9:30 A.M. to 2:30 P.M. at Tackapausha Museum, located on Washington Avenue in Seaford (between Merrick Road and Sunrise Highway). Although the deadline for preorders has passed, bird feeders and extras of all types of seed will be available on the day of the sale. Proceeds benefit Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary and SSAS. Help is needed to take orders and to carry seed around the parking lot. If you wish to volunteer, call Paul Butkereit at 623-0843 late evenings.

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# ▲ BECOME AN ARMCHAIR ACTIVIST ▲

[Editor's Note: As mentioned in our President's Message, South Shore Audubon Society has just joined the Armchair Activist network. We urge everyone who has ever thought about writing a letter to their favorite politician on behalf of the environment to participate in the network's Letter of the Month Club—it's free and requires only about a half-hour of your time per month! To sign up, call our Conservation Committee's Betty Borowsky (764-3596) or Mary Jane Russell (766-7397), or send a postcard to SSAS's mailbox. The following inspirational blurb comes from National Audubon Society. The mascot has been dubbed "Tough Bird."]

With today's jam-packed lifestyle, folks like you don't have time to sort out the complexities of environmental



issues. We do it for you and focus our collective efforts on action-directed activities that take as little as a half-hour per month. Thousands of concerned citizens like you, from all over the country, have joined our army of Armchair Activists and are truly making a difference.

The Letter of the Month Club is a critical piece of our grassroots program. There is nothing like a torrent of mail to make a legisla-

tor think twice about opposing environmentally concerned constituents on an issue. A strong grassroots campaign can influence even the most recalcitrant lawmakers.

When action is needed, we decide which legislative members to target. We then carefully craft the LOM to provide what we need to write our letter — a concise description of the problem, when to send it, what arguments to make in your letters, the necessary names & addresses, and a sample letter for you to personalize and rewrite.

As a constituent, your opinions matter more than the rounds of visits that lobbyists make. Your letters are very important to our team effort to pass environmental legislation and safeguard our precious natural world.

<b>*</b>
AUDUBON ACTIONLINE (202) 547-9009
<b>*************************************</b>
AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP STATUS (800) 274-4201
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# **AUDUBON ADVENTURES UPDATE**

Carole A. Adams

I would be totally remiss as Education Chairperson if I let any more time go by without recognizing and thanking the dedicated and caring PTA leaders, teachers, scout leaders, and other youth activity volunteers who subscribed to the 1993-94 Audubon Adventures.

A very special thanks to those educators who financially sponsored groups, thereby reducing our chapter costs of \$30 per subscription. Audubon Adventures has become the largest school-based environmental youth club in the world with the support and funding of people like you. Thank you to all our participants:

Joan M. Sheeron, Boy Scouts Elaine Weinstein, Waverly Park School Thomas J. Reilly, Park Avenue School Arthur Debin, I.S. 53 Alice Corrigan, Planting Fields Barbara Levine, Bayview Avenue School Gladys Alexander, Park Avenue School Laurie Raisher, Camp Avenue School PTA (9 classes) Martha Martin, Wisdom Lane School Linda Borst, Covenant Christian School Sande Destefano, Covenant Christian School Marsha Jensky, Caroline G. Atkinson School Debbie Smorto, Homestead School Mary L. Amodeo, West Side School Gardiner Avenue PTA (4 classes) Nola Bacci & Delores Dunn, West End School Activities Fund Steve Hoffman, Bayview Avenue Schools (6 classes) Barbara Coburn, 4-H Sunrise Council Laura Albert, Boy Scouts Joan S. Wilpan, Brownie Troop

(I am in the process of sending out Audubon Adventures certificates that I recently received from National Audubon Society.)

Linda Huestes, Bayview Avenue PTA (6 classes)

Your continued support of this environmental education program will go a long way — the youth of today are the leaders of tomorrow.

Volunteers Wanted. We are looking for volunteers interested in sharing their experience and knowledge with the young and inquisitive. Please take the time to complete the form below and bring it to the next bird walk or chapter meeting, or send it to Carole A. Adams, 65 Cliff Lane, Levittown, NY 11756.

Name:
Phone Number:
I am generally available on weekdays 🗖 weekends 🗀.
I am most comfortable providing classroom presenta-
tions , leading nature walks , and conducting field
trips $\square$ on the following: plants $\square$ , birds $\square$ , animals $\square$ ,
oceans _, marshes _, butterflies _, insects _, trees _,
flowers $\square$ , environmental topics $\square$ , reptiles $\square$ , and other
(please specify)
Comments:
****

# 1993 NYS ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION

Michael Sperling

The Environmental Planning Lobby, founded in 1969, is a nonprofit, nonpartisan alliance of individuals and over 100 environmental organizations; it is New York State's only full-time environmental lobby. EPL's Board of Directors includes National Audubon Society's Northeast Regional Vice President, David Miller. Their annual Voters' Guide, available for \$5 from EPL, 353 Hamilton St., Albany, NY 12210, includes the voting records of all of our State Senators and Assemblymembers on the described bills, plus articles on individual issues, favorite legislators, and least favorite legislators — winners of oil slick awards.

The bills in the Voters' Guide passed at least the Senate or the Assembly and were given ratings ranging from three trees to three stacks. In this *Skimmer*, we're covering bills that were strongly supported by EPL. Proposed legislation that would be of significant assistance and benefit to help resolve a pressing problem facing New York's environment was awarded 3 trees; proposed legislation that would provide substantial benefit to New York's environment was awarded 2 trees.

Adirondack Park Protection \*\*\*. The Adirondack Park, which celebrated its centennial in 1992, is the last intact temperate forested ecosystem in the continental United States. This bill is a critical measure that would strengthen protection of backcountry wilderness and undeveloped shorelines and provide economic assistance to local governments to preserve the tourism and forestry industries. A965 (introduced by Assembly Speaker Weprin) passed the Assembly but was not sponsored in the Senate.

Environmental Enforcement Act \*\*\*. This bill would ensure that New Yorkers have the fundamental right to

protect themselves and their environment from law-breaking polluters. Similar provisions in other states have been very effective as a deterrent for would-be environmental violators and as a motivator for government enforcement. A4788 (Brodsky, D-Scarsdale) passed the Assembly but was not sponsored in the Senate.

Environmental Equity \*\*\*. Across New York State, incinerators, hazardous and solid waste dumps, sewage treatment plants, and industrial developments located in low income and minority neighborhoods have resulted in increased respiratory problems, cancer, and birth defects. To spot past patterns of discriminatory siting, the bill requires the Department of Environmental Conservation to maintain an index of all environmental facilities in the state along with their location in minority and low income neighborhoods. New permit applicants must delineate any disproportionate burden within the community where the facility is proposed. A7140 (Brodsky) passed the Assembly but was not sponsored in the Senate.

Long Island Pine Barrens \*\*\*. This bill represents an historic agreement on the need to protect one of the state's most significant natural resource areas, the Long Island Pine Barrens. The bill creates a comprehensive management plan that will designate a core area to be permanently preserved, while accommodating development in adjacent compatible growth areas. The agreement enables this significant resource to be protected while resolving where growth and further construction will be permitted. A8496-A (DiNapoli, D-Great Neck) / S5896-A (LaValle, R-Selden) passed both houses and was signed by Governor Cuomo.

Clean Air \*\*\*. This bill is a comprehensive clean air package that will give the state the resources and authority it needs to implement specific programs mandated by the federal Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990. Provisions of the bill include fees for stationary sources of pollution, warranty and recall (requiring car manufacturers to warranty car emission systems), transportation control measures which encourage transit use, and emission offsets for new major stationary sources. A8517-B (Brodsky) / S6199 (Johnson, R-Babylon) passed both houses and was signed by the Governor.

Lead Certification and Training \*\*\*. Lead poisoning can occur if, during the abatement process, lead paint chips and airborne lead dust are not properly contained. This often happens when abatement workers are not knowledgeable about the safest, most effective lead abatement techniques. This bill establishes a training and certification program for all workers involved in the inspection for, or abatement of, lead hazards in residential buildings. A7964-A (Eve, D-Buffalo) / S5159-B (Volker, R-East Aurora) passed the Assembly but was held in the Senate Rules Committee.

Trust Fund \*\*\*. This legislation, which has been one of EPL's highest priorities, creates a permanent fund for the long term protection of the state's environmental resources. Monies from the fund will be used for preservation of unique and irreplaceable land resources currently on the verge of

destruction, financial assistance to local communities seeking to properly close their landfills, and promotion of local recycling efforts, park and recreation projects, waterfront revitalization, and coastal rehabilitation. A8870 with chapter amendment A8871, and S6208 with chapter amendment S6210, represent the final version of the Trust Fund, which passed both houses and was signed by the Governor.

Irradiated Food Ban . Irradiation is a procedure in which natural and processed foods are exposed to radiation in order to kill food-borne bacteria. The irradiation process, however, lowers the vitamin content of the foods, produces formaldehyde (a known carcinogen), and causes the formation of unique radiolytic products that may be harmful to humans. This bill extends the ban on irradiated foods in New York State for two years. A7120 (Greene, D-Bronx) / S4546 (Sears, R-Utica) passed both houses and was signed by the Governor.

Alternative Energy Production \*\*P. New York's dependence on fossil fuels and destructive energy sources like large-scale hydroelectricity and nuclear power facilities leads to both environmental destruction and economic dependence on world market fluctuations. This bill encourages individuals and groups to utilize on-site renewable energy sources by requiring electric and gas utilities to financially assist residential and agricultural customers who install solar, wind, biogas, fuel cell, or geothermal equipment. A2622 (Tonko, D-Amsterdam) passed the Assembly but was not sponsored in the Senate.

Health Monitoring at Superfund Sites \*\*\*. This bill specifies a health monitoring program to be undertaken by the state Department of Health 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. A5104 (Gottfried, D-Manhattan) passed the Assembly but was not sponsored in the Senate.

Forest Protection \*\*P. New York State's forested lands represent a priceless resource recognized by the state as forever wild. This measure provides greater accountability for individuals and groups engaged in inappropriate activities on state lands, and increases the penalties for the unlawful destruction and/or removal of trees from these resources. The legislation ensures that the Department of Environmental Conservation and the Attorney General are equipped to fully protect New York State's forest preserves. A5231-B (Brodsky) / S1915-C (Johnson) passed the Assembly but was held in the Senate Rules Committee.

Road Salt Storage \*\*\*. 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 destruction 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. A 5302 (Brodsky) passed the Assembly but was not sponsored in the Senate. More 2 tree bills to come. See you next month!

# 1993-1994 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

James Remsen, Jr., President	764-5168
Michael Sperling, Vice President and Skimmer Editor	541-0805
George Popkin, Treasurer (8 to 9 PM)	
Louise Hillen, Recording Secretary	546-6147
Doris Pirodsky, Corresponding Secretary & Historian	. 378-1790
Carole A. Adams, Director (6/96) & Education Chairperson	
Steven Goldberg, Director (6/96)	
Paul Devendittis, Director (6/95)	
Bruno Leporati, Director (6/95)	
Marge Jaeger, Director (6/94) & Fund-raising Chairperson	
Richard Packert, Director (6/94)	. 437-9683
Betty Borowsky, Conservation Legislation Chairperson	
Sandy Brenner, Program Chairperson	. 249-4919
Paul Butkereit, Bird Seed Savings Day	
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)	
Doreen Remsen, Birdathon Chairperson	
Dolores Rogers, Welcoming Committee Chairperson	
Mary Jane Russell, Hospitality Chairperson	. 766-7397
Diane Singer, Publicity	
Porgy Smith, Environmental Information Chairperson	
Jonathan Staller, Environmental Festivals Coordinator	
John Staropoli, Youth Representative	
Marion Yavarkovsky, Membership Chairperson	

# South Shore Audubon Society P.O. Box 31 Freeport, NY 11520-0031

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