

SOUTH SHORE SKIMMER



VOLUME 28, NUMBER 4 — SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

DEC. 1997 & JAN. 1998

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Doreen Remsen

I'd like to share with all of you a letter I received from Tom Gulotta, our County Executive, in regards to our November 1st adoption of Tackapausha Museum and Preserve. During my first four months as president, as I attend different meetings and participate in community activities, I am privileged to be the receiver of many fine tributes and much praise from our neighbors and friends throughout Nassau County because of all that you, South Shore Audubon, are and do. I want to thank Carole Adams, Carole Ryder, and Nancy Frame for initiating the adoption proposal, and give a great big special THANK YOU to all those wonderful Adoption Day volunteers (you know who you are!) who made our celebration a success in spite of the wind and the rain!

Dear Friends,

The County of Nassau is proud to recognize those outstanding organizations which have rendered significant contributions for the enhancement of our region and the betterment of our residents.

The South Shore Audubon Society has proven itself worthy of public acclaim by diligently working to improve and preserve the beauty of our environment and the quality of life we enjoy.

The members of the South Shore Audubon Society are dedicated to keeping Long Island green and environmentally sound, thereby enhancing the beauty of our local communities.

As County Executive, I would like to take this opportunity to commend the members of the South Shore Audubon Society for their participation in the Adopt-A-Park program by "adopting" Tackapausha Museum.

Both Betsy and I extend our personal gratitude and heartfelt appreciation for your continued dedicated and exemplary efforts to protect our precious natural environment.

Warmest Regards, Thomas S. Gulotta

NEXT MEETINGS

Sandy Brenner

DATE: Tuesday, December 9, 1997
TIME: 8:00 p.m. ☉
PLACE: Freeport Memorial Library
144 W. Merrick Rd. (at S. Ocean Ave.)
SPEAKERS: Joe & Dolores Grupp
TOPIC: Kenai Peninsula, Alaska

An exploration of the Kenai Peninsula in Alaska, including Kenai Fjords National Park, the Harding Icefield, the Chiswell Islands, glaciers, volcanoes, and visits to the towns of Seward and Homer as well as to the neighboring city of Anchorage. This slide presentation will include some of the flora, fauna, ecology, and geology experienced on a three week camping trip on the peninsula as well as the human influence in the cities and towns. Brief excursions into the backcountry and boat trips to outlying lands add to the beauty and understanding of the area's natural history.

Dolores and Joe Grupp are experienced hikers and campers. They have backpacked the 210 mile John Muir Trail in the high Sierra mountains of California, hiked all the highest mountains in New York's Catskills (qualifying them to become members of the Catskill 3500 Club), and have experienced many other adventures. They are SSAS members and have made slide presentations at past meetings. Join us!

DATE: Tuesday, January 13, 1998
TIME: 8:00 p.m. ☉
PLACE: Freeport Memorial Library
TOPIC: Member Participation Night

Our annual members' night is your chance to find out where your fellow members have been and what they've seen. Please bring up to ten of your slides and share them with us. Last year we were treated to slides of birds (of course), frogs, insects, moose, bobcat, flowers, sunsets, star trails, the moon, a comet, SSAS events, Jones Beach, Massapequa Preserve, Planting Fields, Target Rock,

CAPE MAY

Mike Higginson

Paul Butkerei's elite Birdathon team stormed Cape May on Columbus Day weekend for an autumn warmup for the next Big Day in May. We left at 6 A.M. Saturday for the Cape May hawk watch located adjacent to the lighthouse parking lot. We arrived about 9:30 and had already missed a huge flight of four to five hundred Sharp-shinned Hawks the previous hour. But we still saw some sharpies as well as Cooper's and Broad-winged Hawks, Osprey, Peregrine Falcon, and Turkey Vulture. There was a 10 A.M. demonstration of banded hawks as the speaker described the characteristics of the different hawks to help us correctly identify the hawks in the air.

After some time at the hawk watch, we left to walk the boardwalk trail at the point. It leads through different habitats (a lake, a pond, uplands, and a marshy area) and there was always a chance of a hawk flying overhead. Some of the birds encountered were Belted Kingfisher, Carolina Chickadee (Black-capped Chickadees don't usually reach Cape May), Green Heron, Palm Warbler, immature Little Blue Heron, Spotted Sandpiper, Common Snipe (pictured), and an injured Least Sandpiper. The trail brought us back to the parking lot, which we left for the Cape May Meadows, a Nature Conservancy tract. On the way we stopped at Lily Lake, in front of the Bird Observatory, and



found Blue-winged Teal. The Meadows presented us with Green-winged Teal, Common Yellowthroat, and Northern Shoveler. After finishing the trail at the Meadows, we

headed for Higbee Beach. The birding hot spots in Cape May are located very close together, which cuts down the time spent driving and increases the time spent birding markedly different habitats. Higbee Beach Wildlife Management Area is composed mostly of upland deciduous woods and weedy fields, and hosts a spectacular amount of passerines (perching songbirds) when the winds dictate. We weren't so fortunate. The only new passerine encountered was an Eastern Towhee, but overhead we spotted Northern Harrier, American Kestrel, and Merlin. We left Higbee and rode to Sunset Beach to take part in the sunset ceremony and found a flock of Black Scoters skimming the ocean on a flyby with some Common Terns.

After a relaxing night at a nearby campground, we woke early to resume our assault on Cape May. Carolina Wren called to us as we dressed and Higbee Beach was much more accommodating that morning. Red-bellied Woodpecker, Brown Creeper, Cape May Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Northern Parula, Purple Finch, a calling Brown Thrasher, and an elite Midwest visitor, Dickcissel, were seen. After a makeshift breakfast, we returned to the hawk watch and found a Short-billed Dowitcher and a Golden Eagle. The eagle was quite far

away and it certainly wasn't a satisfying look. We left to do some shopping at the Bird Observatory and check Lily Lake once more, and got lucky with a Eurasian Wigeon. We also agonized over a Snow Goose which we tried to turn into a Ross' Goose. Our next stop was the Avalon sea watch about 12 miles north. We saw a flock of Sanderling, Northern Gannets (pictured), and many hundreds of Black Scoters, their long skeins extending across the horizon.



Our last stop was further north at Brigantine. Along with the thousands of Snow Geese already present for the winter, we found Northern Pintail, Savannah Sparrow, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Dunlin, early Brant, and a Bald Eagle flying by as we drove to the parkway. Our two days' total for our annual trip was 90, blasting our previous high of 74 set in 1989.

HOLIDAY PARTY FOR WILDLIFE

Doreen Remsen

Join the members of South Shore Audubon as we host our annual holiday party for wildlife on **Saturday, December 13, 1997**, at the Tackapausha Museum and Preserve on Washington Avenue in Seaford, from 1 P.M. till 3 P.M. There will be cone feeders to make, and popcorn and cranberries to string, for our feathered and furry friends. Don't worry, there will be refreshments for us too, and a visit from Saint Nick and his very charming helper. So mark your calendars, and round up your children, grandchildren, and all those children at heart! See you there!

ANYONE HAVE A CHAIN SAW?

South Shore Audubon's *Trail Guide to Brookside Preserve* mentions that the two westernmost Atlantic White-Cedar trees on Long Island are found there, remnants of what was once a white-cedar swamp. Because one of the trees was the victim of a hatchet attack recently, we'd like to borrow a self-powered chain saw in order to display the tree rings to individuals and groups visiting our 20-acre county-owned preserve on the Freeport-Baldwin border. If you have a suitable chain saw (a small sharp one will do the trick), please call Paul Butkerei at 599-0395.

Seed - Feeders
Houses - Baths
Books - Gifts

(516) 694-2180



"NEW YORK'S LARGEST WILD BIRD SPECIALTY STORE"

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THEODORE ROOSEVELT SANCTUARY

134 Cove Road
Oyster Bay, NY 11771
(516) 922-3200

Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Bird Sanctuary is owned by the National Audubon Society and operated by the Community and three local Audubon chapters, including South Shore Audubon Society. The following programs are open to the public. Space is limited and registration is required. All program fees are required at the time of registration.

Saturday, November 22nd (10 A.M. to noon, adults) — *Songbird Banding*. An expert bird bander will demonstrate our songbird banding program. Participants will get to see wild birds up close in the hand and will find out why we study birds in this way. TRS members \$5, nonmembers \$7.

Friday, November 28th (1 to 3 P.M., children in grades K to 3) — *Native Americans*. Children can come to the Sanctuary this day and discover how the first Long Islanders lived. Separated into age groups, participants can take a nature hike, visit a wigwam, play a game, cook some corn cake, or dye some cloth. TRS members \$3, nonmembers \$5.

Thursday, December 18th (7:30 P.M., adults) — *The Rainforests and Grasslands of Venezuela*. Discover information about the natural wonders Sanctuary naturalists and members have explored on our trips there. Also find out about how you can join us on our return trip this May 2–10. Free.

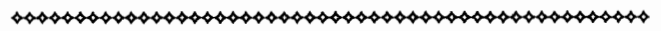
Venezuela Eco-Tour. Ten people will join TRS Director Mary Richard and other naturalists on a trip to Mary's favorite tropical locale. This trip from May 2–10, 1998 features diverse environments, including pristine rainforest

with hundreds of species of exotic birds, plants, mammals, and more, and a stay in the famous Llanos. The Llanos are the wet savannas of central Venezuela and have incredible wildlife; you watch herds of capybaras, huge Jabiru Storks, ungainly Hoatzin along the rivers, King Vultures (pictured) on carcasses, Scarlet Macaws traveling past our hotel at dusk, and Fish-eating Bats hunting the waters. For more info, attend the program listed above; reservations are due January 1st.

Winter Camp. The kids are home for winter break and you are looking for something fun and educational for them to do? Try the exciting and informative Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary Nature Camp. From December 29–31 and January 2, we will provide children with a different nature experience each day. Sign up for one day or all four. Ages range from pre-K to 6th grade. Each day from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M., a different topic will be explored. Whether it be



winter bird study with banding and identification skills or learning the skills of tracking and how animals survive the winter, participants will have a great time and an experience they'll never forget. Cost per week is \$100 for TRS members and \$120 for nonmembers; cost per day is \$30 for TRS members and \$35 for nonmembers.



✂ WELCOME NEW MEMBERS ✂

Marion Yavarkovsky

As you can see from this *Skimmer*, you are joining an active group of dedicated people. All activities are open to new members and participation is strongly encouraged. Please 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.]

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|------------------------|---|
| Baldwin | Jayne Paskoff |
| Bellmore | Barbara Jordan, Joe Senzatimore |
| Elmont | Victoria Sferlazza |
| Floral Park | Alan Levy, Thomas Merle |
| Freeport | Wendy Jankoski |
| Garden City | Mrs. Helen A. Kollar,
Mrs. Dorothy A. Peluso,
George Reamer |
| Hicksville | Mr. Bobby Baker, Mr. & Mrs.
Joseph Blaha, Helen A. Pensivy |
| Island Park | Lorraine Krueger |
| Lido Beach | Mr. Oscar Peretz |
| Lynbrook | Susan Buffone, William Froman,
Michael & Donna Laura |
| Malverne | Ms. Patricia Zoitl |
| Massapequa | Mrs. Thomas Blackler |
| Merrick | Susan A. Coppola |
| Oceanside | Mrs. Dolores Hennessy,
Christopher Jager |
| Orient Point | Mr. & Mrs. William J. Latham |
| Plainview | Meryle Barreres, Jessica Smith |
| Rockville Centre | Nancy M. Benvenga, Puffin Party
Tent Rental, Alvin Wollin |
| Seaford | Brent Hertz, George Lyons,
Margaret Rogers |
| Valley Stream | Maria Kramer, Sarah Rauch,
Colleen Richards |
| Wantagh | Edward H. Parker |
| West Hempstead | Ms. Rena Maryles,
Ms. Roberta Ziolkowski |
| Woodmere | A. Zabin |



AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP STATUS (800) 274-4201





**WILD BIRD FEED SAVINGS DAY
SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 1998
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. Premium Mix contains sunflower, white proso millet, cracked corn, safflower, and peanut bits; Special Mix contains white proso millet, black oil sunflower, wheat, small bird striped sunflower, canary seed, and peanut hearts. Preordering is greatly appreciated; 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 JANUARY 13th. **Please make checks payable to the South Shore Audubon Society. Mail check and order form to Paul T. Butkerei, 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 in OCTOBER 1998.**

My name is _____

My address is _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____ SSAS 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	

TOTAL AMOUNT: _____

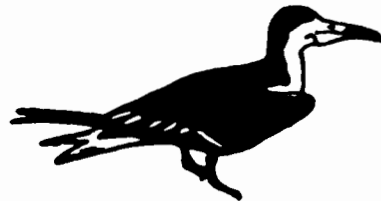
We will be selling some BIRD FEEDERS on the sale date, including suet baskets.

1997-1998 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Doreen Remsen, President	472-6830
Jonathan Staller, Vice President & Environmental Festivals Coordinator	822-5957
Nancy Frame, Treasurer	520-9016
Christine Schmitt, Recording Secretary & Hospitality Co-Chairperson	887-7713
Doris Pirodsky, Corresponding Secretary	378-1790
Michael Higgiston, Director (6/00)	538-8376
Judy Hoyer, Director (6/00)	775-0159
Jim Hartnett, Director (6/99)	868-6528
Bill Hollweg, Director (6/99)	226-2519
Henry Levine, Director (6/98)	328-8736
Annie F. McIntyre, Director (6/98) & Educational Media Chairperson	379-2206
Betty Borowsky, Conservation Legislation Chairperson	764-3596
Sandy Brenner, Program Chairperson	249-4919
Paul Butkerei, Wild Bird Feed Savings Day	599-0395
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	486-7667
Joseph Lancer, Binocular / Book Sales (7 to 9 P.M.)	536-6574
Suzanne Lancer, Education Chairperson (7 to 9 P.M.)	536-6574
George Popkin, Financial Advisor (8 to 9 P.M.)	378-4467
James Remsen, Jr., Birdathon Co-Chairperson	764-5168
Dolores Rogers, Welcoming Committee Chairperson	599-1224
Mary Jane Russell, <i>Armchair Activist</i> Chairperson	766-7397
Michael Shannon, Youth Representative	867-6084
Diane Singer, Publicity (5 to 8 P.M.)	561-6118
Marcia Specht, Hospitality Co-Chairperson	694-8229
Michael Sperling, <i>Skimmer</i> 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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