# OUTH HORE KIMMER

VOLUME 27, NUMBER 9 — SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

JUNE, JULY & AUGUST 1997

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Carole A. Adams

This is my last President's Message, and I thought writing the first one in August of 1994 was difficult. I'm sitting here, struggling with words, searching for some profound message that will reach each and every one of you. But the words won't come. The best I can do is try to express my appreciation and gratitude for having had the opportunity to serve as President of the South Shore Audubon Society.

There were times I felt confident, times I felt ineffective, times I felt successful, and times I felt challenged, but at no time did I feel alone. Therein lies the strength of the chapter. There is always the history of the chapter membership; the caring and dedication of the chapter officers, directors and board members; the sense of connection that comes from networking with other chapter members; and the awareness of being a part of a much larger organization, National Audubon Society.

To thank each and every individual that touched me in some way would take enough pages to equal "War and Peace." I don't think Michael Sperling would take kindly to that idea. So THANK YOU one and all and congratulations to the new officers and directors. I know they will be successful, because it is just this kind of change that keeps South Shore Audubon Society growing and energized.

Although officers and board members change, some other things remain constant. We constantly need more members and we constantly need more volunteers. So I offer you this parting challenge: Encourage someone to join SSAS and get involved. Not just them, you too. Join up with one of the committees that interest you, i.e., education, conservation, membership development, Brookside Preserve, program development, festival coordination. There are so many opportunities to learn and grow with SSAS. I took the challenge; now it's your turn.

Hope to see you out on a few more bird walks and hopefully at our annual dinner. If not, watch for postcards from Florida. I will miss you all. Thank you and so long for now.

# **NEXT MEETING - OUR ANNUAL DINNER**

DATE:

Tuesday, June 10, 1997

TIME:

6:30 p.m. for Cocktails & Hors d'Oeuvres

7:30 p.m. for Dinner

PLACE:

Pompei Restaurant & Catering

401 Hempstead Avenue West Hempstead, NY

Sign up for SSAS's 26th annual dinner (our ninth at Pompei) and join over a hundred fellow chapter members at our traditional year-ending event.

**PLEASE NOTE:** You must register in advance for our dinner; see page 7 for details.

Elliatt Kutner

All walks start at 9:30 A.M.; no walk if it rains. Any questions? Call Elliott at 486-7667.

Directions to Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. While the sunbathers are at Jones Beach, most of our outings will be at JBWR, which is part of the Gateway National Recreation Area. Take the Southern State Parkway to the Belt Parkway to Exit 17 South (Cross Bay Boulevard). Drive four miles, passing through Howard Beach and over Congressman Joseph P. Addabbo Bridge; turn right at the Refuge entrance's traffic light and look for dozens of Auduboners in the parking lot. The Refuge's management urges us to car pool.

May 25	Memorial Day Weekend — No Walk
June 1	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
June 8	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
000	Summer Vacation
Aug. 10	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Aug. 17	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Aug. 24	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Aug. 31	Labor Day Weekend - No Walk
Sept. 7	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
Sept. 14	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

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

### \*\* 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,
J	Karen Durso
Freeport	N. Mc Kenna, Mr. Calvin E. Meyer
Garden City	Henry & Irma Becker, Jeanne
~ (	Dyche, Bronwyn Hannon,
****	Robert & Phoebe Mc Millian,
هنور الم	Robert & Frieda Stark,
	Al & Muriel Urban
Glen Oaks	Luis Mateus
Hempstead	Nat Bailey
	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	•
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 Blacknecked 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

later. At Corkscrew there's a 2.5 mile boardwalk that's made from a Brazilian tree. The wood has natural water and insect repellent in it, and never has to be treated. Redshouldered Hawks were the most numerous bird species there (which is OK; my brother loves them). We also saw a White-eyed Vireo and a Common Yellowthroat, but the spectacle there was the Barred Owls. Steve was right; you could almost touch them. We saw two of them and one caught a meal right in front of us.

We continued on our quest to see the "other" owls and headed to the west coast. We drove through South Ft. Myers on our way to Sanibel Island, home of our next destination, J. N. "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge. En route we saw Band-tailed Pigeons on the electric wires, Herring and Ring-billed Gulls, and Common Terns. At Ding Darling there's a five mile sightseeing loop that you drive through with water on both sides of the road. Here we got to see my new favorite bird, the Roseate Spoonbill. What a beautiful bird, with soft-pink plumage, long legs, and, of course, its unusual beak! We also saw Reddish Egrets, White Pelicans, Wood Storks, Semipalmated Plovers, Yellowlegs, Willets, and 12 Western Sandpipers.

Now it was getting late and I really wanted to see those owls, so we proceeded to go off the island. Ohh nooo — massive amounts of traffic in front of us! We traveled for an hour and only went 1.5 miles. The only things flying that we got to see in the traffic were a cloud of black loveflies. The outside of the car was covered by those little creatures, doing what they do best, making love! Anyway, by the time we got off the island onto the mainland, it was too late and I was too tired to do any more birding.

Well, I'm planning a third trip to Florida next year and I've got the directions to see those Burrowing Owls. This time I'll make it my first stop and drive straight for 2-1/2 hours continuously. Maybe then we will see those secluded Burrowing Owls!

# THEODORE RODSEVELT 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.

Saturday, June 7th (9 A.M. to 2 P.M., family) — Carmans River Canoe Trip. Take a leisurely pace to observe freshwater wildlife while canoeing through South Haven County Park in Yaphank. TRS members \$25, nonmembers \$35.

Sunday, June 8th (1 to 3 P.M., family) — Our Endangered Birds. Using adaptation costumes and live endangered birds, the Sanctuary staff will give an exciting and educational program. At the conclusion of the program, Mr. Jim Fowler of Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom will present us an award for excellence in environmental education. Free.

Wednesday, June 11th (7 to 9 P.M., ages 8 to 13) — Owls & Bats. A night hike through the Sanctuary. We will look for Screech Owls, bats, and other nocturnal wildlife. TRS members \$5, nonmembers \$7.

Saturday, June 14th (7 to 9 A.M., adults) — Morning Bird Walk. We will be looking at birds as they live their family lives. Meet at the Hoffman Center on Route 25A (first driveway west of Martin Viette Nurseries). We will be trying to locate various birds and teach about their breeding behavior. Free.

Sunday, June 15th (8 to 10 A.M., fathers & their children of any age) — Father's Day Nature Hike. Fathers and their children will embark on a nature walk just as Theodore Roosevelt did with his children. We will learn about the fauna and flora of Sagamore Hill (Theodore Roosevelt's home). TRS members free, nonmembers \$3.

Saturday, June 21st (9 A.M. to 2 P.M., family) — Peconic River Canoe Trip. Long Island's remote Peconic River runs through the Pine Barrens to downtown Riverhead. Our longest canoe trip, recommended for the serious outdoors people. TRS members \$25, nonmembers \$35.

Sunday, June 22nd (9 to 10:30 A.M. & 10:45 to noon, ages 4 to 7) — Nature's Discovery & Our Own Sensory Awareness. Two programs, one right after the other. Individuals may participate in one or both. The first teaches about what is living and nonliving. It also shows how animals use camouflage. The second teaches the young how to use their own senses to help them locate animals in the wild. TRS members \$3, nonmembers \$4.

Saturday, June 28th (9 to 11 A.M., family) — Creating a Backyard for Wildlife. Your backyard can be just as full of wild creatures as the Sanctuary. For 74 years the Sanctuary grounds have been cultivated for wildlife. Learn about some of our attracting methods and some that you might want to do at home. TRS members \$5, nonmembers \$7.

Sunday, June 29th (2 to 4 P.M., kids young and old) — Marine Ecology. Everyone loves a day at the beach. So do all of the creatures that live at our shores. Bring a pair of shoes to get wet. TRS members \$3, nonmembers \$5.

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NASSAU COUNTY POLLUTION HOTLINE 739-6666
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RARE BIRD ALERT (212) 979-3070
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WILDLIFE POISONING HOTLINE (800) 356-0560
<u></u>
AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP STATUS (800) 274-4201
<b>*************************</b>

## 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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# CONSERVATION REPORT An Environmentalist in Thailand, Part II

Belly Borowsky

Thailand is a beautiful country — both its countryside and its people. Although I was obviously a foreigner, and, in addition, one who could not communicate at all (neither the spoken nor the written language was comprehensible to me, and at least one of the gestures that Americans commonly use to communicate nonverbally turns out to be obscene in Thailand), people were friendly, gracious, and as helpful as you could possibly wish.

At one point in our trip we had to catch a bus from a fairly remote place (Si Sanchanalai) to a good-sized town (Sukhatai), and we found ourselves at some bus stop or other. We realized that: 1) we did not know whether buses were still running at all (it was late in the afternoon); 2) we did not know whether the bus we were waiting for would stop where we were waiting; 3) even if a bus came, we wouldn't be able to read its printed destination; and 4) if we actually found the right bus, we wouldn't know when to get off, how much it cost, or whether we had to transfer. Fortunately, we could pronounce the name of our destination. Otherwise we would probably still be there. A lady who was selling food on the road (some little fried balls of something or other wrapped in banana leaves) soon realized that we were truly helpless. Now, while neither side could understand the other's language, we knew that she had asked where we were going and that she understood our response. And then she indicated that she'd look out for the bus for us and tell us when it came. And, bless her heart, she did.

I put this in because this is just an example of the kindness we experienced throughout our trip, and it illustrates my overall sense that Thais care about other people. I guess that's why the contrast between their culture and how they're dealing with their environment is so striking to me.

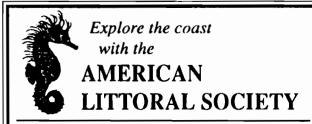
Last month I dealt with the wildlife in Thailand. This month I'd like to describe what it's like to live in Bangkok.

At the turn of the century, most people died from infectious diseases. The greatest improvement in public health (in the sense of prolonging life and improving the quality of life) has come not from miracle cures or from immunizations. It has come from improvements in sanitation — most particularly from cleaning our drinking water. Cholera, typhoid fever, and other plagues are still important in countries that do not maintain minimum standards of water quality.

In Bangkok you can't drink the tap water. Now, in Mexico I can't drink the tap water, but it's perfectly safe for Mexicans or for people who have had enough time to adapt to the assortment of minerals and microorganisms peculiar to that area to drink it. In Thailand no one drinks the water. All drinking water must be purified first and is purchased.

I wish I could transport all those people who support unregulated development to Bangkok, and let them stand on the corner for about an hour during rush hour. Evidently, there are no auto emission controls. Walking along the street during rush hour, I found myself nauseated by the fumes. This was exacerbated by the horrific traffic, which forced all vehicles to stand idle for long periods of time. When the traffic *did* move, it kicked up dirt and dust which had been laying around, in part, as a consequence of the construction efforts underway. And I must point out that it wasn't just myself — the Thais were uncomfortable as well. Many persons wore surgical masks or held handkerchiefs over their noses when traveling through the streets.

It is very clear that what's good for the environment is good for human health. We want to maintain our environment because it brings us pleasure to be in the woods or at the beach, or in a cave, or on a mountain—it improves our quality of life. But a clean environment has a more practical purpose too. It is absolutely essential for good health.



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. Call Don.

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.

INTERNATIONAL BEACH CLEANUP WEEKEND (September 20 & 21) For information on how to get involved at a beach near you, call Barbara Cohen at (718) 471-2166.

For a complete listing of all local and national field trips, contact: Don Riepe 28 West 9th Road Broad Channel, NY 11693 (718) 634-6467

# 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.

# 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 Butkereit, 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 gettogether (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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# **DUR 26th 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.

<b>*</b>	•••••
NAME:	
ADDRE	SS:
AMOU	NT OF CHECK:
NUMBI	ER OF PEOPLE:
NUMBI	ER OF EACH MENU CHOICE:
	Eggplant Rollatini
负量	Filet of Sole Dijon
	Chicken Parmigiana
<b>使</b>	Roast Beef
or, if yo	u prefer:
	Broiled Chicken
M. M.	Broiled Sole

# 1996-1997 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Carole A. Adams, President
Nancy Frame, Treasurer 520-9016 Christine Schmitt, Recording Secretary 887-7713 Doris Pirodsky, Corresponding Secretary 378-1790 James Hartnett, Director (6/99) 868-6528 Bill Hollweg, Director (6/99) 226-2519 Henry Levine, Director (6/98) Educational Media Chairperson 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 249-4919 Paul Butkereit, Bird Seed Savings Day 599-0395 Steven G. Goldberg, Program Co-Chairperson 798-0335 Joseph Grupp, Duck Survey 481-4208
Christine Schmitt, Recording Secretary 887-7713  Doris Pirodsky, Corresponding Secretary 378-1790  James Hartnett, Director (6/99) 868-6528  Bill Hollweg, Director (6/99) 226-2519  Henry Levine, Director (6/98) 226-2519  Annie F. McIntyre, Director (6/98) & Educational Media Chairperson 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 249-4919  Paul Butkereit, Bird Seed Savings Day 599-0395  Steven G. Goldberg, Program Co-Chairperson 798-0335  Joseph Grupp, Duck Survey 481-4208
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Betsy Gulotta, Brookside Preserve Committee Chairperson
Marge Jaeger, Fund-raising Chairperson 536-9166
Elliott Kutner, Birding / Field Trips Chairperson
Joseph Lancer, Binocular / Book Sales (7 to 9 P.M.)
Amanda Neet, Special Events On-Site Coordinator
George Popkin, Financial Advisor (8 to 9 P.M.)
Doreen Remsen, Birdathon Co-Chairperson
James Remsen, Jr., Birdathon Co-Chairperson
Dolores Rogers, Welcoming Committee Chairperson
Mary Jane Russell, Armchair Activist Chairperson
Diane Singer, Publicity (5 to 8 P.M.)
Porgy Smith, Environmental Information Chairperson 887-2054
Marcia Specht, Hospitality Chairperson
Michael Sperling, Skimmer Editor 541-0805
Marion Yavarkovsky, Membership Chairperson 379-2090

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

A CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Americans Committed to Conservation

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