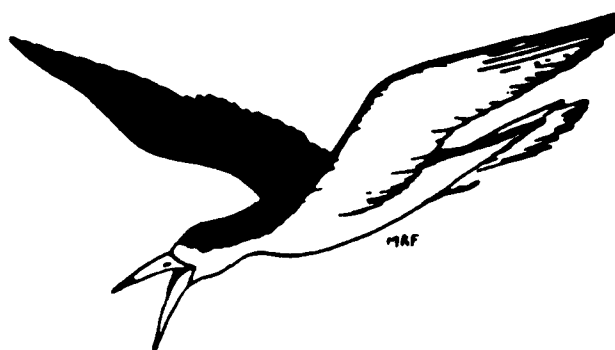


SOUTH SHORE SKIMMER



VOLUME 30, NUMBER 5 — SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

FEBRUARY 2000

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Jonathan Staller

Wintertime — the season of cold temperatures, nor'easters that seem to stall when they get to our area, and frigid Arctic blasts of wind. If you can survive being outside for a few hours and bird-watch in these conditions, you'll see colorful and beautiful birds, larger than a bread box, that you won't see in the warmer months. Ducks!!!

There are at least twenty species of ducks that you'll only see in the winter. On the ocean and the bays, you might see Buffleheads, Red-breasted Mergansers, all three scoters, Common Goldeneyes, scaups, and Oldsquaws. On freshwater lakes and streams, you can find Northern Pintails, wigeons, Blue- and Green-winged Teals, Red-heads, and Ruddy Ducks.

My favorite duck is the Mallard and the best time to see him also is during the winter months. Although the Mallard, Northern Shoveler, and Wood Duck all have the same colors, their patterns are arranged differently. The Mallard has two black tail feathers that curl up and for this reason alone the Mallard became my favorite duck.

If you're interested in seeing any of these species, then join Elliott on a bird walk or, better yet, help Joe Grupp count ducks on a duck survey this season. For then you can be like me: When I started bird-watching, I thought we only had white ducks and Mallards; that's it!! On my first walk with Elliott, I saw at least ten species of ducks. Oh, by the way, that's how I got hooked on bird-watching.

◆◆◆◆◆ IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE WASTE, PLEASE

◆◆◆◆◆ BRING COFFEE MUGS TO OUR MEETINGS

◆◆◆◆◆ WEB PAGE www.audubon.org/chapter/ny/southshore

◆◆◆◆◆ AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP STATUS (800) 274-4201

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

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

NEXT MEETING

Tom Torma

DATE: Tuesday, February 8, 2000

TIME: 8:00 P.M. ☉

PLACE: Freeport Memorial Library
144 W. Merrick Rd. (at S. Ocean Ave.)

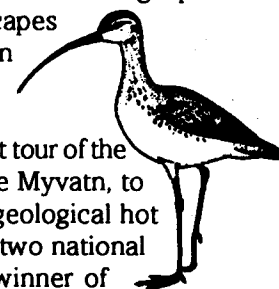
SPEAKER: Don Riepe

TOPIC: Iceland: Land of Fire and Ice

Iceland is a small country (260,000 people) with a vast array of volcanic formations, glaciers, waterfalls, and open wilderness landscapes. Don Riepe, the Chief of Resource Management at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, has led two trips to Iceland for the American Littoral Society (he's the Director of their Northeast Chapter) and will be visiting again this summer.

His slide program includes close-up photographs of many cliff-nesting birds, including puffins, murre, Razor-bills, fulmars, and kittiwakes. Another cliff-nesting species photographed was the Gyrfaalcon.

Iceland has 72 nesting bird species and, since there are very few areas with trees, many are ground nesters. These include Common Eider, Arctic Tern, Redshank, snipes, European Oystercatcher, and Whimbrel (pictured), to name a few. The program includes wide angle photos of the variety of volcanic landscapes encountered, as well as the open wildflower meadows and moonscapes.

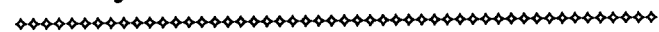


Don will lead us on a naturalist tour of the country from Reykjavik to Lake Myvatn, to the mountains, cinder cones, geological hot spots, and fjords, and through two national parks. Three-time first-place winner of the annual photo contest of the New York City Audubon Society (for whom he's now the program chair), his photos have appeared in many national and international publications, including *Audubon*, *National Wildlife*, *Defenders*, *Scientific American*, and *The New York Times*. Join us!

**DUCK SURVEY HELPERS
WANTED THREE MORE TIMES**

Since February of 1989, SSAS Duck Survey Chairperson Joe Grupp has spent one or two Saturdays every wintertime month counting ducks in 28 locations from Valley Stream to Massapequa Park, with Paul Butkerekitt doing the same at 10 locations in southwestern Nassau. The data being collected by their teams provides essential and unprecedented information about the populations of every duck species wintering on our lakes and ponds.

Joe is looking for volunteers interested in spending a few hours or a full day viewing and learning about our waterfowl. If you're interested, please call him at 481-4208. Upcoming duck surveys will be held on **Saturdays, February 5th and 26th, and March 25th**, rain or shine.



✦ WELCOME NEW MEMBERS ✦

Jackie Richichi

SSAS welcomes our newest members. We hope that you'll become active members of our very active chapter — join us at a meeting, weekly bird walk, or special event.

[To receive an application for membership in National Audubon Society and SSAS, please call our Membership Chairperson, Jackie Richichi, at 631-691-1855, or send e-mail to Jacee13@aol.com. Introductory membership is \$20; \$15 for students and senior citizens.]

- Bayside Ellen M. Kaye
- Bellmore Ronald S. Carol, Bonnie Good,
T. Manglirawan, Charles W. Sherwin, John Skarulls
- Bethpage Dr. Casey of Bethpage Animal Hospital, Henry J. Ostermeier
- East Meadow Sean Blakeney, Jack Burke,
Hyman Rosenbaum
- East Rockaway Michael Fogarty
- Farmingdale Jodi & Vinny Pirro
- Franklin Square L. B. Speiser
- Freeport ? Rorthover of Freeport H.S.
- Garden City ? Cheikes, Maureen Hoch
- Hewlett Robert F. Furchgott
- Hicksville Mao Hu, Elizabeth Yatzyshyn
- Long Beach Gladys Foster, Milena Gettis,
Marna P. Hirshhorn,
Mrs. Millicent Peters
- Malverne Bernard & Marylou Malone,
Deborah Mawhirter
- Massapequa Jesse Farrell, Howard Harris,
Don Moran, Sharleene Sherwin
- Massapequa Park Deborah Herpfer, Rhonda Lally
- Merrick Anita C. Miller,
Jennifer Zwerling
- Richmond Hill Richard Bergenfeld
- Rockville Centre Jenny Marcotrigiano

- Seaford Don Jutta Cameron, Rose St. Pierre
- Uniondale Lynne Lundgren
- Valley Stream Mr. & Mrs. R. Armstrong, Mr. & Mrs. R. Calimano, Jeffrey Jacobson, Skyler & Nicaela Kessler, Colette London, Joan Mahoney of Memorial J.H.S.
- Woodmere Robert Rosenfield, D.D.S.



◆◆◆◆◆
SSAS NEEDS HICKS HELPERS
◆◆◆◆◆

Hicks Nurseries' Spring Flower and Garden Show and Horticultural Fair is a free indoor gathering of plant and gardening clubs, societies, schools, and organizations who share a common interest in plants, gardening, wildlife, and the environment. The annual event, at Hicks in Westbury, is attended by thousands of Nassau County residents and is an excellent opportunity to greet the public, share information about our chapter and its goals, and recruit new members for Audubon while enjoying the beautiful display gardens.



South Shore Audubon has accepted Hicks' invitation to once again participate in this event. The dates are Saturday and Sunday, **March 18th and 19th**, from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. We are looking for volunteers, for any time(s) throughout the weekend. If you can do a half day on Saturday, an afternoon on Sunday, or just an hour or two, it will be greatly appreciated! There will be sign-up sheets at our general meetings, or you can contact SSAS Director Therese Lucas (221-8654 or TKLWings@aol.com) and let her know which dates and times you can be there. Thank you!

◆◆◆◆◆
ANOTHER THANK-YOU COLUMN
Michael Sperling

This month's thank yous go to the Tackapausha Holiday Wildlife Party volunteers: Gloria Berkowitz, Alice Blaustein, Betty Borowsky, Helen Buckley, Pat Eagen, Therese Lucas, Doris Pirodsky (who was inadvertently omitted from last issue's Brookside thank yous), Dolores Rogers, Chris Schmitt, Murry & Judy Schoenberger, Marcia Specht, Jonathan Staller, Tom Torma, and yours truly.

Additional thanks go to Karine Jean-Pierre of Audubon's Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary in Oyster Bay for doing another excellent live raptors show for us at Tackapausha, and to TRS's Jennifer Hemmers for doing a fine job of leading a wonderful walk through the grounds of the Hoffman Center in Upper Brookville.

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NASSAU COUNTY POLLUTION HOTLINE 739-6666
◆◆◆◆◆
RARE BIRD ALERT (212) 979-3070
◆◆◆◆◆

AUDUBON CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

This year, SSAS will be awarding two full scholarships, one to an adult and one (the Marion Yavarkovsky Youth Camp Scholarship) to a child age 10–14, to attend an Audubon camp this summer in Maine. Applicants or their parents should be members in good standing and be interested in sharing their camp experiences with fellow members, the community, and/or schools; we typically get only a few applicants, so apply! Financial need is not a basis for receiving a scholarship; the winners must provide their own transportation. Please contact our Education Chairperson, Suzanne Lancer (536-6574 between 7 and 9 P.M.), in February for details; applications will be due **March 15th**. The following descriptions come from National Audubon’s web site; see SSAS’s web page for a link to info on all of Audubon’s camps and their programs.

The Audubon Camp in Maine is located on Hog Island on Muscongus Bay. The site includes original homestead buildings; wonderfully rustic, yet comfortable, dormitory accommodations; and great food.

Muscongus Bay is the southernmost outpost of many northern birds and marine mammals. Harbor seals bask in the sun. Mosses, lichens, and mushrooms abound. Established in 1936 as a pioneering experiment in nature education for teachers and other adult leaders, the Maine Camp occupies the 333-acre Todd Wildlife Sanctuary on Hog Island, a wild paradise that seems a million miles from the urbanized workaday world. Today the camp attracts people from all walks of life. Hearty meals are served in the “Bridge,” a restored 19th century farmhouse. A library and laboratory, freshwater and saltwater aquaria, and microscopes are readily available. Graduate credit is available.

Audubon Youth Camps in Maine. At the Audubon Camp in Maine, a sense of wonder prevails. Young people aged 10 to 14 years learn about themselves, about nature, and how they relate to their natural environment. Participants learn by doing — if we talk about something, we’ll also see it, feel it, touch it, experience it.

The primary aim of Audubon’s Youth Camp is to instill a love, respect, and sense of stewardship for the natural world. While working toward this goal, we hope to aid your child in acquiring the knowledge and skills to understand the environment. Youth Camp has been designed to enhance scientific literacy in participants and challenge them to learn more about the environment and how they are connected to the natural world.

The faculty consists of dedicated science educators from throughout the country who have a proven knowledge of science as well as a strong background working with middle school-aged youth. The faculty team is selected based upon their knowledge of the natural world and their desire to inspire young people. Each child will be



part of a small group of campers and one instructor. The camper–instructor ratio of 5 to 1 and the enrollment of 50 campers creates a warm, personal atmosphere. The staff maintains a commitment to the highest standards of boat and camper safety.

Campers hike through cathedral-like spruce–fir forests, search for organisms in tide pools, and learn about sea-birds, seals, and other wildlife. The evenings are filled with night hikes, stargazing, special guests, and songfests. There are few dry eyes when it comes time to leave. But it doesn’t end there. This experience is designed to stay with these camp “graduates” and illuminate the course of their lives for a very long time to come.

The Youth Camp is held July 26–August 6 and August 9–19.

Adult Scholarship. As this *Skimmer* was going to press, we weren’t sure which of the following programs will have space for us: Maine Coast Field Ornithology (offered June 11–17, June 18–24, June 25–July 1, and Sept. 4–10), Nature Through Photography (July 16–22), Natural History of the Maine Coast (July 9–15), and Marine Life Explorations (July 16–22). We’ve got room to describe one of these:

Maine Coast Field Ornithology. Wake to a chorus of Black-throated Green, Blackburnian, and Magnolia Warblers singing. Observe courtship and nest-building behavior of the Northern Parula. Sharpen your birding skills and knowledge of bird biology.

Whether you are a beginner or experienced birder, you will enjoy our all-star staff of ornithologists. Each session builds an understanding of conservation biology and birding techniques through lectures and discussions about such topics as migration, nest biology, feeding adaptations, and identification.

Specialty topics such as gardening for birds and bird photography are investigated. Follow-up field experiences by using our laboratory specimens, slides, recorded sounds, and an extensive reference library.

Hog Island serves as the program base of operations. We’ll stress field identification and biology as we tour Muscongus Bay, visiting nesting colonies of Atlantic Puffin, Roseate Tern, Black Guillemot, gulls, and eiders. Field trips will also visit mainland hardwood forests, freshwater and saltwater marshes, and coastal beaches.

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Houses - Baths
Books - Gifts

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SSAS TO VISIT CENTRAL PARK

Joanne Del Prete has booked Urban Park Ranger "Bob" to lead SSAS on a spring-migration birding trip through Manhattan's Central Park on **Saturday, May 6th**. Please watch future *Skimmers* for details and mark your calendar.

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT 2000

The following's from a press release: The National Audubon Society and the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology urgently need the help of North Americans of all ages to count birds this winter. By participating in Great Backyard Bird Count 2000, **February 18-21**, bird-watchers, regardless of skill level, will help scientists document the status and health of our winter bird populations at the start of spring migration.

Taking part is as easy as 1, 2, 3. The Cornell Lab and National Audubon Society ask everyone — kids, adults, seniors, families, classrooms, and community groups — to count the birds they see at their backyard bird feeders, local parks, and other areas. Participants then enter their reports online at BirdSource (<http://birdsource.org>), a user-friendly, state-of-the-art website developed by the Cornell Lab and Audubon.

Widespread citizen participation will assist scientists in both the short and long term. "By helping us count birds, people from subtropical Florida to Arctic Canada and Alaska will help us to understand better the effects of changing weather and landscape on our birds' health and movement patterns," said Frank Gill, Senior Vice President for Science at National Audubon. "Last year, some 42,000 reports — triple the number of reports from the previous [first] year — tallied more than three million birds of 350 species."

"We're excited to see what this year's snapshot of bird distributions and densities will reveal," said John Fitzpatrick, director of the Cornell Lab. "Each year of the count is vital to establish an accurate picture of North American bird populations. Over time, our results become more critical to understanding the environment. This count, the largest Internet-based bird census ever conducted, enables us to ensure our common birds remain common and tells us when to take protective measures for those species in decline."

Audubon and Cornell stress that amateurs can contribute essential information to this and other studies. "Bird-watching is the fastest-growing outdoor recreation in the U.S. and is enjoyed by millions. As information needs grow, the observations made by those who care about birds become increasingly important to conservation. It is vital to use this hobby to aid science," said Audubon's Gill. "With the cutting-edge Internet technology of BirdSource, the real-time, continent-wide compilation of citizen-science reports fulfills that need."

In order for GBBC to be a success, Cornell and Audubon invite the estimated 60 million North Americans who feed

or watch birds to take part. "It's important for bird-watchers everywhere to tell us what they're seeing. We need people to help by spending as little as 15 minutes on any or all days of the count recording the numbers and kinds of birds they see during their morning coffee break, while driving to work, taking a stroll, or while purposefully out bird-watching," said Cornell's Fitzpatrick.

Participants tally the highest number of each species seen at one time (so as not to count the same birds more than once). Observers go to BirdSource to report their sightings, by clicking on their state or province. Within hours, they will see how their reports combine with others across the continent to create a "snapshot" of North American birds. This count has the added benefit of helping BirdSource assess the value of backyards as habitat and evaluate the species of birds dependent upon them.

75 percent of North American households now own personal computers. Those without Internet access can enter their results at local libraries, schools, and during a break at work.

Great Backyard Bird Count is a perfect family or youth group activity. Last year, classrooms all across the U.S. logged on. The updated site features a list of words associated with birds and their environments, and suggests reference books, field guides, and novels for educators, students, and beginning birders. New additions include "How to Birdwatch," an introduction to birding, using binoculars and field guides; and "Where in the World Were These Birds?," a geography/research lesson. Site visitors can view colorful bird images, hear bird vocalizations, and see trend data from last year's backyard count and other citizen-science projects, such as Project FeederWatch and the Christmas Bird Count.

To participate, go to <http://birdsource.org> and click on "Great Backyard Bird Count." Directions are provided at the site. Participation is free. No registration is necessary. For more information, prospective counters can call toll-free 1-800-843-BIRD (2473).

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



CONSERVATION REPORT

Pine Barrens Credits

Betty Borowsky

The Pine Barrens of Long Island are truly unique. It's hard to call them spectacular or majestic, or describe them with similar words — they don't make you gasp like when you first see the Grand Canyon in person, and they don't inspire awe like the geyser fields of Yellowstone National Park. Instead, they offer an atmosphere of deep quiet and peace that can't be experienced anywhere else.

The Pine Barrens are characterized by sandy soil, which holds relatively little moisture. In the driest areas the dominant trees are pitch pines and scrub oaks, and the dominant shrubs tend to be related to the heaths. Areas where more moisture is available have more diverse (and taller) vegetation, but are also dominated by pines and oaks.

Today, of the original 250,000 acres of Pine Barrens, only about 80,000 remain undeveloped. Of these, the 1993 Pine Barrens Protection Act has designated about 52,000 acres as the "core preservation" area, to be set aside in perpetuity. The Pine Barrens Protection Act was passed after vigorous campaigning — primarily by the Long Island Pine Barrens Society, but also by numerous environmental groups and private individuals. The Act was passed not only to preserve this unique area because of its ecological significance, but to make sure that enough open land remains to replenish the underground aquifers that provide Long Island's drinking water.

But passing the Act was only the first step in a long journey to final preservation of this valuable land. First, only about 40,000 acres are currently protected by either Suffolk County, New York State, the United States, a Suffolk Town (either Brookhaven, Riverhead, or Southampton), or the Nature Conservancy; the remaining acres are either developed lands or are privately owned.

While the ultimate goal is to transfer ownership of the privately held lands to a governmental agency, previous land preservation efforts have sometimes been unfair to land owners. Sometimes owners were forced to give up their property (under the law of "eminent domain") even when they didn't want to, and sometimes the purchase price was unfairly low. In order to overcome these potential injustices, a novel approach was formulated — essentially, an owner does not have to relinquish his or her property. Nor is he or she prevented from further developing it (as long as some basic ground rules are followed). When and if a property owner decides to sell, he or she may apply for a "Letter of Interpretation." Based on the size of the property, its location, and other criteria, the owner is ultimately issued a certain number of credits. The value of credits is not fixed, but varies with market demand. (For example, last November a credit was worth about \$40,000 in Brookhaven, but \$17,000 in Riverhead.) Should the owner wish to sell the property, he or she will receive the

current value of the credits. Meanwhile, developers can buy these credits and exchange them for land outside the Pine Barrens core that is specifically designated for this purpose. In other words, development is moved from areas within the Pine Barrens to areas outside it. These outside areas are generally sites designated for commercial uses. Thus: 1) Pine Barrens land is preserved; 2) development occurs in areas which have already been designated for that purpose that will not impact the environment; and 3) the cost to the government is relatively modest.

In a way, this arrangement is an experiment. It has not won universal approval by all, and much land remains to be transferred. It is, however, a good-faith effort to preserve natural areas in a humane, relatively inexpensive manner. Some years must pass before we can evaluate its success. But in any event, the Pine Barrens will be saved and we will all benefit from this.

TIME FOR A PUN

SSAS Recording Secretary Chris Schmitt relayed the following to us at a general meeting last spring. To quote Chris, "it's so bad, it's funny":

Question: Why do seagulls fly toward the ocean?

Answer: Because if they flew toward the bay, they would be bagels.



Explore the coast
with the

AMERICAN LITTORAL SOCIETY

NEW YORK AQUARIUM (Saturday, April 1). Meet at 10 A.M. (no foolin') for a 2-1/2 hour special "Behind the Scenes" tour of the many indoor/outdoor exhibits. See walrus, sea otter, stingrays, sharks, and, of course, "Squirt" the Wonder Clam. Visit Discovery Cove and Sea Cliffs exhibits. Cost: \$15 (kids \$8). Leader: Bob Cummings. Call Don.

FIRE ISLAND "SUNKEN FOREST" (Saturday, May 20). Meet at 10 A.M. at the ferry in Sayville for day trip to unique maritime forest on Fire Island. Hike the mile long boardwalk trail during peak spring bird migration. Cost: \$20 includes round trip ferry and guided hike. Bring lunch and binoculars. Leaders: Nancy Corona and Steve Finn. Call Nancy at (718) 318-8827.

ASSATEAGUE NATIONAL SEASHORE (May 18-21). Enjoy a wildlife bonanza on the Virginia coast. Hike trails of Chincoteague Refuge and beaches of Assateague National Seashore during peak spring bird migration. See wild ponies, Sika deer, river otter, bald eagle, shorebirds, and many species of warblers and other songbirds. Cost: \$275 includes 3 nights at Refuge Motor Inn, Safari Bus Tour of back dune flats, boat tour of marshes, guided hikes, evening programs, and "All-you-can-eat" seafood buffet on Saturday night. Leaders: Mickey Cohen and Don Riepe. Call Don.

For information and free field trip brochure,
call/write Don Riepe, (718) 634-6467,
28 West 9th Road, Broad Channel, NY 11693

THE THREATS TO JBWR & BROOKSIDE

Michael Sperling

In the last *Skimmer* there was encouraging news regarding our ongoing efforts to protect Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge and discouraging news regarding a serious threat to SSAS-managed Brookside Preserve. Since then, unfortunately, we've lost ground on both fronts, but we're still hopeful and continue to need your pens and voices. As of early January, here's what's happening (thanks once again to Carol Capobianco and Joe O'Connell of Hudson River Audubon Society of Westchester for the JBWR update):

Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. Billy Garrett, Superintendent of the Jamaica Bay Unit, sent a letter out on December 3rd indicating that he plans to recommend that the bike path go through the Wildlife Refuge. He wrote that "the Jamaica Bay Refuge is a terrifically important natural resource area and should be managed with that primary (but not exclusive) value in mind." It would appear that he will support the following plan:

① A 12-foot wide multi-use paved pathway would be built through JBWR instead of the originally planned 16-foot wide one (10 feet paved and a 1 foot gravel shoulder on either side). This would save four-tenths of an acre of refuge land.

② The pathway would be built a minimum of 6 feet from the street curb. This would mean the bike path would be a minimum of 7 feet inside the boundary of the wildlife refuge. The pathway will "meander" through the refuge, but the maximum intrusion isn't specified.

③ An expanded planting strip would be added between Cross Bay Boulevard and the portion of the bike path near the street, as well as protective barriers such as "concrete bollards."

④ The loss of habitat caused by fragmentation as a result of the "meanders" of the bike path will be offset by restoring unspecified existing fragmented areas.

⑤ Retaining walls or similar structures will be used to minimize loss of existing vegetation where soil is needed to fill low areas on the refuge side of the pathway.

In all other respects, the preferred alternative would be as described in the 1997 Environmental Assessment.

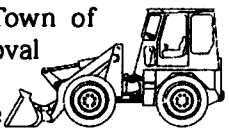
In his letter, Mr. Garrett said that the next step will be to present this modified alternative to the Rockaway Gateway Greenway (RGG) Advisory Board. He goes on to say that, based on their concurrence, an updated environmental assessment can be finalized for review and comment. He states that this revised plan will accomplish three primary objectives: 1) to improve the safety and experience of pedestrians and cyclists along Cross Bay Boulevard; 2) to link Howard Beach, Broad Channel, and other Rockaway communities with the larger Greenway system; and 3) to supposedly protect and improve habitat within the JBWR.



Brookside Preserve. Unfortunately, Nassau County's lame-duck Legislature considered the 438-foot by 20-foot right of way through Brookside only a few days after SSAS learned that the County Executive's office had sought their approval, so the last *Skimmer* with its appeal for your help was still at the printer. Also unfortunate was that several Brookside supporters who intended to speak at the Legislature's Monday meeting couldn't stay for the seven hours it took before they got to our issue.

Nevertheless, the four people who did address the Legislature (SSAS's Joan Butkerei and George Peters, and Long Island Trout Unlimited's John Fischer and Jeff Plackis) came across very well under pressure (we've got a video from public access TV) and succeeded in getting Lisanne Altmann and Judy Jacobs to propose that the issue be tabled so they could learn all the facts. The tabling seemed to succeed on a voice vote, so Presiding Officer Bruce Blakeman called a recess, during which chief right-of-way advocate Ed Ward called the Village of Freeport's Attorney and amended the ordinance to specify that the right of way would not allow any paving or grading, or any trees or shrubs to be cut down. After the recess, the tabling proposal was voted down and then the right of way was approved, with three dissenting votes and several absentees.

The Village of Freeport had required that Water Works Realty Corp. get a right of way from Nassau County that would permit emergency access through 20-acre Brookside Preserve to the nursing home that it wants to build. SSAS and Trout Unlimited vehemently oppose the right of way (which was granted for just \$750) because, if this isn't reversed, the three-to-four story nursing home will be built right up to the last inch of Brookside's southern border. This would block our small wildflower field's sunlight, ruin the Preserve's solitude (we lead many school groups on educational tours of Brookside), and increase the damage to wetlands & forest and the pollution of Milburn Creek (the larger the nursing home, the larger a parking lot is required by law, and the proposed parking lot and its toxic car-fluid droppings would occupy what's now a wooded area alongside the Creek).

After the vote, the developer started bulldozing trees for the parking lot. John Fischer contacted the DEC, who visited the site along with the Town of Hempstead; for now, the tree removal seems to have stopped. Meanwhile, SSAS and LI Trout Unlimited have  been exploring legal options and will be meeting with members of the new Nassau County Legislature. Of the four legislators mentioned above who were most vocal at the right of way vote, the two men had been voted out of office and the two women are now part of the majority party.

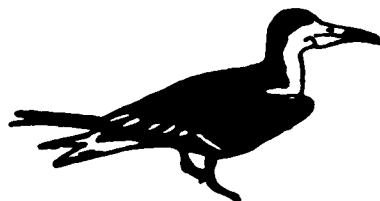
Please write to your County Legislator, asking that the right of way (Ordinance #207) be rescinded. Send your letter to the Honorable blah-blah, 1 West Street,

1999-2000 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

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Michael Goldsmith, Vice President	516-822-5272
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Christine Schmitt, Recording Secretary	516-887-7713
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Scott Oglesby, Director (6/02)	516-798-4871
Therese Lucas, Director (6/01)	516-221-8654
Marcia Specht, Director (6/01) (to 9 P.M.)	516-694-8229
Michael Higgiston, Director (6/00)	516-538-8376
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Mike Andersen, Youth Representative	516-546-5352
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Joanne Del Prete, Special Trips Chairperson	516-433-0739
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Elliott Kutner, Birding / Field Trips Chairperson	516-486-7667
Joseph Lancer, Binocular / Book Sales (7 to 9 P.M.)	516-536-6574
Suzanne Lancer, Education Chairperson (7 to 9 P.M.)	516-536-6574
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