

VOLUME 26, NUMBER 5 — SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

FEBRUARY 1996

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Carole A. Adams

The Blizzard of 1996 has afforded me the opportunity of spending some extra time working on my message. Before getting into January of '96, let me pick up where I left off in December of 1995.

On Saturday, December 16th, South Shore Audubon Society hosted a holiday party at Tackapausha Museum and Preserve in Seaford. Youngsters of all ages put great effort into stringing popcorn and cranberries, spreading peanut butter on pinecones and rolling them in birdseed, coloring bird pictures, playing games, and thoroughly enjoying the displays at Tackapausha — especially the fruit bats. Steve Gomez from T.R. Sanctuary kept three audiences spellbound with his Wildlife of Long Island program while juice and cookies were served by SSAS volunteers.

A very sincere and special Thank You to each and every SSAS volunteer — not in any particular order — Joan Strattel, Kathy Cardillo, Jonathan Staller, Bitsy Kipping, Christine Schmitt, Gloria Gold, Harriet & Larry Berke, Alice Blaustein, Carol Jacobelli, Rose Kamins, Doris Pirodsky, Michael Shannon & his mom Elizabeth, Lisa Borbee, Marge & Sally Bodenburg, George Popkin, and Pat (please forgive me; I don't know your last name).

SSAS volunteers were not alone. Tackapausha Museum volunteers were right in there working just as hard to make sure all our visitors had a good time. Thank You to Susan L. Bryant, Michael Meyers, Andrew Kessler, Danielle Fischer, Jessica Filosa, Christine Banks, and Jessica Skrocki.

By all means, go see the fruit bats at Tackapausha. Thanks again to all the volunteers and our friends at Tackapausha and T.R. Sanctuary. The holiday party was just another example of how working together makes for success.

On Saturday, December 30th, yours truly joined a number of SSAS friends and members on the Ninety-sixth Christmas Bird Count. Manny Levine coordinated the efforts for southern Nassau County's count. Nine teams were on land, with our very own Paul Butkereit out on the chilling waters.

NEXT MEETING

Sandy Brenner

DATE: Tuesday, February 13, 1996

TIME: 8:00 P.M. ② (Letter of the Month at 7:30)

PLACE: Freeport Memorial Library

Merrick Rd. & S. Ocean Ave.

SPEAKER: Rob Sudaley

TOPIC: Long Island Beach Erosion

Rob has been an avid observer of the L.I. shoreline since his days as a student at Southampton College. His slide program will present a dramatic picture of the changes brought about by storm damage to the ever-moving coastline of Long Island's south shore.

Our guest speaker teaches Earth Science and coaches Volleyball at Baldwin High School. He is the founder of East End Educational Experience, which promotes learning about the East End through various educational, cultural, and recreational activities. Rob currently presents a weekly TV show called Extra Help in Earth Science on Cablevision's channels 1 and 45, on Tuesdays at 6:00 P.M.

IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE WASTE, PLEASE

BRING COFFEE MUGS TO OUR MEETINGS

The day was topped off with dinner at Otto's in Freeport and the teams reported a record number of 141 species, highlighted by reports of Bald Eagle, Black Skimmer, Eastern Bluebirds, and Great Horned Owl.

As if that wasn't enough, Saturday, January 6th, a single-digit degree day, found the Duck Survey teams out checking ponds in southern Nassau. Paul Butkereit, Dolores Rogers, Marge Jaeger, Joe Grupp, Jimmy Remsen, Annie McIntyre, Mary Jane Russell, and I were all out counting ducks, geese, and gulls. To quote Joe Grupp, "the scary thing is nobody makes us do this." Joe, Jimmy, and Paul will be getting together soon to review counts and trends from past duck surveys. You will be hearing more about this.

That brings us up to the Blizzard of 1996. We will be talking about this one for a long, long time. January's meeting got canceled — Freeport Library was closed due to the weather. Hopefully, we will be able to reschedule Member's Night. I know a lot of folks were disappointed.

The pressure is still on to write letters to your Senators, Congressman, and President Clinton. Express your concerns over the federal budget and its impact on the Endangered Species Act, wetlands protection, and the Environmental Protection Agency. Another way to let your voice get heard is by joining our **Armchair Activist** program. We cannot sit by and watch our government roll back 26 years of environmental progress. Please do your part to preserve and restore our environment.

If you have any questions, remember that your board members are just a phone call away. Hope to see you at our meetings and on our bird walks.

** WELCOME NEW MEMBERS **

^^^^^^^^^^^^^

Marion Yavarkovsky

We welcome all of you to SSAS. Now that the holidays are over, we hope you will have the time to become active members of our chapter. Come to our weekly bird walks, monthly meetings, and special events. You will be happy you did.

[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	Diane Hawkins,
	Ms. Valerie Rizzuto
Bellmore	Lenny Lampel
College Point	Mr. Calvin Rothman
East Meadow	J. Belonzi, Arthur Johnston
East Rockaway	Donald Ferrante,
	Louis & Angela Nacchio
Farmingdale	E. Fraser, Mrs. Helene E. Klem
Floral Park	Ms. Patricia A. Tweedy
Freeport	Marianne & Larry Gumbs,
	W. Hattakitkosol, Marsha
	Jensky, Joan Mallicoat,

Claire Mc Bride, Craig Stark,

Marie Zvitcovich

? Behrman, Ms. Christina

Caughey, Diane Cioffi, Susan Di Russo, Marcia S. Kemper, James R. Rhind,



Garden City



Malverne A. J. How	vell
Massapequa Susan Ari	mentani, Paul F.
Broderi	ck, John Fusto, Dorothy
& Mort	on Goldfarb, Miss
Natalie	Kramer, Miss Sally J.
Scudden	r, S. Sherwin & D. Silver
Massapequa Park John J. Pi	
Merrick Jacob J. I	Bohn, Lou DeFilippo,
Mr. D. 1	Dramer, Faye & Arnold
Rosen,	Bonnie L. Royer,
Emily S	Silverman
Plainview Mr. Peter	Harold,
	Silberlicht
Rockville Centre Joel Abra	
Seaford Gilbert G	iamario,
	ne Maenza Gmelch
Syosset Eileen Ke	
Uniondale Oliver Cu	iffe,
Ms. Mie	chele Rondon,
Mr. & N	Ars. Robert Wagner
Valley Stream Carol Ho	
Mr. & N	Mrs. John Ohanian
Wantagh Mr. & Mı	s. John Gorman
West Hempstead Robert Fa	rrell, Mrs. Daniel S.
Hirsch,	V. Puccio,
Tammy	
Woodmere Mrs. Sylv	ia Rolnick
****	*****

LICENSED REHABILITATORS WANTED

Dr. Evan C. Dribbon

The South Shore Animal Hospital, located on Merrick Road in Wantagh, has been caring for wildlife free of charge since 1978. Many of the birds treated are either released directly to the wild or are given to licensed wildlife rehabilitators prior to their release. Several rehabilitators already cooperate with the hospital; however, the volume of wild birds presented for medical care increases yearly. Any licensed rehabilitator who wishes to participate in the care of these birds should contact me at 826-3422 or write to me at 3296 Merrick Rd, Wantagh, NY 11793.



CONSERVATION NOTES As We Begin the New Year

Betty Borowsky

As you all know, the nation's environmental laws and regulations have been challenged by strong opponents this past year. As this is written, the White House and Congress are at a stalemate, the former refusing to sign legislation that will sharply alter social and environmental programs; the latter refusing to moderate its stance. Whatever the outcome, it is clear that grassroots organizations like SSAS will have to take a more active role in expressing our opinions to our representatives at all levels of government this year. This means we need to keep abreast of all the latest initiatives of our governmental representatives. (By the way, we need to keep up the pressure now — continue to write to the President supporting his opposition to watering down or eliminating environmental laws, and write to your Congressman expressing your support of environmental legislation with teeth).

We will also have to express our views to the new Nassau County Legislators, just sworn in on January 1st, who have replaced the Supervisors on the now disbanded Board of Supervisors. The seven-person Board of Supervisors consisted of representatives from each of the towns and cities in Nassau County plus the County Executive. The Legislature consists of 19 persons, representing 19 different geographic areas of the county, some created specifically to permit minority representation. For citizens, this change in government may prove a two-edged sword — on the one hand, each legislator will be accessible to her/his constituents and, based on the experience in Suffolk County, will be anxious to hear our views; on the other hand, now 19 persons will be deciding on new legislation and other issues, and it is to be expected that this will slow things down.

It has been challenging to keep up with pending legislation this past year. One of the avenues of information I have relied on is the New York State office of the National Audubon Society. However, I have recently gained access to the Internet and have been happy to discover numerous sources of environmental information on the World Wide Web. Now,

anyone can establish a home page on the Internet. This is good, because at the moment, nothing is censored. On the other hand, there is a residue of outdated and even useless information out there as well. Actually, it's fun to wander around in cyberspace once in a while; there are a lot of creative people out there. However, if you need information in a hurry, there are at least three things you can try. First, you can subscribe to "enn.com" (http://www.enn.com/), which provides abstracts of current environmental news items every day and has in-depth discussions of topical environmental issues. This costs \$25 a year and so far it has

been well worth it. Another source of information is the

home page of the National Audubon Society (http://

www.audubon.org/audubon). This is free, but so far topical

information is not available on it. The third way is to use the search feature on the software you're using to access the Net. This is generally the least useful, since it comes up with hundreds of entries, from all over the world. If you have the time for it it's neat, but it does not yield timely information efficiently. On the other hand, I have uncovered the home pages of several Audubon chapters in other states, and it's fun to see what field trips the group in Dayton, Ohio will be going on this week.

If you would like more information on all this, you can reach me at borowsky@acf2.nyu.edu or you can contact me the old-fashioned way.

AUDUBON CAMP IN CONNECTICUT

Marcia Specht

[Editor's Note: Marcia wrote this "Open Letter to my friends at South Shore Audubon" on August 17th; I've been saving it until this year's scholarships were announced. We offer a Connecticut scholarship in odd-numbered years; this year's scholarship is for Maine; see this Skimmer for details.]

I hardly know where to begin in my attempt to say "thank you" for one of the nicest experiences of my adult life. I'm referring to the week of July 30 — August 5, 1995 which I spent, as a South Shore scholarship recipient, at Audubon Ecology Camp in Connecticut. It was a wonderful week spent learning about the interrelationships of plants, soil and water, and wildlife; the need for their conservation; and the importance of their intelligent treatment and wise use. It was a week of making new friends, sharing ideas for classroom use, and having lots of fun. It was a week during which my binoculars never came off my neck and I was rewarded with sighting a Wood Thrush (pictured) on her nest with babies, a

Cooper's Hawk soaring above, a female Scarlet Tanager feeding near the Audubon Center, plus many Tufted Titmice, Cedar Waxwings, nuthatches, chickadees, Eastern Bluebirds, Indigo Buntings, and more. I got to hear the elusive

Pileated Woodpecker but had no luck in sighting it.

I had great fun exploring the salt marsh, watching thousands of fiddler crabs, and seining and examining my "catch," which included pipefish, spider crabs, hermit crabs, and starfish.

I could go on and on, but instead will urge everyone who reads this letter to experience Audubon Camp for themselves. It is a week you will never forget.

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.

Thursday, February 8th (4:30 to 6 P.M., ages 6 to 12) — Owls for Kids. An after-school program about owls, their importance, and lifestyles. See live owls and learn what all the fuss is about. This program will include a short owl prowl for children. TRS members \$3, nonmembers \$5.

Friday, February 23rd (7 to 9 P.M., ages 12 and up) — Owl Prowl. You'll see six live owls and learn about their behavior, tools, and natural history. We'll walk through the woods calling for wild owls and are likely to see and hear a Screech Owl. TRS members \$5, nonmembers \$7.

Sunday, February 25th (2 to 3:30 P.M., family) — Maple Sugaring. Come make some maple syrup from our Sugar Maples. Learn about the purpose of sap and tree natural history. Take a nature walk and discover the beginning of spring. TRS members \$3, nonmembers \$5.

February Nature Camp. Do you know children grades PK through 4th who are looking for something fun to do with nature over the February school break? February 19–22 is the week when we will be studying the forest environment in winter. The week will include nature activities, hikes, live animal presentations, and fun, fun, fun! The cost is \$100 for members and \$110 for nonmembers. The camp will meet from Monday through Thursday from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. Register early for a space.

SSAS VISITS TRS. Dolores Rogers has arranged for our chapter to visit National Audubon's oldest sanctuary at 9:30 A.M. on Saturday, May 4th, to see their many birds of prey close up and observe the sanctuary's songbird banding program. Save the date and watch future Skimmers for details and directions.

SSAS Mission Statement — The mission of South Shore Audubon Society is to promote environmental education, and preserve and restore our environment, through responsible activism, for the benefit of both people and wildlife.

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CHASING RARE BIRDS IN TEXAS

Michael Higgiston

All the Rare Bird Alert tapes were saying the same thing—there was a good number of rare birds present in Texas and they were grouped fairly closely together. The itch was beginning. Should we chance it? After all, birds have a tendency to be long gone by the time you respond to an alert. However, with each subsequent call to the RBA tapes, the birds were still being reported on the scene; the weekend was rushing toward me.

On a Friday morning in January 1995, I boarded a TWA flight to St. Louis to catch the connecting flight to Houston. There was only one way to scratch this itch. A rental car took me approximately 30 miles southwest of Houston to Brazos Bend State Park. The directions were to park in the first lot on the left and walk to the observation tower. They didn't say how far, but there were Coots and Pied-billed Grebes and White Ibises and Common Moorhens and Little Blue Herons, so the walk and the gnats were ignored. The top of the observation tower brought me my first look at what I sought, Masked Ducks from Mexico. Usually secretive, these ducks were swimming and feeding about 30 yards away. This was a great sighting for me, because I had missed them last October due to the terrible rainstorms that flooded large stretches of southeast Texas.

The Blue-footed Booby beckoned me on to Lake Bastrop outside of Austin, but the airline schedule allowed for no such frivolities. Back in Houston, it was soon on to Harlingen in the Rio Grande Valley and a welcome hotel bed. Early checkout and another rental car (birding can't be said to be an inexpensive hobby for some) had me driving east out of Harlingen toward Laguna Atascosa in the dark. The directions were very explicit: just west of the intersection of Route 106 and Ted Hunt Road were LeConte's Sparrows in the grassy fields. I was dubious about tracking them down. On the local map I bought in Harlingen, there was no mention of Ted Hunt Road, and street signs tend to disappear like birds, if they were ever even put up. Grassy fields mean thick grass a foot and a half high, with the 6 inch birds preferring to stay hidden. Conditions did not portend success, but I'm here, so let's do it.

Seven A.M. saw me at the intersection in question (the sign was there) with the first bit of daylight in the sky. I felt somewhat foolish, standing alone with a great expanse of flat countryside surrounding me, but I decided to plunge in. I started to walk through the knee-high grass to see what I might stir up. Sure enough, a small bird popped up, flew a short distance, and buried itself in the grass. I walked toward that spot and it flushed, flew, and hid again. We performed this dog and pony show three times until he finally flushed to a small bush and remained there. I had a great look at every diagnostic mark of the LeConte's Sparrow, and it was only 7:15 A.M.

I drove south to Brownsville, through fields stretching endlessly, with hawks everywhere — American Kestrels on

the wire, Red-tails on poles, Harris's and Swainson's in trees. I kept driving, to the Trinity Lutheran Church for a possible Tropical Parula, but it was not to be (the flock of warblers that the parula was associating with had moved on). The Green Parakeet noted a mere five blocks away earlier in the week had also departed for greener pastures. Drat! Isn't it a charming experience to pull up into a quiet residential neighborhood early on a Saturday morning and begin strolling up and down streets with binoculars?

Turning east now, I headed for Sabal Palm Grove Sanctuary, where a Blue Bunting had been reported. I won't bore you with fake suspense; I didn't see it. I walked the half-mile trail and happened upon an observation deck over a pond. A waterbird was calling, making a one note call. It finally presented itself to me and there was a frantic turning of pages in my bird guide. I suspected it to be something, but I would have to confer with others. I heard voices, so I continued on and came upon a blind. A man and a woman, whom I subsequently learned were from Oradell, New Jersey (I'm from Long Island and a member of SSAS), greeted me cheerfully, saying "Have you ever seen so many Least Grebes in your life?" Confirmation; I love it. After visiting for a while and periodically scanning the pond for Northern Shoveler, Redhead (pictured), Lesser Scaup, Coot, Greenand Blue-winged Teal, and American Wigeon, I left. Two-

> day bird trips begin to take on a life of their own with their deadlines, and I was soon driving west to Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge. Another Tropical Parula had been seen there, at the site of the refuge manager's old residence. Upon arriving, I

headed directly to that spot. Altamira Orioles

could not deter me. Chachalacas could not sway me. (I did buy a nice pin at the visitor center.) Onward. As I was walking up the road from the visitor center, I met a Texas birder who was also looking for the bird, unsuccessfully to that point. He said the parula was in a flock of kinglets, Yellow-rumped Warblers, vireos, and gnatcatchers. Find the flock and we find the bird. Well, we found the Yellow-rumps, vireos, and gnatcatchers. We saw a flock of American Goldfinch. We saw Red-bellied Woodpecker, Swamp Sparrow, and Common Yellowthroat, but alas poor Yorick, no parula. Rats! My companion told me that my intention of going to Bentsen State Park for the Clay-colored Robin was admirable but doomed. The shy bird had been scared off by all the attention lavished upon it. My other option was to head 100 miles west to Zapata to see the White-collared Seedeaters. My companion said he had seen them just the day before. (Ya shoulda been here yesterday!) Armed with that endorsement and a couple of Whattaburgers and a large Coke, I set sail for Zapata.

The large Coke promptly spilled over maps, bird guides, and binoculars. An omen of sorts? With 100 miles to go and a longer trip back to Harlingen to retrace, a flight to Houston

that night, and no dinner as a result of this schedule? NAH! The birds were in the park adjacent to the library in Zapata. The library was just west of the IGA on Route 83, so said the tape. There is no IGA in Zapata on Route 83. I went right through town and was looking at scrub desert when I decided that Zapata was rapidly receding behind me. After asking for directions at the post office, I finally arrived and stalked into the park. I stopped. Silence. No movement. Strong east winds bending everything green. Desperation. Dry swallows. Much searching and walking and looking and cursing. Results: one Northern Cardinal, one Common Yellowthroat, and a flock of Cedar Waxwings. Such frustration. Such discouragement. So disheartening.

There is nothing like the specter of missing your flight home to shake you out of your funk. Try explaining to your nonbirding wife that the reason you're late is because someone kidnapped the White-collared Seedeaters and you joined the posse to rescue them. Anyway, upon reaching Harlingen, I stopped to refill the rental car's gas tank and found my 51st species for the trip - House Sparrows gamboling in a busy intersection. I had already ticked off their partners in crime, the European Starling and Rock Dove. The trip brought me three life birds (Masked Duck, LeConte's Sparrow, and Least Grebe) and that's a welcome number any time. Do the disappointments outweigh the high points? My wife devoutly wishes it to be so, but we all know the answer to that. NAH!

^ BIRD WALKS Elliott Kutner

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

Jan. 28	Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner
Feb. 4	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
Feb. 11	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge***
Feb. 18	Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
Feb. 25	Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner
Mar. 3	Hempstead Lake State Park (Exit 18 lot)
Mar. 10	Tobay JFK Sanctuary
Mar. 17	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
Mar. 24	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge***
Mar. 31	Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner
Apr. 7	Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
Apr. 14	Hempstead Lake State Park (Exit 18 lot)
Apr. 21	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge***

***Editor's Note: In the event that the House and/or Senate Republicans force another Federal Government shutdown in order to pressure President Clinton into accepting a budget that, among other things, would cripple the Environmental Protection Agency and open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil development, Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge will be closed and we will relocate our bird walk. Please call us before Sunday morning for information.

WHICH ZIP HAS THE MOST SSAS MEMBERS?

Michael Sperling

This is the 50th Skimmer I've typeset, proofread, and squeezed/padded into eight pages. During those five and a half years, I've been keeping a bunch of statistics on how many copies of each issue are printed and where they go. Some of this info is used to properly rubber band and sack our mailings; some of it is semi-useless trivia that will fill up the rest of this paragraph: Including single copies sent to local public libraries, other organizations, and members not living in SSAS's territory, since September 1990 we've mailed between 1774 (December 1993) and 2146 (November 1992) Skimmers per issue. In 1990–91, we averaged 2037; in 1991– 92, 2037 again; in 1992-93, 2040; in 1993-94, 1873; in 1994-95, 1911; and so far in 1995-96, 1936 (including 1865 for this issue; our membership totals are affected by the extent and success of National Audubon Society's recruitment efforts, and by how fast NAS processes new memberships; right now, the whole membership operation is being moved in-house, which I suspect is responsible for the recent drop).

This article is dedicated to those of you who wonder if you're the only environmentally conscious person in your entire town or wonder how far you'd have to travel to find another enlightened household. Thanks to Betty Borowsky, I have 1994 census estimates for each zip code in Nassau County, and assuming that the typical SSAS household has the same number of residents as any other household (2.97 in the Towns of Hempstead and Oyster Bay, and 2.35 in the City of Long Beach), here are the zip codes that are in SSAS's official territory, in order by what percentage of their households belong to our chapter (I've omitted all the libraries and had to leave out Glen Oaks 11004, which has 14 SSAS households in Queens and Nassau, since I neglected to ask Betty for the Queens part of the population — oops):

- ➤ Atlantic Beach (11509): 12 households = 1 in 64
- ➤ Rockville Centre (11570): 93 = 1 in 93
- ➤ Garden City / Stewart Manor (11530): 86 = 1 in 105
- ➤ Merrick (11566): 97 = 1 in 123
- ➤ Malverne (11565): 26 = 1 in 127
- ➤ Baldwin (11510): 80 = 1 in 137
- Arr Hewlett (11557): 21 = 1 in 137
- ➤ Massapequa (11758): 123 = 1 in 145
- ➤ Wantagh (11793): 73 = 1 in 146
- \triangleright Oceanside (11572): 69 = 1 in 147
- ➤ East Rockaway (11518): 25 = 1 in 154
- \triangleright Lynbrook (11563): 49 = 1 in 154
- ➤ Point Lookout (11569): 4 = 1 in 161
- ➤ Cedarhurst (11516): 14 = 1 in 163
- ➤ Valley Stream / N. Woodmere (11581): 39 = 1 in 164
- ➤ West Hempstead (11552): 43 = 1 in 177
- ➤ Bellmore (11710): 62 = 1 in 187
- ➤ Woodmere (11598): 23 = 1 in 190
- ➤ Hicksville (11801): 66 = 1 in 193
- ► Freeport (11520): 71 = 1 in 196
- ➤ Massapequa Park (11762): 39 = 1 in 202

- ➤ Valley Stream (11580): 53 = 1 in 211
- ➤ Floral Park (11001): 43 = 1 in 222
- ➤ Franklin Square (11010): 37 = 1 in 222
- ➤ Long Beach / Lido Beach (11561): 67 = 1 in 230
- \triangleright Levittown (11756): 65 = 1 in 231
- ightharpoonup Farmingdale (11735): 44 = 1 in 238
- ➤ Uniondale (11553): 28 = 1 in 242
- \triangleright East Meadow (11554): 50 = 1 in 248
- ➤ Island Park (11558): 13 = 1 in 248
- \triangleright Seaford (11783): 30 = 1 in 249
- ightharpoonup Plainview (11803): 38 = 1 in 252
- ightharpoonup Lawrence (11559): 10 = 1 in 259
- ➤ Bethpage (11714): 26 = 1 in 288
- \triangleright Old Bethpage (11804): 6 = 1 in 289
- Arr Hempstead (11550): 48 = 1 in 348
- ➤ Elmont (11003): 29 = 1 in 498
- ightharpoonup Roosevelt (11575): 5 = 1 in 1077





The above rankings assume that the average household in every zip code except Long Beach has 2.97 people; this not-so-great assumption insures that the above rankings aren't too accurate. To check my calculations, multiply the two numbers given above and multiply the result by 2.97 (2.35 for Long Beach); you should end up with the number of people sharing your zip code. The total population for these zip codes is 956,798, including 1707 of SSAS's households; if we assume 2.95 people per household (lowered to account for Long Beach), then 1 of every 190 households/residents in our territory currently belongs to SSAS.

COASTAL STEWARDS BEING HIRED

Piping Plover protection has been provided by South Shore Audubon volunteers at Jones Beach and elsewhere for many years. Occasionally, we've seen The Nature Conservancy's four-wheel drive trucks patrolling the nesting areas of these endangered birds. Now's your chance to apply for one of those seasonal jobs (from April 1 to August 23), since SSAS has received an invitation from TNC, which is reprinted below. The deadline to apply is February 2nd.

The Nature Conservancy is recruiting four individuals for the Coastal Steward position, which focuses on the protection of Piping Plovers, Least Terns, and the rare beach plant, Seabeach Amaranth. Working in two teams, stewards locate, post, fence, and monitor nesting sites; record field observations; and assist with report preparation. Stewards interface with staff, volunteers, government agencies, and private organizations/landowners. Work involves strenuous activity, excellent communication skills, ability to read maps, and background/commitment to environmental conservation. Compensation is approximately \$330/week for a 6-day/50 hour week (housing/vehicle provided). For more info, contact Cathy Brittingham, The Nature Conservancy, 250 Lawrence Hill Road, Cold Spring Harbor, NY 11724; phone 367-3225.

AUDUBON CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS

SSAS once again will be awarding two full scholarships, one to an adult and one to a child age 10-14, to attend an Audubon camp. Applicants or their parents should be members in good standing and be interested in sharing their camp experiences with fellow members, the community, and/or schools. Financial need is not a basis for receiving a scholarship; the winners must provide their own transportation. In addition to our scholarships, this year there are scholarships available (for educators and activists) from National Audubon Society and from NAS's Northeast & Mid-Atlantic regional offices; the deadline to apply for those scholarships is March 1st, so please contact SSAS's Education Chairperson, Suzanne Lancer, at 536-6574 between 7 and 9 P.M. as soon as possible. We can usually count the number of SSAS scholarship applicants on our fingers, so request a copy of the Audubon Ecology Camps and Workshops brochure today and apply for a scholarship!

The following descriptions come from NAS's 1995 brochure: Muscongus Bay, site of the Audubon Ecology Workshop in Maine, is the southernmost outpost of many northern birds and marine mammals. Harbor seals bask in the sun. Mosses, lichens, and mushrooms abound. Daily classes



[this is the one for adults] explore island, pond, forest, and estuarine ecology in one of the most pristine maritime environments in the East. You'll not only see marvelously diverse life forms — you'll come to know their habitats and ecological roles. These

ecology workshop sessions will provide you with a comprehensive introduction to the natural beauty of the Maine coast. The 1996 adult sessions will take place June 30 to July 6, July 7-13, July 14-20, and July 21-27.

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

The Youth Ecology Camp in Maine also takes place on Hog Island. The camper-instructor ratio is 5 to 1, with an enrollment of 48. Campers dredge the ocean floor for marine creatures, search for organisms in tide pools, and learn about seabirds, seals, and other wildlife. The evenings are filled with night hikes, stargazing, special guests, and songfests. The Youth Camp will be offered July 31 to August 10 and August 13–23.

BIRD SEED SAVINGS DAY REMINDER

Our second and last BSSD is/was Sunday, January 28th, from 9:30 A.M. to 2:30 P.M. at Tackapausha Museum, on Washington Avenue in Seaford (between Merrick Road and

Sunrise Highway). Although it's too late to preorder, bird feeders and extras of all types of seed will be available. Proceeds benefit SSAS and Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary. HELP IS NEEDED to take



orders and carry seed around the parking lot. To volunteer, call Paul Butkereit late evenings at 623-0843 or just show up; you'll receive lots of thanks, a free fast-food lunch, and maybe even a mention in the next *Skimmer*.

ACCOUNTANT PRO BONO

Carole A. Adams

Ben Borowsky of Margolin, Winer & Evens, LLP in Garden City has graciously offered to assist SSAS with required audit and tax reports. If the name Borowsky strikes a familiar chord, you're right. Ben is our Vice President's son. Thank you, Ben and Margolin, Winer & Evens.

A special thank you to Jeff Liebowitz of Solomon, Schneider, Orenstein & Liebowitz for all your years of pro bono service to SSAS. You will be long remembered in our hearts.



Explore the coast with the

AMERICAN LITTORAL SOCIETY

DELAWARE RIVER EAGLES (Sun. Feb. 11) Five buck special; two for \$7.00. Kids FREE. Send a SASE for details and directions. Write ALS, Sandy Hook, Highlands, NJ 07732

SHARKS IN BIMINI (Feb. 22–29) Snorkeling, field trips, tag and release sharks. Call ALS at (908) 291-0055 for info. NEW YORK AQUARIUM (Sat. April 20) Special 2 1/2 hour "behind the scenes" tour. Cost: \$12.00, kids \$8.00. Call Don at (718) 634-6467 for reservations.

FULTON FISH MARKET (Tues. April 23) Cuddle cod, fondle flounder, stare at sturgeon. FREE. Call Don for reservations. FIRE ISLAND ECOLOGY (Mon.—Wed., June 10—12) ALS members join AMC members at their bayside lodge in Atlantique. Cost: \$20.00/night + \$10.00 ferry. Call AMC (212) 603-9896 for info and reservations.

MONTAUK SUMMER WEEKEND (June 14-16) 2 nights at Montauk Manor house, 5 meals, 5 hikes, 2 evening programs. Cost: \$245 per person. Call Don.

For information and free brochure contact: Don Riepe 28 West 9th Road Broad Channel, NY 11693 (718) 634-6467

1995-1996 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

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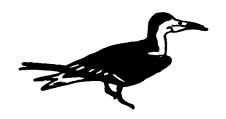
South Shore Audubon Society P.O. Box 31 Freeport, NY 11520-0031

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