OUTH HORE KIMMER

VOLUME 27, NUMBER 6 — SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

MARCH 1997

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Carole A. Adams

When Elliott Kutner began referring to me as the "Lame Duck President," I knew he didn't mean for me to take it literally. All kidding aside, I will be out of action until mid-March. But I can't be stopped from putting in my nickel's worth here and there.

It is most important that you know that South Shore Audubon Society does not stop functioning when a President is inactive. I often made reference to your "hard working Board of Officers and Directors," and during my convalescence they are working even harder to pick up my end of the responsibilities. Vice President Betty Borowsky picked up the gavel and has performed admirably. Treasurer Nancy Frame picked up my commitment to go to Washington, D.C. (February 7–13) to lobby with National Audubon Society on Population Lobby Day and address serious funding cuts. Skimmer Editor Michael Sperling has shared post office pickup responsibilities with Nancy Frame. And, as always, Michael has continued to do an exceptional job with the Skimmer. Michael Goldsmith has assumed my responsibilities in the protest against development of a sixth golf course at Bethpage State Park. Lorraine Goldsmith is considering picking up as SSAS representative on the South Shore Estuary Reserve Technical Advisory Committee (now, that is a mouthful; no wonder it is referred to as the SSER-TAC).

Paul Butkereit, with the help of Betty Borowsky, Joan Butkereit, Pat Eagen, Nancy Frame, Steve Goldberg, Joe Grupp, Mike Higgiston, Bill Hollweg, Marge Jaeger, Joe and Suzanne Lancer, Mandy Neet, Doris Pirodsky, Chris Schmitt, Porgy Smith, Marcia Specht, and Michael Sperling, has coordinated another very successful birdseed sale. These folks spent the better part of Super Bowl Sunday out in the cold filling seed orders, including some very heavy hauling of 40 and 50 pound bags of birdseed from the truck to customer's vehicles. *All hauling done voluntarily*. Profits from the seed sale go to support T.R. Sanctuary in Oyster Bay. [Editor's interruption: Our yet-to-be-identified Octo-

NEXT MEETING

Sandy Brenner & Steve Goldberg

DATE: Tuesday, March 11, 1997

TIME: 8:00 p.m. (2) [Letter of the Month at 7:30]

PLACE: Freeport Memorial Library

144 W. Merrick Rd. (at S. Ocean Ave.)

SPEAKER: Tom Torma TOPIC: The Fertile Rock

It is all too easy to forget what the environmental movement is all about. Too often, environmentalists get involved in H.R. numbers [for bills in the U.S. House of Representatives], bond acts, budgets, conferences, and other political activities. In fact, the movement is about maintaining life on our planet.

Life on our planet gets most of its energy from the sun. This energy causes the atmosphere to move and water to evaporate, creating weather. The wind and rain erode rocks, forming soil that allows plants to grow. Using matter from the soil, water, and air, along with energy from the sun, plants produce food. Some animals then consume the plants, which in turn become food for the predators. When the predators and other life-forms die, bacteria, fungi, scavengers, and other recyclers return the matter to the earth for the use of future generations. The slide program "The Fertile Rock" uses song, music, and poetry to demonstrate our ecological system and the effects humans have on it. Join us!

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

ber sale volunteers included Carole Adams, Marge Bodenburg, Clint Combes, Joanne Tow, and eight of the names above.]

I have been remiss in thanking Carole Neidich-Ryder,
 Associate Curator of Tackapausha Museum and Preserve
 in Seaford, and Nassau County Department of Recreation
 and Parks for again allowing us to use parking lot space to

conduct our seed sale. If you stop in for a visit to the museum (\$1 for adults, 50¢ for kids), you will be amazed. While you're there, pick up a trail guide and take a wonderful walk through a very diverse habitat hosting approximately 100 species of birds and about 10 species of other wildlife. Take time to look at the diverse species of trees and plants while you're out there too. One more thing: While you walk and observe, give some thought to becoming a volunteer with Tackapausha. Too many of us (self included) have not been paying close enough attention to what a great place Tackapausha Museum and Preserve is. To steal a line from Benjamin Franklin, "You tell me and I forget, You teach me and I remember, You involve me and I learn." That's what Tackapausha is all about; get involved.

Wow. When I get going sometimes... Anyway, back to South Shore Audubon Society and what's happening. Of course, I missed the Pelham Park owl prowl. But, I didn't miss hearing all about the Great Horned Owl, Long-eared Owl, and Saw-whet Owl dining on a mouse. It doesn't get much better than that, especially if the February Sunday is sunny and fifty-degrees. It was a great day for everyone.

In closing, I just want to say a big THANK YOU for all the cards, calls, and well wishes. A truly gracious couple, I won't mention names (George and Sally Popkin — so I lied!) sent over a copy of *Heart of the Land*, containing essays about some of the last great places in the United States, Latin America, and the Pacific. One of the essays, written by Peter Matthiessen, was about eastern Long Island and how it used to be. It's such essays that make it easier to stand strong against proposals to develop golf courses on the last undeveloped parcel of land, consisting of scrub oak and pitch pine, in Bethpage State Park. To steal again, this time from the closing paragraph from Mr. Matthiessen's essay, "In a respectful attitude toward Earth lies true prosperity; we are not separate from what we are destroying."

Having said all that, do your part, join the *Armchair Activists*, join us out on our Sunday morning bird walks and at our meetings. Again and always, thanks for reading the *Skimmer*. Hope to see you soon.



Elliatt 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. 23	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
Mar. 2	Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
Mar. 9	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Mar. 16	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
Mar. 23	Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner
Mar. 30	Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
Apr. 6	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
Apr. 13	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

CONSERVATION REPORT

Betty Borowsky

There are two things I want to talk about this month, and it is interesting that they deal with issues at both ends of the human spectrum; with *all* individuals in the United States, and with individual children. Let's start with the former:

An Environmental Amendment to the Constitution. There is some serious discussion about an amendment to the Constitution to add another civil right: the right to a clean and healthful environment. The idea was floated two years or so ago, when it looked as if environmental laws (and some of the most fundamental ones) might be overturned or at least diluted by a new bunch of legislators bent on removing impediments to business.

While the mood has definitely changed in Congress, and the laws are not now in serious jeopardy — thanks to all of you the Congressmen learned that their sentiments were contrary to most Americans' - it was a scary time. And the threat of an insurgence of anti-environment actions is always around the corner. Why, even now, the new EPA initiative to clean the air has been delayed because "It is critical for the American people to have a thorough, fair and informed public debate on the EPA proposal" (New York Times, Sunday, February 2, 1997). This in the face of escalating numbers of hospitalizations and deaths from asthma, and increasing concentrations of ozone during the summer months. Just look over at New York City when you're going over the Throgs Neck Bridge and see whether there can be any justification for delay. Personally, I don't like messing with the Constitution. It works very well and I don't want to fix it. On the other hand, monitoring the myriad of relevant laws, initiatives, and lobbyists is exhausting work. And most of it is done either by nonprofit organizations on a shoestring budget or by unpaid volunteers like us. It's an uphill battle. Let us see what form the proposed amendment takes before we take a position on it.

Day Camp Scholarship for Low Income Children. SSAS has funded an annual scholarship for one youngster to attend a week of National Audubon Society's youth camp in Maine for some time. There are no income restrictions to qualify for this scholarship. I am happy to announce that the SSAS Board has voted to establish another scholarship for children, but this one would be restricted to children of low income families in the SSAS catchment area. We hope to send five children to TR Sanctuary for one week during the summer. The children must be between the ages of 5 and 11 (kindergarten to sixth grade), and their families must meet a needs assessment. If you know of any child who would be interested, please contact Suzanne Lancer, Carole Adams, or me.

ADIRONDACKS SUBDIVISION PROPOSED

The following is excerpted from a January 9th news release and an Adirondack Council action alert that were sent to your editor by Audubon's Albany office. For an update, listen to National Audubon's New York State Legislative Representative Suzanna Dwyer's words of wisdom on the NY Activist Hotline — (800) 414-ACTN.

Environmental Groups Urge Governor to Purchase 15,000-Acre Parcel Proposed for Subdivision by Whitneys. The Whitney family today proposed subdividing a 15,000-acre swath of land at the north end of its estate in Long Lake, asking the Adirondack Park Agency for permission to cut the land into 40 separate lots, in addition to three new lots in the same area that were approved by the APA just six months ago.

The Adirondack Council and its national and statewide member organizations responded to the announcement by calling on Governor George E. Pataki to purchase the entire 15,000 acres being offered for sale and to add it to the "Forever Wild" Adirondack Forest Preserve.

"Governor Pataki has a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to forever protect one of the most important parcels of land in the United States," said Adirondack Council Executive Director Timothy J. Burke. "With money from the newly approved Clean Water/Clean Air Bond Act or from the NYS Environmental Protection Fund, the state is prepared to take immediate action to prevent the subdivision and destruction of some of the best wildlife habitat and recreational lands in the Adirondack Park. The Governor must act now."

"This subdivision plan represents the greatest threat to the integrity of the Adirondack Park's ecosystems since the APA was founded more than 20 years ago," said David J. Miller, Executive Director of the National Audubon Society of New York State. "We need the Governor to personally intervene and use his conservation leadership to prevent this tragedy."

The land in question includes nine remote, pristine ponds in addition to Little Tupper Lake. Burke added that the parcel is at the heart of the proposed Oswegatchie/Bob Marshall Great Wilderness Area (a 408,000-acre wildland area that would be created by combining the existing Five Ponds, Pepperbox, and Pigeon Lake Wilderness areas with intervening private land — as it becomes available).

The entire 50,000-acre Whitney Estate is listed as a high priority for state acquisition in the NYS Open Space Conservation Plan.

Now for the Action Alert: Governor Pataki heard our call and has announced that the state will try to buy this land. The Governor's commitment, however, is only the first step in saving this property. The application for the subdivision permit is now in the hands of the APA. Whitney Industries will pursue this subdivision. We need your help. What can you do? Please write a letter to Governor

George E. Pataki, Executive Chamber, NYS Capitol, Albany, NY 12224 and tell him:

- You consider the purchase of the 15,000 acres of the Whitney property to be of utmost importance to the future of the Adirondack Park. Praise him for taking the initiative to pursue this great opportunity.
- The APA should require the Whitneys to submit a master plan for their entire 51,000-acre property before any discussions can begin on this proposed subdivision.
- The Park Agency should take this project to hearing so that the public can have an opportunity to comment on this large subdivision that will shape the future of the park.
- You consider this matter to be the most important project to come before the Park Agency and the APA must give this subdivision application the complete and detailed analysis it deserves before any action is taken.

BRONX ZOO TRIP

As announced in the last *Skimmer*, SSAS will once again be visiting the Bronx Zoo/Wildlife Conservation Park on Saturday, April 5th. At press time there were still some seats available on the school bus; they cost less than tolls and parking if you go alone. Admission will be an additional \$6.75 (\$3 for seniors).

The bus will leave from the Merrick Road Park Golf Course parking lot in Merrick (just east of the Meadowbrook Parkway; the entrance is on the south side of Merrick Road) at 9 A.M. and return there at about 4:30 P.M. We expect to be led on morning and afternoon tours by docents. You can bring lunch with you or buy fast-food zoo cuisine.

Checks for \$12 made out to South Shore Audubon Society should be received by March 5th. Please send checks to Diane Singer (561-6118, call between 5 & 8 P.M. if possible), 118 Kent Road, Valley Stream, NY 11580 and include the following form:

A	
NAME:	
PHONE NUMBER:	
NUMBER OF PEOPLE:	
AMOUNT ENCLOSED:	

THE AUDUBON ADVISORY

The Audubon Advisory is National Audubon Society's weekly national legislative update. The parts of the January 10th and 17th editions reprinted below will hopefully encourage you to get involved in influencing our elected politicians — several of whom claim to care about the environment but regularly vote against regulations and funding. You can help protect our environment by becoming part of National Audubon's Armchair Activist program; you'll receive a monthly mailing about one state or federal issue and a sample letter for inspiration — just write or call SSAS's Mary Jane Russell (766-7397) and she'll add you to our mailing list.

Back With a Vengeance? As the 105th Congress begins its session, the *Advisory* takes a look at what's in store for the environment.

Endangered Species Act. We anticipate that ESA reauthorization (and it could happen this year) will happen in the Senate. Sources in the House indicate that moderate Republicans plan to wait for Senate action on the ESA. However, Rep. Don Young (R-AK), newly reelected chair of the House Resources Committee, has called upon Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt to outline the Clinton administration's preferred revisions to the Endangered Species Act by April 1.

Forests. The clearcut rider finally expired on December 31st, which means new salvage sales must now comply with environmental laws. All sales offered before the law expired, including a whole host in the rider's final days, continue without public oversight, however.

The future promises more bills imitating the salvage rider, but also some positive legislation. The most visible threat is another bill from Senator Larry Craig (R-ID)

designed to marginalize public participation in the management of our national forests. Similar to last year's clearcut "salvage" rider and forest health logging bill, this bill circumvents our major environmental laws in order to facilitate logging. Perhaps even more dangerous are potential compromise-type

bills from Senate Democrats on issues like forest health logging. Members of the House plan to introduce their own forest health and salvage logging legislation this year.

While we are defending against these threats, we will be promoting legislation which should benefit forest ecosystems. The bills with the highest chance for success in the 105th Congress (which has promised fiscal responsibility) would cut harmful forest subsidies, including road-building subsidies, salvage subsidies, and below-cost timber sales. A bipartisan group in the House plans to introduce a forest reform bill.

Appropriations. President Clinton will release his Fiscal Year 1998 budget in early February. Audubon has

been lobbying the Administration to increase the funding requests for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF), Endangered Species Act (ESA) implementation, the Biological Resources Division of the U.S. Geological Survey [formerly the National Biological Service (NBS)], and other Audubon priorities.

The President's budget is critical in laying the groundwork for a successful appropriations effort later in the year. If the President makes protecting our natural resources a priority in his budget, Congress will be forced to reexamine the budgeted funding levels for environmental programs. The President's budget sets the stage for the upcoming appropriations battles in the 105th Congress.

Soon after the President releases his budget, Congress will develop its budget for the upcoming fiscal year. The Congressional budget process determines funding levels for all government spending. Efforts to balance the federal budget mean nondefense discretionary spending, including funding for environmental programs, will receive deep cuts. Over the past three fiscal years, programs we care about have been budgeted fewer and fewer dollars.

Once Congress votes on a final budget resolution, required by law to be on or before April 15th, the appropriations process begins. The Appropriations Committees must work within the budget parameters set by the Budget Committee.

Wetlands. Thanks to tremendous support from Audubon volunteers and environmentalists nationwide, the Army Corps of Engineers recently announced its decision to rescind nationwide permit 26 completely, effective December 1998.

Nationwide permit 26 allowed for the filling of up to ten acres of wetlands without an individual permit application and without any advance public notice. In the interim, the ceiling for use of nationwide 26 has been lowered to three acres, with preconstruction notification required for projects affecting one-third of an acre or more. Although there is cause for celebration, we must also be wary. Various developer groups, including the National Wetlands Coalition, have begun to beat the drum for legislation in Congress to reinstate nationwide permit 26.

National Wildlife Refuges. Yesterday [January 16th], House Resources Committee Chairman Don Young (R-AK), Subcommittee Chairman Jim Saxton (R-NJ), and Congressman John Dingell (D-MI) introduced the 105th Congress' successor to last Congress' ill-fated H.R. 1675 [which the House passed, but not the Senate], the so-called "Wildlife Refuge Improvement Act." The "National Wildlife Refuge System Improvement Act of 1997," H.R. 511, shows little improvement over H.R. 1675. Our main concerns include:

★ Hunting, fishing, and wildlife observation are elevated to purposes of the National Wildlife Refuge System, given coequal status with bird and wildlife conservation (currently, the NWRS is the only public lands system that puts wildlife and habitat conservation first). This means

that, if enacted, ecological programs on wildlife refuges would compete head to head with recreational programs for scarce federal dollars — we don't need to speculate about who has the louder voice!

- ★ The bill automatically makes hunting, fishing, and wildlife observation compatible uses on wildlife refuges in spite of instances where these uses are clearly harmful to birds, wildlife, and habitat.
- ♠ Other harmful uses, including jet skiing and waterskiing on "navigational servitudes" within or adjacent to wildlife refuge boundaries, appear to be exempted by this bill.
- ★ The bill appears to encourage additional state management of wildlife refuges or parts thereof, and makes secondary uses of these areas exempt from compatibility determinations.
- Military overflights and activities conducted on wildlife refuges by other federal departments or agencies who have primary jurisdiction are exempted from meeting compatibility determinations.

Audubon is working with other conservation organizations in developing alternative legislation that truly seeks to improve management of the Wildlife Refuge System.

THEM ARE HUMMERS

M R HUMRS M R NOT HUMRS M R 2 HUMRS M R NOT O S A R CM EDBD FEET LIB M R HUMRS



[Editor's Note: Back when our Prez had two working knees (at the October birdseed sale, I think), I saw her wearing a shirt that contained similar gibberish about ducks — I couldn't figure that one out, either. Carole received this as Audubon-chat e-mail and forwarded it to me. The translation is: Them are hummers, them are not hummers, them are too hummers, them are not, oh yes they are, see them iddy biddy feet, well I'll be, them are hummers. Now aren't you glad you read this?]



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

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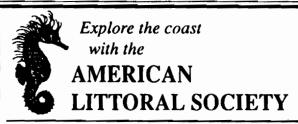
SSAS Mission Statement — The mission of South Shore Audubon Society is to promote environmental education, and preserve and restore our environment, through responsible activism, for the benefit of both people and wildlife.

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.

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE

South Shore Audubon Society will be awarding the \$1000 Jerry Bishop Environmental Scholarship to someone who will be a junior, senior, or graduate student this fall at any college. Applicants must be working on a degree in an area related to the environment, such as ecology, marine biology, forestry, ornithology, mammalogy, or animal behavior. For information, contact Betsy Gulotta at 546-8841; the deadline to apply is April 1st.

Brookside Preserve Meeting. SSAS's Brookside Committee is scheduled to meet on Tuesday night, February 25th, in Merrick; call Betsy for details.



NEW YORK SYMPOSIUM (Friday, March 14) Noted artist and author Richard Ellis will present a program on his new book, Deep Atlantic: Life, Death and Exploration in the Abyss. Reservation required. American Museum of Natural History, 7:30 P.M. Cost: \$10.

NEW YORK AQUARIUM (Saturday, March 22) Meet at 10 A.M. at Aquarium entrance for 2-1/2 hour "behind-the-scenes" tour. Cost: \$12 (kids \$8).

BREAKFAST ON THE BAY (Saturday, May 31) Three-hour ecology tour of Jamaica Bay aboard the 96-foot vessel Dorothy B VIII. Cost: \$25 includes homemade buffet.

MONTAUK WEEKEND (June 6-8) Extended weekend of natural history exploration. Cost: \$245 covers two nights at Montauk Manor, five meals, five field trips, and two evening programs; optional whale watch. Call Don.

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

** WELCOME NEW MEMBERS **

Marion Yavarkovsky

New members — you are just in time to join us as the spring migration begins. Sunday bird walks, monthly meetings, trips, committees, and the Birdathon are all waiting for your participation. Join us! [For information on SSAS membership, please call our Membership Chairperson, Marion Yavarkovsky, at 379-2090. The best time to call is after 4 P.M., Monday through Friday.]

Baldwin	Evelyn Greenfield
Bellmore	Dorothy Cunningham,
	Ed Kampfer
Copiague	William & Caroline Mauer
East Meadow	_
Hicksville	V. Beltrani, Leo Tabrys,
	Milton Thrush
Long Beach	Florence Levenbaum,
-	Beatrice Zaffe
Lynbrook	Mr. Matthew M. Bayer
Malverne	
Massapequa	C. McGuire
Massapequa Park	
Merrick	Florence Hettinger
Uniondale	Judith Skuza
Valley Stream	R. Mac Knight, Toni Martin,
-	Mary Uhlar
West Hempstead	William Zarou
Woodmere	Sondra Leon
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BIRDING IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Mike Higgiston

Bird-watching is an interesting pastime and it appeals to many people because there are so many facets to the hobby. A birder could be a backyard feeder watcher, a bird bander, an environmental activist, a bird tour guide, a bird club organizer, or a bird lister. Most people combine a little bit of all of these things and are never bored. There are Christmas Bird Counts, birdathons, duck surveys, breeding bird surveys, letter-writing campaigns, school presentations, and birding trips to just about anywhere to see as many new birds as possible. I confess to this last obsession. I've traveled to Arizona, Texas, Florida, Alaska, and a host of places in between to seek out new species for my life list. Last November, this ambition drove me to San Francisco for two pelagic trips and some land birding in an area that I had never before visited.

Bill Hollweg (Bill the Birder) and I arrived on a Friday and spent the day getting ready for our first boat trip the next day. Saturday morning found us at the Bodega Bay dock at 6 A.M. boarding a boat that was scheduled to go about 40 miles into the Pacific to Cordell Banks, an underwater seamount that provides shallow nearshore habitat in a deepwater offshore outer continental shelf

location, to look for Northern California ocean species. The real attraction to these trips and to the bird listers who take them are the possible sightings of birds way off course that would never be expected to be seen near San Francisco. The weather was reasonable and the swells not too uncomfortable, and everyone was able to enjoy the trip without a trace of seasickness. And what a trip! There were gulls, loons, grebes, pelicans, egrets, herons, and ducks, as well as the target birds that everyone hoped to see. A Laysan Albatross sat on the water in the wake of a fishprocessing ship and waited patiently for scraps and gave us great views. It is a beautiful bird, but the real stars of the show were the shearwaters that went whizzing by just inches from the waves. Flesh-footed, Short-tailed, Pinkfooted, and Sooty Shearwaters entertained us regularly and flew close enough to the boat that we were able to make out the distinguishing characteristics of each. But the prettiest of all was the Buller's Shearwater with its very distinctive w-pattern on its wings. Absolutely gorgeous. Auklets and murrelets kept us entertained on the way back to the dock.

The next day found us in Eldorado National Forest, about 30 miles east of Sacramento, with a buddy of mine



that I had met on another bird trip. Tim took us around to look for Northern California land species and we were rewarded with California Quail, Anna's Hummingbird, Acorn Woodpecker, Black Phoebe, Scrub Jay, Steller's Jay, Wrentit, Bushtit, Mountain Chickadee, Western Bluebird, Hutton's Vireo, Spotted and California Towhees, and Golden-crowned Sparrow, among others. But the highlight of our visit

to the national forest was the sight of a Williamson's Sapsucker and a White-headed Woodpecker (pictured) side by side on the same tree limb about 10 feet away from us. And people ask why I do this!!

The latter part of the day was spent driving to Monterey to be up early on Monday for our second water trip, this one exploring Monterey Bay. It was a veritable cornucopia of riches for an eastern birder. Pacific Loon; Western Grebe; Black-vented Shearwater; Pelagic and Brandt's Cormorants; Black Turnstone; Heermann's, Mew, and Thayer's Gulls; Elegant Tern; and Pigeon Guillemot filled our binoculars. We returned to the dock with plenty of daylight remaining and left for Mission Trails Park in Carmel because there had been reports of a Painted Redstart seen there. We saw a Chestnut-backed Chickadee, and Audubon's and Townsend's Warblers, but no redstart.

We spent the next day poking around Monterey. Mountain Quail can sometimes be found on Chews Ridge, about 35 miles south. It's in the middle of the forest and worth the trip even if the quail proves elusive, as it did this day. We visited Pinnacles National Monument, an overlooked and under-visited national park. We spotted a bobcat as we drove into the park. Around the parking lot we located a

California Thrasher, Say's Phoebe, and Band-tailed Pigeon. We left Pinnacles and headed north to join the California freeway traffic to San Francisco. We stopped at one more wetlands area and found Marbled Godwit, American Avocet, Black-necked Stilt, Western Meadowlark, and Yellow-billed Magpie. The first trip west is always an exciting adventure for an eastern birder. And just as exciting is the anticipation of the second trip west. I can't wait.

Stamps Still Wanted. I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the stamps for birds project that was initiated in November. Although our volume of mail peaked in December, the stamp collecting project will continue. If you can continue to stockpile all your used postage stamps and bring them in to me periodically, your efforts will be greatly appreciated. Thank you for your continued support. [Editor's note: Please bring undamaged, unpeeled stamps (cut from envelopes) to SSAS events, for forwarding to the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds in England, which sells them to help finance land acquisition and other activities.]

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 March 1st. See last month's *Skimmer* for details on Audubon's summertime camps (this year's adult scholarship is to Greenwich, Connecticut; the youth scholarship is always to Maine); call Suzanne Lancer at 536-6574 for a brochure and application. Carole Adams recently received the following note:

"This past summer my son was the recipient of the Youth Camp Scholarship. I cannot begin to tell you what an experience it was for Billy. He has been interested in nature since Kindergarten and studies it on his own. He does not know anyone of his age who is as interested in nature as he is. So to go to Maine, meet all the other children, and study nature from morning 'til night for ten days on an island chock-full of things to learn about in nature — it was like being in heaven to him!

Billy has a photo album with pictures of his Maine experience — we have looked through it at least a million and two times! And every time he talks about his "camp tales," the excitement and enjoyment come back to his eyes — as if it were yesterday. One night, Bill came into the living room and announced "I miss Maine" and you could hear it in his voice — he really did miss Maine.

The Youth Ecology Camp was a wonderful experience and opportunity for Billy. I am sure nothing he ever does will match that first experience he had in Maine. And I thank you and all the members of your Audubon Society for making the scholarship possible.

I am sure that even when he is a young man Bill will remember the experience fondly and that a group of people whom he had never met made it possible for him to go. Our sincere thanks, Nancy Werner."

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 Society. The following programs are open to the public. Space is limited and registration is required. All program fees are required at the time of registration.

Sunday, March 2nd (1 to 3 P.M., family) — Maple Sugaring. Discover the inner workings of the stately trees of Long Island. We will teach you to tap trees, collect sap, and make maple syrup. Welcome the arrival of spring with your family. TRS members \$5, nonmembers \$7.

Saturday, March 8th (2 to 4 P.M., family) — The Wild Edibles of Our Native Peoples. Spicebush tea, maple syrup, cornbread, and native berries are all foods that were eaten by Long Island's native peoples. Identify, taste, and prepare these foods just as they did. TRS members \$5, nonmembers \$7.

Weekend of March 15th & 16th (10 A.M. to 5 P.M.) — Spring Wildlife Expo. The Sanctuary will be hosting a weekend of wild fun at the Hay Barn in **Planting Fields Arboretum**. We will be teaching natural history with your favorite Sanctuary Animal Educators in flight demonstrations and fun interactive programs every hour. Crafts, displays, and walks will be included for all participants who come out and enjoy a day of wildlife. Children \$3, adults \$5, families \$15.

Wednesday, March 26th (7 to 9 P.M.) — Owl Prowl. How many of you have seen an owl? A Sanctuary naturalist will increase your chances of doing just that. We will present our live owls to demonstrate their adaptations. Then we will search the grounds for wild owls. TRS members \$5, nonmembers \$7.

Saturday, March 29th (10 A.M. to 12 P.M., ages 6 to 12) — Eggcetera!! Frogs, fish, lizards, and of course birds will all be featured in order to help illustrate one of nature's most incredible inventions. Egg tasting and coloring will make this program a hands-on experience for all who attend. TRS members \$3, nonmembers \$5.

Saturday, April 12th (9:30 to 11:30 A.M., South Shore Audubon Society) — Songbird Banding and Tour of TRS. SSAS will be visiting for a demonstration of how the Sanctuary uses banding as a research technique. Bird banding turns a usually nondescript bird into an individual with the addition of a nine digit number. You will be able to see and photograph common bird species in the hand and learn more about the Sanctuary's avian research efforts. The species most likely to be caught in the mist nets are Black-capped Chickadees and Tufted Titmice, plus Red-winged Blackbirds and maybe a few other early migrants. Free; try to carpool; bring lunch if you'd like to stay a while longer.

1996-1997 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Carole A. Adams, President	731-4425
Betty Borowsky, Vice President & Conservation Legislation Chairperson	764-3596
Nancy Frame, Treasurer	
Christine Schmitt, Recording Secretary	
Doris Pirodsky, Corresponding Secretary	
James Hartnett, Director (6/99)	
Bill Hollweg, Director (6/99)	
Henry Levine, Director (6/98)	328-8736
Annie F. McIntyre, Director (6/98)	379-2206
Suzanne Lancer, Director (6/97) & Education Chairperson (7 to 9 P.M.)	536-6574
Jonathan Staller, Director (6/97) & Environmental Festivals Coordinator	822-5957
Sandy Brenner, Program Co-Chairperson	
Paul Butkereit, Bird Seed Savings Day	623-0843
Steven G. Goldberg, Program Co-Chairperson	798-0335
Joseph Grupp, Duck Survey	
Betsy Gulotta, Brookside Preserve Committee Chairperson	546-8841
Marge Jaeger, Fund-raising Chairperson	536-9166
Elliott Kutner, Birding / Field Trips Chairperson	486-7667
Joseph Lancer, Binocular / Book Sales (7 to 9 P.M.)	536-6574
Amanda Neet, Special Events On-Site Coordinator	
George Popkin, Financial Advisor (8 to 9 P.M.)	378-4467
Doreen Remsen, Birdathon Co-Chairperson	472-6830
James Remsen, Jr., Birdathon Co-Chairperson	764-5168
Dolores Rogers, Welcoming Committee Chairperson	
Mary Jane Russell, Armchair Activist Chairperson	
Diane Singer, Publicity (5 to 8 P.M.)	561-6118
Porgy Smith, Environmental Information Chairperson	
Marcia Specht, Hospitality Chairperson	
Michael Sperling, Skimmer Editor	
Marion Yavarkovsky, Membership Chairperson	

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

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