



held in Jerry Bishop's memory. The Board has not worked out details of a commemorative ceremony as of this printing.

There are many, many events coming up, so be sure to mark your calendars: Earth Day '96 at Eisenhower Park, Saturday, April 20th; bird banding for SSAS at T.R. Sanctuary, Saturday, May 4th; Birdathon '96 beginning Friday night, May 10th and ending the next night with a dinner gathering of Birdathoners and interested folks, time and place to be announced; Brigantine trip, June 1st (see page 4); National Audubon convention, June 7-15 (see page 3); SSAS Annual Dinner at Pompei Restaurant on Tuesday, June 11th; and Long Island Audubon Council meeting on Saturday, June 22nd, to be hosted by SSAS.

Along with our free Sunday bird walks and monthly meetings, that should keep you busy for a while. If you're interested in more details on any of this information, remember to look on the back of this *Skimmer* for the telephone numbers of your Board members. While I'm on the subject, are you interested in joining the all-volunteer Board? Just give me a call; we have a nominating committee that would be very interested in hearing from you.

One last plug and then I'll sign off till next month — every year SSAS sponsors adult and youth camp scholarships. The only requirement is that you want to go to Audubon Camp and that you put your request in writing. Don't miss this golden opportunity (see below).

Having said all that, I look forward to your calls and seeing you out there on our weekly bird walks and at our monthly meetings. P.S.: Spring will arrive!

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**AUDUBON CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS REMINDER**

The deadline to apply for our annual all-expense paid (except transportation to camp) scholarships for an adult and a child age 10-14 is fast approaching. See last month's *Skimmer* for details on National Audubon's summertime camps on the Maine shore; call Suzanne Lancer at 536-6574 today for a brochure and application. As this issue goes to press, we've received just one application so far; financial need is not considered in awarding either scholarship, so apply!

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**A LIST OF ENVIRONMENTAL BUDGET CUTS  
APPROVED BY OUR CONGRESS**

[Editor's Note: This article is reprinted with permission from the January/February 1996 issue of *Common Ground*, published as a service to the conservation community by The Conservation Fund and now being sent to all of National Audubon's chapter newsletter editors. The article's original title was "Maligned Items: Program Cuts of the FY '96 Budget."]

The Republican Congress last year found the easiest route to changing U.S. environmental policy; follow, and cut, the money. Compared to changing federal environmental law, which can take years and draw lots of attention, slashing line items in huge budgets is a snap.

Thus the "progress" Republicans made in altering environmental policy is tucked in spending bills for the Interior and Agricultural Departments and the Environmental Protection Agency. Following are selected major cuts proposed for individual programs in fiscal year 1996 spending bills. Although the fate of the bills was unknown at press time [President Clinton has since vetoed the Interior and EPA bills], they clearly illustrate congressional intent.



- ⊗ EPA's budget: cut \$918 million, or 14%.
- ⊗ EPA funding to enforce environmental programs: cut \$84 million, or 21%.
- ⊗ EPA funds for hazardous waste cleanup: cut \$168 million, or 13%.
- ⊗ EPA state grants for water and wastewater treatment: cut \$624 million, or 21%.
- ⊗ EPA's quarter-century authority to veto wetland permits: eliminated.
- ⊗ North American Wetlands Conservation Fund: cut \$2 million, or 25%.
- ⊗ Endangered species spending: cut \$13 million, or 16%.
- ⊗ Spending to conserve species to prevent listing: cut \$642,000, or 14%.
- ⊗ Number of endangered species to be listed and amount of critical habitat to be designated in FY '96: 0.
- ⊗ Land and Water Conservation Fund spending for critical land acquisitions: cut \$95 million from FY '95, or 40%.
- ⊗ Land and Water Conservation Fund state grants for local recreation projects: eliminated (was \$25 million in FY '95).
- ⊗ National Park Service funding for recreation and preservation: cut \$5 million, or 12%.
- ⊗ NPS Historic Preservation Fund spending: down \$5 million, or 13%.
- ⊗ NPS urban park and recreation fund: eliminated (was \$7 million in FY '95).
- ⊗ Biological research for fisheries, birds, and offshore environment: cut \$25 million, or 15%.
- ⊗ Funding to continue reintroduction of endangered gray wolf: cut \$200,000, or 33%.
- ⊗ Office of Surface Mining spending to regulate strip mining: cut \$6 million, or 27%.
- ⊗ Forest Service funds to improve management of state and private forestland: cut \$17 million, or 11%.
- ⊗ Forest Service ecosystem planning funding: cut \$20 million, or 13%.
- ⊗ Bureau of Land Management forest ecosystem spending: eliminated (was \$6.8 million in fiscal year 1995).
- ⊗ Forest Service wilderness management funding: cut \$13 million, or 28%.
- ⊗ Forest Service trail construction funding: cut \$13 million, or 39%.

**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.

- 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
  - Apr. 28 Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner
  - May 5 Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
  - May 12 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
  - May 19 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
  - May 26 *Memorial Day Weekend — No Walk*
  - June 2 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- Summer Vacation*



**AUDUBON'S AMERICA CONVENTION '96**

Every two years, National Audubon's staff and nationwide members get a chance to meet each other and enjoy a week of education and fun. The next National Convention (including field trips, a Capitol Hill rally and reception, campaign workshops, morning bird walks, speakers, etc.) will take place at The American University in Washington, D.C. from June 7-12, followed by optional Learning Labs on June 12-14 in Chesapeake Bay and June 12-15 in "important bird areas" of Pennsylvania (with accommodations in Gettysburg, Harrisburg, and Lancaster). For details, write to Audubon Convention Office, 4150 Darley Ave., Suite 5, Boulder, CO 80303 or call (303) 499-3622.



**LOGGING IN OUR STATE PARKS?**

[Editor's Note: This article comes from *Adirondack Advocate*, published by National Audubon's Northeast Regional Office in Albany; full and up-to-the-minute tape-recorded details on this are currently (as this *Skimmer* goes to press) available by calling our Legislative Representative Suzanna Dwyer's brand new New York State Activist 800 Number, (800) 414-ACTN.]

Residents may soon witness the first ever large-scale logging of a New York State Park. Allegany State Park, a popular 67,000 acre park in western New York, is slated for patchwork logging equaling anywhere from 25% to 50% if the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) has its way. To date the only logging allowed in the park is for public safety purposes or maintenance of trails and public facilities including campgrounds.

The idea of logging this park has been around for a number of years. The original concept of logging was promoted for economic reasons primarily by local logging interests and the foresters who run the park because of the park's valuable black cherry and old growth trees.

Public opposition to logging proposals was overwhelming and OPRHP shelved the idea. The proposal was revitalized by the new administration.

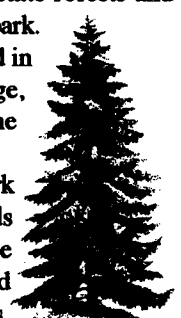
Last fall the idea was floated to sell park timber to help offset the costs of parks' management. This idea fell flat with the public and strategies changed. Now the reasons for logging being touted are wildlife and forest management.

The species OPRHP is looking to manage in the park are already abundant throughout the working state forests and wildlife management areas surrounding the park. The ecosystem and species most endangered in the region are the ones which rely on a large, unfragmented tract such as that which the park provides.

Logging would create the need for a network of roads within forested areas. These roads would open up access to the subsurface mineral rights underneath the park, would create erosion and water siltation problems, and would give edge species such as Brown-headed Cowbirds, Blue Jays, raccoons, and others the upper hand in further decimating already declining songbird populations.

*Logging of Allegany would set a dangerous precedent that could well open up logging in other parks in New York State.* Please write a letter to Governor George Pataki (Executive Chamber, State Capitol, Albany, NY 12224) and Commissioner Bernadette Castro (Office of Parks, Agency Building 1, 20th Floor, Albany, NY 12238) to **oppose** logging of our state parks whether it's under the guise of management or outright commercial sale. Thank you.

P.S.: Since the above article was written, legislation has been introduced that would ban large-scale logging and the sale and removal of trees in our state parks. Write your State Senator and Assemblyman and urge them to support S. 6026 (introduced by Catherine Abate) and A.3409A (introduced by Sam Hoyt), respectively.



*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.*

*SSAS Post Office Statement — South Shore Skimmer is published monthly from September through December and February through June by South Shore Audubon Society, P.O. Box 31, Freeport, NY 11520-0031.*



**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

Marion Yavarkovsky

It is a pleasure to welcome our newest members. You are just in time to witness the beginning of the spring migration. Come join us on bird walks and at monthly meetings and special events.

[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 ..... Charles Gowett,  
Mr. Joseph Malone
- Elmont ..... Mr. Harry Jacob, David Howe
- Freeport ..... Kelly Drew
- Garden City ..... Charles Gregory, Timothy Hoch,  
Mr. & Mrs. Stephen C. Short
- Hempstead ..... Henry Becker, Eve Glasser /  
Hofstra University National  
Arboretum
- Hicksville ..... Ms. Regina Kane, Elizabeth  
Nagy, Helen Navesky
- Levittown ..... Harriet Berke, Ms. Rose Kamins
- Long Beach ..... Jennifer Chimienti
- Massapequa ..... Mrs. Debbi Brown
- Merrick ..... Brittany Hershkowitz, Sam  
Jannazzo, Kenneth Kassin
- Oceanside ..... Alan Silverstein
- Rockville Centre ..... Audrey McNulty,  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Van Nest
- Seaford ..... Moshe Dombek, Joan Stattel

**BROOKSIDE CLEANUP ON MARCH 30th**

Brookside Preserve is a 20-acre freshwater wetland, woodland, and upland field area owned by Nassau County that SSAS saved from development in 1989. Our spring cleanup will be held from 9 A.M. until noon, rain or shine (the Brookside Preserve Committee, led by Betsy Gulotta, is looking forward to our biannual soaking). Please join us! The Preserve is located on the Freeport-Baldwin border; park at the main entrance on Brookside Avenue just north of Sunrise Highway (turn north at the traffic light that's just east of Freeport High School). Bring gloves and boots. The Committee's next meeting is scheduled for February 27th in Merrick; call Betsy at 546-8841 if you would like to attend.

**JFK WILDLIFE SANCTUARY PERMITS**

Show your support for the wildlife sanctuary at Tobay Beach and avoid a costly parking summons (they're seriously enforcing this now). Ask for a free 1 year parking permit from Town of Oyster Bay Department of Parks, 977 Hicksville Road, Massapequa, NY 11758.



Explore the coast  
with the  
**AMERICAN  
LITTORAL SOCIETY**

**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.

**GALAPAGOS EXPEDITION** (July 11-20) Spend 10 days exploring the islands by boat, do a little snorkeling, and take an optional 4-day excursion into the jungles of Cuyabeno.

**AMERICAN LITTORAL SOCIETY** is a coastal conservation organization concerned with protecting wetlands, beaches, marine life, and estuaries.

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

**BUS TRIP TO BRIGANTINE**

On Saturday, June 1st, SSAS is once again planning a coach trip to the Brigantine Division of Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge on the Atlantic Coast in southern New Jersey, to catch the peak of the spring shorebird migration. The bus will leave from the Merrick Park Golf Course parking lot at 7 A.M. and return at approximately 7:30 P.M. The cost is \$18 per person; bring your own lunch. To sign up, be one of the first 40 people to send your name, address, phone number, and a check payable to South Shore Audubon Society to Diane Singer, 118 Kent Road, Valley Stream, NY 11580.



RARE BIRD ALERT (212) 979-3070

WILDLIFE POISONING HOTLINE (800) 356-0560

AUDUBON ACTIONLINE (800) 659-2622

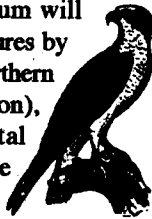
TAPE-RECORDED UPDATES FROM WASHINGTON, DC

AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP STATUS (800) 274-4201

AUDUBON'S NY ACTIVIST HOTLINE (800) 414-ACTN  
NEW! TAPE-RECORDED UPDATES FROM ALBANY

## RAPTORS OF PAUMANOK

North Fork Audubon Society will be sponsoring lectures and field trips during the weekend of April 27-28 and is inviting the members of all of Long Island's Audubon chapters to participate. The Raptor Symposium will take place at Southold High School, with lectures by National Audubon's Marilyn England (on Northern Harriers), Len Soucy (on raptor rehabilitation), the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's Ken Meskill, and Alan Poole (on Ospreys), plus live bird demonstrations.



Sunday field trips will visit nesting Ospreys (pictured), Least Terns, and Piping Plovers, and Montauk & Orient Points. For reservations and further information, contact NFAS's President, Mary Mulcahy, at 477-9413 or write to her at P.O. Box 545, Greenport, NY 11944.

### 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.

*Saturday, March 9th (3 to 4:30 P.M., ages 6 to 10) – Nocturnal Animals.* Participants meet various animals that are active at night, and learn how and why many animals prowl after sunset. TRS members \$4, nonmembers \$6.

*Sunday, March 17th (1 to 2:30 P.M., ages 6 to 10) – Signs of Spring.* Children will discover the first signs of spring, meet some local spring animals, and take a hike. TRS members \$4, nonmembers \$6.

*Sunday, March 31st (1 to 2:30 P.M., family) – Reptiles.* Meet our cold-blooded Sanctuary friends: Buster the 7 foot iguana, Bertha the 16 foot python, and several others.

### THE GREAT NORTHERN FOREST NEEDS YOUR HELP

[Editor's Note: The following is an action alert mailed out in early February by National Audubon's Northeast Regional Office in Albany.]

While Congress is derailing many of our environmental laws in Washington, efforts to protect the Northern Forest are moving forward in our nation's capital. The Northern Forest Stewardship Act (S. 1163 and H.R. 2421) was introduced by

Senators and Representatives from the region last fall [by Senators Leahy (D-VT), Jeffords (R-VT), Gregg (R-NH), Snowe (R-ME), and Cohen (R-ME), and Representatives Bass (R-NH), Baldacci (D-ME), Boehlert (R-NY), Hinchey (D-NY), and Sanders



(I-VT)]. The Act may be the *only* environmental initiative to pass in this Congress.

The bill lays the foundation for protecting wildlands, ensuring good forestry, and strengthening local economies in the Northern Forest [which stretches from NY's Adirondacks through Maine]. The most important element helps states and the federal government permanently protect our most valuable wildland areas in the Northern Forest. The Act does this by authorizing a source of funds to protect the special places we know and love.

To fully realize its potential, however, we believe the Northern Forest Stewardship Act should be stronger. National Audubon joins with the Northern Forest Alliance, a coalition of 28 environmental and recreational organizations, in proposing a package of strengthening amendments so the act can fully achieve its goals.

The most important aspects of the Audubon and Northern Forest Alliance's proposed strengthening amendments will:

- ensure citizens are able to clearly identify wildland areas and how they should be protected;
- clarify the criteria for determining wildlands in need of protection; and
- help the states encourage good forestry and protect wildlands by strengthening the role of a proposed Northern Forest ecosystem center.

The Northern Forest Stewardship Act is expected to be voted on in the Senate Agriculture Committee this month. It is crucial you tell your Senators and Representative that passage and strengthening of the Northern Forest Stewardship Act is critical.

Please call or write today and ask your Senators and Representative to cosponsor the bill and support a strengthened Act including the proposed strengthening amendments. Write to Senators D'Amato and Moynihan at U.S. Senate, Washington, DC 20510 and to your Representative (in SSAS territory, that's Peter King or Daniel Frisa), or call 1-800-972-3524 or 1-800-962-3524 (the toll-free Capitol switchboard) and ask for any of the above's offices.

To become a Northern Forest Advocate, write to National Audubon Society, 1789 Western Ave., Albany, NY 12203, or call them at 518-869-9731.

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Houses - Baths  
Books - Gifts

(516) 694-2180



"NEW YORK'S LARGEST WILD BIRD SPECIALTY STORE"

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Located between McDonald's & Dunkin' Donuts

## **SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON IN COSTA RICA**

Betty Borowsky

In January, some South Shore Auduboners had the great pleasure of visiting Costa Rica on a birding and nature watching trip. I thought you might want to hear about some of the highlights.

Costa Rica is an environmentally enlightened country. It has set aside large tracts of land to protect wildlife habitat and, in that process, has discovered an excellent source of income — ecotourism is the largest single source of income in Costa Rica. The consequences for the likes of us are that there are numerous and diverse habitats that remain pristine, and these unspoiled areas support an amazing variety of birds and other wildlife. On top of that, Costa Ricans welcome tourists. We found them friendly and polite, not only to us, but to each other (there is no standing army in Costa Rica). Driving in Mexico is not for the faint of heart, but Costa Rican drivers are courteous and careful. In short, we felt safe and welcome during our visit. Last, but far from least, no one got sick; a big bonus.

If you recall, SSAS visited Costa Rica the year before last, but that trip centered on the northern part of the country; this time we traveled to the south. This year we visited one of the highest sites in the country (Cerro de la Muerte, in the Paramo, a cloudy montane habitat), the Pacific Ocean, a tropical botanical garden (Wilson's Botanical Gardens, in Coto Brus), and a tropical cloud forest habitat in La Amistad National Park. Each area was characterized by different flora and, therefore, different birds.

We saw a sloth, three (or four) different kinds of squirrels, land crabs, various lizards, lines of leaf-cutter ants, and magnificent spiders. One day a troop of white-throated capuchin monkeys walked sedately through the trees for our benefit; on another day we saw some squirrel monkeys.

However, the birds were the best, both in numbers of species and types that we saw. All together, we saw about 250 species, and the best birders identified over 100 life birds. Let me tell you about the glorious birds we saw: First and foremost was the Resplendent Quetzal, the bird venerated by the Aztecs, and for good cause. Not only did we see both a male and a female, but the male remained still and in plain view for a good many minutes, allowing us to observe it until we got tired.

The three toucans we saw were really exciting (pictured). Fortunately, two of them seem to favor perches without much foliage, so we got good looks at them too. We saw the Chestnut-mandibled Toucan, the Emerald Toucanet, and the Fiery-billed Aracari; all in different places. Toucans are great fun to watch; those ungainly and really ridiculous looking bills seem so unwieldy, but they manipulate nuts and fruits with great agility.



We saw at least three different trogons and we saw the Blue-hooded Motmot. We saw Motmots so often we began to consider it a trash bird.

One of the pleasures of birding in the tropics is the variety of hummingbirds there. Fifty-two species of hummingbirds are listed in Costa Rica, and we saw at least fifteen. One of our most exciting birding experiences was the sight of a Snowy-bellied Hummingbird in the middle of a creek, hanging in place in the air while catching insects ("hawking"). The sun was shining on its brilliant green feathers, and the bird positively glowed.

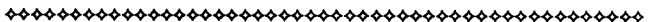
Perhaps the most beautiful group of birds in the tropics is the tanagers, however. It's hard to describe the enormous variety of color patterns and colors on these birds; each one is like an intricate, bright jewel.

I've only mentioned a few birds we saw; I (and I'm sure any other member of our group) would be happy to provide you with a detailed list of birds, accompanied by a minute description of the exact circumstances when each bird was seen. Just ask.

I don't want to end without describing Wilson's Botanical Gardens, which for me was the highlight of the trip. Mr. Wilson began his personal garden with the idea of growing typical tropical plants, but he desired an esthetic arrangement so he employed a professional architect for the layout of the Gardens. The Gardens now belong to the Organization for Tropical Studies and serve as a resource for students of tropical biology and ecology from all over the world.

Each group of plants has its own area in the Gardens, and representatives of the group from all over the world may be seen there. For example, the palm garden has palms from all over the world; there is a heliconia section and a bromeliad section, and many other tropical groups are represented as well. This strategy encourages visits from a wide variety of local birds. Thus, in an afternoon, you can stroll by examples of banana trees from around the globe and watch a Squirrel Cuckoo in a Norfolk Island pine.

It was truly a once in a lifetime experience.



### **RATING OUR CONGRESS**

[Editor's Note: This article is reprinted from the December 1995/January 1996 issue of *EnviroAction*, published by the National Wildlife Federation.]

The following twelve votes, six for the House and six for the Senate, were chosen to give a clear indication of where the various members of Congress lined up on important conservation issues. The votes were picked because they are not encumbered with tangential issues. They address specific environmental concerns and can, therefore, be used as a gauge for evaluating where a Representative or Senator stands regarding the environment.

*Senate #1, H.R. 889.* A motion to table an amendment to the "Emergency Supplemental Appropriations and Mexican Debt Disclosure Act of 1995." Failed 38-60. The amendment rescinds fiscal year 1995 funding for listing of species as

endangered or threatened and for designation of critical habitat under the Endangered Species Act. The correct vote was in favor of the motion and thus against the amendment.

*Senate #2, S. 343.* An amendment to cut off debate on the "Comprehensive Regulatory Reform Act of 1995." Failed 58-40. Possibly the most extreme risk assessment / cost-benefit analysis bill introduced at any level of government, S. 343 would impose elaborate and flawed risk assessment / cost-benefit analyses on agencies issuing public health, safety, and environmental regulations. Puts corporate profits above a sound environment or a healthy population. The correct vote was against cloture and thus in favor of environmental protections. [This bill was introduced by Presidential Candidate Bob Dole, who to date has failed three times in attempts to pass his bill.]

*Senate #3, H.R. 1868.* A motion to table an amendment to the "Foreign Operations Appropriations" bill. Failed 43-57. The amendment would have turned the bill into a vehicle for abolishing the U.S. Agency for International Development which provides funding for environmental programs overseas. The correct vote was in favor of tabling the amendment.

*Senate #4, H.R. 2099.* "VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act, 1995." Passed 55-45. Senate passed a bill that drastically cuts EPA's budget and contains language prohibiting the Environmental Protection Agency from spending money to implement and enforce important environmental programs. Would prevent EPA from exercising its veto over flawed Corps of Engineers wetlands permits. The correct vote was against H.R. 2099.

*Senate #5, S. 1357.* A motion to table an amendment to the "Seven-Year Balanced Budget Reconciliation Act." Passed 51-48. The amendment would have deleted provisions authorizing oil and gas drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The correct vote was against tabling the amendment.

*Senate #6, S. 1316.* A motion to table an amendment to the "Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1995." Passed 59-40. The amendment would have required community water systems to issue a consumer confidence report on the level of contaminants in the systems' drinking water. The correct vote was against tabling the amendment.

**Our Senators' Votes:** Daniel Patrick Moynihan, correct on the first five, wrong on the sixth. Alfonse D'Amato, wrong on all six. Forty-five other Senators (all Republicans) got all six wrong, including Presidential candidates Dole, Gramm, and Lugar; twenty-five (all Democrats) got all six right.

*House #1, H.R. 1022.* "Risk Assessment and Communication Act of 1995." Passed 286-141 as part of the Contract with America. Imposes elaborate and flawed risk assessment / cost-benefit analyses on agencies issuing public health, safety, and environmental regulations. Places corporate profits above a sound environment or a healthy population. The correct vote was against the bill.

*House #2, H.R. 925.* "The Private Property Protection Act of 1995." Passed 277-148 as part of the Contract with America. A bad takings bill which would require taxpayers to fund billions of dollars to pay companies to obey wetlands and endangered species laws. The correct vote was against the bill.

*House #3, H.R. 961.* "The Clean Water Amendments of 1995." Passed 240-185. Better known as the "Shuster Dirty Water Bill," it gives polluters *carte blanche* when it comes to water quality and makes wetlands' destruction a national policy. Despite the House passage, the vote marks a turning point as conservationists recorded a much heavier nay vote than the bill's supporters expected.

*House #4, H.R. 1868.* An amendment to the "Foreign Operations Appropriations" bill. Rejected 202-218. House rejected an amendment to cut the Development Assistance Fund by \$25 million. The fund is used for the pro-environment programs of the U.S. Agency for International Development. The correct vote was against the amendment.

*House #5, H.R. 2099.* A motion regarding the "VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Act of 1996." Passed 227-194. The motion instructs House conferees to strike 17 riders attached to the bill which forbid the Environmental Protection Agency from spending money to implement and enforce critical programs like wetlands protection. A major victory for conservationists.

*House #6, H.R. 1977.* A motion to recommit for further conference the "Department of the Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1996." Passed 230-199. The motion instructs conferees to insist on the House position prohibiting funds for expanded logging in the Tongass National Forest [in Alaska] and requiring mining patents to be sold at fair market value. The correct vote was in favor of the motion.

**Our Congressmen's Votes.** Peter King and Daniel Frisa, wrong on all six; of New York's 31 Representatives, only four others voted wrong every time (Molinari, Solomon, McHugh, and Paxon). Virtually all of SSAS's members live in either King's or Frisa's district — if you helped elect either of them to office and care about the environment, please let them know you're out there. Long Island's three other Congressmen scored as follows: Michael Forbes (eastern Suffolk), wrong on the first two, right on the rest; Gary Ackerman (north shore), the only Democrat, correct on all six (12 other New York Reps had perfect scores; 11 Democrats plus Republican Boehlert); Rick Lazio (western Suffolk), wrong on the first and fourth, correct on the other four.

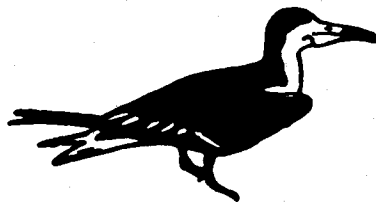
**Become an *Armchair Activist!*** National Audubon and its New York State chapters provide a monthly mailing of information plus a sample letter on a critical issue of statewide or national significance, with a request that you send a letter to the appropriate elected officials. To join the *Armchair Activist* program (it's free if you belong to SSAS), call Mary Jane Russell at 766-7397 or send SSAS your name and address. Our Conservation Committee meets more-or-less monthly in Rockville Centre; call Betty Borowsky for details.

**1995-1996 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

Carole A. Adams, President .....	731-4425
Betty Borowsky, Vice President & Conservation Legislation Chairperson .....	764-3596
Nancy Frame, Treasurer .....	520-9016
Christine Schmitt, Recording Secretary .....	887-7713
Doris Pirodsky, Corresponding Secretary & Historian .....	378-1790
Evan C. Dribbon, Director (6/98) .....	826-3422
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Suzanne Lancer, Director (6/97) & Education Chairperson (7 to 9 P.M.) .....	536-6574
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Lisa Borbee, Director (6/96) .....	897-9589
Steven Goldberg, Director (6/96) .....	798-0335
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Joseph Lancer, Binocular / Book Sales (7 to 9 P.M.) .....	536-6574
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Porgy Smith, Environmental Information Chairperson .....	887-2054
Michael Sperling, <i>Skimmer</i> Editor .....	541-0805
Marion Yavarkovsky, Membership Chairperson .....	379-2090

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

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