



- Sept. 21 Hempstead Lake State Park (Exit 18, first lot south of Southern State Parkway)
- Sept. 28 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- Oct. 5 Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
- Oct. 12 Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner

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**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

*Marion Yavarkovsky*

SSAS welcomes you. We are an active, dedicated group that welcomes "new blood." Please join us at our weekly bird walks, monthly meetings (which resume in September), and special events. These are all for you. Join us.

[To receive an application for membership in National Audubon Society and SSAS, please call our Membership Chairperson, Marion Yavarkovsky, at 379-2090. The best time to call is after 4 P.M., Monday through Friday. Introductory membership is \$20 (\$15 for students and senior citizens).]

- Baldwin..... Mr. William Isenberg
- Bellmore..... Lawrence J. Cohen,  
Mr. Edgar Hausman
- East Meadow..... Victoria A. Pedersen
- Elmont..... Janice Brown, Mrs. J. F. Golick
- Farmingdale..... The De Rienzo Family,  
Karen Durso
- Freeport..... N. Mc Kenna, Mr. Calvin E. Meyer
- Garden City..... Henry & Irma Becker, Jeanne  
Dyche, Bronwyn Hannon,  
Robert & Phoebe Mc Millian,  
Robert & Frieda Stark,  
Al & Muriel Urban
- Glen Oaks..... Luis Mateus
- Hempstead..... Nat Bailey
- Hicksville..... Mr. Henry G. Chupka,  
Anne Pawelczak
- Levittown..... Mr. Ronald SanFilippo, Steven  
Schneider, Helen Zirkel
- Long Beach..... Mrs. A. J. Cappitelli, Virginia  
Emerson, Ernie Verdeschi
- Lynbrook..... Caryl Mac Gregor
- Malverne..... Grace Engracia, Ms. Patricia Sallie
- Massapequa..... Francine Bernard,  
Mr. Theodore Mulle
- Massapequa Park..... James J. Jones, Mrs. Olivia Spitz
- Merrick..... Jane Rankin
- Seaford..... Mr. James A. Brassil
- Uniondale..... Raymond P. Miller
- Valley Stream..... Eileen Carpenter, Mr. Thomas  
Doherty, Ms. Rosalie Jungreis,  
Schyia Max, D. Reid
- Wantagh..... John Ryan
- Woodmere..... Ms. Marjorie Stolzar



**TRYING TO FIND THOSE SECLUDED FLORIDIAN OWLS**

*Jonathan Staller*

Did you ever have the experience of someone giving you directions to see a certain bird? Well, my brother Jason and I had that chance when we went to Florida during the first week of April. The bird was the Burrowing Owl and it would be a new life bird for us, but of course we went to see other birds, too!

In March 1996, we'd also gone to Florida and knocked some excellent birds off our lists (Snail Kite, Monk Parakeet, Limpkin, Short-tailed Hawk, Loggerhead Shrike, Black Vulture, and Swallow-tailed Kite, just to name a few). They were new birds for us at the time, but there was no Burrowing Owl, which is why we planned our second trip.

We started at Loxahatchee National Wildlife Refuge, which is off Route 441 just west of West Palm Beach. We saw a Sora in the marsh area, a Pileated Woodpecker drilling a hole in a cypress tree, and alligators floating in the canals. Last year, we saw the Limpkin, Snail Kite, and Short-tailed Hawk in this area. In the main pond there was a mixture of White and Glossy Ibises; Snowy, Cattle, and Great Egrets; and Great Blue, Little Blue, and Green Herons. Along the phragmite reeds were American Coots, Common and Purple Gallinules, and some Pied-billed Grebes. On the other side of the pond we saw 23 Black-necked Stilts, Mottled and Whistling Tree Ducks, and some Blue-winged Teal. I even saw a Killdeer doing its broken wing display; the bird was protecting four eggs. Flying above us were American Anhingas, Turkey Vultures, Common and Boat-tailed Grackles, and an American Kestrel.

From there we proceeded to the Lake Worth pier on the Atlantic Ocean. We saw three White-tailed Tropicbirds fly by, along with a female Magnificent Frigatebird. There were also Brown Pelicans and a Royal Tern trying to grab the bait off a fishing pole. The locals use the pier to fish, but visitors can rent a pole there too.

The next day was our big trip to see the Burrowing Owls. We drove west on Route 80 toward National Audubon's Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary. Along the way we saw a Crested Caracara flying overhead and my brother spotted two Limpkins (pictured) near the canal along the road. We also saw two Swallow-tailed Kites at two different locations while we were driving.



Just as we arrived at Corkscrew, a Pileated Woodpecker flew over the car. SSAS member Steve Goldberg had told me that there were Barred Owls at the Sanctuary and that you can get really close to them. The Burrowing Owls, a ranger told me, were north of Ft. Myers, and time permitting we would be able to make it there



**HAPPY SUMMER**

*Gayle Wertz*

[Editor’s Note: Gayle Wertz is the NYS Licensed Wildlife Rehabilitator and former *Skimmer* editor who passed the Limpkin clip art down to me.]

Springtime brings insects, which in turn bring all types of insecticides. Many insecticides affect the nervous system of the bugs and do kill them. Unfortunately, some of the companies spraying these toxins are unconcerned about the ramifications of their actions. They aim powerful sprays, powered by a motor on the truck, into high trees. Baby birds and baby squirrels, who cannot escape their fragile nests, absorb the poison through their delicate skin. We have rescued these babies as they lie convulsing on the ground. They finally die in twisted agony. Numerous others perish in their nests, never noticed by humans, but most certainly witnessed by their helpless parents.

Poisons are also applied to grass and shrubs. Birds eat bugs from the ground and bushes, and so ingest poisoned insects. So, you have eliminated the grubs, caterpillars, etc. — but was it worth the torturous deaths of the “nontarget” wildlife? Dogs, cats, and barefoot humans play on this grass. Skin is porous and does absorb!

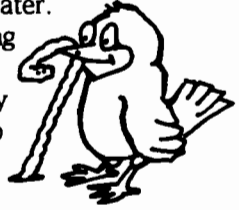
Imagine that your windows are open on a balmy June morning. A nice breeze is blowing through the windows. Along comes the chemical truck and they begin spraying your neighbor’s property. A portion of that toxic chemical may filter through your windows. Do you have a pet bird in that room? Do you have a baby? Is uncovered food on your counter? It certainly makes you think, doesn’t it? Is someone feeling sick the following day? Did the pesticide land on your fresh laundry, drying outdoors? Is your skin irritated as you wear these clothes or as you sleep on these sheets?

It is time to investigate alternative methods of pest control. Enough damage has been forced on our fragile environment and into our water source. Contaminated land/water runoffs pour into our sewer systems and eventually into our lakes, canals, streams, and bays. It seeps into our underground water supply (aquifer). We drink the water, wash our bodies and clothes, and water our fruits and vegetables. To purify this water, we add ... chemicals!

Some towns have enacted airborne substance legislation that requires commercial applicator companies to notify adjacent property owners five days prior to their pesticide application. Neighbors can be prepared to shelter their children and pets during the spraying assault. [Nassau County’s law was blocked when a court ruled that only our state legislature can require notification.]

**Alternatives.** Insects can be kept to a minimum by planting marigolds in your vegetable garden. Identify your pest insects and understand their biology and natural enemies. Maintain a healthy soil, enriched by compost. Care for birds in your yard. Feed good quality birdseed

once a day during spring, summer, and fall (all day during winter). That will attract them to your yard. For the rest of the day, provide clean drinking water. They will repay your kindness by eating the insects.



Companion planting is a lengthy topic, but I will list a few ideas: to repel ants, plant spearmint, tansy, and pennyroyal; for Japanese beetles, plant garlic, larkspur, and red buckeye; for spider mites and squash vine borer, plant onions, garlic, and cloves; and for tomato hornworm, plant marigolds and sage.

Commercial bug-scent traps are good because they only harm the insects and not the wildlife. You can mix 2 to 3 tablespoons of liquid dish soap per gallon of water and spray flowers and leaves. Spray under the leaves, where bugs hide. After two hours, rinse the flowers and leaves well.

By employing natural methods of pest control, you will be saving wildlife as well as the nontarget beings. It is truly enjoyable to be in a yard or garden that is healthy and filled with singing birds and scurrying squirrels. We can all coexist with nature’s creatures. Happy, healthy summer!

[A six-page brochure entitled “Home and Garden Pesticides: Questions and Answers About Safety and Alternatives” is available from the NYS Department of Law, Environmental Protection Bureau, State Capitol, Albany, NY 12224 or by calling the NYS Attorney General’s Nassau Regional Office in Mineola at 248-3302.]

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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.

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## THE AUDUBON ADVISORY

Michael Sperling

The following is excerpted from the May 2nd *Audubon Advisory*, which is sent out weekly by the Washington, D.C. office via e-mail [send the message "SUB audubon-news" (with the hyphen) to "listserv@list.audubon.org"]; my updating comments are in brackets. If you don't have access to e-mail or the Internet (SSAS's web page can be accessed through <http://www.audubon.org>), there are other ways you can keep informed about what our politicians are up to — and there's a Senator and a Congressman supposedly representing us who obviously aren't hearing from enough of us — SSAS will mail you monthly *Armchair Activist* alerts on a single federal or state issue, providing background information and a sample letter for you to write (it's free; call Mary Jane Russell at 766-7397 or send us your address and phone number); National Audubon Society has two toll-free numbers for tape-recorded updates that are in every *Skimmer*; and NAS will fax, phone, mail, or e-mail (your choice) alerts on one or more of their five priority campaigns (forest habitat, population and habitat, refuge, wetlands, and endangered species and wildlife; write to them at 1901 Pennsylvania Ave., NW #1100, Washington, DC 20009 or leave a message at 800-659-2622).

**Migratory Birds — Court Decision Echoes Recent Bird Policy Change.** As reported in last week's *Advisory*, the Fish and Wildlife Service now exempts the federal government and its agencies from the rules of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). For the first time in 80 years, agencies will no longer be held accountable for their actions that result in migratory bird kills. The MBTA permit requirements require both monitoring and mitigation for any killing of migratory birds.

On April 29th, the United States Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit ruled that the Migratory Bird Treaty Act does not apply to the federal government, echoing this recently issued Fish and Wildlife Service guidance memo. A similar case is pending before another federal circuit court, and several other MBTA cases may be filed in the coming weeks. We believe this issue may eventually reach the Supreme Court.

*Audubon's John Flicker Speaks Out.* In a press release issued early this week, Audubon President John Flicker called the Administration's policy change "stunning" and "completely unjustified." Noting that the policy was made without public hearings or public comment, Flicker urged the Administration to rescind its new policy and allow public participation before making the change. He also urged the Administration to direct all federal agencies to take additional steps to protect all migratory birds.

**Endangered Species — Newly Broadened Waiver About to Hit House Floor.** Congressman Don Young (R-Alaska) this week requested that the House leadership allow him to strike the Endangered Species Act rider

mentioned in last week's *Advisory* and instead bring H.R. 478, a much more damaging and broad ESA waiver, up for a vote. Introduced by Congressmen Pombo and Herger (both R-California), H.R. 478 would exempt all routine operation, maintenance, rehabilitation, repair, or replacement of any flood control project, facility, or structure from ESA consultation requirements. Endangered and threatened species that depend on aquatic, wetland, or riparian habitat would no doubt suffer from this waiver. [The House voted 227-196 in favor of an amendment by Sherry Boehlert (R-NY) to greatly improve H.R. 478; Young has temporarily pulled the bill.]

*Senate to Consider Similar Waiver.* Senator Craig (R-Idaho) has attached a nearly identical waiver to the Senate version of the supplemental appropriations bill [the emergency spending bill for flooded areas in the Midwest]. Senator Reid (D-Nevada) will offer an amendment to strike this language.

**Refuges — H.R. 511 Dead, Compromise Struck.** House Resources Committee Chairman Don Young has shelved H.R. 511, the "National Wildlife Refuge Improvement Act." Instead, the House will now consider a compromise bill, H.R. 1420, which establishes wildlife conservation as the clear mission of the National Wildlife Refuge System. The bill also elevates "wildlife-dependent recreation" (hunting, fishing, wildlife observation, photography, and environmental education) above other activities, such as grazing.

Unfortunately, H.R. 1420 misses important opportunities to provide more substantive protection for refuges and wildlife. Until the committee releases its report clarifying the intent behind H.R. 1420, Audubon will neither endorse nor oppose the bill [they strongly opposed H.R. 511]. We expect it to reach the House floor sometime in mid-late May.

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### THE JERRY BISHOP ENVIRONMENTAL SCHOLARSHIP

Betsy Gulotta

South Shore Audubon Society is pleased to announce that the recipient of the Jerry Bishop Environmental Scholarship for 1997 is Daniel Matthew Scheiman of East Meadow. Daniel will receive \$1000 to continue his education in environmental studies.

Daniel is a biology major at Cornell University, studying to be a field biologist specializing in ornithology. His interest began while birding with SSAS. Throughout his academic career at Cornell, he has continually made Dean's List while serving on several ecology and conservation committees. Dan stated, "through my biology and ecology course work in the Natural Resources Department at Cornell University, I've developed a conservation ethic ... to put my love of birds and knowledge of ecology to use."

Congratulations, Daniel, and best of luck to you in your academic endeavors.

**THE SEVENTH ANNUAL THANK-YOU COLUMN**

Michael Sperling

It's time once again to answer those burning questions: How'd the *Skimmer* get to the printer and the post office, and how'd that address label get stuck on there?

I'll keep you in suspense for a while by first thanking the people who contributed material to one or more of this year's nine issues: Carole Adams (for a record-breaking career total of 26 critically acclaimed President's Messages; our revised bylaws prohibit any president from writing more than 27; the limit used to be 18), Rob Alvey, Betty Borowsky, Sandy Brenner, Paul Butkerei, Nancy Frame, Steve Goldberg, Betsy Gulotta, Mike Higgiston, Elliott Kutner, Suzanne Lancer, Annie McIntyre, Mandy Neet, Jim & Doreen Remsen, Dolores Rogers, Mary Jane Russell, Morton Silver, Diane Singer, Jonathan Staller, Thomas Allen Stock, Gayle Wertz, and Marion Yavarkovsky.

F&B Printers deserves thanks for printing, collating, and folding every issue on time (in four days) and at a still-steady price. Thanks also to our regular advertisers, the American Littoral Society and Feed & Seed Barn.

Now for the answers to those burning questions about the volunteers whose much-appreciated efforts get recognized just once per year.

For 12 years, the mailing labels have been provided by our ever-reliable membership chairperson, Marion Yavarkovsky, and her husband David. Those labels are placed on *Skimmers* and Greening of Long Island fundraiser mailings by yours truly, my parents, the crew of people at Porgy Smith's Greening envelope-stuffing get-together (Betty Borowsky, Marge Jaeger, Doreen & Jim Remsen, Chris Schmitt, me, and, yes, Porgy), and, in a pinch, some unsuspecting Passover seder guests (my sister Vicki, cousin Marc, and other sister's boyfriend David).

SSAS's most active never-seen member, Jenny Krivanek, made another 14 Monday morning and Friday afternoon trips to our printer, reaching the career 100 trip mark and revising our Brookside Preserve guides while successfully missing every SSAS event during Carole Adams' presidency. Carole made one F&B trip, while I was able to do the other three. Sal Navasaitis, who can be spotted on bird walks and at some general meetings, deserves lots of thanks for mailing eight more *Skimmers* and even calling me to apologize for being on vacation when I mailed the ninth.

Thanks so much to all of the above, without whom I wouldn't be looking forward to another year as *Skimmer* editor. The next issue will be mailed out in mid-August.

**Remembering Suzanna.** As this *Skimmer* is being put together in early May, it seems too early to bid Carole Adams a very fond farewell; we won't be truly rid of her for several months! Unfortunately, the same can't be said about Suzanna Dwyer, who recently escaped from National Audubon's New York State Field Office to parts unknown.

In her five years in Albany, she did an astounding job of reaching out to chapters, tirelessly coordinating the *Armchair Activist* program and establishing (in the days before e-mail) the monthly nighttime NY Connection conference calls in which quadrants of chapters shared an 800 number and found out what was happening in Albany, Washington, and in other chapters. Suzanna was responsible for much more, including serving as the first editor of the *Audubon Advocate* newspaper and as the voice and creator of the NY Activist Hotline (800-414-ACTN).

Her Hotline messages always ended with these words: "We can make a difference, each one of us, if we work together. But it takes getting involved and making our voices heard. We'll help you do that. Until next time, be well and Earth conscious." Amen.

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**OUR 25th ANNUAL DINNER**

Diane Singer and Shirley Kutner have once again reserved the Banquet Room at Pompei Restaurant and Catering in West Hempstead for SSAS's annual dinner, to be held on **Tuesday, June 10th**. The price remains \$20 per person, which includes a cocktail hour with hot hors d'oeuvres at 6:30 and dinner at 7:30. Pompei's address is 401 Hempstead Avenue (take Southern State Parkway Exit 17 north).

Advance registration is **required**; please enclose the following form with your check payable to *South Shore Audubon Society* and mail them to Diane Singer, 118 Kent Road, Valley Stream, NY 11580.

✂\*\*\*\*\*

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_



ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT OF CHECK: \_\_\_\_\_



NUMBER OF PEOPLE: \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF EACH MENU CHOICE:

 Eggplant Rollatini \_\_\_\_\_  
 Filet of Sole Dijon \_\_\_\_\_

 Chicken Parmigiana \_\_\_\_\_  
 Roast Beef \_\_\_\_\_

or, if you prefer:

 Broiled Chicken \_\_\_\_\_  
 Broiled Sole \_\_\_\_\_

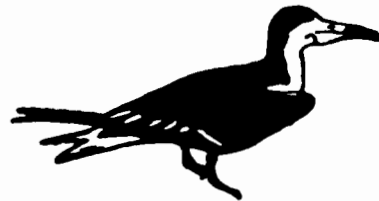
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Jonathan Staller, Director (6/97) & Environmental Festivals Coordinator .....	822-5957
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