

# SOUTH SHORE SKIMMER



VOLUME 19, NUMBER 6 - SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

MARCH - 1989

## President's Message

During the past month I had the occasion to sit down and talk with Dr. Carl Safina, Director of Scully Sanctuary, which is in Islip. Dr. Safina is a research scientist on staff of the National Audubon Society. The research conducted by Dr. Safina includes an in-depth study of Common and Roseate Terns.

One interesting discovery resulting from this work is the different methods of foraging for food that each species utilizes. The Common Tern forages almost anywhere over water, frequently following predatory fish schools that force prey fish closer to the surface. Roseate Terns, on the other hand, are much more selective in their foraging and depend on natural features such as shallow foraging areas and physical features such as a shoal, tide rips, or drift lines that serve to push the fish they feed on closer to the surface. The Roseate Tern is an endangered species and therefore is the focus of further research. Other research includes a study of pelagic birds off Montauk Point, raptor studies along the barrier beach, threats to wildlife along the Platte River. He has authorized many scientific papers, a chapter in a newly published book and has contributed his expertise to local causes. South Shore Audubon has helped support a number of his studies through our annual donation. Dr. Safina not only has expressed his gratitude to us but also acknowledges our contributions in his writings. Research is the key to knowledge and is necessary to protect our wildlife.

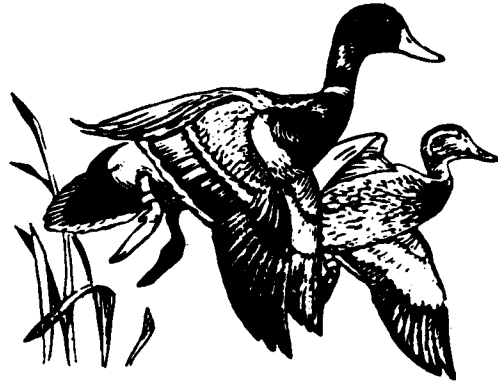
Our S.S.A.S.'s own activities find plans are well underway for our annual environmental festival at Cow Meadow which will be held on June 4, 1989. The agreement for the management of the Brookside Preserve has been signed by South Shore Audubon Society and sent to the County, and the Board of Directors has appointed Betsy Gulotta as Chairperson of the Brookside Preserve. Our second annual Birdathon is being planned for a day in May. Last year those who participated in and supported the Birdathon had a great day.

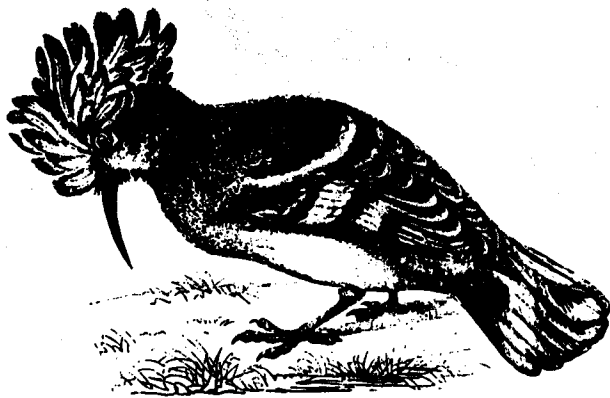
Volunteers and participants will be needed for the Birdathon, the festival, and the development of the Brookside Preserve. Your support results in personal satisfaction, a lot of fun and a better environment.

\*\* \*\* \* \* \* \* \* Joe Grupp, President \* \* \*

## Next Meeting

TUESDAY - MARCH 14, 1989.....8:00 P.M.  
FREEPORT MEMORIAL LIBRARY  
MERRICK ROAD AND GROVE STREET, FREEPORT, N.Y.  
Speaker: Larry Paul  
Topic: The Pine Barrens of Ronkonkoma  
Explorations by trail and stream;  
a slide show presentation.





### DID YOU MISS THE FEBRUARY 14th MEETING?

- Well you really missed a meeting! At one point, Joan Butkerei had us close our eyes while she graphically explained the wonders of Trinidad-Tobago. At another point, Elliott Kutner had us close our eyes and in-vision last week's birdwalk with a windchill factor of 10°. Wow! All eyes shot open then.

Mark Phillips of U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service presented a most informative slide-show, depicting the illegal wild animal trade items and live animals coming into our country. Many wild animals are flown-in in substandard conditions and some even in unpressurized containers. He brought a live baby Boa Constrictor and offered to pass it among us. Great idea huh? The program was truly excellent and the bottom line is: "If Americans stop wanting furs, ivory items, snakeskin, alligator, lizzard and tortise accessories, these animals will cease to be slaughtered".

Do you truly believe that an animal skin looks better on a person than on it's original owner? Nooooo you don't. S.S.A.S. has over 1900 members alone. We certainly can make a difference, and must!!

Come join our Audubon family one evening a month. We are businesslike and the various committees work dilligently, accomplishing very important goals, but there is such a special feeling of togetherness within this group. Everyone is open to the varied opinions (both pro and con) and ideas of the rest of us and we are allowed to express ourselves freely. Joe Grupp, our President, keeps the meeting moving along (the whip at his side has nothing to do with it) and we leave with a sense of accomplishment and joy, knowing we are a part of saving our wildlife and environment.

South Shore Auduboners have numerous projects and functions and we really need you to attend, enjoy and actively participate in these most important endeavors. We owe it to our environment, wildlife and our generations to come. You know you care, now show us.

Gayle Wertz, Editor

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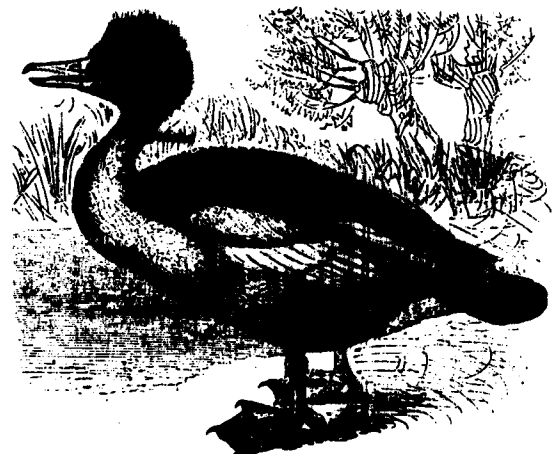
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*Thank you, Ann Segal, for all your help, getting this to the printer.*

## HELP THE PIPING PLOVER.....Judy Hoyer

The Piping Plover, a small shorebird, was, until recently, very common along the East Coast. Now, although protected as a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act since 1986, it is in danger of extinction.

Humans apparently compete with these birds: we like to go where they breed - along the shore just up from the beach. The largest remaining population in the New York area is also the only remaining population in New York City. It might be viewed as luck that this colony occurs at Breezy Point, where it falls under the stewardship of the National Park Service in Gateway National Recreation Area.

Unfortunately, this stretch of land is also popular as an off-road vehicle (ORV) area. Because it is often impractical, for political reasons, for the National Park Service to unilaterally decide to close an area for recreational purposes, studies are usually required. It took years, but the data now show unequivocally that the Breezy Point piping plover population is getting smaller. It was found that they frequently encounter people, dogs, and ORV's. These encounters usually occur near the intertidal zone where the birds are feeding. The usual response to such disturbance was for the plovers to leave the area of interaction. The result has been that many of the young, which cannot fly, starve to death.

Gateway is preparing an Environmental Assessment and Management Plan for their plovers. The 1988 count of 18 nesting pairs at Breezy Point represents about 15% of the Long Island population. To counter the species downward spiral, the population requires protection.

Gateway superintendent Robert McIntosh says that the alternatives are: (1) no action; (2) limited closure of the areas to pedestrians and ORV's during nesting season, March 15 to August 31; (3) total closure of the Breezy Point tip area to both pedestrians and ORV's. ORV users tend to fight all recreational activity restrictions, regardless of their detrimental impact and this issue is no exception. For this reason, Gateway officials felt that to succeed in closing the plover breeding area, they had to provide watertight data that birds were threatened.

YOU CAN HELP! The Sierra Club's Endangered Species Subcommittee has mounted a letter-writing campaign in support of the piping plover. Write now to: Mr. Robert W. McIntosh, Jr., National Park Service, Gateway National Recreation Area, Headquarters Building #69, Floyd Bennett Field, Brooklyn, New York 11234. There will also be a meeting on March 1, 1989 at the Beach Channel High School, Beach Channel Drive and 102nd St., Rockaway Beach. Time: 8:00 PM.  
by Steven D. Garber

S.S.A.S. is happy to announce that it will once again sponsor a Nature Photo Contest at the Cow Meadow Family Nature Festival on Sunday, June 4, 1989. Entry forms containing contest details will be available at the March, April and May S.S.A.S. meetings and at Cow Meadow Park and Tackapausha Museum beginning in early March. Deadline for photo contest entries is May 20, 1989.

We wish to thank the following businesses, all of which are located in Freeport, for their donation of gift certificates for the best in show awards for this year's contest: Cameras Etcetera, The Village Framers, Scotch Photo Labs, Inc. You will also be able to obtain contest entry forms at these stores.

For further information contact Judy Hoyer, Photo Contest Chairperson, at 516-775-0159 between 7:PM and 11:PM.

### CAPITOL HILL BOOT CAMP

National Audubon Society is seeking several Northeastern chapter leaders who would like to attend this year's legislative boot camp in Washington, D.C. beginning June 11, 1989. Chapter leaders from across the country converge on Washington, D.C. for one week to attend leadership seminars and meet with key governmental decision makers who impact the resources of our region. Sign up by contacting Connie Mahan of Audubon's Government Relations Office (202-547-9009) or David Miller at the Northeast Regional Office (address and phone above). It is basic training worth going through.

Remember our Cow Meadow Festival June 4th. Artists - frame your artwork and exhibit your talents, for all to see and enjoy. Crafters - get busy with your nature projects. Photobuffs - get clicking and enter the photo contest. Questions? Call Ann McIntyre 379-2206.

Does anyone have property which is a safe place to release wildlife? Can you put food out for them until they are 'weaned'? Please call Gayle at 798-4215.



# HELP WANTED!

Great learning opportunity - no experience or knowledge necessary. Flexible hours - put in as much or as little as you desire. Rewards UNLIMITED!!! Join the conservation committee: call Joan Butkereiit - 623-0843



*Please - remember to bring your cup to the meeting. Ecology!*

## NOMINATIONS FOR SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON OFFICERS FOR 1989 - 1990 ARE:

President:	Joe Grupp
Vice President:	Joan Butkereiit
Recording Secretary:	Louise Halpin
Treasurer:	Lennox Gordon
Corresp., Secy.:	Ruth Grossman
Directors for Two Years:	Dolores Rogers
	Mark Phillips

### SUMMER CAMP.....By Ann F. McIntyre

Last June I went to the Audubon camp in Greenwich, Connecticut. The course was field ecology, and lasted a week. I expected to come home with a wealth of knowledge: names of all different plants, bugs, animals, etc. What I came home with instead was a feel for the true sense of the word, "ecosystem". This poor, overworked word has a truly wondrous meaning. It describes how all the facets of this world, from the tiniest fungus to the giant redwood, from microscopic animals to the blue whale, and from water to minerals, are all connected, interdependent, and not at all separate. I was able to gain a feel for how we are all part of one world, and how each and every action of ours effects the rest of it. No, there were no gurus, swamis, or Zen masters at the camp (at least not that I know of). What was there was a group of instructors, all very different, each with a love of nature, and a passion for one particular aspect of it. The director did an excellent job of allowing each instructor to teach in his own way, helping us to view nature through his perspective.

I'm sure each "camper" took home his own version of what he learned. Some spent hours in the library, while others took advantage of the large selection of nature oriented video tapes. I personally spent all my unscheduled time out exploring the many miles of trails running through the hundreds of acres of woods, fields, lakes, and streams. One peaceful sunrise I saw a very pregnant doe in the orchard. I was fortunate to be downwind of her, so I was able to watch her closely for several minutes...until the wind shifted. A few foot stamps and two snorts later she was no more than a fleeting glimpse of a white tail. Other animal treats included reccoons, a muskrat family, giant snapping turtles, more deer, snakes, shrews, and of course, birds. I saw lots of birds (although I almost stepped on a woodcock before I saw it). I also got to witness some of the animal behaviors we always hear about. The classic was the cowbird. Besides seeing a cowbird egg in a red eyed virio nest, I saw a yellow warbler trying to feed her huge cowbird baby. She practically had to fly to reach its mouth. It was comical.

All in all, my experience was wonderful, though I can't begin to put the wonder down in words. Thank you all in South Shore Audubon Society for the chance to experience it.

\*-----\*

### ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE (ANWR)

Anne F. McIntyre.....379-2206

The hundredth Congress recessed last year without acting on the issue of whether to open ANWR up for oil exploration and development. For those who are not familiar with the issue, within ANWR is 1.5 million acres of pristine Arctic ecosystem, referred to as the 1002 (ten-oh-two) area. It's not just nationally unique, it's globally unique. Jay D. Hair, president of the National Wildlife Federation, describes it as "the finest Arctic sanctuary for wildlife in the world."

There is a major environmental movement, comprised of many different conservation groups, all opposing development. It has been considered a victory that this was not acted on by the 100th Congress, giving us a second chance to fight the "drain America dry" philosophy.

Importantly to many of us in this area, a key figure in this picture is Congressman Lent, because of his position on House Committees. If you feel ANWR merits protection, please write your Congressman a strong letter saying so. Ask him to support HR39 (House Resolution 39), which would give the 1002 area wilderness status, thereby protecting it from exploration. In the Senate the parallel bill is S39. Sen. D. Moynihan is a co-sponsor of the protection bill, but Sen. A. D'Amato is "undecided". This is important. We won't get another chance; 4th Congressional District, Norman F. Lent, 2280 Grand Ave., Suite 300, Baldwin, N.Y. 11510; 5th Congressional Dist., Raymond McGrath, 203 Rockaway Ave., Valley Stream, N.Y. 11580; Alfonse D'Amato, 7 Penn Plaza, Suite 600, New York, N.Y. 10001.

Questions? Call me at 379-2206. Thanks.

**COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP.....by Betsy Gulotta**

In keeping with the goals of Audubon, to further education of young people about wild-life protection and conservation of our natural resources, South Shore Audubon Society offers three \$500.00 scholarships to college students who are continuing their studies in an environmental field.

The scholarships are available to graduating students at Nassau Community College, and graduating seniors and graduate students at Hofstra, Adelphi, C. W. Post, and S.U.N.Y. College at Old Westbury, who plan to further their environmental studies in an institution of higher learning.

Applications are available at the above-mentioned schools (Biology Departments), and through South Shore Audubon Society, (call Betsy Gulotta 546-8841). The deadline for applying is April 15, 1989. Recipients will be chosen by the S.S.A.S. scholarship committee.

\* \* \* \* \*

**THEODORE ROOSEVELT SANCTUARY, INC.**  
134 Cove Road, Oyster Bay, N.Y.  
William Kolodnicki, Exec. Director  
(516) 922-3200

Saturday, March 4, 1989  
1:00 PM to 1:45 PM  
Family Program  
Christ Church Episcopal Hall  
Oyster Bay (Cost: \$3.00)

Mr. Bill Fix will use an amazing group of live reptiles to talk about dinosaurs and their descendants. Snakes, lizards, dragons and more. An exciting time!

Saturday, March 11, 1989  
1:00 PM to 1:45 PM  
Family Program  
Cold Spring Harbor Community Center  
Cold Spring Harbor (Cost: \$3.00)

Mr. Bill Fix will present a fascinating and special look at several wild animals which have had a hard time living with mankind. A spectacular wildlife demonstration featuring a live Bobcat (not to be missed), Iguana, Dragon, snakes and much more. An exciting introduction to these animals' remarkable adaptations.

Sunday, March 12, 1989  
1:30 PM to 3:00 PM  
Family Program  
T. R. Sanctuary, Oyster Bay  
(Cost: \$2.00 non-members; \$1.00 members)  
WORLD OF BIRDS = This program will be an interesting and fun introduction into birds and their tools. A live visitor from birdland will make appearance.

Sunday, March 19, 1989  
2:30 PM to 3:30 PM  
General Audience, T. R. Sanctuary  
(Cost: \$2.00 non-members; \$1.00 members)  
BIRD TRIVIA = Come and test your orinthological knowledge of bird trivia.

**DIRECTIONS TO THE SANCTUARY**

Take the Long Island Expressway to exit 41 North. Take Route 106 into the village of Oyster Bay. Make a right turn on East Main Street. Go 1-1/2 miles and you will see signs for the T.R. Sanctuary parking. The parking lot is on the right.

**W E NEED ANOTHER AND A WISER AND PERHAPS A MORE MYSTICAL CONCEPT OF ANIMALS**

Remote from universal nature, and living by complicated artifice, man in civilization surveys the creature through the glass of his knowledge and sees thereby a feather magnified and the whole image in distortion. We patronize them for their incompleteness, for their tragic fate of having taken form so far below ourselves. And therein we err, and greatly err. For the animal shall not be measured by man. In a world older and more complete than ours they move finished and complete, gifted with the extensions of the senses we have lost or never attained living by voices we shall never hear. They are not brethren, they are not underlings; they are other nations, caught with ourselves in the net of life and time, fellow prisoners of the splendour and travail of the earth.

Henry Beston

# CONSERVATION

Joan Butkerei

Imagine a place in present time when the sound of the blowing of a conch calls all the village to the dock where freshly caught fish await selection. Imagine that the fish have been caught in a hand held net cast from a row boat and pulled in from the shore by most of the men in the small village of Charlotteville. Imagine a third world country where the literacy rate is 96%, and where there is a strong emphasis on conservation, recycling, and the most active anti-litter policy I have ever seen. Imagine a place where tropical rainforest plunges down vertical cliffs to the sea, and where birdlife can only be described in superlatives. Such a place is Tobago, the smaller of two

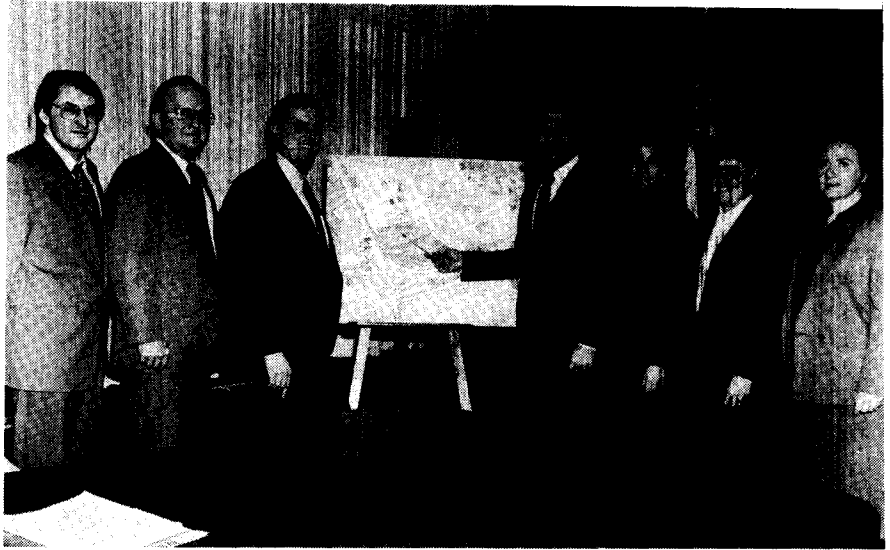
islands which form the country of Trinidad-Tobago. Trinidad, the larger and more developed of the two is also unparalleled in unique and accessible natural history. Imagine 75,000 scarlet ibis settling into the mangroves surrounding you in Caroni Swamp at sunset. Flaming sky, mirrored birdlife. Paul and I have just returned from this place, and can recommend that anyone who has a few spare dollars, an urge to travel, and some time off in July should join the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary on their expedition. Here is a bit of what you'll experience on this adventure.

"We won't forget the spectacle of Scarlet Ibis coming to roost at Caroni Swamp or the Loggerhead Turtles laying eggs on the deserted beach at night or the Spectacle Owl caught in the spotlight one night. We also won't forget the lush highland rainforests with all the sounds and odors of the Army Ants on the move, the butterflies, the hummingbirds, the marvelous afternoon rains over almost as quickly as they start....or the charging 'dinosaur'. (Ask Bill about this one).

The Asa Wright's staff have been hosting groups for many years and have developed a wonderfully refined routine of meals, afternoon teas (or rum punch) on the veranda, and inconspicuous attendance to their visitors' needs. The veranda turned out to be the place to gather during breaks and the evening to discuss the day's events and the next day's program--all in the sight of an active Ornate Hawk-Eagle nest. By the way, the professional guides were the very best in Trinidad AND they speak English!

So, when it was over, we had seen a great deal of the tropical rain forest and its inhabitants. What's more, we had a real desire to return for a more extended stay. In fact an eleven day trip to both Trinidad and Tobago beginning July 2, 1989 is now being planned. JOIN US. Call the Sanctuary for details (922-3200). It's going to be a tax-deductible (in part), inexpensive and fun. \$50.00 reserves your space now. Support your Sanctuary while at the same time adding to your life list and having a nature-oriented adventure you'll never forget."

Travis MacClendon



The signing of the Agreement to Save Hempstead Plains, January 1989. From left to right are: Ken Robinson, Sierra Club; Bill Farren, Baldwin Bird Club; Supervisor Joseph Mondello; County Executive Tom Gulotta; Betsy Gulotta; Carol Neidich-Ryder, County Greenspace; Joan Butkerei, South Shore Audubon Society.

Election of Nominees to the Board Directors of the Northeast Region of the National Audubon Society must be completed by June 1, 1989. B. Bartram Cadbury and William D. Ross are candidates. Ballots will be in the next Skimmer issue.

Lennox Gordon



S. DEVENISH

## SNOWY OWL SIGHTING!!!!

John Zarudsky, Conservation Biologist, saw the Snowy Owl at Nassau Beach, Lido Beach on February 10, 1989.

# CONSERVATION

Joan Butkereiit

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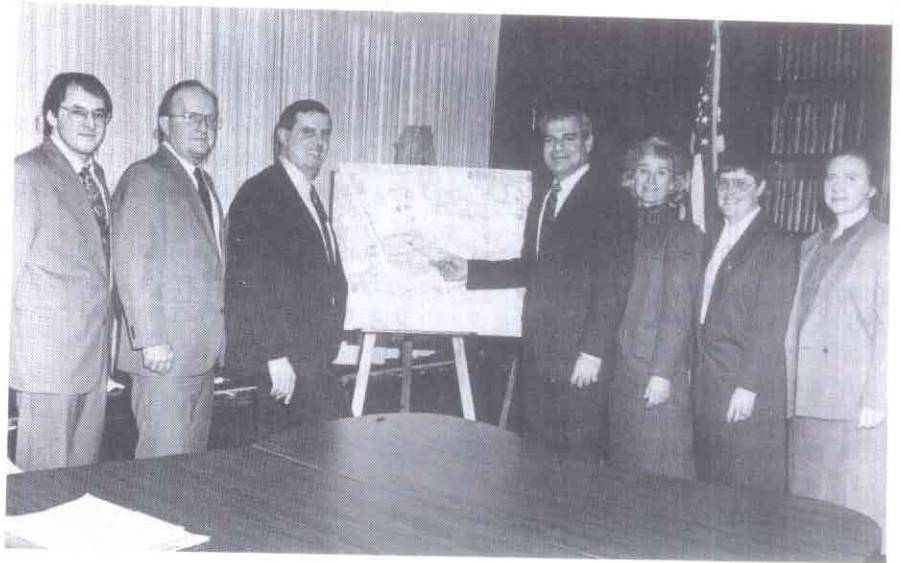
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# BIRD WALKS

ELLIOTT KUTNER

Come on out for the weekend birdwalks and try to spot the Bundled Elliottbird, leading his flock through minute-by-minute excitement! All walks start at 9:30 AM. No walks if it rains, snows or temperature is 25° or below. Need more information? Call 486-7667.

- March 5 West End No. 2, N.E. corner, J. Beach  
12 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge  
19 J.F. Kennedy Sanctuary, Tobay  
26 Zach's Bay, Field 4, N.E. corner
- April 2 Jamaica Bay, Wildlife Refuge  
9 West End No. 2, N.E. corner  
16 J.F. Kennedy Sanctuary, Tobay  
23 Hempstead Lake State Park,  
(Peninsula Blvd. parking)  
30 Zach's Bay, Field 4, N.E. corner

# BIRDING ONE TO ONE

GAYLE WERTZ

Well, at least hunting season is over. The Mallard and Black ducklings that we rescued, raised and released took quite a beating this season. Some, even though shot and injured, had enough strength to return to our yard for help. Others will never return. Not even a year on this earth.....how sad. Hunters have their constitutional rights but the birds don't!!

We did manage to save a lot of waterfowl and that is good for them. It was a tremendous workload for our small family. We just took in Animal #69! Aw, what's one more? They are not all wildlife. We seem to be on everyone's list of "well we just cannot keep this pet anymore". If any of you are looking for a specific pet, PLEASE OH PLEASE let me know and I will notify you when we get one. There will be a big supply of bunnies and Pekin ducklings soon. Can you take some of these into your life? They give so much love! Dogs, cats, birds, etc. also.

Dilema!!! Our backyard has been stripped of all grass (even the weeds have been eaten by the Geese, etc.). We presently have a layer of mud/dirt and due to the incline of our property, some has washed into the canal. Do you have any suggestions as to what we can place over this surface? Grass doesn't even get a chance; pebbles are too tough on the wildfowl's tender footzies; bark chips rot from usually being in water; cement would be too abrasive on their feet and breastbones; hay is too expensive and too difficult to get rid of; sand washes out; and indoor-outdoor carpeting would cost more than Dick makes in a year!! You are welcome to visit our 'Zoo' and see the situation. I hope someone comes up with an idea soon.....this is becoming more and more impossible to work with. We still need large cages and of course YOUR WELCOMED HELP!!

## NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY REGIONAL PROFILE

Currently there are 511 chapters chartered by the National Audubon Society.

There are nine National Audubon Society regional offices and five state offices. In the regional offices Audubon has 22 full time employees and 2 part time.

In the state offices there are 7 full time employees and 2 part timers.

This includes the Randall Davey Audubon Center in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

This center has 2 full time and 1 part time employee who devote their efforts towards maintaining the center as a state office and a center for environmental education.

Audubon has one consultant working on the Platte River campaign, based in the Rocky Mountain regional office in Boulder, Colo.

There are a total of 40 states with Audubon Councils.

Thirty two states have one state council.

Three states have more than one council and California has four, Florida has four, and New York has three.

Five state councils have an informal structure. These councils generally do not have a formal list of officers.

These states are Maine, Maryland, Utah, Arizona and Virginia.

Seven states do not have any councils.

These states are Delaware, Hawaii, Michigan, Arkansas, North Dakota, South Dakota and Nevada.

### THE WASP'S REVENGE

THE WORST DEFENSE against a menacing yellow-jacket wasp may be the squashing body blow. It could incite nearby wasps into frenzied attack.

Entomologist Peter J. Landolt and chemist Robert R. Heath of the USDA's research station in Gainesville, Fla., have discovered a chemical "alarm pheromone" in the venom of Southern yellow jackets. "If you smash a wasp," says Landolt, "its venom sac breaks and the pheromone goes into the air. This can provoke guard wasps to attack from nearby nests."

Southern yellow jackets are common in the Middle Atlantic, Midwestern and Southern states. And similar pheromones have also been found in honeybees.

In laboratory tests, the scientists used the pheromone to infuriate wasps in nests as far away as 15 feet. "Up to 500 wasps came out stinging," Landolt said.

Just a few wasp or bee stings can kill an allergic person. —New York Times

From: Reader's Digest  
May 1988 issue



**1988-1989 Officers, Directors and Committee Chairpersons**

Joseph Grupp, President.....	481-4208
Joan Butkerei, Vice President & Conservation.....	623-0843
Louise Hillen, Recording Secretary.....	546-6147
Lennox Gordon, Treasurer.....	223-1365
Ruth Grossman, Corresponding Secretary.....	378-8809
George Appoldt, Director.....	678-4964
Arthur Atlas, Director.....	223-2327
Arthur Charney, Director.....	485-4611
Ann McIntyre, Director.....	379-2206
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Paul Butkerei, Bird Seed Sales.....	623-0843
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Rose Ermidas, Education Chairperson.....	785-6028
Josephine Rosato, Tee-Sweatshirt Sales.....	541-5614
Elliott Kutner, Birding Chairperson.....	486-7667
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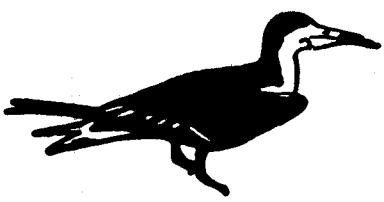
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