

# SOUTH SHORE SKIMMER



VOLUME 19 - NUMBER 10 - SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER - 1989

## President's Message

My thoughts turned to conservation and South Shore Audubon Society as I had the occasion, on one hot and hazy July day, to canoe the eight to ten miles of the Hudson River from Newburg South to West Point. Down river the shoulders of two mountains, Storm King and Crows Nest, rose one behind the other from the water's edge and towered impressively, almost fog bound, above the river. The scene was as pristine as one will ever be so close to a suburban, metropolitan area and did not exist by chance alone.

Only a few short years ago conservation minded organizations were instrumental in preserving Storm King, as a massive electrical generating complex was proposed for the mountain. Preservation occurred because of the efforts of numerous caring people.

As I paddled, dominated by the scene, I thought of conservation efforts ranging from global to local that affect South Shore Audubon Society and the Audubon cause. They include tropical rain forests, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, the Platte River, old growth forests, freshwater wetlands, the Adirondack Park, Long Island Sound, Least and Roseate Terns, the Piping Plovers, and a small parcel of land on the border of Tackapausha Preserve.

As our 1989-90 South Shore Audubon Society year begins I invite you to support the conservation cause by becoming or remaining an active member. Increase your knowledge of the natural world by attending our meetings, birdwalks and trips. Help forward the goals of your chapter by joining a committee. Promote conservation by supporting your chapter's projects. Experience the fellowship and satisfaction that occurs by participating with others in a common cause.

On the river, that hot July day I knew that conservation happens because people care enough to be informed and active. Be an active member, it's good for the Audubon cause.

.....Joe Grupp, President.....

## Next Meeting

DATE: Tuesday - September 12, 1989

TIME: 8:00 P.M.

PLACE: Freeport Memorial Library  
Merrick Road & Grove Street, Freeport,  
New York

SPEAKER: Elliott Kutner

TOPIC: Notes of a Birdwatcher's Log,  
Part II

Back by members request, Elliott will continue his fantastic motion picture program featuring a year of the birds that visit our yards and gardens during the four seasons of the year.

## BIRD WALKS

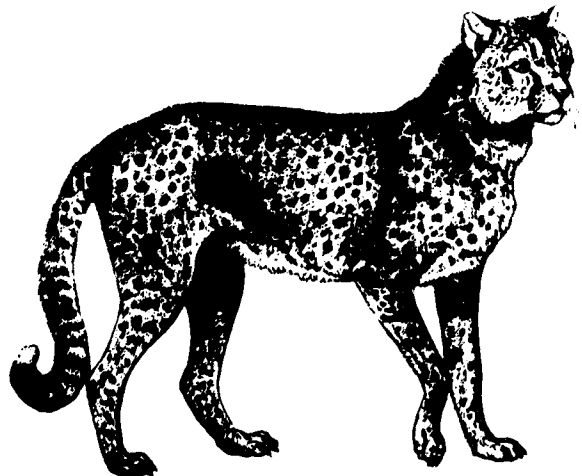
ELLIOTT KUTNER

All walks start at 9:30 A.M. and no walks if it rains, snows or temperatures are below 25°. Need further information? Call Elliott (486-7667).

Sept. 10 West End #2, N.E. Corner

Sept. 17 Zach's Bay Pkg. Lot 4, N.E. Corner

Sept. 24 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge



BIRDATHON RESULTS - Arthur Atlas & James Remsen, Jr, Birdathon Chairpersons

The second annual South Shore Audubon Society Birdathon, held on May 13, 1989, was a success. For the second consecutive year, our chapter has finished in first place in the Northeast Region and New York State!!!!!! Our three New York teams, plus our out-of-state members in Colorado, Connecticut, Texas, and Wyoming spotted 177 species of birds and raised \$4,440.25, which will be used partly to fund the programs of the South Shore Audubon Society, with the remainder going to fund the following national programs: Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Scully Audubon Sanctuary in Islip, and Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary in Oyster Bay.

The numbers of birds seen by each team were as follows:

- Paul Butkereiit and team = 100 species
- Joe Grupp, James Remsen and team = 110 species
- Elliott Kutner and team = 84 species

Out of state = 46 additional species, plus duplications of some New York team sightings. Prizes were awarded at the June dinner, to the following individuals:

- Largest dollar amount raised: 1st Place - Betsy Gulotta
- Runners-up - Kenneth and Karen Wenzel
- Largest number of sponsors recruited: 1st Place - Bill Hollweg
- Runner-up - Joe Grupp

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the team leaders, those who went birding on May 13, and all our sponsors. We could not have had this success without you.

NATIONAL AUDUBON POLICY ON THE ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Peter A. A. Berle, President, National Audubon Society

"At the June Board meeting the NAS directors agreed that it was time to review and strengthen Audubon's policy on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. As you know, two years ago the board agreed to a position in favor of continuing to maintain the refuge as a wilderness area but did not feel ready to support H.R. 39, the wilderness bill, because they felt there were too many unanswered questions about the nation's energy future and the potential risks to the area from energy development.

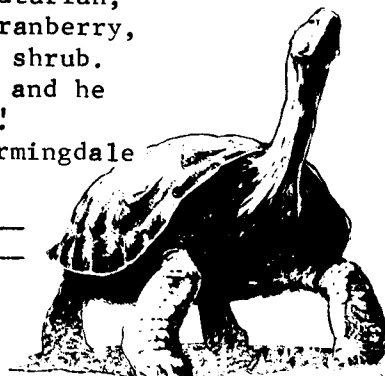
Since that time, EPA, the Government Accounting Office (GAO), and the environmental community have produced studies showing that the degree of environmental damage at Prudhow Bay was far greater than previously believed, monitoring and enforcement of existing regulations have been almost non-existent, and the industry has simply not been forthcoming about the environmental problems that have occurred. In the meantime, several members of Congress have introduced legislation calling for a national energy policy that reduces our use of fossil fuels and establishes an energy future that does not need to draw on the potential resources of the Arctic Refuge. The Board concluded that this new information, combined with the irresponsible behavior of the industry both at Prudhoe Bay and in the Prince William Sound tragedy, was sufficient justification for passing a resolution on Alaska which contains these provisions:

'The National Audubon Society calls for a permanent protection for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge coastal plain in its present wilderness state, through its inclusion in the national wilderness system.'

The staff and I welcomed this resolution, and we will be working hard to achieve that goal.

FREE - WILDLIFE SHRUBS - FREE

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== Caring and Sharing ==

FOR INFORMATION ON PENDING HUMANE LEGISLATION THAT NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT, CONTACT THE FOLLOWING:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| NY State Humane Association, Inc.<br>P.O. Box 284<br>New Paltz, NY 12561 | ASPCA<br>441 East 92nd Street<br>New York, NY 10128  |
| Friends of Animals<br>11 West 60th Street<br>New York, NY 10019          | Society for Animal Protection Legislation<br>P.O. Box 3719<br>Georgetown Station<br>Washington, DC 20007 |
| The Fund For Animals<br>140 West 57th Street<br>New York, NY 10019       |  |

The BIDE-A-WEE NEWS is published by Bide-A-Wee Home Association, Inc., 424 West 53rd Street, New York, NY 10019, and mailed without charge to all Bide-A-Wee friends and contributors. Editor: Deborah Brown

FOXFIRE - - by Edith Perman

**BIRDING ONE TO ONE**  
**GAYLE WERTZ**

What is Foxfire? I thought it was the name of a play in which the Lunts acted years ago.

Mushrooms were something delicious to eat. I didn't know about the dozens of mushrooms that grow on the forest floor, on trees, etc.

I thought bats were huge and would get in my hair if provoked.

But now I've seen Foxfire at night, I know about bats and how useful they are and about fungi and its uses. Where did I get this information - from the Audubon Ecology Workshop in Greenwich from which I just returned after a wonderful, exciting week. I learned about wetlands, forests, wildflowers, acid rain, weather, stars, and more about birds than ever before. What a marvelous experience gleaning all this information from the six naturalists, each a specialist in his field, who imparted love of his subject with much enthusiasm.

I was the only non-teacher but I shall teach my grandchildren and the Scouts in my daughter's troop and everyone with whom I'm in contact. I have greater respect for the environment than previously and a new perspective about life and death.

Try it, you'll love it!!

Well Summer is ending and the numerous orphaned baby birds and waterfowl are nearly grown. We did receive a late clutch of Mallard chicks which were born August 1st at Jones Beach. Their mother tried to cross the parkway with them and a man ran over her, leaving the chicks panic-stricken around her body. A wonderful passer-by stopped and rescued the chicks and they are now, happily living in our living room/porch. They bathe daily in the sink but are finally getting too big and strong. They are beginning to pull things off the countertop and into the water with them. Yes, cute isn't it? The whole loaf of bread looked adorable floating there with them. **THEY ARE SO CUTE!!**

A big thanks to Alan Bromberg for going out at 11:30 P.M., July 24th, to try to rescue a Canada Goose in Oceanside. It was either hit by a car or shot with an arrow, by local 'youths'. Deep appreciation, Alan, you are a truly dedicated Auduboner. Many thanks to Ann McIntyre, as well, another wonderful, very active and dedicated SSAS member who has rescued Geese and birds all summer (with the expert assistance of dear lil Katie.) Ann has witnessed the suffering of innocent creatures and although some did pass away - certainly shortened their misery and pain. Thank you both for being there when I could not. I just cannot be in two or three places at one time. These cases were at inconvenient hours and you put aside what you were doing to help them. A Golden Wing to you!

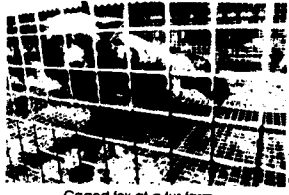
Two wonderful wildlife rehabilitators that I work with had to cut down operations 95% this summer and our work load was treeeeeeemendous. Have any of you ever thought of becoming licensed wildlife rehabilitators? Please do, the wildlife is in desperate need of caring people. Oftentimes the work is depressing and unpleasant but the benefits (as I hug these baby Mallards) are more rewarding and give us such a natural 'high' than anything you can imagine.

.....  
For everything you ever wanted to know about fleas, read Nicold Duplaix's, "Fleas: The Lethal Leapers." You'll discover that of the more than 2,000 known species, only about 120 can transmit plague, and fewer than 20 will bite humans. They have been around for at least 60 million years, and some of them can leap 150 times their own length, either vertically or horizontally, which is equivalent to a man jumping 1,000 ft. They survive months without eating, accelerate 50 times faster than the space shuttle, and tolerate enormous pressure, which is why scratching them doesn't solve the problem. Experts say that fleas that bite humans prefer females (tell me about it)...National Geographic

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM P.E.T.A. (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals).....  
On June 22nd, Avon issued a national news release declaring that it finally called off its animal tests permanently!! On June 30, not to be outdone, Revlon announced that, effective immediately, it too had stopped all tests on animals. These are tremendous coups and must encourage us all to boycott all companies that use animals in product testing. This must be the beginning of the end of these horrendous experiments!! P.E.T.A. is now turning its efforts toward Gillette and Cosmair (maker of Lancome and L'Oreal). Just to remember; I have seen car bumper stickers that state, "Laboratory animals never have a nice day!!"

At last count, Mexico had more kinds of reptiles and amphibians than any other place on Earth. Some 950 different species of snakes and frogs and the like make it imperative that you watch where you walk! Science Digest 12-88

## Fur Facts



Caged fox at a fur farm.

- More than 100 million fur-bearing animals die each year for fashion. In the United States alone, 5.2 million animals were "ranched" and 17 million animals were wild-caught in 1986.
- The majority of **trapped animals** are caught in the barbaric leghold trap—a device banned in 66 nations and four U.S. states. Animals caught in legholds face tragic consequences: crushed, shattered, and dislocated bones; massive hemorrhaging; gangrene; starvation; and death from exposure. In their terror, many animals chew off their caught limb in order to escape.
- The intense pain caused by a leghold trap is similar to having your hand slammed hard in a car door and leaving it there for 24 hours.
- Animals are often left in traps for countless hours—and even days—before the trapper returns. If the animal is still alive at that point, the trapper sometimes delivers the final blow by stomping on the animal's chest or throat or bashing it on the head.
- **Nontarget victims** of these traps include birds, endangered species, pets, and even children. Unprofitable nontarget animals—estimated at two or three for every target animal caught—are considered "trash."
- **Ranching animals**—including mink, chinchilla, fox, and rabbit—fare no better. Their short lives are spent in overcrowded wire cages, a far cry from their natural habitat. Sometimes, one attendant watches over hundreds of animals. Too often food and water is inadequate, manure piles up under mesh-bottomed cages, and disease spreads rapidly.
- Ranching animals commonly exhibit abnormal behavior: frantic pacing, tail biting, self-mutilation, and cannibalism. For instance, a fox may neurotically pace as much as 13 miles a day in its tiny cage.
- Ranching animals meet bitter ends. Methods of "harvesting": gassing (often simply by car exhaust); electrocution; breaking the neck or spine; and clubbing.
- **Furs waste life and resources.** It takes up to 40 raccoons, 12 bobcats, 30 muskrats, 15 beaver, 12 lynx, 15 fox, and 45 minks to make one fur coat. Fox for one coat require 1.1 metric tons of feed; mink three times as much.
- Fur farms contribute to the growing problem of agricultural **pollution.** And dyes and chemicals used to manufacture furs pollute the environment as well.
- The whims of fashion have caused the **extinction** of sea mink and the Falkland fox. Species brought to the brink include the leopard, tiger, and other wild cats, marten, and sea otter. Currently, lynx, wolverine, and possibly bobcat are facing annihilation due to consumer demand.



Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals  
350 South Huntington Ave., Boston, MA 02130

WIN 168 - 1989

## WELCOME - NEW MEMBERS M. YAVARKOVSKY

It is our pleasure to welcome many new members. We look forward to your becoming active members. Our weekly birdwalks, monthly meetings and special events are educational and fun. Please join us.

- Baldwin.....Elaine & Leonard Fischer, Mrs. Charles Garrin, M. Mahler, Ms. Carol Taylor
- Belle Harbor.....Polly & Jack Bakunin
- Bellmore.....Patrick Hoey, Mr. Gregory Lattanzi, Mr. James S. Volk
- Bethpage.....Charlie Stahman, N. Tropin
- Cedarhurst.....Harvey Kuritzky
- Elmont.....Steven Gullo, Doreen Kall, Mrs. F. Lach, Robert L. Smith
- Farmingdale.....Robert Burnell, Robert Haynes, Mr. John Rizickella, Freda Setz, Starr Witt
- Franklin Square.....William Belford, Miss Theresa R. Deering
- Freeport.....Mrs. Margaret Beebe, D. Nathanson, Mr. Melvin A. Schwartz, Margaret N. Turner
- Garden City.....Arthur H. Arbno
- Garden City South.....Pamela M. Belser, Phyllis Reinicke, Diane K. Veitch, Ms. Suzanne Zolfo
- Glen Oaks.....Holly E. Caster, Barbara Falek
- Hempstead.....Mrs. Michael R. Cavoli, Eulita M. Luther
- Hewlett.....Mr. J. Friedman, Beth Klein, Michael Nicosia, Lynn Norton
- Hicksville.....Anita Brix, Edward Keegan, David Klauber, Richard & Carole Ryder..
- Lawrence.....Kim Finkelstein
- Levittown.....Mr. Herbert Blades, Maureen A. Day
- Long Beach.....Marylou Silberberg
- Lynbrook.....Mary Colway, Paul Papandrew, Mrs. K. Woodard
- Malverne.....Peter Koutsoukos, Bertha Sergeant
- Massapequa.....Mr. Donald Anderson, Ms. Catherine J. Collado, Mr. & Mrs. R. Drake, Dr. Bradley Higgins, Lynda Lemier, S. Mooney, James A. Patella, Mrs. Charlotte Veneziano, Heinrich Voneckardt, Miss Julie Weiss
- Massapequa Park.....Richard W. Ernst
- Merrick.....Vicki Bonomo, Michael Durante, Robert Villani Rogers, Ruth Wolfert, Mr. Anthony Zajac
- Oceanside.....Michael Bonacorssa, Allison Hurtzig, Claire V. Neubarth
- Point Lookout.....Mrs. Linda C. Oshea, Constance Stewart
- Rockville Centre.....Mr. Stanley Bloch, Mr. & Mrs. Friedman, Mr. & Mrs. Meyer Goldberg, Patrick Knowles, Mr. & Mrs. F. P. McVeigh
- Seaford.....Adrienne Fluckinger
- Uniondale.....Mrs. Alexander C. Hobart, P. Stratton
- Valley Stream.....May Clariton
- West Hempstead.....W. Grossman, Mrs. Rachael Krinsky
- Wantagh.....Neysa Levenstein, Raymond Werner
- Woodmere.....Melissa Dick

## New Audubon Wildlife Report Examines Corps' Wetland Role

**F**or the fifth year in a row, the **AUDUBON WILDLIFE REPORT** dives into the heart of a federal agency and emerges with a well-written and balanced analysis. The 1989/1990 volume features the often-controversial U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Wetlands champions will be familiar with the Corps, an agency whose conflicting mandates to be both wetlands protector and developer often put it at odds with itself and with those who would protect precious wetlands.

But there's more. The sections on conservation challenges are a must-read for all environmental activists. The Report contains some of the most comprehensive and incisive discussions of important and timely conservation issues—destruction of our ancient forests, battles over water rights in the West, global warming and its implications for wildlife and humans, the often federally subsidized overgrazing of our public lands, and many other topics.

A longstanding and popular component of the series, the species case histories, cover a diversity of wildlife species, both abundant and endangered. Some of the species featured: monarch butterfly, western North Atlantic swordfish, humpback whale, roseate tern, marbled murrelet, and ocelot.

The appendices are invaluable for their addresses and phone numbers of key personnel in the major federal natural resource agencies.

The **AUDUBON WILDLIFE REPORT 1989/1990** is an indispensable part of any conservationist's bookshelf. The report will be available beginning in August. All four earlier volumes, 1985 to 1988/1989, are still available from Academic Press, Inc., which copublishes the book with National Audubon. To order, call: 1-800-321-5068 (In Missouri, Alaska, or Hawaii: 1-314-528-8110).

# South Shore Audubon Society

Post Office Box Thirty-One  
Freeport, New York 11520

1989-1990 BIRD WALKS

AUG,20---Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge  
Aug.27---Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge  
Sept10---West End #2-N.E. Corner  
Sept17---Zachs Bay-Parking Fld#4 N.E.Corner  
Sept24---Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge  
Oct1 ---Tobay-J.F.K. Sanctuary  
Oct8 ---Hempstead Lake State Park-Peninsula Ave Pkg.  
Oct15---West End #2 N.E, corner  
Oct22---Twin Lakes Preserve-meet in forest lakeschool pkg lot  
mill road, Wantagh  
Oct29---Jamaica Bay Wild life Refuge  
Nov5 ---Zachs Bay- Parking fld #4-N.E. corner  
Nov12---West End #2 N.E. corner  
Nov19Hempstead Lake State Park Peninsula Blvd PKG.  
Nov26---Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge  
Dec3---Pelham Bay Park(OWLS)meet on service road after going  
Through Tollon Throgs Neck Bridge9:00A.M.  
Dec10---West End#2 N.E. corner  
Dec17---Zachs Bay Pkg Fld #4 N.E. corner  
Dec24--DEC31 --NO WALK--MERRY CHRISTMAS--HAPPY NEW YEAR

1990

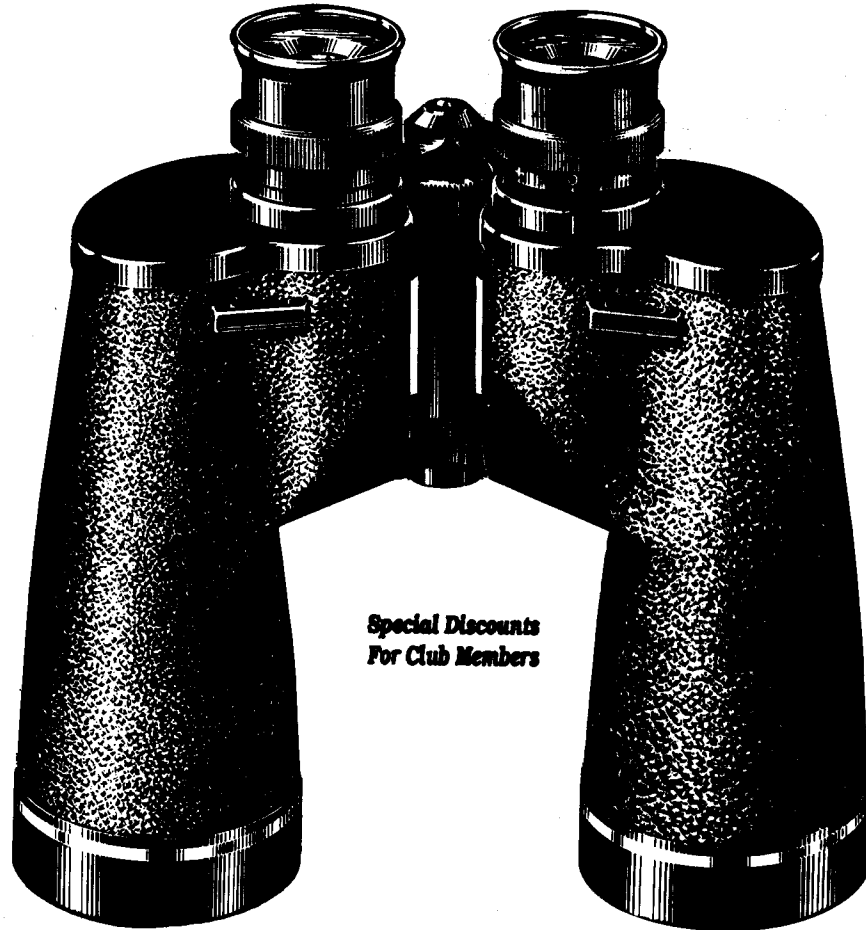
Jan7---West End#2 N.E. corner  
Jan14---Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge  
Jan21---Cedar Beach  
Jan28---Pelham Bay Park-meet on service roadafter going  
through toll on Throgs Neck Bridge 9:00 A.M.(OWLS)  
Feb4---Zachs Bay PKG FLD #4 N.E. corner  
FEB11---TObay-JFK SANCTUARY  
Feb18---West End #2 N.E. corner  
Feb 25---Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge  
Mar3---Hempstead Lake State Park -Peninsula Blvd PKG.  
Mar10---Twin Lakes Preserve, Wantagh  
Mar17---Zachs Bay-PKG FLD#4 N.E. corner  
Mar24---WEST END #2- N.E. corner  
Mar31---Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

BIRD WALKS BEGIN AT 9:30 A.M.--NO WALK-IF IT IS RAINING,  
SNOWING OR TEMPERATURE IS BELOW 25 F.

A CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY  
*Americans Committed to Conservation*



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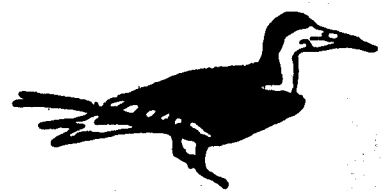
Joseph Grupp, President . . . . .	.481-4208
Joan Butkereiit, Vice President & Conservation . .	.623-0843
Louise Hillen, Recording Secretary . . . . .	.546-6147
Lennox Gordon, Treasurer . . . . .	.223-1365
Ruth Grossman, Corresponding Secretary . . . . .	.378-8809
Mark Philips, Director . . . . .	.431-0265
Delores Rogers, Director . . . . .	.599-1224
Arthur Charney, Director . . . . .	.485-4611
Ann McIntyre, Director . . . . .	.379-2206
Lois Schlegel, Director (up to 8:30 P.M.) . . . . .	.822-1546
Irving Singer, Director . . . . .	.561-6118
Alan Bromberg, Trip Chairperson . . . . .	.764-7523
Evelyn Blume, Scholarship Chairperson . . . . .	.378-7122
Paul Butkereiit, Bird Seed Sales . . . . .	.623-0843
Sandy Brenner, Program Chairperson . . . . .	.249-4919
Rose Ermidas, Education Chairperson . . . . .	.785-6028
Josephine Rosato, Tee-Sweatshirt Sales . . . . .	.541-5614
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Malcom Marum, T.R.Sanct. Representative. . . . .	.752-0396
Gayle Wertz, Skimmer Editor & Columnist. . . . .	.798-4215



\*\*\*\*\*  
RARE BIRD ALERT            AUDUBON HOTLINE  
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**South Shore Audubon Society  
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