

VOLUME 28, NUMBER 1 — SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER 1997

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Doreen Remsen

Firsts are wondrous, special moments in our lives. Most firsts are known, expected, and planned, and we enjoy them, learn from them, and incorporate them in our memories. The firsts that are unknown, unexpected, and spontaneous are extraordinary: discovery, knowledge, and insight are instantly fused with place and time. Our minds are opened to new possibilities, we are touched and forever changed. Like all of you, there have been many firsts in my life. However, there are two that come to mind that I feel have led me to this new first — President of South Shore Audubon.

It was August 1961 and I was on vacation with my parents in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. I had spent the morning in a rock quarry collecting specimens for my collection, which was at 105 - not too shabby for a nine year old! The find of the day (a first) was a fist-sized piece of rose quartz that was broken off a much larger exposed vein. I was ecstatic! We left after that, off to drive the Kancamagus Highway. It was at one of the overlooks that I saw a bird lying near the tree line, fluttering on its side. I went over to it and, with my parents, checked for any injuries. There were none. The bird's beak was open (I would learn later that this is called panting) and its breathing rapid. My dad suggested water since this August was particularly hot and dry. I used a water bottle from my guinea pig and held this beautiful creature while it drank. It was sleek, its feathers a warm brown. The belly had yellow feathers and there was a very yellow band at the tip of the tail. Its face had a wonderful black mask bordered with a narrow band of white. The bird finally sat up, blinked, and flew up into the nearby oaks. It was my first best look ... at an adult Cedar Waxwing. A new love was born.

My other *first* was seven years later during the summer of 1968. My grandmother and I were on a cross-country tour. We had spent two days at Bryce Canyon in Utah and were now on our way to the Mojave Desert. We were on Route 14 and before we entered Cedar City, we stopped

NEXT MEETING

Sandy Brenner

DATE: Tuesday, September 9, 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: BIII Fix with Live Animals

TOPIC: <u>Predators – Guardians of the Environment</u>

Bill Fix is a licensed wildlife rehabilitator for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and has appeared on the *David Letterman Show*. His exciting programs have been enjoyed by over 3000 schools, libraries, and civic and environmental groups throughout the Tri-State region.

This program explains the delicate interrelationship between predator and prey, and the reason some predators are becoming endangered and why most are not really the villains that folklore and fables have made them out to be. The message is that all life-forms are necessary if our environment and ultimately ourselves are to survive.

Please Note: Because this program features live animals (awe-inspiring birds of prey, cute and cuddly fur bearers, and silent, bright-scaled reptiles), we're rearranging our schedule to allow youngsters to attend. We'll start with a shortened collection of announcements and postpone the coffee break until after the guest speaker. Bill Fix's 45 minute program should begin around 8:30. Join us!

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BRING COFFEE MUGS TO OUR MEETINGS

near an abandoned mining site. Our tour guide explained that the coal and other ores were depleted within two years and the operation closed down. After the incredible beauty of the canyon, this *first* look at the effects of strip mining left me with an incredible sense of sadness and the desire to find a better way.

There have been many *firsts* for me since I joined South Shore Audubon 21 years ago, each one special, life enrich-

1

ing, and life changing. I won't go into them here — much to the relief of our talented and intrepid *Skimmer* editor I'm sure [actually I'm having fun pulling out maps to see where Doreen was collecting rocks while I was a hobby-less two-year old] — instead I'll extend an invitation to each and every one of our readers to come to your *first* meeting, *first* program, *first* bird walk or trip, and meet any one of our very wonderful volunteers. They have so much to offer. I would also extend a very special invitation to our young readers to join us as South Shore begins a very exciting year. Your enthusiasm, insight, and sense of wonder are an asset and I would be honored (and excited!) if you would call or write to me. *Firsts* that are shared have a way of reaching and changing far more attitudes, people, and policies than any other experience I know.

Here's to a year of new firsts for all of us!

ATTENTION TEACHERS, PARENTS.

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AND TROOP LEADERS

Suzanne Lancer

Part of the mission of SSAS is to promote environmental education. To help fulfill this goal, the chapter sponsors, by paying full or partial costs, subscriptions to the *Audubon Adventures* program (chapters are charged just \$20).

The Audubon Adventures is the youth education program of the National Audubon Society, geared to

elementary school classes and other children's groups grades 3 through 6. A subscription consists of 32 copies of a bimonthly newspaper and a Leader's Guide for each issue. This year's featured topics are wetlands, migration, nature in our neighborhoods, and amphibians.

our neighborhoods, and amphibians. Samples of the newspaper and Leader's Guide are available.

Please call me if you want to enroll or if you have ANY questions — Suzanne Lancer, Education Chairperson, (516) 536-6574, between 7 and 9 P.M. **Enrollment Deadline** to receive the full subscription is **October 11th**.

JAMAICA BAY TO BE DESIGNATED AN IBA

Doreen Remsen

On **Friday, September 19th**, at 11 A.M., the Jamaica Bay ecosystem will be designated as a National Audubon Society Important Bird Area (IBA) in a ceremony at Fort Tilden. Jamaica Bay is the first area in New York City to receive this designation. Invitations have been sent to various state and city officials, the media, as well as other environmental organizations. South Shore Audubon members are welcome and encouraged to attend the celebration.

THE TENTH ANNUAL SSAS BIRDATHON

Jim Remsen

With the support and participation of our members, South Shore Audubon Society has logged another successful Birdathon, our tenth. This year, coupled with a sweepstakes that awarded chances in a prize drawing based on the amount of pledges brought in by our members, the Birdathon took on a new excitement beyond just finding the birds. Finding them was a bit harder than usual this year, due to unseasonably cool weather conditions and some clouds, but by the time our marathon of birding was over on May 10th at 5 P.M., our intrepid birders, in three teams, had recorded a chapter total of 149 species (compare that with last year's 177). A list of all species observed has been compiled and will be published in the *Skimmer*, I will also be glad to supply it by e-mail to anyone interested (my address: remsen@amnh.org).

Our gross in the Birdathon this year was \$3692.96 and is being used to support the National Audubon New York State Field Office and the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary, in addition to South Shore Audubon itself. Thanks to all of you who helped us raise it!

Over 20 Birdathon participants brought in \$25 or more in pledges, qualifying them for our sweepstakes prize drawing held at the June dinner meeting. Approximately half of those eligible took home a prize; winners came from all three of our Birdathon teams — sharing the wealth ... just the way we like it!

For the donation of our prizes, we thank all of our members who supported our meeting raffles or donated raffle prizes, as some of the raffle profits helped to purchase prizes for the sweepstakes (and all the remainder went into the Birdathon cash pool). In addition, we thank the following generous members and businesses who made their own donations of prizes specifically for the dinner meeting drawing: Rob Alvey; Marge Bodenburg; Kevin J. Colver Productions; Pat Eagen; Grand Union; Jim Hartnett; Hyde Bird Feeder Company; King Kullen Grocery Co., Inc.; Pathmark Stores; George Popkin; and Doreen Remsen. Is there anyone I've forgotten? If so, please let me know and I'll make sure to correct the situation!

Finally, let me say that I was most encouraged by the enthusiastic reception our sweepstakes idea received. However, raising money, purchasing, and soliciting donations of prizes takes a lot of time and effort. (I must thank our new President for all the effort she put into this over the past year.) Would members like to see something like this again next year, maybe on a smaller scale? Do you have ideas for other "incentives" that we might offer to encourage Birdathon participation? If so, I'd like to hear them. The Birdathon seemed enhanced by the sweepstakes (in more ways than one; we increased our gross profit by several hundred dollars over last year). It might be fun to see something similar next year.

Thanks again to you all!

JOIN US AT CONNETQUOT

SSAS will be visiting 3473-acre Connetquot River State Park Preserve in Oakdale on Saturday morning, **September 27th**, beginning at 9:30. Our own Annie McIntyre, a former Connetquot employee, will be leading a nature walk arranged by Dolores Rogers. We hope to see wild turkey, deer, and migrating birds.

Directions. Take the Southern State Parkway to Exit 44 (Sunrise Highway, Route 27) east for about two miles. Make a U-turn at the first traffic light (\Rightarrow at Pond Road) and slowly head back west on Sunrise Highway. The ongoing highway widening project may have changed the following, but look for an unmarked deceleration lane just before the entrance to Connetquot; a big sign should come into view as you turn into the entrance. Admission to Connetquot is by permit only (indicate that you're part of SSAS's group) and costs \$3 per vehicle (free if you have an Empire Pass); we'll meet in the parking lot.

WILDLIFE ART EXHIBIT FOR GARDEN CITY BIRD SANCTUARY

Suzie Alvey

Artists are invited to participate for free in an exhibit of 65 works of wildlife art at the Garden City Public Library (at 60 Seventh Street) in October. The theme of the exhibit is the variety of Long Island birds and wildlife found in our suburban backyards, parks, and shores. Botanical and historical scenes showing native species of plants and birds are particularly welcome.

Size limit is 24 × 36 inches; entries (one or two) must be properly framed and suitable for wall hanging, and may be oils, acrylics, watercolors, pen & ink, pastels, colored pencil, or photography. All exhibited pieces must be available for sale, with a donation of 20% of the sales price to South Shore Audubon Society. A brochure will be prepared listing artists, entries, and prices. Participating artists must sign a damage liability waiver.

This exhibit is sponsored by the Garden City Bird Sanctuary in association with SSAS. The sanctuary is located along Tanners Pond Road north of Stewart Avenue. This five-acre site is a Nassau County stormwater basin being developed as the pilot program to establish a community greenspace for use as an environmental stewardship and educational resource. Artists are invited to visit the sanctuary for inspiration. The voluntary program is funded by donations through SSAS.

For further information, contact Suzie Alvey, 44 Fenimore Avenue, Garden City, NY 11530; phone 326-1720.



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

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
Oct. 19 & 26	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)

Note: Our perpetually enthusiastic and charismatic Elliott Kutner is currently on the SSAS disabled list (get well soon!), so bird walk leadership will be left in the capable hands of Jim Remsen and some of our "mad birders" (we once awarded "mad birder" certificates to people who showed up at winter bird walks in weather conditions that obviously called for their cancellation).

Directions to Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. 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.



"NEW YORK'S LARGEST WILD BIRD SPECIALTY STORE"

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

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.

INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP DAY

The 10th Annual Beach Cleanup Day in New York will take place on **September 20th**. Thousands of volunteers from 80 countries will be out cleaning beaches and documenting what they find. The U.S. data is compiled and analyzed by the Center for Marine Conservation, which assesses what's polluting our shorelines and attempts to determine the sources of floatable debris.

To find out about cleanups in our area or to organize one, call the American Littoral Society's Barbara Cohen at (718) 471-2166.



Marion Yavarkovsky

This summer brought us a large flock of new members. You have joined us just in time to participate in the new season of events. Remember — all the activities you read about in these newsletters are for you. Join us as soon as possible.

[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 Joanne Haupert, Emil E. Hoefler,

Mr. Robert Meeker. Alex Miller.

Doug Edelson, C. Hottendorf, Mr. Eric W. Ingebretsen, Mr. Herman Tillem

Mr. Jeff Ferguson

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East Rockaway Mr. Richard Boremski,

Elmont	Mr. Robert J. Berlingeri, Denise Comeau, D. Moore, Michael Schoener, Marybelle Smith
Farmingdale	Michael Bernstein, Ms. Rosemarie Engle, Mr. John M. Ganz, Janice Howard, Jeff Krevat, Arthur A. Lowe
Floral Park	Mr. Kenneth Kelly, F. Mc Connell, Rajashree Pednekar
Franklin Square	Diana Loening, Mr. Arthur Urbano, ? Willets
Freeport	Carlos Cepeda, Mr. M. Cook, Mr. Rupert W. Fuchs, Bettye Gomes, Mr. Charles Hayes, Susan Lesica, Ed Melnick,
\$ 5	Jeanine Morsch, Ms. Debra D. Newman-Johns, Mr. Herbert R. Osow, Otto's Sea Grill, Ms. Kirster Realini, Chris R. Zagaja
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Hempstead	Diana Banyon, Miss Rae T.
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	Bill Fauth, Hugh Hanley,
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AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP STATUS (800) 274-4201

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	Ms. Lois G. Golda, Janet Stone
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	Mrs. Melody D. Morse,
	Eugene Senese, Dr. Phyllis Tureen
Woodmere C	asey C. Alexander, Jayne Brod,
	Marilyn Gulotta, Phyllis Leviton,
	Jules Livingston, Mr. Harold Spier

BOARDWALK ENVIROFEST CELEBRATION

SSAS plans to have a table set up (volunteers needed) at the sixth annual Envirofest on the Long Beach boardwalk at Riverside Boulevard on **Saturday**, **September 6th** from 11 A.M. to 4 P.M. This event is likely to be canceled if there's any sign of rain in the morning and, based on the City of Long Beach's checkered history for scheduling Envirofest, your editor predicts rain!

The purpose of the Envirofest celebration is to educate the public on such environmental concerns as recycling, beach erosion, wetlands, sludge, drinking and ocean water quality, and water and energy conservation. Various companies and environmental groups will be represented.



Explore the coast with the

AMERICAN LITTORAL SOCIETY

(Saturday, Sept. 13) Meet 10 A.M. at the Aquarium entrance for a 2-1/2 hour special tour. See beluga whales, walrus, sea otters, sharks, and, of course, Squirt the wonder clam. Cost: \$14 (kids \$8). Call Don. SUNKEN FOREST FIRE ISLAND HIKE (Saturday, Oct. 18) Hike the mile-long boardwalk through the holly forest during peak fall raptor migration. Enjoy pristine beach and dunes. Bring lunch & binoculars. Cost: \$15 includes round-trip ferry and guided hike. ASSATEAGUE FALL WEEKEND (Nov. 6-9) Explore beaches and wetlands of Assateague National Seashore and Chincoteague Wildlife Refuge. See falcons, waterfowl, eagles, sika elk, river otter, red fox, Delmarva fox squirrels, and wild ponies. Cost: \$235 includes three nights at Refuge Motor Inn, safari bus tour, guides, and an "All-you-can-eat" seafood buffet on Saturday night.

NEW YORK AQUARIUM "BEHIND THE SCENES" TOUR

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

CONSERVATION REPORT - IPM

Betty Borowsky

IPM is short for Integrated Pest Management, a concept which, briefly summarized, recommends the use of nonchemical methods before one resorts to chemical methods of pest control. If all else fails, chemicals may be used, but the least toxic substance available is chosen and then used in moderation.

This is a very rational approach to pest control. First of all, we wish to reduce the introduction of chemicals in the environment. Second, we have learned, the hard way, that animals and plants develop resistance to chemical substances when they are exposed to them continuously; sometimes this takes a very short time. And when that happens, there may be nothing left to control these pests.

IPM methods are mostly common sense. If you have an insect problem, first identify the insect. Once you know what it is, you can determine its habits, and perhaps select a nonchemical method of control. For example, the fruit fly, *Drosophila melanogaster*, is very common, and sometimes very numerous in grocery stores and at home. Perhaps, in the past, the first thing one might have done upon seeing a fruit fly was to get out the spray can. However, fruit flies only eat rotting fruit. All you have to do is throw out the rotting fruit, or put fully ripe fruit in the refrigerator, and the problem is solved.

Another example is sow bugs, which are actually crustacea that live in damp vegetation in your yard. You might find them in a damp basement from time to time also. You know it's a sow bug if it rolls up into a ball when you touch it. Well, there's just nothing wrong with having a sow bug colony around. They are harmless (actually, they're rather cute); but if you really hate them, just get rid of the piles of vegetation, or let them dry out. It's not only unnecessary, but it would also be a shame to poison them.

Likewise mosquitoes. I don't have to tell you how awful they have been for the past few years. However, with the reestablishment of a mosquito control program in the county, Health Department and Department of Public Works staff have been trapping and identifying the mosquitoes in the area. And preliminary results show that most of the mosquitoes trapped near our homes are the kind that lay their eggs in small standing bodies of water, maybe in an overturned flowerpot or in your children's pool. The message is clear: if you put a cover on the pool and get rid of unnecessary standing bodies of water, you will reduce the problem considerably.

Another example: Long Islanders are especially finicky about their lawns (especially the front lawns), and apply all kinds of pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers to them through the growing season. With fertilizers in particular, it's a vicious cycle. You fertilize the lawn, it grows luxuriously, and you have to mow frequently. And then you haul away bags and bags of clippings.

On the recommendation of the Cornell Cooperative Extension Program, for the past two years I have fertilized my lawn only once a year, in the fall. During the growing season I mow the lawn when it needs it (or one in the family to do it) and rather I assign someleave the clippings on the lawn. To my real astonishlawn looks pretty much the ment, my front neighbor's lawn, and he has same as my a gardener doing all kinds of chemical things to his lawn every week. For the sake of complete honesty here, I do use grubicide, albeit sparingly. I know of no other way to control that problem successfully, and grubs destroy that lawn every year otherwise. (If you know an alternative, please let me know.)

I don't use anything at all in the back. For the past five years all we've done is mow it and leave the clippings. We have *some* actual grass, but mostly a lot of wild strawberries and an assortment of weeds, including crabgrass. We get yellow strawberry flowers and tiny berries, and there's lots of clover, but you know, it really looks fine.

But what about real problems, like the adelgid aphids that have devastated our hemlocks, and the ever-present cock-

roaches? For these you need help. Here, the idea is to seek out the least toxic method, and then apply the least amount necessary, and in a manner least likely to affect other plants and animals. For the adelgids, apply dormant oil in late winter. This is inert, but is supposed to suffocate the juveniles as they hatch. For roaches, use Roach Motels or their equivalent, which keep the poison confined to one place.

You get the idea.

Each situation is different, but help is available. The Cornell Cooperative Extension Program has been quite active in promoting IPM methods. They have lots of literature, and experience. And they have experimental plots on their grounds for testing different ways to control pests that they would be happy to have you visit. The Cornell Cooperative Extension Program is at 1425 Old Country Road, Plainview, NY 11803-5015. Their telephone numbers are 454-0900 and 454-0906.

Thus, IPM is based on common sense. It recommends employing nonchemical methods, but, in the event that these are inadequate, it supports the sensible use of chemical pesticides. You should know that Nassau County has converted to the use of IPM methods at all County facilities. Not only are the grounds as good as ever, but the County is saving money as well.



WILD BIRD FEED SAVINGS DAY SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1997 TACKAPAUSHA MUSEUM 9:30 A.M. - 2:30 P.M.



The museum is located on Washington Avenue in Seaford and lies about 1/2 mile south of Sunrise Highway, just north of Merrick Road. All 20 and 25 lb bags come with handles. Since we can no longer return extra seed for credit, PREORDERING is ESSENTIAL; an order form appears below for your use. Please keep this upper portion as a reminder of the sale date. All preorders should be received by OCTOBER 14th. Please make checks payable to the South Shore Audubon Society. Mail check and order form to Paul T. Butkereit, 268 Wallace St., Freeport, NY 11520.

Help will be needed on the sale date to process orders and to aid in unloading seed. If you wish to volunteer, call (516) 599-0395 late evenings and ask for Paul. Our next sale will be JANUARY 25, 1998.

My name is				
My address is				
	City	State	Zip	
	TelephoneSS	AS Member? _	Yes	No
QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION		PRICE	TOTAL
	25 lb Black Oil Sunflower Seed		8.75	
	50 lb Black Oil Sunflower Seed		16.50	
	25 lb Striped Sunflower Seed		9.25	
	20 lb Premium Wild Bird Seed Mix		6.50	
	40 lb Premium Wild Bird Seed Mix		12.25	
	20 lb Special Mix (no corn, 1/3 sunflower)		6.75	
	40 lb Special Mix (no corn, 1/3 sunflower)		12.75	
	25 lb Cracked Corn		5.50	
	5 lb Sunflower Chips		4.00	
	25 lb Sunflower Chips		19.00	
	5 lb Peanut Nibs (chopped peanuts)		3.75	
	25 lb Peanut Nibs (chopped peanuts)		18.00	
	5 lb Safflower Seed		3.00	
	8 lb Thistle Seed (Niger)		7.00	
	12 oz Maine Manna Seed Cake (suet)		2.25	
	12 oz Maine Manna Peanut Cake (suet)		2.25	
	28 oz Maine Manna Seed Bell (suet)		4.25	

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As usual, we will be selling BIRD FEEDERS on the sale date, including suet baskets.

1997-1998 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Doreen Remsen, President				
Jonathan Staller, Vice President & Environmental Festivals Coordinator				
Nancy Frame, Treasurer	520-9016			
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Sandy Brenner, Program Co-Chairperson				
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Steven G. Goldberg, Program Co-Chairperson				
Joseph Grupp, Duck Survey	481-4208			
Betsy Gulotta, Brookside Preserve Committee Chairperson	546-8841			
Marge Jaeger, Fund-raising Chairperson				
Elliott Kutner, Birding / Field Trips Chairperson				
Joseph Lancer, Binocular / Book Sales (7 to 9 P.M.)	536-6574			
Suzanne Lancer, Education Chairperson (7 to 9 P.M.)				
George Popkin, Financial Advisor (8 to 9 P.M.)				
James Remsen, Jr., Birdathon Co-Chairperson				
Dolores Rogers, Welcoming Committee Chairperson				
Mary Jane Russell, Armchair Activist Chairperson				
Michael Shannon, Youth Representative				
Diane Singer, Publicity (5 to 8 P.M.)				
Porgy Smith, Environmental Information Chairperson	887-2054			
Marcia Specht, Hospitality Co-Chairperson				
Michael Sperling, Skimmer Editor				
Marion Yavarkovsky, Membership Chairperson				
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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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