

# SOUTH SHORE SKIMMER



VOLUME 19 - NUMBER 14 - SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

FEBRUARY - 1990

## *President's Message* .....Joseph Grupp

The branches of each leafless tree were sheathed in snow while the evergreen spruce and firs drooped from the weight of the snow piled high upon their branches. The cobalt blue sky formed a background for this winter wonderland as a Redbreasted Nuthatch worked the trunk of a Balsam fir as it searched for a meal, knocking a few flakes of snow from the branches in doing so. The flakes drifted slowly to the ground as a friend and I watched this scene from near the summit of Slide Mountain in the Catskills.

What a contrast this scene made with the theme of the last issue of the Audubon Activist I recently received. The theme was that of global warming which is perpetuated by human activities. From information in the article I realized that the automobile used to transport me to the Catskills and back home emitted twenty-two pounds of carbon dioxide for each gallon of gas I used. Carbon dioxide emission is a major contribution to global warming and like it or not my activities were contributing to the cause.

The Audubon Activist is available for a yearly subscription rate of \$9.00 (6 issues) sent to: Audubon Activist, 950 Third Avenue, New York, New York 10022. Its pages keep you informed on environmental issues and actions you may take on their behalf. This last issue made me think about the future of winter scenes and to evaluate the part that I as well as the rest of society play in that future. The Audubon Activist is a useful publication for concerned environmentalists.

Among the Chapter activities to take place in the months ahead is a trip to the Bronx Zoo, the awarding of two scholarships to Audubon Camps, a cleanup at Twin Lakes Preserve, hearings on the Long Island Sound, a dedication of the aviary at Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary that South Shore Audubon Society helped support and build, Earth Day events, our Bird-A-Thon, the Cow Meadow Festival, activities at Brookside Preserve, birdwalks, etc. Watch Skimmer for details.

## *Next Meeting* .....Sandy Brenner

DATE: Tuesday, February 13, 1990  
TIME: 8:00 P.M.  
PLACE: Freeport Memorial Library  
Merrick Road & Ocean Avenue  
Freeport, New York

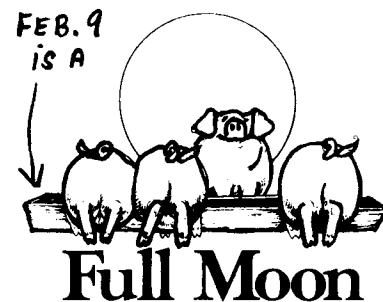
SPEAKER: Evelyn and Jerry Bishop  
TOPIC: Trip to Antarctica

Their first hand slide program based on a recent visit to this remote region.

## *Bird Walks* .....Elliott Kutner

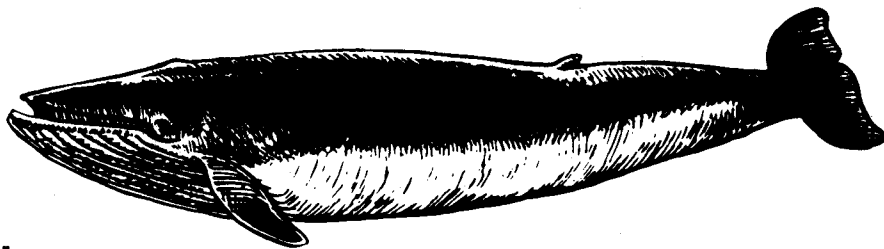
All walks start at 9:30 A.M. and no walks if it rains or snows or temperatures are below 25°. Any questions? Call Elliott at 486-7667.

- Feb. 4 Zachs Bay Pkg. Field #4  
N.E. corner
- Feb. 11 Tobay, J.F.K. Sanctuary
- Feb. 18 West End #2, N.E. corner
- Feb. 25 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge



# TOGETHER:

## People, Animals and the Environment



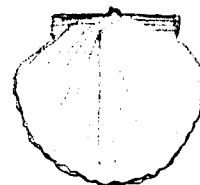
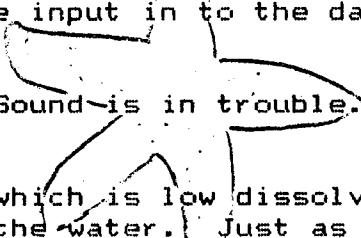
### LISTEN TO THE SOUND.....

is the theme of the Audubon Long Island Sound Committee's program to help the restoration of Long Island Sound. David Miller, Regional Director of National Audubon's Northeast Division, is head of this project. The Committee consists of 20 regional Audubon chapters that surround the Sound, and was formulated last spring to work with other independent groups who are currently working to save the Sound from destruction (such as Friends of the Bay, Soundwatch, The L.I. Sound Study, L.I. Sound Taskforce, etc.)

South Shore Audubon is on the committee and has had representation by me at their 2 meetings thus far in Connecticut, and I'm grateful 2 more SSAS members, Scott Sloane and Chris Schlamp, joined me at the spring meeting. They gave valuable input in to the day's discussions.

Long Island Sound is in trouble. Some of the major problems are:

- \* HYPOXIA - which is low dissolved levels of oxygen in the water. Just as people need oxygen to breathe, marine organisms require oxygen dissolved in the water (D.O.) Nutrient input from stormwater runoff & sewage treatment plants is a major factor in hypoxia.
- \* WETLAND DEVELOPMENT
- \* TOXIC CONTAMINATION



The overriding goal of the platform, as stated by David Miller, is "the preservation & restoration of the natural ecosystems in the L.I. Watershed including its habitat, wildlife, flora & fauna resources", and intends to deal with issues such as HYPOXIA, MAPPING & MAINTAINING WETLANDS ON L.I., CLEAN UP OF WASTE ON BEACHES, MAINTAINING & UPGRADING SEWAGE TREATMENT PLANTS.



The next phase of the LISTEN TO THE SOUND CAMPAIGN is fourteen citizen hearings to be held around L.I. Sound. The hearing in our area will be sometime in June, and we will most likely be combining with Lyman Langdon Audubon, our sister chapter on the north shore. The date and location is still to be determined.

Fact Sheets and Information on the Sound are available, some numbers to call are:

- . N.Y. Sea Grant Extension Program 516-632-8737
- . Maritime Center on L.I. 516-754-2864
- . L.I. Sound Taskforce 203-327-9786

## We're Here to Help.

L. Schlegel



# We're getting ready for our Third Cow Meadow Family Nature Festival



Sunday, May 20, 1990  
11:00 am to 5:00 pm  
at Cow Meadow Park and Preserve  
South Main Street, Freeport

One way we can express our environmental concerns, provide education to others and ourselves, while having fun with family and friends, is by having the COW MEADOW FAMILY NATURE FESTIVAL. This is a day where people and groups come from all over Long Island sharing their wildlife and nature photographs, paintings, film and slide shows, crafts and stories....many of who are our own South Shore Audubon members.

There is much to take home, whether it be a hand-carved Semi-palmated Plover, or the memory of your "daring spirit" revealed when during his Endangered Species program, Mark Phillips turns to you with a boa constrictor draped around his arms and says, "Would you mind holding this for a minute?"

Let's not forget the hard work and dedication from South Shore Audubon and Nassau County preparing Cow Meadow Preserve for our first festival just three years ago:

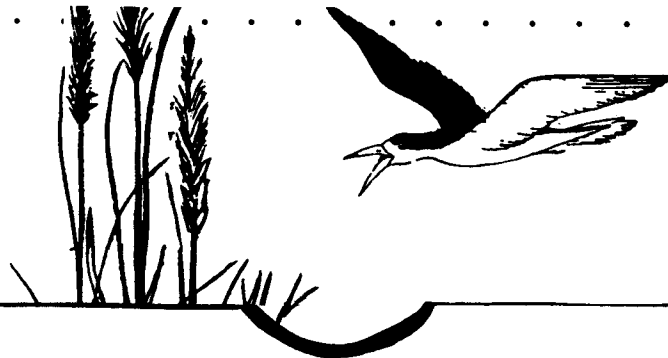
- \* cleaning up and reconstructing the nature path
- \* erecting the Osprey nesting platform (which a 'couple' has been eyeing for possible occupancy!)
- \* setting up Swallow nest boxes (that have been well inhabited - one pair flew right in last spring as Carole Ryder was walking away from just having put it up!)
- \* building the 8 foot viewing tower that gives a spectacular view of the open wetlands

Because of the concern of released balloons polluting our waters and harming our wildlife, we will not have balloons this year, and will try to get material windsocks for the children to take home.

There's much to be done to prepare for this year's event, if you wish to help please call Anne McIntyre or Lois Schlegel

LIVE ANIMALS - FACE PAINTING - REFRESHMENTS - PHOTCONTEST - CHILDREN'S GAMES -  
EDUCATIONAL EXHIBITS - AND MUCH, MUCH MORE!!!!!!!

.....by Lois Schlegel



**FAMILY NATURE FESTIVAL "TEE SHIRTS" \$6**  
available at SSAS's General Meeting (every  
2nd Tues. of the month).

Portraying our mascot, the Skimmer, have fun wearing it *all year 'round* as it reads:  
**"A Celebration of Long Island".**  
Scenery highlighted in assorted beautiful "puff paint" colors.

### An Audubon Action Alert Senate to Act on Clean Air Legislation

SOME TIME EARLY IN 1990, clean air legislation is expected to go to the Senate floor. As soon as that happens, your letters and/or phone calls to your senators will be urgently needed to help pass the strongest possible clean air legislation.

You will want to ask your senators to support tough measures to reduce acid rain, curb urban smog, and eliminate airborne toxics.

Never hesitate to write/talk about your own experiences or feelings about air pollution. If you live in a smog-filled city, talk about the health threat to you and your family.

Call the Audubon Hotline at (202) 547-9017 and read the *Audubon Activist* for the late-breaking news on clean air legislation. Address your letters to:

Honorable \_\_\_\_\_  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20050

# Scholarship

..... Evelyn Blume



DEADLINE = MONDAY, MARCH 9, 1990

South Shore Audubon, once again, is making possible two scholarships for 1990. One to be awarded to a youth and the other scholarship to an adult.

### SCHOLARSHIP REQUIREMENTS

Scholarship II will be awarded to a candidate who is an active member of S.S.A.S. and will serve on one or more Chapter Committees. Scholarship IV is a youth scholarship and will be awarded to a young person recommended by an active S.S.A.S. member.

The adult scholarship will be at the Audubon Camp in Connecticut - Introductory Field Ecology, July 1 - 7 or July 8 - 14. The youth scholarship will be at Audubon Camp in Maine - Youth Ecology, August 16 - 26. Ages 10 - 14. Please submit to Evelyn Blume, 313 Smith Street, Merrick, N.Y. 11566 or call 378-7122 after 7:00 P.M.

### **Intern Opportunities at National Audubon Society Sanctuaries**

**T**he National Audubon Society offers students and recent graduates an opportunity to gain training and experience in sanctuary management, while providing Audubon with much-needed help.

Internships are available at participating Audubon sanctuaries in Maine, Connecticut, South Carolina, Kentucky, Florida, Arizona, and California.

Program benefits include:

- "hands-on" experience in wildlife sanctuary work
- valuable references and a stronger resume
- college credit, if desired
- personal instruction
- free housing
- eligibility for scholarships to Audubon Ecology Camps.

To learn more about intern and volunteer opportunities at Audubon Sanctuaries near you, write:

**National Audubon Society, Sanctuary Department,  
93 West Cornwall Road, Sharon, Conn. 06069.**

# T.R. Sanctuary

..... Malcom Marum

THEODORE ROOSEVELT SANCTUARY, INC.  
134 Cove Road, Oyster Bay, N.Y. 11771  
516-922-3200

Nature Programs for Members and the Public. All programs at the Sanctuary except where noted.

Registration required. Please call us in advance, as space is limited. You may call as late as the day of the activity. Admission to programs is \$1.00 for TR Sanctuary and Audubon Society members and \$2.00 for non-members, unless otherwise stated.

Grounds open daily: 9:00AM-5:00PM

Nature Center open: 8:00AM-4:30PM Mon.-Thurs.  
8:00AM-2:00PM Friday  
1:00PM-4:30PM Weekends

Feb. 4 - Sunday  
1:30-3:00 PM

**GROUNDHOG LORE.** A review of traditions associated with groundhog day and other weather forecasting proverbs.

Feb. 11 - Sunday  
1:30-3:30 PM

**NATURE WALK.** Explore one of our local beaches and learn about its marine life. Meet and park at Sagamore Hill.

Feb. 16 - Friday  
7:30-9:30 PM

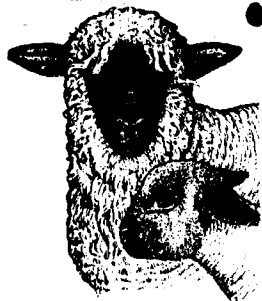
**OWL PROWL.** Another chance to listen for owls in the still of the night. Limited to 15. Bring a flashlight.

Feb. 18 - Sunday  
Feb. 25 - Sunday  
1:30-3:30 PM

**MAPLE SUGARING.** Learn how to identify sugar maple trees, how to tap them, and how to boil down the sap to make maple syrup. Come and taste how sweet it is!!



## Check It Out

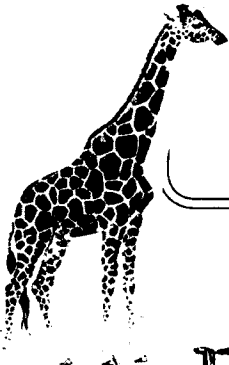
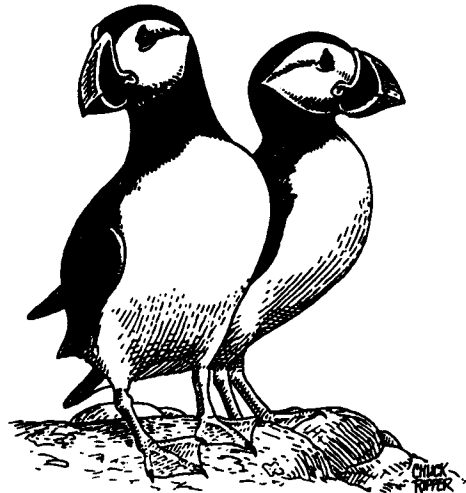


**MEMBERS NEEDED** to attend the L.I. GROUNDWATER COALITION meetings that are held once a month, usually a Thurs., at 10 Lawrence Ave., Smithtown, 10 am to 12 noon, and to report at meetings or in the Skimmer important developments. The Coalition consists of dozens of Long Island environmental (plus some garden, PTA, etc) groups concerned with maintaining the quality and quantity of our precious groundwater. The meetings focus on studies, research, problems, solutions. It's also a wonderful way to get to know people from other organizations who are making things happen on L.I.! If you are able to attend regularly, or just occasionally, call Jeff Fullmer, head of the Coalition to find out the next meeting date at 360-7480.

**BRONX ZOO SAFARI - MARCH 24, 1990, Saturday**

by Evelyn Blume

Bus will leave at 9:00 A.M. at Merrick Golf Course Parking lot and leave Bronx Zoo at 3:00 P.M. We will visit the new Zoo Center where the Elephants, Rhino and Tapir live and learn why and how endangered they are and what we can do. The Bronx Zoo is the largest urban zoo in North America. We will visit the World of Birds, Aquatic Bird House and Jungle World. Get your hiking shoes ready and plan for an adventuresous day at the zoo. The bus cost will be \$12.00 per person. Call Evelyn Blume after 7:00 P.M. at 378-7122 if you are interested.



**Don't get bogged down with useless, dated information.**

Use the Audubon Wildlife Report and lighten your research load.

This year for the first time, chapters from the 1989/90 Audubon Wildlife Report are available from Audubon on an individual basis. Each of the chapters is written by an expert in the field, so that you are guaranteed the best, most current information available.

*Supplies of the reprints are limited, so fill out the order form below and mail it to us today.*

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- Western Water and Wildlife: The New Frontier
- The Pacific Northwest's Ancient Forests
- Conserving Nongame Migratory Birds
- Restoring the Ravaged Range
- Global Warming, Climate Disruption, and Biodiversity

**For only \$3 each!**

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- \_\_\_ Humpback Whale
- \_\_\_ Hyacinth Macaw
- \_\_\_ Ocelot
- \_\_\_ Marbled Murrelet
- \_\_\_ Western North Atlantic Swordfish
- \_\_\_ Roseate Tern
- \_\_\_ Golden Eagle

Please send me the reprints marked above. I've enclosed a check for \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Mail check to: Wildlife Report, National Audubon Society, 950 3rd Ave., N.Y., N.Y. 10022

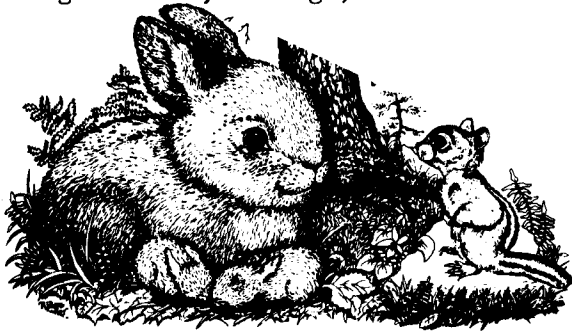
**BRING BAGS AND STICKS!! GET READY FOR A  
SPRING CLEAN-UP AT TWIN LAKES PRESERVE ON  
SATURDAY, MARCH 9th AT 9:30 AM**

by Dolores Rogers

Meet in School Parking Lot. This site is one of the beautiful preserves that South Shore Audubon Society has made a commitment to keep clean for our Birdwalking pleasure and health of our wildlife!!

A vigorous way to Welcome Spring! Come on down - because we need you! Refreshments will be served.

(Directions: Sunrise Highway to Old Mill Road north or Southern State to Exit 27S, Wantagh Avenue, Wantagh)



#### NOTES FROM A BIRDWATCHER'S LOG

by Elliott R. Kutner

Tuesday, November 28, 1989

It was 1:00 P.M., time for lunch. I parked, stepped out of my car and headed for the entrance to the Pantry Diner at Long Beach Road and Merrick Road, Rockville Centre. Wherever I am, I always look up. Two pigeons flew over the parking lot, in tight formation. The second bird was directly behind and slightly above the first bird. As long as it took to blink, the trailing bird had the pigeon in it's talons. They appeared to embrace, as the peregrine brought the pigeon up to it. As the peregrine flew on, it's flight became labored, bearing the dying weight of the pigeon to a feeding perch

There was no apparent violence, no pain, no malace in this death. It was life supporting life through death. It is the "Nuts and Bolts" of survival with all things, everywhere. This is the SYSTEM that binds us to each other and unites each and every part into the wonderful WHOLE. The entire sequence took forty seconds!

## Simple Facts



#### GOOD NEWS FOR THE ELEPHANTS

by Pat Rogo Davis  
Conservation Committee

"If there is any doubt about a decision concerning the fate of wildlife, let the benefit of the doubt always be in favor of wildlife."

Prince Bernhard at CITES meeting  
in Lausanne, Switzerland 10-89

With that wise statement from its keynote speaker, at the CITES (Conservation on the International Trade in Endangered Species) voted to ban trade in ivory and list the African Elephant as an Endangered Species. The illegal poaching of ivory has reduced the African Elephant population from 1.5 million to less than 600,000 in the last decade. Japan, who has opposed such measures in the past, voted in favor of the ban. However, five nations (Zimbabwe, Botswana, Malawi, Mozambique, and South Africa) have warned that they may ignore the ban which will take effect January 18, 1990. We will keep you posted on further developments. (Information taken from African Wildlife News and Greenpeace magazine).....

### *Experience the World of Travel With Audubon*

**IN THE WAKE OF LEWIS AND CLARK:** A Voyage along the Columbia and Snake rivers: May 5-12, 1990. Cruise on the MV Sea Lion with John Borneman, Audubon Regional Representative, and travel to an area of the U.S. that's still an undiscovered treasure!

**ENGLAND'S LAKE DISTRICT—A WALKING TOUR:** May 12-20, 1990. Join Valerie Harms, Audubon Project Editor and published writer, and explore this haven for nature lovers and hikers.

**For more information, call: 212-546-9140  
or write:**

National Audubon Society Travel Programs  
950 Third Avenue  
New York, N.Y. 10022

# Birding One To One

.....Gayle Wertz

Further fascinating, frustrating facts about the Alaska oil spill of March 1989: to date about 300,000 animals and birds have perished and it is not known how many bodies lie at the ocean bottom. What a waste!!!

Conservationists partially fought back at an attempt by Senator Hatfield (R-OR) to remove court protection for the few remaining ancient forests of the Pacific Northwest. Congress approved the Interior Appropriations Bill, H.R.2788, including provisions releasing more than half of the timber now barred from sale by federal courts. Although suits against individual timber sales will still be allowed, judges must rule within 45 days, or the sale will be allowed to proceed. The bill also reduced the quantity of federal timber allocated for harvest, but not by the amount asked for by conservationists. On a positive note, the bill more broadly defines old-growth forests, and gives consideration to preserving habitat of the endangered spotted owl. (Conservation 1-12-90)

"Senator James McClure made clear his sentiments toward the endangered spotted owl when he addressed a national "wilderness" conference in Nevada, April 1989. Said McClure in reference to the owl, "We have none in Idaho. We shoot 'em coming across the border!" (Conservation 1-12-90)

**WILDLIFE REFUGE MANAGEMENT** - Sixty percent of the nation's national wildlife refuges are used for purposes that harm wildlife, according to a General Accounting Office report released in September 1989. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's draft environmental impact statement on refuge management was so roundly criticized, the Service intends to start the process over. (Conservation 1-12-90)

Here on the L.I. Homefront; we saved many, many waterfowl this past two months. With tireless dedication, Dr. B. Brooke, DVM, removed numerous pellets from ducks and Canada Geese. Other problems were that the canals and bays became frozen and numerous Swans and their Cygnets were starving. They were actually walking down the streets!! Severe weight-loss and pneumonia took some lives and the remaining birds are undergoing extensive medical treatment. We are hoping for a very early Spring!!

Thank you, Mary Ellen Cardello (Audubon) for transporting the critically injured Possum to the veterinarian. You were great!!

## DEADLY SHOWERS

Acid rain poisons lakes and streams, eats away at our buildings and monuments and stunts forests and crops. People cause acid rain. People can stop it. To find out how you can help, write:

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY  
950 Third Avenue • New York, NY 10022



### A MESSAGE FROM SHAKLEE

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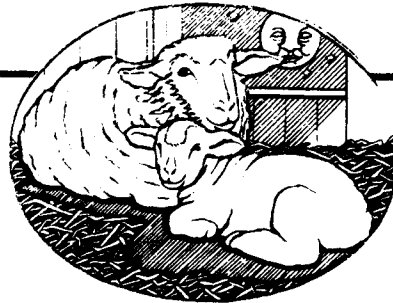
JoAnn & Stephen Lee = 931-5436

Lois Schlegel = 822-1546

THANK YOU TONY MANZONI, JOE GUINTA AND SEYMOUR SISKIND for the beautiful bird boxes you built for the Cow Meadow Preserve. Joe Guinta and John Zarudsky surveyed the boxes last spring and found most inhabited-1st season! Joe would like to see us get an early start (March) in putting up nesting boxes for our Tree Swallows this year. There's lots of room in the marsh at Emory Creek. We need more boxes! Dimensions are: (A) Floor: 4X4" (B) Floor to hole=7" (C) Entrance diameter=1 3/8". Please bring to the March SSAS General Meeting. Thanks, Lois Schlegel

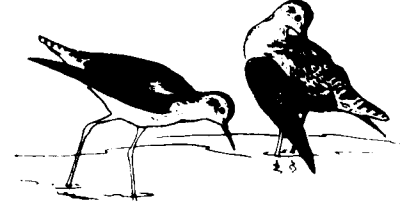
*W e l c o m e s*  
*N e w M e m b e r s*

.....*Marion Yavarkovsky*



We are happy that the following new members have joined our Chapter. It is our wish that you join us for some of our activities. There is something for everyone, so join us!

- Baldwin.....Rita H. Crowe
- Bellmore.....Ms. April L. Warner, Vincent Ramano
- East Meadow.....Kathleen Wohlgemuth
- East Rockaway.....C. Fenichel
- Farmingdale.....Bernice D. Rubin Fndtn
- Freeport.....J. Bennetter
- Garden City.....Maryann Baumgratz, Charles F. Rider, Mrs. Russell A. Stuart
- Hempstead.....Ms. June Hoffelder, Tom Pitkiewicz, Elaine Coyle
- Bewlett.....Arthur Mintz
- Hicksville.....Elizabeth Kittmar, Mr. Brian T. Sansom, Samuel Robert, James Bellamore
- Levittown.....Elaine Kislicki, Mr. William A. Schreck, Robert Drescher, Warren Egensteine
- Long Beach.....D. Litton, Ruth Kallman, Stevens R. Monte
- Massapequa.....Miss B. Gunter
- Massapequa Park.....Angela Scozzari
- Merrick.....Mr. Peter Goodermote, Mildred Oeterson, Donald H. Glantz
- Point Lookout.....Charles Jordan
- Rockville Centre.....Judy Mead
- Valley Stream.....P. Pultorak
- Wantagh.....Barbara Joyce Dillon, Abner Fein, Kenneth Levy
- Woodmere.....E. S. Cohen, MD



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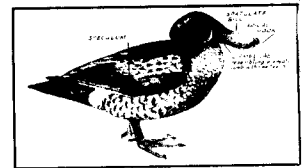
**1990 Programs**

- Yellowstone Winter Ecology & Nature Photo Workshop
- Nature Photography Workshop in South Florida
- Texas Ecology Workshop
- International Ecology Workshop in Costa Rica
- Southeast Arizona Ecology Workshop
- Nature Photography Workshop in Wyoming
- Field Ornithology Workshop in Maine
- Audubon Ecology Workshop in Connecticut
- Audubon Camp in Maine
- Audubon Camp in the West

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Greenwich, CT 06831  
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**How to recognize a quack when you see one.**



**THIS↑ IS A DUCK!**

**DRESSED TO KILL**

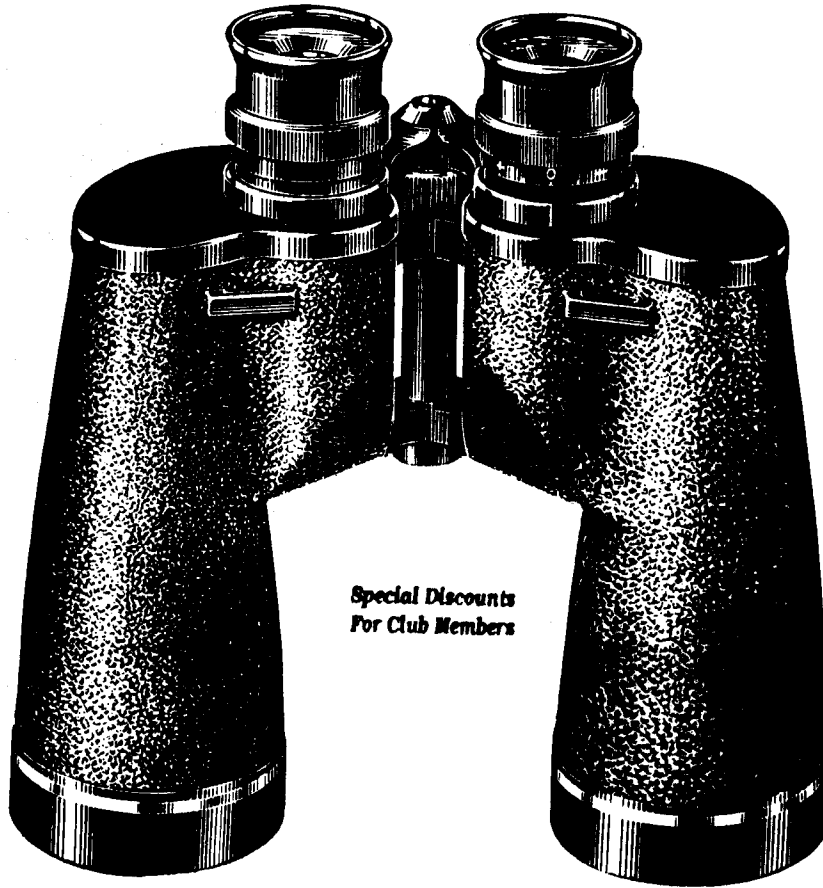


GRAHAM HUNTER

ACTION LINE



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1989-1990 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  
 Mark Phillips, Director (6-92).....431-0265  
 Dolores Rogers, Director (6-92).....599-1224  
 Arthur Charney, Director (6-91).....485-4611  
 Ann McIntyre, Director (6-90).....379-2206  
 Lois Schlegel, Direc./Cons.Co-Chair. (to8PM) (6-90)822-1546  
 Irving Singer, Director (6-92).....561-6118  
 Evelyn Blume, Scholarship Chairperson.....378-7122  
 Paul Butkerei, Birdseed Sales.....623-0843  
 Sandy Brenner, Program Chairperson.....249-4919  
 Rose Ermides, Education Chairperson.....785-6028  
 Josephine Rosato, Tee-Sweatshirt Sales.....541-5614  
 Elliott Kutner, Birding Chairperson.....486-7667  
 Diane Singer, Publicity Chairperson.....561-6118  
 Marion Yavarkovsky, Membership Chairperson....379-2090  
 James Remsen, Birdathon Chairperson.....764-5168  
 John Staropoli, Youth Representative.....599-1569  
 Bill Herzog, Binocular/Book Sales (7:-9:PM)....791-7886  
 Mary Jane Russell, Hospitality Chairperson....766-7397  
 Frieda Malament, Holiday Parties.....795-5842  
 Gayle Wertz, Editor/Wildlife Columnist.....798-4215



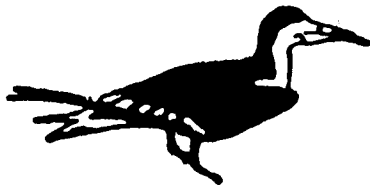
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