# OUTH HORE KIMMER

VOLUME 23, NUMBER 9 — SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

JUNE, JULY & AUGUST 1994

#### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

James Remsen, Jr.

Two years have come and gone since I was elected President of South Shore Audubon. They have been two challenging but rewarding years full of excitement on many fronts in our chapter — important conservation legislation like the Environmental Trust Fund was finally passed, thanks to people like us; Brookside Preserve has become more accessible, thanks to our Brookside Preserve Committee's implementation of a New York State grant; we've gone on a lot of bird walks together; our Birdathons have kept us hunting for "just one more species" until it became too dark to see. The people who make up this great organization are what keep it going, year after year, and they make me look back on the past two years with pride and gratitude. I want to thank each officer, director, and committee chair that has served during my presidency, and each one of you who answered their calls for assistance no matter what the need was.

Although our bylaws allow me to run for one more year as President of SSAS, I decided not to do so in order to devote more time to my doctoral studies at New York University. It wasn't an easy decision to step down at this time, but I don't want to give less than my best to anything I do for this chapter. Now, approaching my second year of Ph.D. studies, the demands on my time are such that remaining President might compromise my performance in academics, in the Society, or both. I intend to remain active with SSAS, only in a smaller role. You'll see me (and I hope I'll see you) at bird walks, meetings, and special events. [Editor's note: Our bylaws were changed last spring to allow Jim to become the first President to enjoy or decline a third term; as ex-President, he becomes eligible to wear any of the committee hats listed on the back page or to wear a brand new hat.]

To the others who are leaving or have recently left the Board of Directors in one capacity or another, my thanks are due to you for jobs well done: outgoing Directors Marge Jaeger and Richard Packert; former committee chairs Evelyn Blume, Anne McIntyre, and John Staropoli; and outgoing Vice President Michael Sperling. (Thanks especially to

#### **NEXT MEETING — OUR ANNUAL DINNER**

DATE:

Tuesday, June 14, 1994

TIME: 6:30 P.M. for Cocktails

PLACE: Po

7:30 P.M. for Dinner Pompei Restaurant

401 Hempstead Avenue

West Hempstead, NY



Each June, SSAS takes over a room at Pompei Restaurant & Catering and enjoys year-ending festivities. Join us! Please see page 7 for the menu, cost, entertainment, and registration form. Our regular monthly meetings at the Freeport Memorial Library will resume in September.

**\*** 

Michael for helping to keep me on the ball; I'm also thankful he's remaining as newsletter editor!)

Being committed to the cause of conservation isn't easy. Because the conservationist must remain ever watchful over natural resources, because he or she is never certain of success in the "good fight," one could argue that developing an environmental awareness also prepares one well for life's other battles. One learns never to be afraid, because although one often feels the fear of a potential loss, one also knows that the opposition feels the fear of our potential victory. One learns to cultivate hope that the battles, at least sometimes, won't always go to the richest or most eloquent, but to those who fight on, undaunted, long after lesser souls would have quit. To those who wonder where character and integrity are hiding in our cynical world, I can tell you that they are alive and well in volunteer organizations like our own. Perhaps we should discard the modesty for once; we are great people.

I wish all the best to our chapter's new administration in the days ahead. You've honored me, and them, by letting us serve you as officers and directors. If anything accomplished during my presidency reflects well on their efforts, or makes their job easier, I will be pleased.

In the words of Henry Ward Beecher, "We should so live and labor in our time that what came to us as seed may go to the next generation as blossom, and what came to us as blossom may go to them as fruit. That is what we mean by progress."

#### **HELP FOR FEATHERED FRIENDS**

Sallie Ruppert

[Editor's Note: I'd like to thank Dolores Rogers for providing me with a copy of the following, which was printed as an educational service a while ago by Huntington Audubon Society and Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary. Sallie Ruppert is currently Executive Director of Volunteers for Wildlife. When SSAS receives calls regarding rescuing distressed wildlife, one suggestion we give is to call Volunteers for Wildlife at 423-0982.]

Our Responsibility. If a baby bird is fully feathered, has short tail feathers, and hops but doesn't fly, leave him/her. The parents will return and take care of baby (even if he/she has been handled by humans!). You can best help by removing dogs and cats from the area.

If you are positive that the baby bird is an orphan:

Use a strawberry box for a nest and fill it with paper towels and tissue (do not use an old nest).

Using a blunt toothpick, feed the baby bird formula every half-hour during daylight hours. Place food far down the throat when the mouth is open.

When the baby bird is too big for the "nest," place him/her in a cardboard box (see "Temporary Home for an Injured Bird" below).

**Basic Wild Bird Formula.** The following recipe is for most baby birds and injured adults:

1/4 lb. raw chopped beef

1 hard-boiled egg yolk

1 tsp. wheat germ

1/8 tsp. garden soil

Sprinkle with vitamins, moisten with water, mix, and place in dish or serve on a blunt toothpick.

Dry dog food moistened with water till soft is a convenient substitute for worms and bugs, or for the above formula.

Slices of orange, banana, or peeled chopped grapes and apples are suitable for older birds.

If possible, adult birds should be offered foods that they eat in the wild.

Force Feeding. If an adult bird still will not pick up food after 6 hours, he/she may have to be force fed:

Hold bird on towel in your lap, facing away from you.

Gently, but firmly, press on corners of jaw, slipping fingernail between upper and lower bill.

Insert food as far down the throat as possible; wait until the bird swallows.

For a robin-size bird, feed 1/2 to 1 teaspoon three times daily.

Never force water or liquid down the throat of any bird. With your fingertip, place drops of water on the tip of the bill.

Usually, after two or three force feedings the bird will start eating and drinking from a shallow dish or jar lid.

Shock and/or Concussions. Either put the bird in a small covered box with air holes, leave it in a quiet warm place for 2 hours, and release it, or place the bird in a protected bush in a sunny spot and go away.

First Aid for Injured Birds. Clean cuts with hydrogen peroxide. Apply first aid cream. For a broken or weak wing, wrap masking tape (not adhesive) around the body and the bad wing, using the body as a support for the folded wing. Remember to leave the good wing free. Remove tape in three weeks.

Temporary Home for an Injured Bird. Use a cardboard carton covered with a grate or screen. Do not use a parakeet cage. Add wood perches of varying sizes, inserting them

through the sides of the carton. Place torn newspaper or paper towel on the floor of the carton.

Note: Wild birds are protected by state and

federal regulations and must be returned to freedom.

te and

**ATTENTION SSAS VETERANSI** 

**\*** 

South Shore Audubon Society's 25th anniversary is fast approaching and we'd like to run a series of articles recapping our chapter's history. In order to do this, we need to know what that history is — and we're missing lots of important pieces from the 1970s and even the 1980s.

If you have any old *Skimmers*, photos, notes, board minutes, etc., that we could copy, save for posterity, and return, or if you'd like to share your memories of SSAS with us, *please* send us a postcard or call Michael Sperling (541-0805, after 7:30 P.M.) or our historian, Doris Pirodsky (378-1790). THANKS!

#### **OUR NEXT GROUP VACATION**

**\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*** 

In January, SSAS gained \$900 while nine of our members spent 11 wonderful days exploring Costa Rica with two highly experienced tour directors and a native naturalist/guide. If you'd like to participate in our next adventure (to Costa Rica or the Galápagos Islands), call Betsy Gulotta at 546-8841.

<b>*</b>
RARE BIRD ALERT (212) 979-3070
*********
WILDLIFE POISONING HOTLINE (800) 356-0560
<b>******************************</b>
AUDUBON ACTIONLINE (202) 547-9009
<b>*******************************</b>
AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP STATUS (800) 274-4201
**********



"NEW YORK'S LARGEST WILD BIRD SPECIALTY STORE"

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

<del></del>

#### **4X WELCOME NEW MEMBERS 4X**

Marion Yavarkovsky

SSAS welcomes all our new members. You have joined a wonderful organization filled with many interesting and innovative people. We are hoping you will become involved in our many activities and add your enthusiasm and talents to our organization.

[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.]

Farmingdale	Helen Files, Mr. Gerhard
	Hirseland, Francine Valvano
Floral Park	
	Mrs. Marianne Tomei
Garden City	Cynthia A. Frommann, Alice H.
	Gilbert, Ms. Lynne A. Richner,
	Marianne Terzi
Hicksville	Ms. Diane M. Birkel, J. Smith
Levittown	Catherine Hunt Demic,
	Ms. Jacqueline B. Hollman,
	Jairo A. Pena
Lynbrook	Mr. Charles Murphy, S. Viviano
Malverne	Mr. Peter Koutsoukos
Massapequa	Brian James Daly, Mr. Thomas
	Douglas, Donna J. Ehrick,
	Mrs. Karen F. Fleischmann,
	Shirley McCarthy, Mrs. V.
	Geraldine Pelle, Ms. Norma
	Recco, Ruth Steinberg
Merrick	Mr. Rodney J. Pierce,
	Miss Paige S. Richards,
	Mr. Jack Silverman,
	Frank & Mary Stibritz,
	Douglas Thomas
Oceanside	Tina Fabiano, Florence Hyman,
	Irene Cowan Rosen
Plainview	G. Ash, Stanley Noren,
	Mr. S. Saul
Point Lookout	Mrs. Robert Dorsee

Rockville Centre Merrill L. Grossman
Seaford Mrs. C. R. Lichtenstein, David
Roseman
Valley Stream Stephanie Gladkowski, Richard
Praetorius
Wantagh Shirley Huie
West Hempstead Arnon Grossman

#### **AUDUBON HOUSE — BUILDING GREEN**

Carole A. Adams

On Saturday, April 30th, the newly renovated headquarters of the National Audubon Society, Audubon House, opened its doors to chapter members nationwide.

Audubon House is a century old architectural masterpiece located at 700 Broadway in Manhattan that was transformed into a model of environmentally responsible building design by a team of scientists, engineers, and architects.

The tours began on the unfinished second floor with greetings, signing in, refreshments, and a 13-minute video of informational interviews and construction techniques.

Our guide, Jackie Gelman, noted that three major concerns were considered in just about every decision that was made in transforming concept into action:

- \* the effect on the environment
- \* material availability
- \* cost effectiveness

As a result, Audubon House has an energy-efficient gaspowered heating and cooling unit that results in no CFCs (ozone-layer destroying chlorofluorocarbons), energy saving windows, air that is circulated and filtered more than twice the required standard, light fixtures that have occupancy and daylight sensors that can switch a light off or dim it automatically, floor tiles made from recycled glass, countertops made from recycled milk cartons, natural fiber carpeting, and carpet padding made from recycled newspapers (no toxic glue), all at an annual energy cost savings of approximately \$100,000.

If you're interested in knowing more, tours of Audubon House are scheduled for Friday mornings at 11:00 A.M. (special arrangements can be made upon request; call 212-546-9195); purchase the 28 minute video Building Green for \$12.95; get a copy of the Audubon Technical Guide by asking for the Conservation Information department at the phone number above; or order Audubon House for \$24.95 from John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 605 Third Ave., New York, NY 10158 (attention Meg Hudak; it's also available in bookstores). The book Audubon House is the story of how the century-old loft was transformed, as told by the professionals who made it happen and edited by a team of Audubon staffers, including Audubon Activist editor Fred Baumgarten.

I'm sure I speak for all the members who participated in the tour when I say it was interesting and informative, and I'm glad I went. P.S.: Alice, thanks for introducing us to Le Café — great coffee and muffins.

#### 😉 BIRD WALKS 😉

Elliott Kutner

All walks start at 9:30 A.M.; no walk if it rains. Any questions? Call Elliott at 486-7667. [Editor's note to new birders/members: SSAS traditionally drops the Jones Beach area from our itinerary when the bathers and tolls wash in. Over 325 species of birds have been recorded at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge in the last 25 years; the federally managed refuge is located on Cross Bay Boulevard between Howard Beach and the Rockaways. Join us for a two-hour walk!]

June 5	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
June 12	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
	Summer Vacation
Aug. 14	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Aug. 21	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Aug. 28	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Sept. 4	Labor Day Weekend — No Walk
Sept. 11	Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
Sept. 18	Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner
Sept. 25	Tobay JFK Sanctuary
Oct. 2	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
Oct. 9	Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
Oct. 16	Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner
Oct. 23	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Oct. 30	Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
***	*****

#### **EDUCATION REPORT**

Carole A. Adams

"How time flies when you're having fun." And yes, I have been having fun.

First, I had the honor, privilege, and great pleasure of sitting with the Scholarship Committee members to review Audubon Camp Scholarship applications. The selection process is not an easy one; "too bad they all can't go" was frequently mumbled, but selections were finally made.

Sincere congratulations to Lorraine Levine of Floral Park, South Shore's Youth Camp in Maine scholarship recipient. Congratulations also to Jonathan Staller of Jericho, the Ecology Camp in Maine scholarship recipient.

Youth Camp scholarship application letters are always very special; they are imaginative, creative, and sincere. These young students should be congratulated for their efforts and encouraged to continue their conservation projects. Hats off to Patrick Higgiston, Joseph T. Phelan, Katie Schneider, and Maureen White.

On Friday, April 22nd, your Education Chairperson represented South Shore by presenting "What a Conservationist Does" to Pack #278. After the boys did their Honor Guard presentation and pledge of allegiance, we got started. Much to my amazement, I was introduced to a very inquisitive and talented group of boys. They listened intently, questioned intelligently, and exhibited remarkable artistic talent with their drawings of endangered species. My compliments to

their leadership and thanks for providing me with a positive experience.

Another fun time came the very next morning at Jamaica Bay with Girl Scout troops #1023 and #1421 of Elmont.

Some months ago, Reva Marcellin, coworker and troop leader, asked me to lead the group on a bird walk. A call to Kathy Krause, Park Ranger at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, got the walk booked and me scheduled for a "teacher training for guides" session — well worth it.

I arrive a little early on a Saturday morning, with a collection of borrowed binoculars, field guides, and butterflies — in my stomach. The scouts arrive with their leaders, we take a brief look around in the Visitor Center, and off we go to be greeted by White-throated Sparrows, recognized by a few but brand new to most.

Soon a realization surfaced. Most of the species we were seeing were new to the scouts and leaders, as they were to all of us "experienced birders" when we first started. Now it was my turn to share stories I picked up from bird walks with Elliott Kutner, James Remsen, Paul Butkereit, and others. This brief bird walk resulted in a list of 15 species and unmeasurable eagerness to return to Jamaica Bay to see and learn more.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL QUOTATIONS**

Michael Sperling

<del></del>

Here's the second installment of favorite entries from A Dictionary of Environmental Quotations, compiled by Barbara K. Rodes and Rice Odell (published by Simon & Schuster, copyright © 1992):



"The great question of the '70s is, shall we surrender to our surroundings, or shall we make our peace with nature and begin to make reparations for the damage we have done to our air, our land, and our water? Restoring nature to its natural state is a cause beyond party and beyond factions. It has become a common cause of all the people of America."

— Richard M. Nixon, state of the union message, January 22, 1970



"If people destroy something replaceable made by mankind, they are called vandals; if they destroy something irreplaceable made by God, they are called developers." — Joseph Wood Krutch (1893–1970), quoted in *Mother Earth News*, March–April 1990



"You go into a community and they will vote 80 percent to 20 percent in favor of a tougher Clean Air Act, but if you ask them to devote 20 minutes a year to having their car emissions inspected, they will vote 80 to 20 against it. We are a long way in this country from taking individual responsibility for the environmental problem." — William D. Ruckelshaus, former EPA administrator, New York Times, November 30, 1988

#### **GARDEN CITY'S FIRST BIRD SANCTUARY?**

In late April, SSAS received a request from Robert M. Alvey of Garden City's Environmental Advisory Board (EAB) to support their proposed creation of a songbird sanctuary along the unused Long Island Rail Road right-of-way extending from the intersection of Franklin Avenue and Main Street to the active railroad line at the Country Life Press station at Chestnut Street. We support the sanctuary and urge the 99 Garden City households containing current SSAS members to read the conceptual plan and fill out the brief opinion poll forms that are available at your library, chamber of commerce, and property owners' associations.

The EAB and village board are seeking written comments regarding whether or not bird sanctuaries make good neighbors (i.e., are there any problems with noise, litter, parking, rats, vandalism, etc.), and EAB is seeking planning and development volunteers interested in birds and/or wildlife gardening. Mr. Alvey's address is 44 Fenimore Ave., Garden City, NY 11530; phone number 326-1720.

**\*** 

#### 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, June 12th (1 to 3 P.M.) — Mammals. Come see live mammals, like our foxes, ferrets, and rabbits. Learn what makes mammals like us special, find wild mammals of the Sanctuary, and learn about tracking. TRS members \$3, nonmembers \$5.

Saturday & Sunday, June 18th and 19th (12 to 5 P.M.) — Tackapausha Wildlife Show. In cooperation with Nassau County and the Friends for Long Island's Heritage, the Sanctuary is holding one of our fun, informative, and exciting wildlife shows. Yeah!!! Animals featured in programs include a Golden Eagle, a Peregrine Falcon, hawks (with a flight demonstration), owls, foxes, snakes, lizards, a fruit bat, and much more. There will be an environmental fair, nature crafts, painting, nature walks, refreshments, and exhibit tables and activities. Parking is free and the charge is \$3 per child and \$5 per adult, or \$14 per family. Tackapausha Museum and Preserve is on Washington Avenue in Seaford, just east of the Seaford-Oyster Bay Expressway, between Merrick Road and Sunrise Highway.

Sunday, June 19th (8 to 10 A.M.) — Father—Child Walk. We will meet at Sagamore Hill to celebrate Father's Day the way Theodore Roosevelt did, by bird-watching and taking a nature hike. Free.

Saturday, July 2nd (1 to 2 P.M.) — Marine Ecology. Join our naturalist at the Sanctuary to explore the living tidal marine animals of beautiful Cove Beach. We'll use dip and seine nets along with hand lenses. TRS members \$3, nonmembers \$5.

More Free Workshops. On June 4th (9 A.M. to 12 P.M.), 11th (9 A.M. to 5 P.M.), and 18th (9 A.M. to 1 P.M.), we will be offering our educator's workshop series on endangered species. The program features live animals, activities, curriculum guides, guest speakers, and a day-long field trip to meet some of Long Island's endangered species. The workshop is sponsored in part by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and is acceptable for one in-service credit for educators. Other workshops are still to come.

**\*** 

#### THE FOURTH ANNUAL THANK-YOU COLUMN

Michael Sperling

When I volunteered to become *Skimmer* editor, then-President Joan Butkereit joked that I had to agree to remain editor for at least 9 years, since two of my predecessors had lasted that long. Well, I'm almost halfway there already, our President-elect wants to keep me, and, thanks to the following wonderful people, I'm not ready to give up the honor of doing SSAS's newsletter.

First, I'd like to thank everyone who contributed articles to this year's issues — Carole Adams, Betty Borowsky, Sandy Brenner, El Glaser, Betsy Gulotta, Mike Higgiston, Ken Kranz, Elliott Kutner, Emilie Petersen, George Popkin, Doreen Remsen, Jim Remsen, Dolores Rogers, Lois Schlegel, Mort Silver, Diane Singer, Tom Torma, and Marion Yavarkovsky. Jim deserves extra thanks for doing a fine job as President; by managing to attend every single board and general meeting, he treated me to the easiest fill-in Vice Presidency anyone could imagine.

Second, I'd like to thank Marion & David Yavarkovsky for another year of providing all the mailing labels, F&B Printers for continued reliable service and lots of extra copies, and my family (especially Mom & Dad) for joining me in labeling and adding rubber bands to all the *Skimmers*. Once again, every issue was successfully mailed 3 weeks before our general meeting (although several post offices needed two months to deliver some issues).

Finally, I'd like to especially thank the SSAS members whose essential contributions go unrecognized until the June issue — the people who go out in rain, snow, ice storms, etc., to bring the *Skimmer* to and from the printer (Jenny Krivanek and sometimes husband Dan, with pinch hitting by Alan Bromberg, Sue Lancer, and Linda Fleigner with son Jeff) and to the post office (Bruno Leporati, Sal Navasaitis, and Annie McIntyre).

Next Issue. The September Skimmer will be mailed in late August. The deadline for submitting articles is Friday, August 12th. Please mail articles to my house, since I don't have direct access to SSAS's post office box.

#### SSAS COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

Betsy Gulotta

Congratulations to Suzanne Zanelli, who has won the 1994 South Shore Audubon Society college scholarship award of \$500. Suzanne is a sophomore at SUNY at Stony Brook and plans to transfer to either the University of Maine or the California University of Pennsylvania [located in the town of California, 35 miles south of Pittsburgh], where she will continue in the field of Environmental Studies. After graduation, she hopes to work as a conservation ecologist.

Suzanne stated the following in her application: "I firmly believe that with continued public interest in our environment, and increased support by federal, state, and local governments for the environmentalists' and ecologists' efforts, we will be able to see positive results in the next 10 years."

Suzanne will receive her scholarship award at our annual dinner on June 14th.

**\*** 

## CONSERVATION REPORT Pine Barrens Perspective

Betty Borowsky

The following report is based on *Newsday* articles and a talk addressed to the Conservation Committee by Marilyn England, staff member of the National Audubon Society's Scully Science Center in Islip and President of the Open Space Council. We wish to thank Marilyn most heartily for describing the history of the fight over the Pine Barrens and explaining the underlying issues and conflicts. She has helped us put it all in perspective.

Overview. The Pine Barrens is an area of approximately 100,000 acres in central Suffolk County which is largely undeveloped. Developers and environmentalists have been in a pitched battle for many years over the fate of this land. Formal legal action was brought by environmentalists to prevent development as long ago as 1989, but the tug of war still hasn't ended.

The importance of the Pine Barrens is both practical and esthetic. The area overlies the subterranean aquifer from which all of Long Island draws its drinking water. The water is pumped from the aquifer and provided to local residences and businesses. Water in the aquifer is replenished only by rainwater that passes through the topsoil and enters the underground pool. Other things can enter the aquifer as well; anything that dissolves in water can pass through to the aquifer, thus potentially contaminating it. In addition, development can impair the replenishment of the aquifer. When an area is developed, the supply of water is threatened in two ways. First, there is more demand, and second, less water can pass through the soil to the aquifer. The latter occurs because when one cements over the soil and builds sewers, rainwater is prevented from penetrating the soil because there is less soil exposed, and because the water is diverted into sewers and from there to the sea.

In addition to this, of course, development causes the loss of wildlife habitat. Ecologists recognize that there is a minimum amount of uninterrupted habitat which is necessary to maintain certain species. Smaller parcels are not able to provide them with enough food to survive.

Therefore, a strong case can be made for preventing the Pine Barrens' development on the basis of environmental concerns alone. However, there are other reasons as well. It is particularly irksome that one of the most active proponents of development wants to begin by building an enormous new mall on the site. This idea simply flies against all reason. There is a great deal of unused mall space throughout the Island now, and, in general, development has slowed considerably, or stopped, as a consequence of the recession. Why on earth should a new mall be built, and, especially, why should it be built in such an environmentally sensitive area? If you have to build a mall (and I would seriously question why we need more, since Sunrise Highway is essentially one longitudinal mall through Nassau and Suffolk), build it on a site which has already been developed but is currently underutilized or abandoned.

The Twisted Course of Legislative Initiatives Regarding the Pine Barrens. A plan to preserve the Pine Barrens (called the Pine Barrens Protection Act) was adopted by the State Legislature in July 1993, after many years of litigation in the courts and a great deal of acrimony between developers and environmentalists. Essentially, the plan calls for the establishment of a central (core) area of 55,000 acres which will remain entirely undeveloped, and another 45,000 acres surrounding the core, which will be designated a compatible growth area. This area will be developed, but only under careful scrutiny, assuring maximum protection of the aquifer.

A key to developing the plan was the cooperation of business and environmental groups. The two sides felt it was in their best interests to cooperate with each other following a court decision and its first appeal. Originally, a lower court sided with environmental groups, blocking development throughout the Pine Barrens on the grounds that granting development permits to a series of projects would ultimately destroy the legally protected groundwater. The Court of Appeals reversed this decision, saying that the pine barrens area certainly needed a comprehensive development plan in order to protect the groundwater, but that in the absence of a plan there were no legal grounds for blocking the permits.

Where We Are Now. Briefly, it's point-counterpoint.

An important element of the Act was that the State would provide \$10 million to buy remaining acres in the core area from private owners. (This amount is to be supplemented annually, as appropriate, using money from New York's Environmental Trust Fund; much of the core area is already owned by the state or county.) Suffolk County Executive Gaffney promised a matching amount for startup funds.

Unfortunately, none of the monies have been forthcoming yet. The state and county have not allocated the funds, saying that they will not do so without a Comprehensive Management Plan for making these purchases. This plan would spell out specific protocols for identifying which parcels should be purchased, the order of purchase, and the purchase price. The plan would have to be consonant with local ordinances and land use plans. A Joint Planning and Policy Commission, created by the Act, is currently developing such a plan (the five men on the commission are the Town Supervisors of Brookhaven, Riverhead, and Southampton, the Suffolk County Executive, and a representative from New York's Department of Environmental Conservation), with input from a 28-member Advisory Committee and three subcommittees. In addition to that, as this Skimmer goes to press, the state budget has not been passed by the legislature and there remains the possibility that the initial \$10 million will not be allocated this year (although Governor Cuomo has indicated that he is sympathetic to this and there appears to be a surplus).

In addition, the shaky coalition was shattered in March when environmental groups sued the Commission because it had approved the construction of athletic fields on 30 acres in the core area, even though this was clearly proscribed by the Act. This issue, as far as I can determine, is still unresolved.

One negative element of the Comprehensive Management Plan is that some projects were grandfathered in — any proposed project which had an environmental impact statement passed by June 2, 1993 would be permitted to go forward. This grandfathers in the proposed giant mall.

So, as we all leave for summer vacation, many issues remain unresolved. It is clear that the fight to preserve the Pine Barrens will continue for some time, and will need all of our support.

#### THE PIPING PLOVER AT SILVER POINT

**\*** 

Betsy Gulotta

Brigitte Braff was a friend of the Piping Plover. A resident of Atlantic Beach for many years, Brigitte watched over Piping Plover at Silver Point. She spent endless hours locating

nests, protecting nesting parents, and guarding their young on the beach during the spring and summer months. A true friend of the Atlantic Beach Civic Association, Brigitte understood Silver Point management needs and was able to



maintain a delicate balance between the recreational needs of the beach club and the open space requirements of the birds. Piping Plover at Silver Point survived and flourished.

Now Brigitte Braff is gone, and there is no one to watch over the Piping Plover at Silver Point. If you know of someone who lives at or near Atlantic Beach and who would like to help protect the Piping Plover, please contact South Shore Audubon Society, P.O. Box 31, Freeport, NY 11520.

Piping Plover are small sand-colored birds with short, black-tipped, orange beaks. They are remarkably camou-

flaged to blend into the background of open beach habitats. In early April they return to their Long Island breeding grounds. Mated pairs scratch shallow depressions in the sand near the dunes and line them with pebbles or shells. Nests are difficult to spot and therefore are easily trampled. Four speckled sandy-colored eggs are laid, which hatch in about 25 days. Hatchlings are fully feathered, and immediately run around searching for food. Adults attempt to protect their young from intruders by attracting attention to themselves, often by feigning a broken wing, dragging it on the ground until the intruder has left the area.

Piping Plover are listed as threatened under the U.S. Endangered Species Act and are on New York State's endangered list.

# × OUR ANNUAL DINNER <

Diane Singer & Shirley Kutner

This year's annual dinner will once again be held at the Pompei Restaurant, 401 Hempstead Ave., in West Hempstead (Southern State Parkway Exit 17 north); it will cost just \$20 per person and will include entertainment by (and optional dancing, with or without a partner, to) a nostalgic one-man band. The date is Tuesday, June 14th; come enjoy dinner with your fellow SSAS members. Cocktail hour starts at 6:30. ¶

Please fill out the form below and send it, along with a check payable to *South Shore Audubon Society*, to Diane Singer, 118 Kent Road, Valley Stream, NY 11580.

NAME:
ADDRESS:
AMOUNT OF CHECK:
NUMBER OF PEOPLE:
NUMBER OF EACH MENU CHOICE:
Filet of Sole Dijon
Chicken Marsala
Eggplant Rollatini
Roast Beef
or, if you prefer:
Broiled Chicken
Broiled Fish

#### 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)	378-4467
Louise Hillen, Recording Secretary	546-6147
Doris Pirodsky, Corresponding Secretary & Historian	378-1790
Carole A. Adams, Director (6/96) & Education Chairperson	731-4425
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)	
Betty Borowsky, Conservation Legislation Chairperson	
Sandy Brenner, Program Chairperson	
Paul Butkereit, Bird Seed Savings Day	623-0843
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	561-6118
Porgy Smith, Environmental Information Chairperson	
Jonathan Staller, Environmental Festivals Coordinator	822-5957
John Staropoli, Youth Representative	
Marion Yavarkovsky, Membership Chairperson	

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

A CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Americans Committed to Conservation

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED





U.S. POSTAGE PAID Permit No. 1181 NONPROFIT Freeport, NY