SHORE KIMMER

VOLUME 28, NUMBER 3 — SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

NOVEMBER 1997

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Doreen Remsen

Ah, autumn! The season of crisp, cool days that invigorate the body and sou!, and sharpen the senses. The season of brilliant blue skies freshened by a wind that sweeps all traces of summer away as the field grasses and marsh reeds sway in restless rhythm. The season when leaves everywhere are ablaze in fiery shades of red, orange, yellow, and gold, with the oaks providing a soothing balance in shades of red-brown, chestnut, and sable. The season of the harvest, when pumpkins and apples are abundant, and you are anxious for your first taste of hot apple cider with a cinnamon stick. The season of migration — flocks of shorebirds, hawks, and geese all vying for their space in the skies. The season of all those confusing fall warblers......

It is a crisp morning. I've stopped at my favorite bagel haunt for a large cup of hazelnut coffee and a sesame bagel to go. Armed with my binoculars, field guide, and two sacks, one for pinecones and the other for feathers, I'm off to the beach. The day is glorious and I can't help but smile. I arrive at West End #2 and park near the stand of pine trees that borders the parking lot. My bagel long gone, I sip the remainder of my coffee slowly, watching all the movement in the pines as the sun warms the air gradually. The first two warblers come into view, olive backs, buff breasts tinged with yellow. I fumble with my book. Wing bars? Eye rings? Oops, I forgot to take note. Next time. Another one flits out to feed. This one has wing bars! Olive back, slight yellow...gone again! And no song, not that I'm great at that either! Oh well. I continue to watch as a succession of wing bars, no wing bars, eye rings, no eye rings, and all olive backs reduce me to frustration. Well, at least I know that they are warblers. I shove my book in my pocket, grab my sacks, and begin to gather pinecones and feathers. I am joined by two small children and their mother, who smiles with delight.

"Thank goodness! You're one of those bird people! Perhaps you can answer a question for us."⇔⇔⇔⇔⇔⇔

NEXT MEETING

Sandy Brenner & Steve Goldberg

DATE: Tuesday, November 18, 1997

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

PLACE: Freeport Memorial Library

144 W. Merrick Rd. (at 5. Ocean Ave.)

SPEAKER: John S. Brokos, FPSA TOPIC: Lumen...The New Light

With dawn comes Lumen...the New Light, bringing with it multi-image interludes of visual and musical expression. We take an emotional excursion into a realm of natural and pictorial beauty.

John Brokos has done numerous programs for South Shore Audubon and is the perennial coordinator of our January members' night slide shows. He is president of the Freeport/Meadowbrook Camera Club, a former president of the Photographic Federation of Long Island Camera Clubs, and a former chairman of the Cosmopolitan Chapter of the Photographic Society of America (PSA). John has been an international salon exhibition judge 16 times, holds a 3 Galaxy color slide rating and a Diamond Star nature rating, and was listed in PSA Who's Who in 1984–85 as #12 in a ranking of the top 100 exhibitors in the world. Many of his photos have been published.

"Lumen...," recorded by Mannheim Steamroller, is the first of 11 musical pieces in tonight's 49 minute, 15 second program (which will begin around 9 P.M., following the coffee break). Interlude titles include "Brother Sun — Sister Moon," "Wings and Things," "Floral Fantasy," and "Africa — Afrika." Join us a week late (due to Veterans' Day) for an exceptional monthly meeting.

IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE WASTE, PLEASE

BRING COFFEE MUGS TO OUR MEETINGS

Bird people? I wonder what characteristic marking gave me away? I smile back.

"I'll certainly try."

"We've been watching these wonderfully tiny birds in these trees. They have the most lovely shade of olive feathers with a little bit of yellow on the sides. And their chests are the color of the sand. Do you know what they are?"

"Yes. They are warblers and they're feeding on small insects in the pines before they continue to migrate south." Phew! I guess I dazzled them! And they didn't ask the dreaded question...

"Warblers! How wonderful!," the mother exclaimed. "What kind of warblers are they?"

Uh-oh!

"You see, in the fall, warblers have molted their breeding plumage, so most of them resemble each other with the olive backs, buff breasts. and slight yellow touches on the side." I show them my bird guide.

"Yes, I see." The mother seemed somewhat disappointed. "I guess it is confusing for beginners. Thank you anyway."

Who's a beginner? I shrug. Oh well. It's time for lunch at my girlfriend's house. I stopped for some fresh fruit, bread, and rolls, and enjoyed the ride out east.

I am greeted by April's enthusiastic barking and my girlfriend's warm smile.

"Dorie, I'm so glad to see you! I thought since it's so nice, we'll eat outside on the deck. But, first, come here, I want to show you!" I am pulled around to the backyard where my friend has set up a series of bird feeders and a birdbath near the border bushes.

"Isn't this great? Ever since we set up the birdbath with dripping water, we've been seeing the cutest little birds! Really pretty."

"Really? How cute and how little?"

"They're small, with olive backs and a little bit of yellow on the sides. Their breast feathers are the color of..."

"Sand," I said.

"Yes, that's right! How did you know? How stupid! Ted said you'd be able to tell us what they are. Why are you making that kind of face?" she asked.

I pulled my field guide out of my pocket and opened to the "confusing fall warbler" section. My girlfriend laughed.

"Yes! That's them! This looks like fun! Come on! You'll figure them out!"

It was a very long, very humbling, very wonderful day. I arrived home, kicked off my shoes, and saw my answering machine light winking. I pressed the button.

"Hello, Doreen? It's your mother. I guess you're out. I've been watching these tiny little birds in the front forsythia bushes. They have olive feathers on their backs..."

NASSAU COUNTY POLLUTION HOTLINE 739-6666

WILDLIFE POISONING HOTLINE (800) 356-0560

BROOKSIDE'S THRUSHES

Jim Remsen

Over the summer, Doreen and I participated in a research project called "Birds in Forested Landscapes" sponsored by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. The goals of the project involve trying to determine how large patches of forest must be in order to accommodate nesting thrushes and hawks.

Brookside Preserve was one of three study sites we used, and visits occurred between late May and late July. We surveyed for Wood Thrushes (pictured) and Veeries (both of which are on National Audubon's Watch List of birds whose numbers are decreasing) and found evidence of probable breeding of Wood Thrushes at Brookside. Wood

thrushes were found on the preserve during all three visits that we made to the property during the study period. Males were heard singing twice and a bird was seen behaving in a territorial manner.



(Incidentally, one of our other two study sites, at Massapequa Preserve, also yielded probable breeding of Wood Thrushes). These observations have been forwarded to the Laboratory of Ornithology, and we plan to repeat the study next year.

During the study period, Brookside was also found to be a gathering place for a variety of other migrant and resident woodland birds, including Carolina Wrens, Redeyed Vireos, and several species of warblers.

REMINDERS/RERUNS

These items appeared in last month's *Skimmer* (and the deluge of bulk-mailed holiday catalogs may delay delivery of this issue until after some of these happen), but here's some reminders/reruns/new stuff for our newest members.

Birdseed Sale. It's Sunday, October 26th, starting at 9:30 A.M. Eastern Standard Time in Tackapausha Museum's parking lot (off Washington Avenue in Seaford). Preorders were strongly encouraged, but there will be some extra seed available and help is greatly appreciated anytime up to 2:30 P.M. in our all-volunteer sale. Next sale is January 25th.

Tackapausha Dedication. On **Saturday, November 1st**, SSAS will officially adopt Nassau County's underfunded and understaffed (one full-timer) Tackapausha Museum and Preserve with a sign-placing ceremony and other activities between 10 A.M. and 2 P.M.

Sign Up for Audubon Adventures. The deadline for subscribing to National Audubon's bimonthly environmental newspaper for grades 3-6 has been extended to November 11th. SSAS will pay partial or full costs for interested classes, troops, etc. For details, call Suzanne Lancer at 536-6574 between 7 and 9 P.M.

VOTE NO ON ELECTION DAY

The Audubon Council of New York State, representing the 32 National Audubon Society chapters in our state, unanimously passed the following resolution at its annual fall meeting on October 5th:

Whereas, the Constitution of the State of New York provides for the possibility of a Constitutional Convention every 20 years, to be determined by the electorate, and

Whereas, 1997 is a twentieth year, and the question of holding such Constitutional Convention will appear on the ballot at the General Election in November, and

Whereas, a Constitutional Convention is a matter of substantial expense (estimated at fifty million dollars) and there appear to be no current issues which require a constitutional revision, and

Whereas, another, less expensive, procedure for amendment of the State Constitution exists, should such issue arise, and

Whereas, proponents of the Constitutional Convention want to remove historic environmental policies such as Article 14 — the forever wild clause for the Forest Preserve in the Adirondacks and Catskills, and

Whereas, the history of the last Constitutional Convention is that the electorate rejected the changes proposed by that Convention, and

Whereas, a coalition of environmental, labor, education, and civic organizations are opposing the Constitutional Convention based on lack of need, cost, and threat to environmental policies of the State,

Now Therefore, the Audubon Council of New York State resolves to oppose the calling of a Constitutional Convention in New York State, and

Therefore, the National Audubon Society of New York State [NAS's Albany field office] and the Audubon Council of New York State urge all New York voters to vote "no" on the statewide ballot question for a Constitutional Convention.

GARDEN CITY BIRD SANCTUARY

Robert Alvey, the Chairperson of the Garden City Environmental Advisory Board's Land Use Committee, will provide a fact-filled and entertaining slide presentation on the development of GCBS at a free public meeting sponsored by the Garden City Western Property Owners' Association. The **November 5th** meeting will begin at 8 P.M. at the Homestead School auditorium on Homestead and Stratford Avenues.

As a result of continuing reclamation work begun by the Land Use Committee with help from community groups in 1995, a five-acre sump along Tanners Pond Road was dedicated as Garden City Bird Sanctuary last year under a management agreement involving SSAS and Nassau County — the first wildlife sanctuary sump in our county. For more information, call Rob at 326-1720.

BROOKSIDE PRESERVE CLEANLIP

Brookside Preserve is a 20-acre freshwater wetland, woodland, and upland field area owned by Nassau County and managed (and rescued from oblivion) by SSAS. With help from a state grant, we have published an adult trail guide and an educational freshwater wetland guide, and we continue to add plantings for wildlife and have night-time committee meetings (next one is/was October 28th in Merrick; call Betsy Gulotta at 546-8841 for info).

Our annual fall cleanup will begin at 1:30 P.M. on **Sunday, November 2nd,** rain or shine. Bring gloves, rakes,



bags, and/or friends (young and old). If you'd like to wade into Milburn Creek and help remove soggy debris, please dress accordingly! The Preserve is located on the Freeport-Baldwin border; park at the main entrance on Brookside Avenue just north of Sunrise Highway (turn north at the traffic light that's just east of Freeport High School).

MORE NEWS ON HORSESHOE CRABS

On October 8th, the National Audubon Society joined a lawsuit aimed at protecting declining populations of horseshoe crabs and migratory shorebirds.

The lawsuit seeks to overturn a recent decision by the New Jersey Marine Fisheries Council that could devastate the horseshoe crab and shorebird populations.

"The Fisheries Council decision on horseshoe crab fishing sets the stage for multiple disasters, both environmental and economic," said John Flicker, President of the National Audubon Society. "Their shoot-all-the-buffalo mentality would eliminate the horseshoe crab, wipe out the food source for millions of birds in the largest bird staging area in the lower 48 states, and destroy a \$31 million birding industry."

The Fisheries Council rejected regulations that would have limited the take of horseshoe crabs by fishermen. These regulations were issued by the NJ Department of Environmental Protection at the urging of Governor Christine Todd Whitman. Data compiled showed a precipitous decline in both horseshoe crab and migratory shorebird populations in the Delaware Bay area.

"Governor Whitman's courageous actions to protect the horseshoe crabs and shorebirds will be nullified by the Fisheries Council," said Flicker. "It appears that the Fisheries Council focused only on the short-term needs of a few commercial fishermen, ignoring both scientific data showing declining horseshoe crab and bird populations and the economic impact of that decline on New Jersey tourism."

"I commend Governor Whitman for her strong stand on this issue. We hope the courts will agree," said Flicker.

A court decision is expected within the next several weeks.

Elliolt Kulne

All walks start at 9:30 A.M. except for Pelham Bay; no walk if it rains or snows or temperature is below 25°F. Any questions? Call Elliott at 486-7667.

Oct. 26	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
Nov. 2	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Nov. 9	Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
Nov. 16	Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner
Nov. 23	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
Nov. 30	Pelham Bay for Owls (pull over to street
5	on extreme right after going through
	Throgs Neck Bridge toll; meet at 9 A.M.)
Dec. 7	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Dec. 14	Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
Dec. 21	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
****	·

Seed - Feeders
Houses - Baths
Books - Gifts

FEED&SEED

WILD BIRD CENTER

"NEW YORK'S LARGEST WILD BIRD SPECIALTY STORE"

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

NYS AUDLIBON FALL COUNCIL MEETING

Mary Jane Russell

An educational and fun time were had by Michael Sperling, Nancy Frame, Betty Borowsky, and yours truly from October 3–5 at the New York State Council meeting at the Taconic Outdoor Education Center in Putnam County's Fahnestock Memorial State Park. The food and company were great!

Five biologists from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation talked with us and representatives from 22 other NYS Audubon chapters on Saturday morning. Large and small mammals, biodiversity, and endangered species in our state were discussed. We learned that New York now has an estimated 50–60 moose, 5000–6000 black bears (which are often attracted by bird feeders), and 90,000 beavers.

After a delicious lunch, we could choose to either hike a few miles in the densely wooded park or canoe at Audubon's Constitution Marsh Sanctuary.

Bernadette Castro, Commissioner of NYS Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation, was our dinner guest speaker. She welcomed Audubon's interest in environmental issues, including the Bethpage golf course proposal that our chapter (with help from the council and

Audubon field office) successfully campaigned against. State Senator Vincent Leibell made a cameo appearance.

Fahnestock State Park is about two hours away, off the Taconic Parkway. It consists of 11,000 acres of land and is in a proposed Important Bird Area.

The Education Center is only open to school and environmental groups. The accommodations are not plush [Editor's interruption: you just read one of the greatest understatements in my 66-issue *Skimmer* career; they're "rustic" cabins with a separate building for running water (I'm quoting Moriches Bay Audubon's Dian Mathews, who successfully asked Great South Bay's Ginny Fields to bring both of us soap from her hotel room)], but the food is great (chef is from the Culinary Institute of America)!

An SSAS Weekend? If we can gather at least 35 people, we could plan an enjoyable and fun-filled weekend for less than \$90 per person. Let me know if you would be interested in such a trip (766-7397). Spring would be a beautiful time to visit the park.

CHAPTER FINANCIAL REPORT

Each year, SSAS returns the Chapter Financial Report form sent to us by National Audubon Society. Our volunteer accountant (all our board members are volunteers, too), Ben Borowsky, calculated the following numbers:

Assets Cash (Checking, Savings, etc.).....\$8,440 Total Assets as of 6/30/9785,280 Revenues ₹ Educational Events175 ₹ Fund-raising Events11,126 ₹ Other4,833 Expenditures ₹ Educational Programs and Events......1,408 ◆ Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary3,850 Net Decrease in Operating Funds\$301

BUDGET 1997-1998

Armchair Activist	\$400
Audubon Camp Scholarships	2500
Brookside Preserve	
College Scholarship	1000
Conferences/Council Meetings	
Corresponding Secretary	
Donations	
Education: Audubon Adventures	
Education: Media Development	
Festivals & Parties	
Insurance	900
Library Custodians	200
Library Donation	400
Library Overtime	400
	100
Membership	1000
Publicity	500
Refreshments at Meetings	6500
Speakers	
Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary	
Total	
********************************	***

** WELCOME NEW MEMBERS **

Marion Yavarkovsky

This month SSAS is giving thanks for all the new members who have joined us in 1997. New people with new ideas give life to our organization.

To our newest members we extend a warm welcome and an invitation to become active in all the chapter's activities. 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 John Combs, Andrew Mirer
Bellmore Mr. Gene Candreva, Jr.;
Mr. H. Y. Kesterson
Bethpage Ms. Helen Bier
East Meadow Mr. Lester G. Fixell
East Rockaway Ron Babinear
Farmingdale David Moyer
Floral Park Dorothy McKiernan,
Mrs. Constance O'Connor
Franklin Square Teresa Sciortino,
Mr. Paul Selcov
Freeport Heather Best
Garden City Mr. William Ford
Great Neck Rita Rubenstein
Hempstead Edward Ensley

Hewlett William Greenwald		
Hicksville Robert J. Cinque		
Inwood Ms. Diana M. Seals		
Lawrence Stephen Miller		
Levittown Ms. Helen Sydney Berger,		
Glyn Gant,		
Ms. Marion F. Gilbert.		
Robert B. Phillips		
Long Beach Neil Cohen, Ms. Theresa		
Gaskin Dunba,		
Dr. Michael R. Gutman,		
Irving Leiner,		
Charles Mazzilli		
Lynbrook Manfred Ambrose,		
Kristen Carroll,		
Ms. Jenny Ulsheimer		
Malverne Ms. J. Fedele, H. Miller		
Massapequa Thomas J. Corcoran,		
Kenneth Feeley,		
Ms. Olga Maberg,		
Robert Zimmerman		
Massapequa Park Kenneth Stenger		
Merrick Ms. Susan Carroll		
Oceanside Murray Katz, Lois Masiello		
Old Bethpage Tony Leonardi, Elfriede Nielsen		
Plainview Ms. Rita Leifer		
Rockville Centre Mr. Seymour Hollander,		
Ms. June Y. Shields		
Seaford Marie Grimaldi		
Valley Stream Olivia Clark, Ms. Helen David,		
Lisa DiChiara,		
Ms. Evelyn Kimmelman,		
Joe Pontillo		
Wantagh Peter Cassola, Saul Mines		
West Hempstead Ms. Thelma Seifer		

AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP STATUS (800) 274-4201		

AUDUBON ACTIONLINE (800) 659-2622		
TAPE-RECORDED UPDATES FROM WASHINGTON, DC		

SSAS Mission Statement — The mission of South		
Shore Audubon Society is to promote environmental		
education, and preserve and restore our environ-		
ment, through responsible activism, for the benefit		

ctivism, 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. ***********************************

CONSERVATION REPORT Global Warming

Betty Borowsky

Is the earth getting warmer or not? And if it is, are human activities the cause of it? Environmentalists are convinced that the earth is in fact getting warmer, and that human activities are responsible for it. These activities center largely around burning fossil fuels, which produces an excess amount of carbon dioxide, thus increasing the layer that helps retain the heat of the sun within the earth's atmosphere (the greenhouse effect). The President of the United States was so convinced of the urgency of global warming that he has campaigned for emissions controls for years.

Five years ago, President Clinton signed an international treaty on climate change. The treaty stipulated that the United States and other industrial nations would re-



duce emissions to 1990 levels by the year 2000. Unfortunately, it turns out that most nations who signed will not be able to meet that deadline. Further, many nonindustrialized nations were not included in the accord, and these

are contributing increasing amounts of carbon dioxide as their economies develop.

Accordingly, newer, more stringent goals were proposed, and many nations were prepared to sign such an agreement. (Different levels of emissions reductions have been proposed, but all would achieve a lower rate of greenhouse gas production than our current rate.)

Environmentalists are concerned about two things: First, on October 10th, the *New York Times* reported that it appears that the President may delay the date when the United States and other industrial nations must achieve the proposed new reductions in pollution. Second, environmentalists object to a clause that would limit the amount of money American companies would have to spend to meet emissions targets. Companies could buy and sell emissions permits for carbon dioxide. If a company devised a way to reduce its emissions below a certain level, it could sell its permit for a profit. But the President wishes to cap the amount that the permit could be sold for. This would reduce the incentive to devise and implement ways to reduce pollution.

Regardless of whether the goal is to reduce greenhouse gases, or particulate matter in the air, or the rapid loss of fossil fuel reserves, it makes good sense to reduce the rate at which we are burning fossil fuels. Thus, it seems to me that global warming is just one of the products that comes from uncontrolled burning, and so considerable attention should be devoted to reducing burning.

The other point to make is that I'm not convinced that emissions reductions strategies are detrimental to the United States economy. To certain specific businesses,

maybe — but not to the economy overall. I would wager that by introducing new methods of emissions controls, new businesses will be fostered, with the resultant increase in jobs.

President Clinton: sign the treaty.

BINDCULARS AND FIELD GUIDES FOR SALE

For many years, South Shore Audubon has been selling the complete line of Bausch & Lomb / Bushnell binoculars and spotting scopes at competitive prices. Joe Lancer (536-6574, 7 to 9 P.M., or ask at meetings and bird walks) keeps a supply of National Audubon Society Natureview

binoc very scribe sells (\$110)

binoculars and can order other items. A very familiar bird feeding catalog describes these binoculars as follows (and sells them for \$158.95; we sell them for \$110): "Bushnell is highly regarded for

the high quality and performance of its optical gear. And their Natureview has been selected as the official binoculars of the National Audubon Society. Fully coated optics provide exceptional clarity with 8 × 42 magnification. A 430' field of view enhances your spotting ability. Comes complete with vinyl carrying case and neck strap."

In addition to the binoculars, Joe always has copies of *Stokes' Field Guide to the Birds* (\$15, filled with color photos) and currently has a few copies of Stokes' similarly illustrated 90-page *Wildflower Book* (\$10).



Explore the coast with the

AMERICAN LITTORAL SOCIETY

HOLIDAY PARTY (Saturday, Dec. 13). Enjoy Flamenco Dance Troupe, Ugly Auction, food & drink at VFW Hall in Broad Channel. Meet 3 P.M. at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge for bird walk, then go to party nearby (5–9 P.M.). Fundraiser donation: \$35 includes beer, wine, food, entertainment. Bring ugly item for auction. Call Don Riepe, (718) 634-6467.

NEW YEAR'S DAY BEACH WALKS (Jan. 1). Meet 11 A.M. at West End 2 parking lot at Jones Beach or Bldg. 1, Fort Tilden in Rockaway for brisk nature hike. Cookies & champagne afterwards! Call Don for details. Free.

MONTAUK WINTER WEEKEND (Feb. 6–8). Cost: \$245 includes 2 nights at luxurious Montauk Manor (indoor heated pool, sauna, jacuzzi, spacious lobby), 5 meals, 2 evening programs, 5 guided hikes during peak winter birding time. See thousands of scoters, eiders, loons, and oldsquaw, and visit harbor seal haulout sites. Free pickup at LIRR station. Leaders: Mickey Cohen, Don Riepe, and Rob Villani. Call/write Don for reservation and info.

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

DOODLETOWN ROAD

Mike Higgiston

Once the height of spring migration is over by the end of May, you begin thinking about the birds you missed and the ones you might find on their breeding grounds. And what better place to find exciting birds nesting close to Long Island than the Doodletown Road area of Bear Mountain. There is a wide variety of habitats included in the 51,000 acres of Bear Mountain State Park and the 80 square miles of adjoining Harriman State Park. Hundreds of miles of trails intersect in parkland and about 100 birds nest here. The biggest attractions are the many warblers that nest in the area.

We headed to Bear Mountain the last Saturday in May and happened upon a Ruffed Grouse standing in the road. As we approached the parking area, we had the good fortune to meet a friend of mine, Paul Keim, President of the Brooklyn Bird Club, who was leading a trip for NYC's Linnean Society. We parked on the side of Route 9W and crossed the road to a trail that leads up into the park. It wasn't long before we began seeing birds. American Redstarts, Blue-gray Gnatcatchers, Veery (pictured), Redbellied Woodpecker, Cedar Waxwing, Yellow and Hooded

Warblers, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Baltimore Oriole, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Pewee and Phoebe, Greatcrested Flycatcher, and Redtailed Hawk were all seen from the trail. A Pileated Wood-



pecker flew by. A Wood Thrush's call echoed in the forest. A Blue-winged Warbler was found. But the greatest excitement was the tracking of a Cerulean Warbler. It's not a bird that one sees often on migration and I've found that to see the bird at all I need to visit its breeding grounds. That doesn't make the bird a sure thing. The warbler moves quickly and blends in so nicely with the background greenery that it takes work to get good looks at this bird. What made it somewhat more difficult was that there were two Ceruleans in the area chasing each other and doing battle over nesting areas.

There were Indigo Buntings, calling Chipping Sparrows, a circling Turkey Vulture, Brown-headed Cowbird, Red-eyed Vireo, Barn Swallows, an Eastern Towhee, Northern Flicker, and a croaking Northern Raven. A Scarlet Tanager pair was sighted. The presence of another warbler sent a ripple through the group: Kentucky Warblers nest in this area and I have seen them here before. But a look at a singing male Kentucky is a sight to be savored. We heard the call and hastened down a trail to pinpoint the warbler. It took some time because the Kentucky's voice has an almost ventriloquistic quality to it. But with everyone searching, we finally located the bird some 50 yards away singing his heart out. He was in the open and everyone had long, clear, satisfying looks at the warbler.

We returned to the car after lunch and scanned the marshy area on the other side of Route 9W. A Song Sparrow, Canada Geese, Red-winged Blackbird, and many American Goldfinches were in evidence. This portion of Bear Mountain at Doodletown Road never fails to provide us with many birding thrills. We'll just have to go back there next year.

GREENHOUSE EFFECT QUOTATIONS

These are taken from *A Dictionary of Environmental Quotations*, compiled by Barbara K. Rodes and Rice Odell, published by Simon & Schuster, ©1992.

"It is the sense of the scientific community that carbon dioxide from unrestrained combustion of fossil fuels potentially is the most important environmental issue facing mankind." — U.S. Department of Energy report, April 2, 1979

"This is not a disaster, it is merely a change. The area [Bangladesh] won't have disappeared, it will just be under water. Where you now have cows, you will have fish." — J. R. Spradley, quoted in *Environmental Forum*, November–December 1990

SSAS MEMBER TO READ POEMS

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Max Wheat

Enjoying Winter on Long Island is the subject for a poetry reading by long-time South Shore Audubon Society member Maxwell C. Wheat, Jr., at 4 P.M. on Sunday, November 16th at Borders Books & Music Store, 1260 Old Country Road, Westbury. The reading, sponsored by the Performance Poets Association, features poems about Snowy Owls, Harbor Seals, Montauk Point, and bird feeders. An open reading follows.

Editor's note: When I was editing my first *Skimmer* back in the summer of 1990, SSAS President Joan Butkereit asked Max to submit some of his poems. Here's one that I'm finally putting to use, entitled "Procession":

I stand lookout for them in autumn hawks massing out of Canada and New England advancing down the barrier beaches foraging as they come —
Cooper's and sharp-shinned hawks racing over the dunes, merlins, small dark explosions of headlong speed kestrels hovering on beating wings marsh hawks dropping over prey like shadowy cloaks But always, I wait for the rare one the endangered one, the peregrine falcon catapulting out of the horizon into the swallow flock monarch of this pilgrimage of predation

1997-1998 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Doreen Remsen, President	472-6830
Jonathan Staller, Vice President & Environmental Festivals Coordinator	
Nancy Frame, Treasurer	
Christine Schmitt, Recording Secretary & Hospitality Co-Chairperson	
Doris Pirodsky, Corresponding Secretary	378-1790
Michael Higgiston, Director (6/00)	
Judy Hoyer, Director (6/00)	
Jim Hartnett, Director (6/99)	868-6528
Bill Hollweg, Director (6/99)	226-2519
Henry Levine, Director (6/98)	
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Betty Borowsky, Conservation Legislation Chairperson	
Sandy Brenner, Program Co-Chairperson	
Paul Butkereit, Wild Bird Feed Savings Day	599-0395
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	536-9166
Elliott Kutner, Birding / Field Trips Chairperson	
Joseph Lancer, Binocular / Book Sales (7 to 9 P.M.)	
Suzanne Lancer, Education Chairperson (7 to 9 P.M.)	
George Popkin, Financial Advisor (8 to 9 P.M.)	
James Remsen, Jr., Birdathon Co-Chairperson	764-5168
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	
Marcia Specht, Hospitality Co-Chairperson	
Michael Sperling, Skimmer Editor	
Marion Yavarkovsky, Membership Chairperson	
V	

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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