

VOLUME 25, NUMBER 4 — SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

DEC. 1994 & JAN. 1995

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Carole A. Adams

I realize we're saying goodbye to fall and hello to winter, but before closing this chapter of seasonal changes, I'd like to tell you about my fall vacation. It was sort of a busman's holiday in that I visited four different national wildlife refuges, a birding hot spot, a sanctuary for injured wildlife, and a plantation restoration site.

My trip started out, as it generally does, at Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge on Assateague Island off the Delmarva Peninsula. For those of you who don't know, some national wildlife refuges take on the name of the local post office. Since there is no post office in Virginia's part of Assateague Island, the refuge was titled Chincoteague NWR for the nearest local post office, located on Chincoteague Island. The refuge, an Atlantic Flyway stopover, was hosting large numbers of waterfowl, i.e., Canada Geese, Shovelers, American Black Duck, Cormorants, some slow-moving Brown Pelican, a sporadic resident White Pelican, Mallards, Mute Swan, Yellowlegs, Dunlin, and several hundred Snow Geese. Common sightings included Bald Eagle, Peregrine Falcon, and Kestrel. Altogether, I listed 90 species.

Interested in checking out Blackwater NWR in Maryland and their 10,000 resident Canada Geese, I drove over to Cambridge and had no difficulty finding Canada Geese and several thousand Snow Geese. I also had my first introduction to the not-so-friendly red-bellied water snake (I'll stick to birding, thank you). Bald Eagle and Golden Eagle sightings were included in the day's adventure.

Two days later, I was driving south to Florida, so a detour to the Eastern Shore of Virginia NWR and a stopover on the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel islands was certainly in the schedule. Eastern Bluebirds, Meadowlarks, Osprey, and migrating Peregrine Falcon made the side trips worthwhile.

Since birding and driving is reckless, I've started a new hobby — vanity plate listing. This trip allowed me to add 4THBRDZ, AVOCET, and 2CWEGO to my already extensive list.

Once in Florida, I was able to refocus on more important things like BEAKS (Bird Emergency Aid & Kare Sanctuary),

NEXT MEETINGS

Sandy Brenner

DATE: Tuesday, December 13, 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 frequently joins us at our monthly meetings and is the Director of Theodore Roosevelt 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 plus Broad-winged and Cooper's Hawks are likely attendees). Her program will include discussion of the Sanctuary's participation in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Migratory Bird Program and in Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology's Project Tanager. Our December program was originally scheduled for last February, but the library was closed by a snowstorm. Join us!

DATE: Tuesday, January 10, 1995

TIME: 8:00 P.M. ②

PLACE: Freeport Memorial Library
TOPIC: Member Participation Night

Last January, our members brought us slides of the Adirondacks; Arizona; Long Island's parks; Sanibel Island, Florida; Costa Rica; Colorado; Yosemite National Park and Mono Lake, California; Aruba; insects; birds; SSAS; and more. Please bring up to ten of your slides and share them with us at our annual members' night.

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

a sanctuary for injured wildlife on Talbot Island (near Jacksonville). BEAKS hosts approximately 2,000 birds a

year, maintains a wildlife response unit for emergencies, provides educational programs, cares for and rehabilitates injured wildlife, and is responsible for hand-raising and returning to the wild the more than 600 orphaned birds they welcome each year.

After meeting Andy from BEAKS and hearing about the work they do, I toured Talbot Island, where 7-foot bluffs have eroded to the point of undermining trees, which now lay out on the beach. Brown Pelican, Osprey, Kingfisher, Snowy Egret, Great Blue Heron, and Turkey Vultures were abundant in the marshes.

Although my trip down to Florida was really to visit family, not a day passed that I wasn't checking the skies, the trees, the marshes, and offshore. That's what happens to birders over time.

It was this incredible need to keep birding that caused me to delay my trip home for a visit to Bombay Hook NWR in Delaware. Large numbers of Snow Geese setting down and taking off around sunset created a most spectacular show. The sound and activity cause you to stand in awe no matter how many times you see it happen.

As the sun set and darkness wrapped up the evening, I was ready to echo the words of Dorothy, "there's no place like home."

Happy Holidays to everyone. Hope to see you out on our winter searches for Snowy Owls.

& HOLIDAY WILDLIFE PARTY &

The annual holiday party and workshop for children that is sponsored by SSAS will take place at Tackapausha Museum in Seaford from 1 to 3 p.m. on Saturday, December 17th. Volunteers are needed to serve refreshments, direct traffic, help with workshop projects, etc. Children will turn pine cones into bird feeders using birdseed and peanut butter, string popcorn and cranberries for the birds, and enjoy Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary's live bird program. Admission to the museum is \$1 for adults and children over age 12, 50¢ for children ages 5-12, and free for younger kids when accompanied by an adult. To volunteer, call SSAS President Carole Adams at 731-4425.



T TREE PLANTING A SUCCESS T AT BROOKSIDE PRESERVE T

Betsy Gulotta

On October 16th, a small but hardy group of volunteers spent a beautiful Sunday afternoon at Brookside Preserve, digging large holes, dragging heavy balled trees and shrubs, planting the trees and shrubs in the field and woods, and hauling water in buckets from Milburn Creek to water their thirsty roots.

In addition to the generous donations of trees and shrubs received from Atlantic Nursery in Freeport and Steven Dubner Landscaping in Dix Hills (reported in last month's *Skimmer*), we also received assistance from Jay Pitti, owner of Merrick House and Gardens, who acquired additional donations from Bissett Nursery Corporation in Holtsville. Jay helped in receiving and delivering 3 American holly, 1 flowering dogwood, 3 inkberry, 5 viburnum, and 10 swamp azalea shrubs. These trees and shrubs will provide cover, shade, and fruit for the birds, which is particularly important in the upcoming cold winter months. As soon as they were in place, a fall warbler indicated his approval and appreciation by landing on one, then another. His presence was our reward as well.

Brookside Preserve is located on the border between Freeport and Baldwin. A marked entrance exists on Brookside Avenue just north of the Long Island Rail Road and the Brooklyn Water Works building. Now that a pedestrian bridge over Milburn Creek, and approximately 500 feet of boardwalk path over the fragile swampy trails along the creek, have been installed (constructed by SSAS member Dick Packert), new trails can be opened up on the west (Baldwin) side. Three additional entrance points at Felix Court, Jayne Place, and Milburn Court on the Baldwin side will lead into these new trails.

A Brookside Preserve Committee is currently working on the last phases of a project involving a New York State grant of \$34,000 awarded to SSAS for the management and development of Brookside Preserve. To date, we have developed trails, constructed the bridge and boardwalk paths, removed heavy and unsightly debris, provided erosion control along the Creek, cleared and planted the field as a wildflower meadow, installed a fence along the south border, purchased biomonitoring materials for scientific testing, prepared and printed three educational publications, and started production of an educational promotional video, in addition to regular cleanups and the current planting project.

In the first 5 years of our management agreement with Nassau County, we have been grateful for the cooperation of the County and its Parks Department. It has given us the opportunity to do what we do best — protect the natural environment and share with others the joys and rewards that come with an understanding and appreciation of natural habitats on Long Island. Our reward was evident in the appearance of that first little bird who visited our newly planted shrubs on October 16th.

THE HISTORY OF SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

Michael Sperling

Our chapter's 25th birthday is rapidly approaching and your Board of Directors is making plans for a celebration. One way we'd like to observe our birthday is by documenting SSAS's adventures and achievements. Starting with this Skimmer, I will attempt to chronicle our history, using whatever information we can find. Because we're an all-volunteer organization whose records have been stored in 13 presidents' closets, we're missing a variety of newsletters, minutes, and who knows what. If you've kept any of our history in your closet and would like to lend it to me for photocopying, please call 541-0805 weeknights after 7:30 P.M.!

Our story begins at a Waldbaum's Supermarket on Long Beach Road in Oceanside (now the site of a T.J. Maxx), where in 1969 young Harlan Friedman, whose father would become the first SSAS president, had an encounter with the woman whose initials appear below the Black Skimmer drawing that decorates our newsletter; her husband would become our first vice president. Marge Fischer later typed out the story for posterity: "First, I must say that Harlan has grown up to be a fine young man, with a family and a career in banking, but as a boy he was incorrigible. As a playground and lunchroom aide in school #4 in Oceanside, I had occasion to know Harlan, not fondly, but too well. While shopping I ran into Harlan at Waldbaum's and he passed a rude remark, overheard by his father Al. Al made Harlan apologize; then, noticing that we were buying birdseed, and he was buying birdseed, without further ado, he asked, 'How would you like to start an Audubon club?""

Alvin Friedman was already a member of National Audubon Society, so he asked NAS for information about forming a local chapter in his area, whose boundaries would be from the New York City line to the Cross Island Parkway, Jericho Turnpike to Old Country Road, to the Suffolk County line, to the Atlantic Ocean. NAS Northeast Field Representative Stanley Quickmire told him that 35 non-Audubon members were needed to form a new chapter.

In January 1970, a meeting was held at the Friedman home, but fewer than 35 nonmembers were present. However, Alvin had promises from family and friends that they would join, and on February 23rd a second meeting was held in his home. By then the membership requirement had been met and the first officers and committee chairpersons were elected: Alvin Friedman, President; Jack Fischer, Vice President; Audrey Roberts, Corresponding Secretary; Seymour Dashow, Treasurer, Richard Roberts, Field Trips; Gerald Gold, Bulletin Editor; Alfred Reinharz, Legal Advisor; Laura Friedman, Hospitality.

On April 17, 1970, another meeting was held at the Friedman home; a letter was drafted and sent to NAS, signed by Mr. Friedman and Mr. Fischer. It read: "In accordance with the requirements outlined in the National Audubon Society's 'information for chapter organizers,' we submit herewith our formal application for a provisional chapter

charter. A copy of our constitution and bylaws are enclosed, as is a list of our elected officers. We enclose also a description of and map showing the territory we propose to serve, together with copies of our proposed programs and activities. In addition, and also in accordance with National Audubon's requirements, we submit membership applications indicating names, addresses, zip codes, and types of membership."

A data sheet was filled out by Alvin Friedman and accompanied the letter. Besides the four officers mentioned above, it listed six committees and their chairmen: Alvin Friedman, Membership; Gerald Gold, Program; Alfred Reinharz, Conservation; Jack Fischer, Field Trip; Tommy Dominca, Publicity; and Seymour Dashow, Finance. It also listed current projects: "developing the Oceanside sanctuary; discouraging development of runway extensions from Kennedy Airport that interfere with the wetlands and the Jamaica Bay sanctuary, and supplying bird food to the existing sanctuaries."

National Audubon evidently rejected the April 17th application, since on May 24th Alvin Friedman sent them a second letter, reading: "Enclosed please find all the necessary forms for a provisional charter — 2 copies request for charter, 2 copies of committees formed and officers; 3 copies of the constitution; 3 copies of the paid membership (moneys forwarded to you prior to this letter by the treasurer); 3 copies of zip codes; 1 copy of map of area covered by S.S.A.S. Please process as soon as possible." National responded to this second letter on June 3rd, informing Mr. Friedman that "we have approved this application for provisional chapter status for the period of one year beginning June 1, 1970."

By June the first issue of the chapter newsletter had been published, listing June field trips. In August, a letter was sent to all NAS members in the South Shore Audubon territory, notifying them that SSAS existed. If these members were not affiliated with any other chapter, they would be welcomed.

On September 17, 1970, SSAS held its first meeting, at the Oceanside Public Library. Fifty-three people saw Herbert Johnson, the director of Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, present slides and a talk about the development of the sanctuary. On the same evening, Alvin Friedman officially received the Provisional Chapter Charter from Stanley Quickmire. The framed Charter ends with A Statement of Audubon Philosophy.

"We believe in the wisdom of nature's design. We know that soil, water, plants, and wild creatures depend upon each other and are vital to human life. We recognize that each living thing links to many others in the chain of nature. We believe that persistent research into the intricate patterns of outdoor life will help to assure wise use of earth's abundance. We condemn no wild creature and work to assure that no living species shall be lost. We believe that every generation should be able to experience spiritual and physical refreshment in places where primitive nature is undisturbed. So we will be vigilant to protect wilderness areas, refuges, and parks, and to encourage good use of nature's storehouse of resources. We dedicate ourselves to the pleasant task of opening the eyes of young and old that all may come to enjoy the beauty of the outdoor world and to share in conserving its wonders forever."

FEATHERS ON THE WIND

Mort (and Lynne) Silver

The chill of fall is upon us. Nature has begun to dabble in color, brushing the trees and shrubs with daubs of gold, red, yellow, and brown — and the birds, heeding their genetic impulses, are once again migrating.

Witnessing this yearly phenomenon is available to nearly all of us at the Fire Island Hawk Watch. Northwestern winds and sunny days can create scenes of avian beauty as the flights of hundreds and even thousands of birds (and butterflies) delight the eye. Flickers and Tree Swallows in huge numbers appear, to then yield to flights of Cormorants — long strings of birds bisecting the sky. Each shrubby copse of greenery hosts the tiny kinglets, warblers, and vireos. Overhead, one can hear and then see the Cedar Waxwings, thrushes, and perhaps, if alert, a Dickcissel. The fragile monarch butterfly darts and flits about to resume its incredible journey to southern climes, on a route never before experienced, without the guidance of parent or AAA. So much to see and enjoy.

Fall, however, is for the Lords of the Air, the hawks. With favorable winds, thousands of falcons, accipiters, some buteos, eagles, and harriers pass in review. The Kestrels hover and swoop nearby, while the Merlins shoot past like a silent flight of arrows. We all await with eager anticipation the epitome of hawkdom, the magnificent Peregrine. Suddenly, rocketing overhead, we can distinguish the facial pattern, dark cap, and rapid beat of this sovereign of the air. Now the Sharpies, small accipiters with their interrupted wing flappings, come into view and are joined perhaps by a somewhat larger variant, a Cooper's. Now we need to use not only our eyes, but also our ears, for the expert hawkers will describe the facial and flight patterns, the silhouette, and any other information they utilize for proper identification. It's a Cooper's, they all agree, but I'm not convinced, so I'll keep looking until I see one with a name tag.

During a lull, when all are a bit dulled by the constant peering into the sky, a magnificent Osprey soars overhead on crooked wings. Someone says that we have a Swallow-tailed Kite, for this bird has a long split tail. It's lunch time and the Osprey has a three foot elongated fish in his talons and trailing behind. Ah, it's an Osprey — but identify the fish. The bird is dining on a needlefish. Who will argue with that?

The migration is winding down. For those who have missed this annual feast of viewing the birds on their southern migration, I would wish to stimulate your interest to attend this exciting visual display of nature and join us and the Lords of the Air.

SSAS PHOTOS & SLIDES WANTED!

If you have any slides or photographs of SSAS in action at any time in our history, we would love to borrow them so that we can make copies and show them as part of our 25th anniversary celebration. Please call Steve Goldberg at 798-0335 or send a note to our post office box. Thanks!



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.

Nov. 27	Hempstead Lake State Park (Penin. Blvd.)
Dec. 4	Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
Dec. 11	Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner
Dec. 18	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Dec. 25	Season's Greetings — No Walk 🕈
Jan. 1	Happy New Year — No Walk 🛷
Jan. 8	Pelham Bay Park for Owls (pull over to
	street on extreme right after going
	through Throgs Neck Bridge toll; meet at
74	9:00 a.m.)
Jan. 15	Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner
Jan. 22	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Jan. 29	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
Feb. 5	Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner

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, December 3rd (2 P.M. to 4 P.M., children over 6) — Winter Wildlife. See what you can find in the winter woods. It may look like everything's sleeping, but we'll find out what's going on and how plants and animals survive. TRS members \$3, nonmembers \$5.

Sunday, December 11th (2 P.M. to 4 P.M., family) — Christmas Tree Decorating and Decorating Naturally. There will be games for children and we'll make our beautiful tree become a natural celebration. Adults can learn how to make natural decorations for home (there's an additional materials fee). TRS members \$3, nonmembers \$5.

Thursday, December 15th (7 P.M. to 8:30 P.M., adults) — Reptiles and Amphibians. A staff naturalist will display live examples and teach you about these amazing and neglected animals. TRS members \$3, nonmembers \$5.

Saturday, December 17th (12 P.M. to 3 P.M., adults) — Winter Waterfowl. See many different species of local ducks and learn to identify them. We'll visit hot spots and see slides and specimens. TRS members \$5, nonmembers \$7.

** WELCOME NEW MEMBERS **

Marion Yavarkovsky

We are happy to have so many new members. You are vital to the functioning of SSAS. Therefore, we hope to meet you all at our weekly bird walks and monthly meetings. 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. & Mrs. Gene Della Rocca
Bayport	George & Johanna Nichols
	Ms. Sylvia Lebenger, Mr. & Mrs.
	Charles Solon
Bethpage	George Gerson (Bethpage High
. •	School), ? Gerson (John F.
	Kennedy J.H.S.), Sandy Kimball
Cedarhurst	Gary Kaplan
East Meadow	Mrs. Dorothy Charles, Marie
	Menichetti, Jack Schwartz
East Rockaway	Gary Stehr
Elmont	
Farmingdale	Richard J. Busch, Mr. William P.
•	Effingham
Floral Park	George Dowd, Mr. William F.
.	Greulich, Nora Hourigan, Miss
- 44	Linda A. Reala, Susan Russo
*	(Floral Park H.S.), Roslyn Siegel,
	Shen Lin Yang
Franklin Square	Mr. Charles Schaeffer, L. B. Speiser
	J. Bennetter, Jr.; Steve Bruno;
•	Mr. & Mrs. Philip Haas
Garden City	Jeffrey Buchanan, Ralph Grimaldi,
•	Mr. & Mrs. Leland M. Hair,
	M. Henderson
Hackensack, NJ	William P. Davis
Hempstead	
Island Park	Miss Joy R. Acerra
	Jane Bliss, Mr. Raymond Connors,
	Isabella M. Lore, Barbara Olive
Long Beach	Calvin E. Fussman
Lynbrook	Denise Greco
Massapequa	? Drew, Keith R. Gonsor, Betty
	Leong, Frank J. Nicosia
Merrick	L. Fallon (Camp Ave. School),
	Michael Shannon
Mineola	Jerome Birnbaum
New York	Barbara Winsey
	Alfred Green, Mrs. Helyn G. Horn
Old Bethpage	
	Marcia Bass, Ms. Elizabeth Braglia,
	Mrs. Martha W. Peterson,
	Mr. Alan Ring
Rockville Centre	<u> </u>

Roslyn Heights Toni Panarelli

Seaford	Patricia Brown, Susan Daubman,
	Teresa M. Doran, Mrs. Barbara
	Kolis Micio, Miss Leona Posa,
	Ms. Jeanne K. Strole
Valley Stream	Mrs. Allan Maltman, Ms. Sylvia
•	Marks
Wantagh	Jacob M. Holtzman; Edward
•	Waldron, Jr.
West Hempstead	Mrs. A. Leford
*****	****

BIRD FEEDERS FOR SALE, TOO

On Bird Seed Savings Day (see page 7), a variety of bird feeders will be on sale. The following are descriptions of the Droll Yankees models, taken from various catalogs:

A-6 tube feeder, \$18; B-7 larger tube feeder, \$36. Exceptionally well made and immensely popular feeders. Six staggered perches give birds privacy and security. Thick, clear plastic has 360° seed display, while solid cast zinc seed ports control seed flow and prevent squirrels gnawing. A-6 is 16" long with 1 quart capacity; B-7 is 20" long and holds 2-3/4 quarts. No matter what seed you use, you can be assured of great results and variety with these feeders. Seed tray for A-6, \$5; for B-7, \$6.

TH-3 thistle tube feeder, \$22. This feeder is the most successful feeder around for attracting finches, siskins, or redpolls [in our area, House Finches and American Goldfinch are most likely]. It has 8 squirrel-proof openings which dispense only the small black thistle (Niger) seed. It is 16" long, 2-3/4" in diameter, and holds 1-1/2 pounds of seed to last a good long time. By adding the seed tray below the feeder, you can provide space for 4 or 5 more guests while saving spilled seed at the same time. Feeder hangs easily but can also be post mounted. Seed tray for TH-3, \$5.

Big Top, \$40. The Big Top is truly amazing. The perchers such as cardinals perform in the center ring, while the



clingers like the chickadees do their trapeze act at the eight feed ports below. The huge dome with its free-spinning gripless top baffles the squirrels as well as protects birds and seed from rain and snow. The dome adjusts up and down the 15"

hanger rod, allowing selectivity for larger or smaller birds. The hopper unhooks for ground-level filling. The dome is 15" in diameter by 7" high. The hopper itself is 10" wide by 5" deep and holds 3 quarts of seed.

X-1 Seed Saver, \$14. Model X-1 consists of a dish 7" in diameter by 1-3/4" deep which can be filled with birdseed,



suet, or table scraps. It is economical in the use of seed because the seeds dropped by the birds fall back into the dish, not on the ground. The cover above the dish is 10" in diameter and can be raised or lowered to adjust the distance

between it and the dish. When this is reduced to about 1/2", only small birds such as chickadees and finches can enter. Feeder can be hung or post mounted.

WHY AREN'T WE OVERRUN BY OYSTERS AND ELEPHANTS? (Answers to This and Other Questions Which Have Been Bothering You Lately)

Betty Borowsky

I guess I don't have to tell you that reproduction is one of the most fundamental drives of animals and plants. It is a given that those species which have devised the best strategies will produce the most offspring, but it is not the total number of eggs or sperm, or even the number of embryos produced, that matters — the measure of reproductive success is the total number of offspring that survive long enough to reproduce in their turn. That's why, although oysters cast millions of eggs and sperm into the water, they are no more successful at reproducing than are elephants, who generally produce one offspring every five years or so. Thus, while strategies may differ, the reproductive objective is to produce as many fertile offspring as possible.

Why, then, are we not overrun by oysters and elephants? What keeps their numbers in check? In the case of oysters, mortality is high at every life stage. After the eggs and sperm are cast into the water, fertilization occurs, but not all eggs are fertilized. Those that are face extraordinary odds against surviving. Embryos enter the plankton, where they are surrounded by a host of small predators (fish, jellyfish, and the like). This reduces their numbers greatly. If they survive this gauntlet, they must descend to the bottom of the ocean so they can metamorphose into the hard-shelled stage with which we are familiar. If the juvenile happens to land on soft sediment, it will likely perish, because oysters cannot move once they metamorphose, and if this happens in mud or sand, they may be covered up and smothered. If they do happen to land in a good place, the juveniles must then survive more predators — when they are small, they may be consumed by predators that scrape off all the material on the bottom; if they grow large enough, they can be attacked by oyster drills, snails which carve out holes in the oyster's shells and eat their soft insides; and if they survive that, well, you know how delicious oysters are.

In the case of elephants, each individual born has a much greater chance to survive to maturity. Newborns may be subject to predation, and of course human hunters can pick off animals of any age. Also, elephant populations are limited by habitat, food availability, and disease.

My point here is that in the natural balance of things, there are forces which act to keep the population of a species relatively stable, no matter how they reproduce. While it is inherent in the life history of a given species to increase in numbers, ongoing forces limit their population growth. When these forces are removed, a population can grow unchecked. That is, it can grow unchecked for a time. Eventually, the species will be subject to another limiting factor which will either prevent the species from increasing any further or cause its numbers to crash. Humans have interfered with populations of both oysters and elephants. Jamaica Bay used

to be carpeted with oysters, and at the turn of the century commercial oyster fishing was very profitable there. However, overfishing, combined with the extensive modification of their habitat by dredging, landfills, and so on, greatly reduced their numbers. Unrestricted hunting and conversion of the savanna into farmlands reduced the number of elephants.

On the opposite side of the coin, human activities can result in increased numbers of animals. In our area, we have seen two species increase enormously during the last decade — the Canada Goose and the White-tailed Deer. These two species, previously welcomed in our area, are now considered pests. The geese are truly a nuisance where they leave their droppings; the deer eat backyard plants to within a few inches of the ground, but it is worse for them. In particular, if hunting had not been allowed to increase, we would have seen masses of deer die of starvation during the winter.

In short, then, it is kinder to the environment as well as to the species when natural forces control the sizes of populations.

BRONX ZOO TRIP

Diane Singer & Evelyn Blume

As mentioned last month, we will be visiting the Bronx Zoo once again on April 1, 1995. After the last *Skimmer*, further investigation and a vote by the SSAS Board led to a sharp reduction in the cost of the trip. Because the zoo is nearby, we are now planning on taking a school bus, which reduces the cost of transportation to \$9 per person — less than the cost of tolls and parking if you go alone. In addition, the zoo has agreed to charge us a reduced entrance fee of \$2.50 per person (\$1 for seniors).

The bus will leave from the Merrick Road Park Golf Course parking lot in Merrick at 8:30 A.M. and leave the zoo at 3:15 P.M. We will be led on morning and afternoon tours by docents. Bring lunch (or eat zoo cuisine).

Checks for \$9 made out to South Shore Audubon Society must be received before March 1, 1995 (to make sure we have enough people for the bus). Please send checks to Mrs. Diane Singer, 118 Kent Road, Valley Stream, NY 11580 and include the following form:

NAME:	
PHONE NUMBER:	
NUMBER OF PEOPLE:	
AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _	•



BIRD SEED SAVINGS DAY SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 1995 TACKAPAUSHA MUSEUM 9:30 A.M. — 2:30 P.M.



The museum is located on Washington Avenue in Seaford and lies about 1/2 mile south of Sunrise Highway, just north of Merrick Road. Preordering greatly aids us in determining the amount of seed needed; an order form appears below for your use. Please keep this upper portion as a reminder of the sale date. All preorders should be received by JANUARY 17th. Please make checks payable to the South Shore Audubon Society. Mail check and order form to Paul T. Butkereit, 268 Wallace St., Freeport, NY 11520.

Once again we are offering three types of sunflower seed: black oil seed, large white striped seed, and a blend of the two consisting of 60% oil and 40% striped. We will also be offering a variety of Bird Feeders. Help will be needed on the sale date to take orders and to aid in unloading seed. If you wish to volunteer, call (516) 623-0843 late evenings and ask for Paul. Our next sale will be in OCTOBER 1995.

	City State	Zip _	
	Telephone S.S.A.S. Men	nber? Yo	es
QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION	PRICE	TOTAL
	25 lb Black Oil Sunflower Seed	8.00	
	25 lb Striped Sunflower Seed	9.25	
	40 lb Blended Sunflower Seed	12.50	
	25 lb Regular Wild Bird Seed Mix (millet, cracked corn, sunflower, milo, wheat)	6.85	
	50 lb Regular Wild Bird Seed Mix	13.50	
	20 lb Special Mix (millet, sunflower, wheat, milo, peanut bits)	6.40	
	40 lb Special Mix	12.25	
	40 lb Premium Mix (millet, cracked corn, sunflower, safflower, peanut bits)	12.25	
	25 lb Cracked Corn	5.75	
	10 lb Sunflower Hearts	6.75	
	10 lb Safflower Seed	6.00	
	10 lb Peanut Bits	5.00	
	10 lb White Proso Millet	4.25	
	10 lb Thistle Seed (Niger)	8.00	
	Maine Manna Suet Bell	4.00	

All blends and mixes are based on current research

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BIRD FEEDERS (no preorders, please): Droll Yankees A-6 tube feeder, \$18 \$\times\$ Droll Yankees B-7 larger tube feeder, \$36 \$\times\$ Droll Yankees TH-3 thistle tube feeder, \$22 \$\times\$ Seed tray for A-6 and TH-3, \$5 \$\times\$ Seed tray for B-7, \$6 \$\times\$ Droll Yankees Big Top, \$40 \$\times\$ Droll Yankees X-1 Seed Saver, \$14 \$\times\$ Thistle stocking, \$2.50 \$\times\$ Suet stocking, \$3.50 \$\times\$ K-5 tube feeder, \$17 \$\times\$ K-WS sunflower window feeder, \$10 \$\times\$ K-WT thistle window feeder, \$10 \$\times\$ Suet basket, \$6.

1994-1995 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

,	
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Betty Borowsky, Vice President & Conservation Legislation Chairperson	
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Doris Pirodsky, Corresponding Secretary & Historian	. 378-1790
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Jonathan Staller, Director (6/97) & Environmental Festivals Coordinator	. 822-5957
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Steven Goldberg, Director (6/96)	. 798-0335
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Sandy Brenner, Program Chairperson	. 249-4919
Paul Butkereit, Bird Seed Savings Day	. 623-0843
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Elliott Kutner, Birding / Field Trips Chairperson	. 486-7667
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Amanda Neet, Special Events On-Site Coordinator	
Richard Packert, Special Projects	. 437-9683
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James Remsen, Jr., Past President & Birdathon Co-Chairperson	. 764-5168
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Marion Yavarkovsky, Membership Chairperson	

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

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