



Also call Congressman Charles Schumer's office at 718-627-9700 and ask to speak to Nicole regarding Jamaica Bay and the proposed bicycle path (which would be built with federal dollars in his district). Voice your opinion and request a public hearing.

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge is a precious, fragile ecosystem and a major stopover for migratory birds on the Atlantic flyway. Once the damage is done, the effects will be profound and far beyond sixteen feet of asphalt.

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### NOMINATIONS FOR 1998-1999 OFFICERS

At South Shore Audubon Society's general meeting on May 12th, officers will be elected for our next fiscal year. All members attending that meeting may nominate candidates from the floor and vote. The SSAS Nominating Committee, chaired by Dolores Rogers and including Bill Hollweg & Jim Remsen, has recommended the following candidates:

- President — Doreen Remsen
- Vice President — Jonathan Staller
- Treasurer — Nancy Frame
- Recording Secretary — Christine Schmitt
- Corresponding Secretary — Doris Pirodsky
- Director (to June 2001) — Denise Comeau
- Director (to June 2001) — Michael Goldsmith



*Explore the coast  
with the*  
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LITTORAL SOCIETY**

**FIRE ISLAND HIKE** (Saturday, May 9th). Hike along the Sunken Forest boardwalk during peak bird migration time. See beach plum in bloom and learn about the ecology of this barrier island. Cost: \$20 includes round-trip ferry and guided tour. Bring lunch and binoculars.

**MONTAUK WEEKEND** (May 29-31). Enjoy extended weekend of natural history exploration and fun at luxurious Manor House. Activities include selning, tidepooling, birding, botanizing, and evening star watch. Hike the Montauk Bluffs, Walking Dunes, Hither Beaches, and visit the Montauk Light, Accabonac Harbor (optional canoe trip), and Napeague Dunes. Cost: \$245 includes 2 nights, 5 meals, 5 guided hikes, 2 evening programs, and free pickup at LIRR station.

**JAMAICA BAY ECOLOGY BOAT TOUR** (Saturday, June 6th, 9:30-12:30). Narrated breakfast cruise aboard 96-foot Dorothy B VIII during peak shorebird migration. See egrets, herons, ibis, shorebirds, oystercatchers, terns, and learn about the history of this great urban estuary. Cost: \$35.

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

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

*Marion Yavarkovsky*

SSAS welcomes this month's collection of new members. We hope you'll become active members of New York's third largest chapter by joining us for a couple of hours at our next monthly meeting (the last until September) or on a Sunday morning bird walk. They're free, they're educational, and they're fun. Try one!

[To receive an application for membership in National Audubon Society and SSAS, please call Doreen Remsen at 472-6830 or send a postcard to SSAS. Introductory first-year membership is \$20; \$15 for students and senior citizens.]

- Atlantic Beach ..... Virginia Reilly
- Baldwin..... Mr. George Lawer, Louise Leonard, Doris L. Neilsen, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Schinn, Vallee Tantikosijna
- Bethpage ..... Ms. Jean Butler
- Cedarhurst ..... Gary Rosenberg
- East Rockaway ..... May Chariton
- Farmingdale..... Ms. Loreen Innes, Joe Lepera, Mr. Edward C. Reinhardt
- Floral Park ..... Philip Kull, Maryanne Squeglio
- Franklin Square ..... Ms. Ellen Palmisano
- Freeport..... Mrs. William D. Burke, Mrs. Eleanor Hedgepeth, Fred Smith
- Hempstead ..... Ms. Anne Millward
- Hicksville..... Carolyn A. Cirincion, Mrs. S. Hanson, William Marinis
- Levittown ..... W. Fischer
- Long Beach ..... Vicki Baumann, Mr. Bernard Cuttler, Angela Tancredi
- Massapequa ..... Helen Buckley; Mr. & Mrs. Morton Epstein; Ms. E. J. Fay; Brian C. Houser; Adele Portanova; Florence Schulein; R. Sprague; Otto Wartberg, Jr.
- Massapequa Park..... Mrs. R. Kandrath, N. Moy, Carolyn A. Sallstadt
- Merrick ..... Miss Linda Fleming
- Oceanside ..... Mrs. Judith E. Belfi, J. E. Franks, Mr. Al Larsen, Mrs. Joel Schechter
- Plainview ..... Mrs. A. Spinella
- Rockville Centre..... James Hodge
- Roosevelt ..... Charles F. Winter
- Seaford ..... John McGrath
- Valley Stream ..... Mrs. Charlotte Saft
- West Hempstead ..... Ms. Carolyn Mays



\*\*\*\*\*  
AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP STATUS (800) 274-4201  
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## HOFFMAN CENTER WALK

Dolores Rogers

On **Saturday, May 16th**, from 9:30 A.M. to noon, at the height of spring migration, a Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary naturalist will lead SSAS on a songbird and wildflower walk at the new Hoffman Center in Muttontown (6000 Northern Boulevard/Route 25A, on the south side of the street, west of Route 106 and one driveway west of Martin Viette Nurseries). Bring lunch; rain cancels, but if it drizzles it's on!

The Hoffman Center encompasses more than 155 acres of the former Brewster Estate. A 30,000 square foot Georgian-style main house and a 5,400 square foot carriage house are just some of the original buildings which were built between 1914 and 1918. There is also a complex of barns, dairy, stables, greenhouses, and other buildings. The grounds had been turned into a golf course and the site was slated for development when the Hoffman Foundation stepped in to preserve it as a remnant of the way the north shore environment was. Many parts of the grounds are being allowed to return to natural growth. The management plan includes open meadows, secondary brush, and mixed deciduous forest. A number of small "wetlands" have been created from the ponds and water hazards of the golf course. Join us!



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## SSAS BOAT TRIP SCHEDULED

For the first time in many years, South Shore Audubon Society has scheduled a birding boat trip. We will be leaving Freeport at 8 A.M. on **Sunday, August 16th** for a six-hour tour of the waters on the mainland side of Jones and Tobay Beaches, aboard a 38-foot boat. Cost is \$20; bring lunch. To sign up, mail your check payable to *South Shore Audubon Society* to Diane Singer, 118 Kent Road, Valley Stream, NY 11580-3316; please include your phone number so we can contact you in the event of cancellation.



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**SSAS Mission Statement** — *The mission of South Shore Audubon Society is to promote environmental education, and preserve and restore our environment, through responsible activism, for the benefit of both people and wildlife.*

**SSAS Post Office Statement** — *South Shore Skimmer is published monthly from September through December and February through June by South Shore Audubon Society, P.O. Box 31, Freeport, NY 11520-0031.*

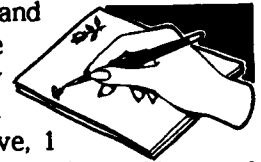
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## TANGLEWOOD PRESERVE IN PERIL: LETTERS NEEDED

Joan Bulkerell

Both the village of Lynbrook and the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation have a project before them that would, if granted, allow a five-story, 98,000 square foot commercial residence with truck loading docks and dumpsters to be built within 25 feet of the protected wetlands of Tanglewood Preserve. Although wetlands law provides the means for protecting 100 feet of adjacent land, the NYS DEC might grant permits to develop within this adjacent area.

Please write to Mr. Charles Hamilton, NYS DEC, SUNY Building 40, Stony Brook, NY 11790-2356 and ask that Tanglewood Preserve, a unique and strikingly beautiful wetlands, be protected to the fullest. Send a copy of your letter to Mr. Thomas S. Gulotta, Nassau County Executive, 1 West St., Mineola, NY 11501-4895; Tanglewood is owned by Nassau County.



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## BIRDATHON DINNER A Celebration and Bragfest

Doreen Remsen

Once again, all South Shore Audubon Birdathoners are invited to gather after the Big Day to tabulate our chapter's grand total of species seen, share stories about the "one that got away," and simply enjoy each other's company! It doesn't matter if you are an independent Birdathoner or a member of one of the three formal teams — we hope you'll join us!

This year we will be meeting at Super Buffet, an all-you-can-eat Chinese buffet located on Merrick Road (corner of Morris Avenue) in Rockville Centre, at approximately 5:45 P.M. The cost is \$9.95 per person, and the seating is on a first-come/first-served basis. There are large group tables available to accommodate 15-20 people, so as soon as enough of us arrive, we'll request a "family" table. So bring your bird list and appetite on Saturday, May 9th (rain date May 16th) to the Super Buffet!

\*\*\*\*\*

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**BIRD WALKS**  
Elliott Kulner

**SIGN UP FOR AUDUBON ADVENTURES**  
Suzanne Lancer

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

**Please Note:** In last month's *Skimmer*, we inadvertently relocated Memorial Day weekend. The schedule there for the end of May is incorrect. Sorry about that; we promise we won't do it again for at least a year!

- Apr. 26 Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
- May 3 Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
- May 10 & 17 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- May 24 *Memorial Day Weekend — No Walk*
- May 31 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- June 7 Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)  
*Summer Break*
- Aug. 23 & 30 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- Sept. 6 *Labor Day Weekend — No Walk*
- Sept. 13 Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
- Sept. 20 Hempstead Lake State Park (Exit 18, first lot south of Southern State Parkway)
- Sept. 27 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- Oct. 4 Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)

*Audubon Adventures* is the major National Audubon educational program for children in grades 4 to 6. For the 1998-99 school year, we can accommodate orders for Spanish language student newspapers on the following topics only: wildflowers, animal communications, marine mammals, snakes, songbirds, and ponds.

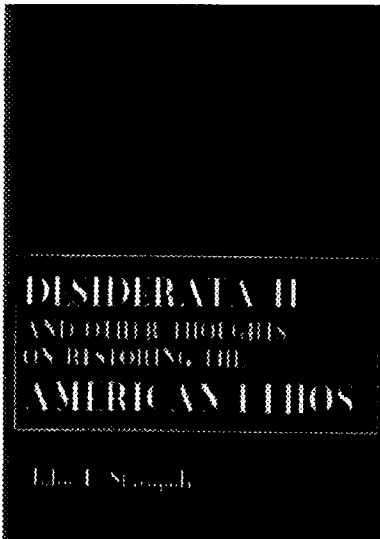
An *Audubon Adventures* classroom kit costs \$35 for a class of up to 32 students. An individual kit is available to the public for \$22 (if bought through SSAS, the individual kit is just \$19). Prices include shipping and handling.

The production schedule has been pushed up due to overwhelming demand, so the kits will be available in July. This means that teachers can receive their kits earlier than ever before.

For further information, contact SSAS Education Chairperson Suzanne Lancer at 536-6574.

◆◆◆◆◆ WILDLIFE POISONING HOTLINE (800) 356-0560  
◆◆◆◆◆ NASSAU COUNTY POLLUTION HOTLINE 739-6666  
◆◆◆◆◆

The American self — what is its nature? What are its identifying characteristics? From his early youth, John F. Staropoli, author of *Desiderata II and Other Thoughts on Restoring the American Ethos*, has thought deeply and idealistically about these questions.



With a wealth of descriptive prose, the author proposes an "Americanized" version of Max Ehrmann's poem "Desiderata," in which the darkness of the American ethos emerges as the backdrop for a message of hope and for a restoration of the "American self and community."

An erudite evaluation of the current American scene, especially our weaknesses and inhibitions, this is one book that fully probes the American psyche and all of its dark undercurrents.

Before studying molecular biology at Princeton University, JOHN F. STAROPOLI was a 1994

Westinghouse finalist. His résumé includes training at the Manhattan and Juilliard Schools of Music and membership on the **South Shore Audubon Society's** Board of Directors at the age of twelve. He was Youth Representative of the society and maintained that position for six years.



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Please send me \_\_\_ copies of *DESIDERATA II* at \$10.95 per copy plus \$2.50 shipping and handling.

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## THE STATE THAT WAITED FOR ME

*Jonathan Staller*

Here I am once again in Arizona, birding capital of the U.S., my fourth trip out west. Unfortunately, on my previous trips I wasn't a bird-watcher yet. Although I loved the beautiful landscapes and plant specimens that are found in the various habitats, I wasn't aware of all the different birds that could be seen! So here I am in Phoenix, 1 P.M., March 10, 1998.

While driving from the airport to the place I was staying at, I saw my first bird of the state: Rock Dove (aka pigeon). The next two birds seen you could have guessed: European Starlings and House Sparrows. I should have expected them, but that's the way my life list for Arizona began.

After settling in and unpacking my luggage, I decided to drive west to Luke Air Force Base and see the F-16 fighter jets fly and do their maneuvers. They were just awesome as they flew low and fast just above my head. As I followed one jet passing a tree, I noticed a large bird perched on a branch — my first Golden Eagle, and the sun was shining right at it so I was able to see the golden feathers.

On the way back to town, I stopped by a pond and saw Cinnamon and Green-winged Teals, a Pied-billed Grebe, and some American Coot enjoying the water. I also went to Dreamy Draw Recreation Area. There are trails there that you can climb up to small peaks (2000 feet). There I saw Sage Thrasher, Black-throated Sparrow, Gambel's Quail, a Phainopepla catching insects on the fly, Abert's Towhee, and Anna's Hummingbird four times.

The next day I left for my big trip to the southeast corner of the state. I arrived at Fort Huachuca, which is an active army intelligence installation. On the property there's a place called Garden Canyon; I saw a large flock of Gray-breasted (Mexican) Jays and also saw Chestnut-collared Longspurs, a Swainson's Hawk perched on a pole, Yellow-eyed Juncos, a Pygmy Nuthatch, Black Phoebe, Bridled Titmouse, Lesser Goldfinch, and a Greater Pewee.

Next I went to Ramsey Canyon Preserve, which is owned by the Nature Conservancy. I saw Acorn and Strickland's Woodpeckers and a Painted Redstart. I also heard a towhee. I told a man that "if we were on the east coast it would be an Eastern Towhee, but here you have five different species." He said, "Welcome to Arizona birding!"

I ate lunch and proceeded to the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area, which includes the cottonwood-lined San Pedro River that runs up from Mexico. Here were White-headed (pictured) and Gila Woodpeckers, a White-winged Dove, Bendire's Thrasher, a colony of Bushtits making a nest, and a Red-tailed Hawk that flew over. I was really impressed when I caught a glimpse of red flying by — a Vermilion Flycatcher with its



bright red body and contrasting dark back and eye mask. Beautiful!!!!

I checked into a motel in Douglas, which is a mile north of Mexico. I constantly saw border patrol trucks driving by and had an encounter with one of them that night 25 miles east of Douglas in the heart of the Chihuahuan Desert. I was out on a dirt road playing a tape of owl calls. A Great Horned Owl appeared and I watched it sitting on a pole. When I was driving back to town, a border patrolman put on his sirens and pulled me over. He searched my car and all he found was bird-watching equipment. I told him I was looking at an owl before he came. He must have thought I was nuts, an illegal immigrant, or a drug smuggler; being that he let me go, I guess it was the first one.

The next day I headed northeast toward Portal on Route 80. Along the road I saw Greater Roadrunners, Western Meadowlarks, a Burrowing Owl, Lesser Night-hawk, Cassin's Kingbird, Say's Phoebe, Lark Bunting, and a flock of Chihuahuan Ravens. I arrived at the Chiricahua Mountains and tried to drive up to Cave Creek Canyon, but the roads were undrivable. El Niño's weather patterns even affected Arizona, as large amounts of snow that had fallen earlier in the season were melting onto the roads, making them hazardous to drive. I should know, since I ignored a "Road Closed" sign and attempted to drive anyway. No way! — so I turned around and changed my plans: I drove into New Mexico and back through Arizona to Willcox. In January the town holds a birding festival; 12,000 Sandhill Cranes winter on a big lake there. Although I didn't see any cranes, I did manage to take pictures of a Harris's Hawk.

That night, I headed west to Tucson. The next morning, I went to Sabino Canyon, which is located in the Santa Catalina Mountains on the outskirts of the city. The mountains range from 2500 to 9000 feet, creating a diversity of habitats. I saw Cactus Wrens, Williamson's Sapsucker, Pyrrhuloxia, White-crowned Sparrow, Crissal Thrasher, Violet-green Swallows, a Northern Goshawk, and a Brown (Canyon) Towhee. I didn't see any snakes, but I did manage to have a run-in with a Gila monster.

When I left the canyon, I went to the western side of town and drove to Tucson Mountain Park. The Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum and western unit of Saguaro National Park are located in this area. I heard a pack of coyotes howling and saw a Merlin fly by. I also saw a Curve-billed Thrasher and a Costa's Hummingbird.

This trip definitely made up for the other three trips I've taken here. Thanks, Arizona; though it had been four years since I was here last, the birds were still here for me to see (and thanks, George P.).

◆◆◆◆◆ RARE BIRD ALERT (212) 979-3070 ◆◆◆◆◆

◆◆◆◆◆ AUDUBON ACTIONLINE (800) 659-2622 ◆◆◆◆◆

◆◆◆◆◆ TAPE-RECORDED UPDATES FROM WASHINGTON, DC ◆◆◆◆◆

## MEMORIALS FOR MARY RICHARD

*Doreen Remsen*

There are two upcoming events which will pay tribute to the life and work of Mary Richard, the director of National Audubon's Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary, who was killed in an automobile accident this past February. The first is scheduled to take place at Planting Fields Arboretum during their Arbor Day Festival April 25-26, 1998, 10 A.M. to 5 P.M. Bernadette Castro (NYS Commissioner of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation) will preside over a dedication in Mary's honor on one of the festival days. You can contact the Sanctuary at 922-3200 to find out which day Ms. Castro will be there.

A memorial service will be held on Sunday, June 28th at 3 P.M. on the grounds of TR Sanctuary. The ceremony is planned for outdoors to accommodate all those who wish to remember Mary at the place she loved best.

## CONSERVATION REPORT

*Betty Borowsky*

This is the second of two articles describing the development of the South Shore Estuary Reserve Management Plan. To refresh your memories, the New York State Legislature adopted the Long Island South Shore Estuary Reserve Act in 1993. This act mandated the preparation of a Comprehensive Management Plan for the Reserve and, to do this, it created the South Shore Estuary Reserve Council.

This Council is comprised of representatives from the South Shore towns and villages, Nassau and Suffolk Counties, and other interested organizations, including recreation, estuary-based businesses, environmental groups, and academic institutions. To give you a flavor of the Council's composition, the two County Executives, the City of Long Beach, the Supervisors of all the Towns that border the estuary, the Great South Bay and Lyman Langdon Audubon Societies, the New York Marine Trades Association, and others are represented. In order to do the work involved in devising the Plan, three committees were formed: a Citizen's Advisory, a Technical Advisory, and a Management Advisory Committee (the South Shore Audubon Society is a member of the Technical Advisory Committee and has attempted to follow the proceedings carefully). The chairs of the Citizen's and the Technical Advisory Committees are also members of the Council.

A conscientious effort is being made to distribute information about the progress of the development of the Plan. All the Committees and the Council prepare voluminous documentation, and distribute it freely. In fact, it tends to be information overload. The interim report issued in March lists five main goals of the final Plan:

- ☛ Enhance Use and Enjoyment of the Estuary
- ☛ Maintain and Improve Water Quality
- ☛ Protect and Restore the Estuarine Ecosystem

- ☛ Revitalize Shellfish and Finfish Resources
- ☛ Promote Public Education and Encourage Citizen Stewardship

Specific objectives are listed under each major goal. For these details, you can obtain the report by calling 516-470-BAYS. Anyone interested in participating in this effort or who has something they would like to add to the Plan should contact me.

## TERNS & PLOVERS NEED VOLUNTEERS

*John Zarudsky*

Volunteers are once again requested to assist the Town of Hempstead Department of Conservation and Waterways in monitoring and protecting Least Tern colonies and Piping Plover nests in the Lido Town Park/Nassau Beach area and at Silver Point in Atlantic Beach. Help is particularly needed on evenings, weekends, and holidays from May through August. If interested, please contact John Zarudsky, Conservation Biologist (and active SSAS member), at 897-4126 (work) or 486-5272 (home). The federal government and New York State have listed the beach-dwelling Piping Plover and Least Tern (pictured) as endangered species.



## THANKS TO THE TACKAPAUSHA HELPERS

Our Spring Festival at Tackapausha Museum and Preserve was a huge success, drawing hundreds of people despite the soggy weather. Our volunteers included Angela Something-or-Other (who left before your editor started writing down names; please let us know who you are), Alice Blaustein, Betty Borowsky, Pat Eagen, Betsy Gulotta, Jennifer Hemmers of TR Sanctuary (with a Peregrine Falcon, Baltimore Oriole, Double-crested Cormorant, rat snake, and eastern box turtle), Carole Jacobelli, Doris Pirodsky, George Popkin and his daughter Annie (visiting from Oregon), Doreen Remsen, Chris Schmitt, Marcia Specht, Michael Sperling, Jonathan Staller, Rona Weissman, and Kevin Zdrojeski.

## SSAS WEEKEND AT FAHNESTOCK

We're looking for even more people to sign up for SSAS's **October 17th and 18th** weekend at the Taconic Outdoor Education Center in Putnam County's 11,000 acre Fahnestock Memorial State Park. The Center includes nine heated bed-equipped rustic cabins (ten people per cabin, with rest rooms and showers in an adjacent building) and a main building with environmental exhibits and a chef from the Culinary Institute. Fahnestock State Park is primarily oak and hickory forest, with lakes and ten miles of trails; we are looking forward to seeing fall colors on the trees and going on guided hikes. Cost for the weekend is just \$50 per person. To sign up, please call SSAS *Armchair Activist* Chairperson Mary Jane Russell at 766-7397.

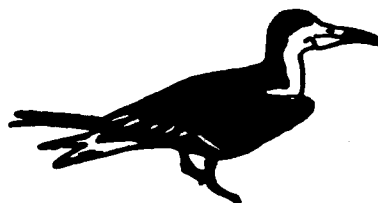


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Nancy Frame, Treasurer.....	520-9016
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Judy Hoyer, Director (6/00).....	775-0159
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Bill Hollweg, Director (6/99).....	226-2519
Henry Levine, Director (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
Janice Howard, Hospitality Co-Chairperson.....	420-9468
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
Michael Spurling, <i>Skimmer</i> Editor.....	541-0805

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

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