

VOLUME 25, NUMBER 8 — SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

MAY 1995

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Carole A. Adams

Last year at this time, James Remsen was writing about "Birdathon season, a favorite time of the year" and he spoke of the "Birdathoner's Syndrome." I'm afraid I've got it and got it bad. I'm actually reading my field guides, listening to birdsong audio tapes, and counting species in local ponds during lunchtime!

All kidding aside, this is a very special time of the year. Migrating birds of all species peak at this time of the year, for some of the most extraordinary birding sightings.

For those of you who are not "experienced" Birdathoners, all you need do is go outdoors alone, with a group, or join one of the three key teams (Remsen/Grupp, Butkereit, or Kutner), look, listen, and list. That's all there is to it. Well, that's almost all there is to it. First and foremost, you should be having fun while looking, listening, and listing. A dose of healthy competitiveness will add a spark to this annual fund-raising event.

While I'm on the topic of fund-raising, keep in mind that every amount pledged is important. For example, the other day I went to a pond in Bayside during my lunchtime and counted 20 species. If that count were a Birdathon count, with a pledge of a nickel a species, another dollar would have been added to the Birdathon monies. If I had eight or ten nickel-a-species pledges, well, you and I both know dollars have a way of adding up. That's how you become an "experienced" Birdathoner. [If you've just joined or discovered SSAS, last month's Skimmer gave all the details on this year's National Audubon Birdathon; our three teams will be birding all over our area during a 24-hour period that starts at 5 P.M. on May 12th — see this month's back page for the leaders' phone numbers.]

There are some rules for species counting. Sheer guesses are risky; try to get some confirmation from another birder or your trusty field guide. Hearing a bird's call or song and confirming it counts (a ruling from the American Birding Association — see me on a walk and I'll explain). Subspecies are important; i.e., for House Finches, be sure to include split

NEXT MEETING

Sandy Brenner

DATE: Tuesday, May 9, 1995

TIME: 8:00 P.M. ②

PLACE: Freeport Memorial Library

Merrick Rd. & S. Ocean Ave.

SPEAKER: Anton (Tony) Manzoni TOPIC: Nature's Beauty

This month's speaker is a superb photographer who joined National Audubon two years before SSAS existed and takes great pride in being one of our chapter's first members. If you've been an active member, you've seen Tony's slides on our annual members' nights and maybe were fortunate enough to catch the program he gave us in April 1992. Tonight we'll see wonderful portraits of birds, wildflowers, and butterflies from across North America, including Florida's Dry Tortugas islands, Canada's Hudson Bay, parts of Arizona, Wyoming's Yellowstone and Grand Teton National Parks, and Alaska's Pribilof Islands.

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

levels, ranches, colonials, and capes (thanks, Joe Lancer).

Before closing, I just want to add a comment about the April 1st Bronx Zoo trip. Everyone I spoke to had a terrific time. The docents were absolutely wonderful and the weather held (a few degrees warmer would have been perfect). Of course, a special thanks to Diane Singer and Evelyn Blume for doing all the coordinating.

Last but not least, some words to consider, written by Senegalese poet Baba Dioum: "In the end, we will conserve only what we love. We will love only what we understand. We will understand only what we are taught." Thank you, Joe Gladkowski.

See you out there on the bird walks and at the meeting.

** WELCOME NEW MEMBERS **

Marion Yavarkovsky

It is wonderful to see we have so many new members this month. We hope you will all become active members of South Shore Audubon. Our activities are for you. Join us.

[For information on joining SSAS, please call our Membership Chairperson, Marion Yavarkovsky, at 379-2090. The best time to call is after 4 P.M., Monday through Friday. An introductory one-year membership in National Audubon Society and our chapter is just \$20.]

Baldwin	Mr. Joseph Genduso, Christina
	Miller, Judith Steinberg
Bellmore	Michael Berkey, Rick
M	Charbonneau, Law Offices of
(("))	M. Kirshnor, Ms. Linda M.
\searrow	Rydberg
Bethpage	Miss Mary Lou Duckert,
	Elizabeth R. Wiegleb
Cedarhurst	Ro Blake
East Meadow	Henry M. Kruse, Phillip Schlereth
Elmont	W. Alberti, Lisa Correale, Mr.
	John A. Hatfeld, Ms. Kathleen
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725	Kvapil, Doris G. Treloar
Farmingdale	Haudberg, Ms. Georgina Kvapil, Doris G. Treloar E. Antonucci, C. M. Fugarazzo,
C	Robert McCarthy, Joan Mundy
Floral Park	Steven Belfer, Jerry Rogawski,
	Mr. Edward T. Sieban
Franklin Square	Hector O. Mendez
Freeport	Grace T. Caidin, Miss Anna Feile,
•	Michael Leonard
Garden City	Mr. Harry D. Garber, Douglas
•	Schoen, Patricia Shea
Glen Oaks	
	Craig A. Johnson, Patricia
•	Wojcik, Mr. Peter Zehe
Hewlett	Andrew Urban
	Tabitha S. Strauss, Mr. Gerard
	Sullivan, Kathleen A. Whiston
Island Park	
	Ms. Adrienne A. Madonia,
	Ms. Carole N. Noah
Levittown	Jean Minunno
	Ms. Ellen L. Bryant; Mr. Thomas
^ ~	J. Eichler; Mr. Stephen Failla,
) × 🗷	Jr.; Stephen Furst;
	Thelma Goold
Lynbrook	Mr. Joseph Damato
Malverne	
	Mrs. Bernard Epstein
Massapequa	Ms. Lucas Balich, Annie &
	Mickey Komornik
Massapequa Park	Ms. Karen A. Fallon, Arthur
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James, Karen Kraft

Merrick	Rita Forlenza, Mr. & Mrs. A.
ر <i>ننځ</i>	Grimm, Ronald D. Knaust,
	Harry J. Nicholsen,
\mathcal{T}	Marie Schettini
Oceanside	Mrs. Maya M. Berenholz,
	Mrs. Judith Darter,
	Eleanor Feingold
Plainview	•
	McCaffrey, Alice Ting
Point Lookout	•
Rockville Centre	Miss Nancy Dowd, Maureen
کت	Gibbons, Stanley Mandell,
松大	Allison Treulich,
<i>f</i> \ \	Karen & Marc Weinstein
Uniondale	Mrs. Patricia Cacioppo
Valley Stream	Judy Gounelas, Mr. Paul N.
-	Massa, Leon Praetorius,
	Judy Schubert
Wantagh	John Bloniarz, Charles Fillizola,
· ·	Mr. Garrett E. Zucker
West Hempstead	Neil Pratesi
Woodmere	Walter & Sondra Feder,
٩۶	Bernard Hauptman,
(1)	Mr. Leon Kaplan,
	Wendy Klang
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25th ANNIVERSARY DINNER

Carole A. Adams

This June, our annual end-of-year dinner will be a celebration of SSAS's 25th anniversary. This is one dinner you won't want to miss. In addition to the fantastic cocktail hour served butler style, a sensational dinner menu, two really terrific and fun slide shows, and displays all around the room, there will be lots and lots of door prizes. Gifts have already been coming in from our friends at Hicks Nurseries in Westbury, Maine Maid Inn in Jericho, Foodtown, Kenny Rogers Roasters in Rockville Centre, International House of Pancakes, Camera Fair in Baldwin, Feed and Seed Barn in Farmingdale, Duncraft, and much, much more. There will also be a very special "Birder's Delight Package" raffle (\$1 per ticket or 6 for \$5, so come prepared).

I don't want to take all the surprise away, but I will tell you this much — for those who say "I never win anything," be assured there will be gifts for everybody. Note that I said gifts, that's plural, and I said everybody, and that's you.

I suggest you send in your dinner reservations early — our friends at Pompei have arranged for a special anniversary dessert for us (I'll say no more). Looking forward to seeing all of you there. [Editor's Note: Last year's dinner drew over 100 Auduboners and friends as usual, without any gifts or prizes and with hockey fans like me staying home to watch the Rangers win a championship that night for the first time since I was minus 19 years old; join us on June 13th for a special dinner — see page 7.]

THE HISTORY OF SSAS, PART FOUR

Michael Sperling

At the start of our fourth year, a maximum of \$350 was allocated by SSAS's Board of Directors to buy an electric typewriter (preferably a good used one, with a metal stand)

for the newsletter. Each monthly (September-June) issue of the newsletter was costing \$200, but the Board rejected a proposal to publish fewer issues per year. The new Treasurer, Jack Fischer, reported a total of \$3,768.53 in the bank accounts.

A proposal by Rockville Centre to replace Hempstead Lake State Park bird-nesting habitat with a swimming pool, tennis court, and parking lot was opposed by SSAS and rejected by the State Parks and Recreation Commission (unfortunately, in 1995, Rockville Centre's plan to swap land with NYS in order to replace Hempstead Lake State Park habitat with soccer fields along Peninsula Boulevard is moving forward, despite SSAS's opposition).

The September 11, 1973 general meeting's guest speaker was Gilbert Raynor, President of Moriches Bay Audubon Society, who showed his slides of mushrooms and fungi.

Elliott Kutner's film program "My Most Exciting Moments — Notes from a Bird-watcher's Log" was featured at the October 9th meeting and included Glossy Ibis hatching, Snowy Egret and Black-crowned Night Heron [pictured at right] families, Scarlet Tanager, Pelican, Pectoral Sandpipers, Snow Geese, and Snowy Owl. At the November 13th meeting, Elliott's counterpart in Great South Bay Audubon Society, Harold Wellender, showed slides of western birds. The December 11th meeting's slide program on East African birds was presented by the Baldwin Bird Club's Dick Schloss and the Linnaean Society's Manny Levine.

On January 8, 1974, SSAS member August Oechsli gave a slide presentation on birds at his feeder and elsewhere. The February 19th meeting's attendance was noted as "unusually poor, approximately 40" - attendees saw Mike Smiles' slides of Maine, including Audubon Camp and the Puffin Project. The mystery of migration was the topic on March 12th, presented by James Morriss. In March, Dorothy Lovering became Membership Chairman. At the April 9th meeting, SSAS members Dr. and Mrs. George P. Werner showed slides of the animals of East Africa. On May 14th, another SSAS member, William Brookes, discussed the continental drift theory and well over 100 attendees elected officers for the next year - Michael Smiles would become President (with Patricia Davis appointed to succeed him as Conservation Chairman); Elliott Kutner, Vice President; Ruth Grossman, the first ever Corresponding Secretary; and Al Lemke and Miriam Raynor, Directors until 1977.

On May 18th, SSAS's first educational field trip, organized by Linda Schlotterhausen, was held at the Town of Hempstead's Marine Nature Study Center in Oceanside; the salt marsh ecosystem was studied.

An Art and Craft Show, with SSAS's exhibitors sharing proceeds with their chapter, was organized by Marge and

Jack Fischer. SSAS member Wendy Zeh arranged for the show to be held on May 19th at the Calvary Temple on Joy Boulevard in Baldwin, with free admission and Elliott Kutner's films. Any members with nature-related items to display were invited to participate; paintings, shell collections, needlework, woodcarving, photos, butterflies, and sculpture were suggested; stonework, stuffed birds (by future SSAS President Betsy Gulotta), and pots also appeared. The show was a big success despite a snafu that resulted in the films being shown in the church's kitchen.

Marge and Charlie Keller hosted the third Annual Dinner at the Coral House Restaurant on June 11th, with noted wildlife painter Guy Coheleach as guest speaker; he brought slides and donated several of his prints for a raffle. Two months earlier, *L1 Magazine* had devoted over three pages to Mr. Coheleach in an article titled "America's Best Wildlife Artist." A second guest speaker was William Botwinik, Executive Director of the Nassau County Environmental Management Council. 87 people attended the \$8 dinner.

The first general meeting of South Shore Audubon's fifth year was held on September 10, 1974, with Dr. George Lowitt presenting a film of birds observed at our bird walk sites.

On September 6th, prompted by a letter sent to the board by a chapter member, Elliott Kutner sent a letter to *The New* York Times (and President Ford, NY Senators

Javits and Buckley, and NYC Mayor Beame) that was printed in our next newsletter and began "Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge appears to be ... on the verge of destruction at the hands of its protector, the Interior Department" and continued "it is unkempt; the shrubbery is untrimmed; the grass areas in both gardens are uncut, to the point of being impassable."

A week later, the *Times* printed an article by their own Gerald Gold (one of SSAS's first board members) on the same subject, which led to an October 2nd meeting with National Park Service representatives that was attended by Elliott Kutner and Alvin & Laura Friedman. At the meeting, pledges were made regarding the protection and maintenance of Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, which had become part of Gateway National Recreation Area in 1972. Its previous owner was the NYC Parks Department, whose Commissioner Robert Moses created two large freshwater ponds in 1951 (East and West Pond), and its first manager, Herbert Johnson, then spent twenty years turning a barren garbage dump into a refuge for over 300 species of birds. Following the meeting, SSAS received a copy of a letter that Interior Department Director Ronald H. Walker had sent to Senator James L. Buckley; it began with "Thank you for your inquiry in behalf of Mr. Elliott R. Kutner of the South Shore Audubon Society" and stated that "it is the National Park Service's intent to manage Jamaica Bay as a wildlife refuge."

A CONNETQUOT VISIT

Michael Sperling

SSAS is once again planning to visit Connetquot River State Park Preserve in Oakdale. We will be led through some of the Preserve's 3473 acres by our own Annie McIntyre, who has been working at Connetquot for several years. The Preserve includes a grist mill, fish hatchery, bridle paths, deer, and nature trails, and requires a permit for visitation. The first 40 people who contact me at 541-0805 (weeknights after 7:30 p.m., weekends after noon) will be signed up for our visit on Saturday, May 20th at 9:30 a.m.

Directions are as follows: Take the Southern State Parkway to Exit 44 (Sunrise Highway, Route 27; not Route 27A, which it intersects) east for about two miles. Sunrise Highway is a divided highway out there and the Preserve entrance is on the north side, so make a U-turn at the first traffic light after you pass the Preserve (5 at Pond Road) and slowly head back west on Sunrise Highway (Connetquot's entrance is somewhat hidden, but you'll find it).

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, May 20th — Migratory Birds. There are three free events scheduled: a bird walk and bird banding observation for adults (8 A.M. to 10 A.M.); a talk on migratory bird conservation, also for adults (10:30 A.M. to 11:30 A.M.); and a program on the world of migratory birds for children ages 6–12 (1 P.M. to 2:30 P.M.).

Sunday, May 28th — Pond Ecology (1 P.M. to 3 P.M., ages 6–12). A visit to a pond and some work with a net will allow us to study insect life, metamorphosis, etc. TRS members \$3, nonmembers \$5.



THE LAWS OF BIRDING

Paul D. Plotnick

[Editor's Note: This article is reprinted with permission from the January/February 1994 issue of *Bird Watcher's Digest*; I've omitted *BWD*'s large cartoonish drawings and added the Pileated Woodpecker you see here.]

As the author of Plotnick's Laws, some of which have appeared in print and been quoted by Ann Landers, and as a long-time bird-watcher with many years of field experience, I was recently asked whether or not birds were subject to the same inexorable laws that govern human activity. I have indeed discovered a few laws of birding in my years of watching people who watch birds and am happy to offer them to the bird-watching public.

The First Law: The chances of seeing a rare bird vary in inverse proportion to the time and effort expended. This is the basic law of birding. It never varies. Of innumerable possible examples, I offer only three.

Example One: After searching for years for a Pileated Woodpecker in proper habitat, tramping through woods summer and winter, I finally I was on a short fishing trip Florida. It was clinging to phone pole.

Since then I have encountered several more Pileateds on palm trees in Florida backyards. A pair is now nesting in a tall tree in my next-door neighbor's yard, visible from my kitchen window here in Stamford, Connecticut. (This is the same tree where I saw my first Olive-sided Flycatcher while I was having breakfast.)

Example Two: At dinner one evening, after yet another fruitless trip to find a Wood Duck, my then ten-year-old son casually said, "Dad, if you want to see a Wood Duck, go to the Stamford Museum pond. People feed them there." I patiently explained the difference between Mallards and Wood Ducks, but he was insistent. The next morning, in the befouled waters of the murky pond, I found not one but a pair of Woodies floating majestically amid the Mallards and Canada Geese. These are still my only Wood Ducks.

Example Three: Like Heathcliff on the moors, for seven or eight years in bitter cold I trudged Long Island's Jones Beach in winter, sometimes looking for a Snowy Owl, sometimes for an Iceland Gull, species at various times reported present by the rare bird alert. One blustery, below-zero February day, my wife, Rhea, and I and friends Dottie and Bob had ranged from one end of the beach to the other trying to see a reported Snowy. Chilled to the bone, we finally called it a day and returned to the warm comfort of the snack bar for one last hot chocolate before the drive back to Connecticut. By chance, I happened to glance out the window. There on the roof of the adjoining bathhouse was a pure-white gull. From the warmth of the snack bar at Jones Beach, after hours spent on the frozen dunes looking for a Snowy Owl, we saw our first Iceland Gull.

A corollary to the first law, one known to all veteran waterfowl watchers: The good ducks are all at the other end of the pond. No matter if you manage to get to the far side; everything but the Mallards will have taken off and flown back to where you were.

Fleming's axiom is also pertinent here: The rarer the warbler, the higher the tree. The resident warblers around my neck of the woods are the Black-and-white, the Bluewinged, the Yellow, and the Northern Yellowthroat. All are readily visible without effort. Each May, however, when the migrant Blackburnians, Ceruleans, and Cape Mays come through, they will be found only at the top of the tallest tree in the forest.

The Second Law: Binoculars repel birds. This is the famous BRB rule. You hear a strange call or spot a flash of russet brown under the feeder. Whether the glasses are at hand or in the dresser drawer, the result will be the same. By the time your 7×35s are in focus, the bird will have flown. Forever. Ditto on a field trip, where it is guaranteed that everyone will see the Worm-eating Warbler but you.

There are also a number of laws relating to bird identification.

Identification Law One: It's a Red-tailed Hawk. I know it seemed to hover in one place, and I know it didn't have a red tail; but believe me, you didn't see a Ferruginous or a Rough-legged. You saw a Red-tailed Hawk. Trust me. It was a Red-tailed Hawk. It is always a Red-tailed Hawk.

Identification Law Two: It's a Sharp-shinned Hawk. Although experts claim that the female Sharp-shinned and the male Cooper's are close in size and difficult to distinguish — differing mainly in the shape of the tail feathers — Sharpies outnumber Cooper's by hundreds to one. Even if you could see the tail feathers, which you can't, you saw a Sharp-shinned and not a Cooper's.

Identification Law Three: If you saw it, it's not a rarity. Put down that phone. You did not see a Ruddy Shelduck on Lake Michigan. What you saw was a mongrel duck — a cross between a male Mallard and whatever female of unidentified species was not quick or resourceful enough to escape his advances. The male Mallard will mate with anything he can catch.

For those drab and unidentifiable winter shorebirds, I have one firm rule: No matter what I think it may be, it's always a Black-bellied Plover — unless it's walking slowly. Then it's a Ruddy Turnstone.

Rhea's Rule: Some experts aren't. I have been on some excellent trips with really fine field people, experts who made me explain what I saw (or thought I saw) and forced me to support my conclusions. I have also been out with some real turkeys. On one May morning, the leader of my group excitedly pointed out a Northern Shrike sitting on a stump. Ignoring the Second Law, I raised my binoculars. On the stump sat a Black-capped Chickadee. (This rule was contributed by my wife, who never fails to remind me that my first Merlin was in fact a color morph of Columba livia [Rock Dove, a/k/a pigeon].)

Peterson's Rule: Field guides contain birds found nowhere else. Obviously named for the Great One himself, this rule is self-explanatory. Who has ever seen a Pine Grosbeak? A Whimbrel? A Dotterel? A Brown-capped or Gray-crowned Rosy Finch or whatever those things are called that live only at the top of the Rockies? Has anyone seen either bittern? Sprague's Pipit? Who was Sprague, anyway? These birds—and many others—exist only in the pages of the guide books. The Spotted Redshank. The Wandering Tattler. Even the names sound made-up.

Hold it! Stop the presses! The Whimbrel exists! I saw one, in fact six, picking their way along the water's edge on the sandy beach just north of Malibu. Yes, the Malibu.

[Paul D. Plotnick is an attorney living in Stamford, Connecticut. A licensed pilot, he has been a birder for many years.]





Since this Skimmer is scheduled to be mailed on April 17th and we have quite a few new members this month, here's some more details about Earth Day stuff that was mentioned in our last issue (I'm hoping that the Post Office finds most of you in time):

Tackapausha Museum and Preserve, April 22nd. From 1 to 3 p.m., Earth Day will be celebrated with crafts and games for children (and adults too). Volunteers are needed; call Carole Adams at 731-4425. Tackapausha is located on Washington Avenue in Seaford, just north of Merrick Road.

Hofstra Student Center, April 23rd. From 11 A.M. to 5 P.M., Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary and Hofstra University Arboretum will celebrate Earth Day with live animal presentations (eagles, owls, falcons, hawks, foxes, snakes, lizards, bats, and more), hourly nature walks, children's crafts, face painting (for a fee), environmental displays (SSAS will fill two tables), hands-on educational activities, gifts for sale, food, and refreshments. Admission is \$3/child, \$5/adult, or \$16/family. The Student Center is on the north campus and is connected to the pedestrian footbridge that crosses Hempstead Turnpike. From the Meadowbrook Parkway's Exit M4, take Hempstead Turnpike west and turn right at the traffic light before the footbridge. At the second stop sign, bear left and park. Walk toward the Student Center and, upon entering it, make an immediate right and follow the corridor to the Student Center Theater.

THE "CONTRACT WITH AMERICA" IS A CONTRACT ON AMERICA'S ENVIRONMENT

Eric Siy

Editor's Note: The following is borrowed from the January/ February 1995 issue of *Albany Report*, a bimonthly newsletter published by Environmental Advocates. Last year, Eric Siy left his position as National Audubon Society's Adirondacks Campaign Director to become a project director for the Environmental Planning Lobby, which recently was renamed; his article reiterates the message from NAS Vice President Liz Raisbeck that appeared in the February *Skimmer*. See the next article for a status report and more info.

How Do You Spell Environmental Catastrophe? C-O-N-T-R-A-C-T W-I-T-H A-M-E-R-I-C-A.

Within the new Republican majority's brash blueprint for congressional action are what can only be characterized as weapons of mass environmental destruction. At stake is the quality of the air we breathe, the safety of the water we drink, and the protection of the wide-open spaces we have come to expect as essential elements of our way of life.

The new leadership in Washington is working furiously to turn the Contract's provisions into law. If successful, here is a quick look at why the Contract with America is, indeed, a contract on our environment.

Unfunded Mandates. Under the "no money, no mandates" provisions of the Contract, states and local jurisdictions could ignore any federal regulation which is not fully funded by Congress. Over 200 federal programs — from the Safe Drinking Water Act to the Clean Air Act to minimum wage — are considered unfunded mandates.

In prescribing national air and water quality standards, the Clean Air and Safe Drinking Water Acts are crucial to providing consistent levels of protection across state lines. If these laws are ignored, some states may pick up those responsibilities, others may not, and the environment, public health, and the economy will suffer the consequences.

Regulatory Takings. The unprecedented and draconian "regulatory takings" provisions in the Contract would turn the Constitution on its head. The proposals would require taxpayers to pay a landowner when government regulation limits the lawful use of land or water rights and results in a 10 percent or greater reduction in the value of the regulated landowner's property [the House-approved bill modified this a little; see next article].

By threatening to break the bank, this measure would curtail the pursuit of new regulatory protections needed to protect public health and the environment. Common zoning laws, designed to maintain property values and protect human health, could not meet this unsound standard.

Risk Assessment. By requiring a strange brand of risk assessment, the Contract would also bring government regulation of polluting industries to a grinding halt. Risk assessment is a tool used to determine the degree of harm posed by various hazards to people. The Contract would turn this tool for public protection into a tool for government

inaction. Risk assessment would minimize risks from exposure to toxic substances by:

- * requiring agencies to conduct cost/benefit analyses and comparisons of economic and compliance costs with the likely benefits to human health and the environment;
- * authorizing peer review panels, that would include the polluting industries being regulated, to accept or reject risk assessments and cost/benefit analyses conducted by a federal agency; and
- * allowing anyone "adversely affected" by a rule to attack the analysis in court. Federal courts would no doubt be flooded, with the only beneficiaries being lawyers.

According to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Director Carol Browner, risk assessment measures would "undermine every single environmental and public health standard in the country."

In short, the Contract with America would place a bureaucratic and legal choke hold on the federal government's ability to protect public health and the environment.

CONTRACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT CHECKLIST

This comes from the April 1995 issue of *The Planet*, the Sierra Club's newspaper that seems to have been inspired by *Audubon Activist*, which likewise is available free to members who make pledges to write or phone politicians a few times per year on behalf of the environment.

H.R. 9 passed the House on March 3rd. The omnibus bill — which goes now to the Senate — contains two of the Contract's four anti-environmental bombshells:

Risk Assessment. Would subject health and environmental protection programs to lengthy, costly "risk assessment" and "cost—benefit" analyses. If easy-to-calculate costs outweigh hard-to-measure benefits, polluters need not meet federal health protection standards.

Takings. Would require taxpayers to compensate developers, corporations, and other property owners who claim that as little as a 20 percent reduction in the value of even a small portion of their property would result from compliance with these environmental laws: the Endangered Species Act; the wetlands program under the Clean Water Act; Swampbuster, a wetlands program under the Farm Bill; and the right to use water on federal lands in the West. [On April 7th, President Clinton pledged to veto the Housepassed provisions on regulations and takings if the Senate doesn't moderate them.]

Here's the status of the Contract's other two antienvironmental planks:

Unfunded Mandates. Would relieve states of the responsibility to protect citizens from health, environmental, and other threats unless the federal government paid all the costs. The House and Senate have each passed separate versions, which President Clinton has promised to sign into law. The two bills are headed now to conference committee for reconciliation. [It's too late on this one; it's law.]

So-Called Legal Reform. The misnamed Common Sense Legal Reform Act passed the House on March 7th. Under the bill's "loser pays" provision, citizens would risk financial ruin by taking corporations to court. And its cap on punitive damages would remove one of society's only meaningful deterrents to particularly outrageous corporate conduct. [On April 7th, President Clinton also pledged to veto this Housepassed bill if the Senate doesn't change it.]

Write to Senators Daniel P. Moynihan and Alfonse D'Amato, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510 to voice your opposition to these major threats to the protection of our environment; write to President Clinton, The White House, Washington, DC 20500 to encourage him to keep the pledges he made during his April 7th address to the American Society of Newspaper Editors.

^ SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Suzanne Lancer

The Scholarship Committee met in March and after much deliberation a decision was reached: Scholarships to an 11day Audubon Youth Ecology Camp in Maine were awarded to Sean McIntyre and Michael Shannon; Marcia Specht was awarded an adult scholarship to a 7-day Audubon Ecology Workshop in Connecticut.

BIRD WALKS

All walks start at 9:30 A.M.; no walk if it rains. Any questions? Call Elliott at 486-7667. [Editor's Note: If you've never joined us for two hours on a Sunday, or even if you tried a walk or two, take some advice from this second-rate fair-weather birder — now's the best time to join the SSAS mob; you'll see spring migrants and warm sunshine! Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, Elliott's favorite site, gets lots of SSAS attention when the sunbathers invade elsewhere - take the Belt Parkway to Exit 17 South (Cross Bay Boulevard), go past civilization and over the North Channel bridge; the entrance is on the right, about 1-1/2 miles past the bridge. Look for a friendly crowd in the parking lot.]

Apr. 23	Hempstead Lake State Park (Penin. Blvd.)
Apr. 30	Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner
May 7	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
May 14	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
May 21	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
May 28	Memorial Day Weekend - No Walk
June 4	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
June 11	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Aug. 6	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Aug. 13	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Aug. 20	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Aug. 27	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

NOMINATIONS FOR 1995-1996 OFFICERS

At South Shore Audubon Society's general meeting on May 9th, officers will be elected for our next fiscal year. All members attending that meeting may nominate candidates from the floor and vote. The SSAS Nominating Committee, chaired by Elliott Kutner, has recommended the following candidates:

President — Carole Adams Vice President —Betty Borowsky Corresponding Secretary — Doris Pirodsky Director (to 6/98) — Evan C. Dribbon Director (to 6/98) — Henry Levine *********************************

Y OUR ANNUAL DINNER 1

At this year's dinner we will be celebrating SSAS's 25th birthday (see Carole's article for details); the price will remain just \$20 per person. As usual, Diane Singer and Shirley Kutner have arranged for us to take over a large room at Pompei Restaurant in West Hempstead, with the cocktail hour starting at 6:30 and dinner at 7:30 on Tuesday, June 13th. The restaurant's address is 401 Hempstead Avenue (take Southern State Parkway Exit 17 north).

To register, please enclose the following form with your check payable to South Shore Audubon Society and mail them to Diane Singer, 118 Kent Road, Valley Stream, NY 11580. (On the menu below, arreganata means that bread crumbs and lemon have been added, and the fish has been oil-baked in an oven.)

*	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •
NAME	
ADDRI	ESS:
	
AMOU	NT OF CHECK:
NUMB	ER OF PEOPLE:
NUMB:	ER OF EACH MENU CHOICE:
	Filet of Sole Arreganata
反	Chicken Francese
(SP)	Eggplant Rollatini
反应	Roast Beef
or, if yo	ou prefer:
	Broiled Chicken
例	Broiled Sole
9 - 4 -	

1994-1995 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Carole A. Adams, President	731-4425
Betty Borowsky, Vice President & Conservation Legislation Chairperson	764-3596
George Popkin, Treasurer (8 to 9 P.M.)	378-4467
Louise Hillen, Recording Secretary	546-6147
Doris Pirodsky, Corresponding Secretary & Historian	
Suzanne Lancer, Director (6/97) & Education Chairperson (7 to 9 P.M.)	536-6574
Jonathan Staller, Director (6/97) & Environmental Festivals Coordinator	822-5957
Lisa Borbee, Director (6/96)	
Steven Goldberg, Director (6/96)	798-0335
Paul Devendittis, Director (6/95)	489-0547
Bruno Leporati, Director (6/95)	735-4904
Sandy Brenner, Program Chairperson	
Paul Butkereit, Bird Seed Savings Day	623-0843
Joseph Grupp, Duck Survey	
Betsy Gulotta, Brookside Preserve Committee Chairperson	
Marge Jaeger, Fund-raising Chairperson	
Elliott Kutner, Birding / Field Trips Chairperson	
Joseph Lancer, Binocular / Book Sales (7 to 9 P.M.)	
Amanda Neet, Special Events On-Site Coordinator	
Richard Packert, Special Projects	
Doreen Remsen, Birdathon Co-Chairperson	
James Remsen, Jr., Past President & Birdathon Co-Chairperson	
Dolores Rogers, Welcoming Committee Chairperson	
Mary Jane Russell, Hospitality Chairperson	
Diane Singer, Publicity (5 to 8 p.m.)	
Porgy Smith, Environmental Information Chairperson	
Michael Sperling, Skimmer Editor	
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

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