VOLUME 26, NUMBER 9 — SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

JUNE, JULY & AUGUST 1996

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Carole A. Adams

As we close out another season of the South Shore Audubon Society, we leave behind us a year of concern and apprehension regarding the future of our environmental laws in the hands of our elected officials. That concern and apprehension is yet to visit us again because environmental decisions of our elected officials are still uncertain. So what can we do? We can make sure that we do all we can right here in our own community.

In the past year, members of SSAS have carried out our mission to promote environmental education by encouraging subscriptions to Audubon Adventures for schoolchildren; by offering Audubon Camp scholarships; by supporting groups like the GLOBE Club (Global Learning and Observations to Benefit the Environment), a group of 5th and 6th graders from the Oaks School in Oceanside; by giving talks on birds and environmental issues to scouts and a number of other community groups; by hosting the Holiday Party at Tackapausha Preserve, where our volunteers teach and have fun, joined by Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary staff who provide exciting educational programs; by holding two birdseed sales every year to provide financial support to T.R. Sanctuary, so they can continue their educational programs: by participating in Earth Day programs; by educating through experience and discussion on our Sunday morning bird walks; by inviting informative speakers to do programs at our monthly meetings; and by including informative articles in our South Shore Skimmer.

Members of SSAS worked hard to preserve and restore our environment through responsible activism by encouraging participation in our Letter of the Month and Armchair Activist programs; through the management of Brookside Preserve and by inviting our community to join us in cleanup days at Brookside; by participating in committees on the South Shore Estuary Reserve Council, the Long Island Audubon Council, and the Audubon Council of New York State; by contributing to the Long Island Pine Barrens Society; by conducting the annual Greening of Long Island

NEXT MEETING — OUR ANNUAL DINNER

DATE: Tuesday, June 11, 1996

TIME: 6:30 P.M. for Cocktails & Hors d'Oeuvres

7:30 P.M. for Dinner

PLACE: Pompei Restaurant & Catering

401 Hempstead Avenue West Hempstead, NY

Sign up for SSAS's 25th annual dinner (our eighth in a row at Pompei) and join over a hundred fellow members of our 26-year old chapter at our traditional year-ending event. Bruno Leporati, who has been taking photos of our chapter for years (and giving free copies to the photographed), will present a slide show that will take us down SSAS's memory lane.

PLEASE NOTE: This year, you *must* register in advance for our dinner (no walk-ins); see page 7 for details.

Fund Drive to purchase environmentally sensitive trees and shrubs to help restore damaged areas in Jones Beach State Park; and by joining our friends in Garden City and supporting their efforts in designating County Stormwater Basin #232 as a bird sanctuary and nature refuge.

I have only touched on some of the ways our chapter members have worked diligently to carry out our chapter's mission "to promote environmental education, and preserve and restore our environment, through responsible activism, for the benefit of both people and wildlife." We will continue working hard, always striving to do more and reaching out to get others to join us. We will continue to sing the praises of our volunteers and feel pride in being a part of this great organization.

Hope to see you at our dinner on June 11th, as well as on our Sunday morning bird walks — remember, we take a little "vacation" through June and July from scheduled walks, so catch up with us on August 4th at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge (carpool if you can) and mark your calendar for our next meeting at Freeport Memorial Library, Tuesday night, September 10th. Again, thank you for taking the time to read the Skimmer.



All walks start at 9:30 A.M.; no walk if it rains. Any questions? Call Elliott at 486-7667. Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge's entrance is at a traffic light on Cross Bay Boulevard, 3-1/2 miles south of Belt Parkway Exit 17S; turn right at the light and look for our gang in the parking lot.

Please Help: We recently received a phone call from JBWR urging us to carpool or park next to the ball field just south of the refuge, because we're not leaving any spaces for people attending programs that start after our walks!

May 26	Memorial Day Weekend — No Walk
June 2	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
000	Summer Break
Aug. 4	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Aug. 11	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Aug. 18	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Aug. 25	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Sept. 1	Labor Day Weekend — No Walk
Sept. 8	Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
Sept. 15	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
Sept. 22	Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner
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TERNS & PLOVERS NEED VOLUNTEERS

John Zarudsky

Volunteers are once again requested to assist the Town of Hempstead Department of Conservation and Waterways in monitoring and protecting Least Tern colonies and Piping Plover nests in the Lido Town Park / Nassau Beach area and

at Silver Point in Atlantic Beach. Help is particularly needed on evenings, weekends, and holidays from May through August. If interested, please contact John Zarudsky, Conservation Biologist (and member of SSAS), at 897-4126 (work) or 486-5272



(home). The federal government and New York State have listed the beach-dwelling Piping Plover (pictured) and Least Tern as endangered species.



"NEW YORK'S LARGEST WILD BIRD SPECIALTY STORE"

621 Fulton St. (Rt. 109), Farmingdale, NY 11735
Located between McDonald's & Dunkin' Donuts

THEODORE ROOSEVELT SANCTUARY

134 Cove Road, Oyster Bay, NY 11771 (516) 922-3200

Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Bird Sanctuary is owned by the National Audubon Society and operated by the Community and three local Audubon chapters, including South Shore Audubon. The following programs are open to the public. Space is limited and registration is required. All program fees are required at the time of registration.

Saturday, June 1st (10 A.M. to 3 P.M., family) — Sanctuary Cleanup Day. Come and help us clean up from the spring rush. Bring your own gardening equipment. We need help cleaning cages, gardening, raking, and keeping up the trail. Refreshments will be provided.

Saturday, June 8th (8 A.M. to 12 P.M., adults) — Advanced Bird Watching. Do you think you understand the basics? Come back and find out about birdsong, difficult identifications, and research techniques. TRS members \$15, nonmembers \$20.

Sunday, June 9th (1 to 2:30 P.M., family) — Long Island Sound Ecology. We'll go across the street to beautiful Cove Beach to explore a marine environment. Children can discover seashore wildlife with nets, shovels, and an expert naturalist. TRS members \$4, nonmembers \$6.

Sunday, June 16th (8 to 9:30 A.M., family) — Father's Day Bird Walk. Meet at Sagamore Hill and take your Dad for a bird walk just like Theodore and his children did. We'll walk a wooded trail down to a beautiful cove on the Sound. TRS members \$2, nonmembers \$3.

Sunday, June 23rd (2 to 3:30 P.M., family) — Long Island's Wildlife. Take a guided walk and meet some of the spectacular animals that live right here on Long Island. We will have a flight demonstration and discover wild L.I.! TRS members \$4, nonmembers \$6.

Sunday, July 21st (2 to 5 P.M.) — Family Fun Day at TRS. Join us for wildlife programs, nature walks, children's crafts, and games. \$15 per person, \$25 per family; children must be accompanied by an adult.

Sunday, July 21st (starting 5 P.M.) — Dinner and Pool Party. After Family Fun Day, we'll walk over to Mrs. Frances Storrs' house for dinner and swimming. \$25 per person over age 13, free under age 3, \$10 for ages in between.

Summer Nature Camp. Camp for ages pre-K to 6 begins on Monday, June 24th and runs from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M., Monday through Thursday; sign up for one to nine weeks. Call for info.

Volunteer Training Day. Do you love animals? Do you like meeting new people? Do you enjoy gardening and working outdoors? Are you a great organizer? Are you an expert birder? You can meet and greet visitors, care for animals, tend the wildflower garden, prune trails, put together mailings, answer the phone, and much more. We are looking for independent resourceful people who want to help the Sanctuary. We will have a volunteer training day on Sunday, May 26th at 1 P.M. Please call and speak to Mary Richard or Denise Trezza to register.

BIRD BANDING WORKSHOPS

[Editor's Note: This is excerpted from a letter written by National Audubon's Bob Barnes, the Birds/Wildlife Habitat Program Director in their California Field Office.]

The Institute for Bird Populations is a nonprofit organization that coordinates a network of about 400 banding stations throughout the U.S. and Canada. They offer bird-banding courses nationwide every summer; graduates are certified as banding assistants and can obtain a banding permit after acquiring experience as a volunteer or apprentice.

The New York workshop will be July 20–27, 1996 in Rensselaerville (near Albany) and costs \$517. For information, contact Kenneth Burton, The Institute for Bird Populations, P.O. Box 1346, Point Reyes Station, CA 94956; phone 415-663-2051; fax 415-663-9482.

CONSERVATION REPORT How Are We Doin'?

Betty Borowsky

Throughout the year, many of us contact our legislators to influence them to support various environmental programs (or not to support cuts in programs). This year, our chapter was especially active in expressing our feelings because of our concerns about proposed changes in federal environmental programs, some of which threatened to decimate their effectiveness. We contacted legislators through the Armchair Activist program, through the Letter of the Month campaign at our monthly meetings, through e-mail, through telephone calls, and in many other ways, but responses from our legislators were often noncommittal. Did all of this hard work do any good?

Yes.

The Federal Appropriations Bill for 1996 has finally been passed, and it appears that, overall, environmental programs have not been hurt as much as expected. Here are the details of some efforts which affect Long Islanders:

Wetlands Rider Defeated: This would have prohibited the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency from protecting wetlands under the Clean Water Act.

Endangered Species Act Moratorium Waived: A moratorium on listing endangered species was set in place in April 1995 by a rider attached to the appropriations bill. This has now been waived, freeing the government to resume listing species which need special protection. [Editor's Note: According to e-mail I received from the Sierra Club's free "War on the Environment" listserver (Audubon has a free news listserver too; call me at night for info), more than 500 species are awaiting action — more than 240 have been formally proposed for listing, and about 270 are candidates for protection.]

Environmental Protection Agency Budget Cut Less Than Originally Proposed: While this agency's funding has been cut 9% from last year's allocation, it will receive \$1.7 billion above what had been recommended by Congress last summer. Monies for this agency are especially important, since although environmental laws may remain unchanged, if there's no money for monitoring or for enforcement, the laws are useless.

International Family Planning Funds Cut Sharply: This is the only program which will experience major reductions. Funding for family planning was cut 86% due to a handful of legislators opposed to family planning.

In addition, a speech by Warren Christopher, the Secretary of State, suggests that the current administration plans to extend its environmental protection efforts to other countries. Christopher laid down an ambitious U.S. program to protect the world's environment. The government will pursue reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and efforts to reduce the loss of the world's forests, among other initiatives.

The final shape of the New York State budget will influence environmental programs as well. We await the outcome with cautious optimism.

I think it's very clear that the overwhelming response of grassroots organizations such as ours worked to reverse the removal of funds from many federal environmental programs. Had there been no response, legislators would have assumed that residents approved their misguided initiatives.

We need to continue our efforts.



Explore the coast with the

AMERICAN LITTORAL SOCIETY

MONTAUK SUMMER WEEKEND (June 14-16) 2 nights at Montauk Manor house, 5 meals, 5 hikes, 2 evening programs. Cost: \$245 per person. For reservations call Don Riepe at (718) 634-6467.

MACHIAS SEAL ISLAND (July 22–27) 5 days in northern coastal Maine. Day boat trip to Seal Island to see puffins, razorbills, and arctic terns. Other trips for eagles, river otters, moose, and black bear. Cost: \$400 includes vans, lodging, guides, and boat rentals. For reservations call ALS headquarters in Sandy Hook, NJ at (908) 291-0055. CRAB FEAST, MARYLAND EASTERN SHORE (Saturday, August 3rd) All you can eat! Plus burgers, dogs, salad, beer, and soda. Cost: \$20 — kids under ten free. Call ALS. CAPE MAY HAWK WATCH (September 27–29) Cost: \$195 covers beachfront motel, Saturday lunch and dinner, slide shows, and some cherrystone clams. Call Don Riepe. AMERICAN LITTORAL SOCIETY is a coastal conservation organization concerned with protecting wetlands, beaches, marine life, and estuaries.

For information and free brochure contact: Don Riepe 28 West 9th Road Broad Channel, NY 11693 (718) 634-6467

AX WELCOME NEW MEMBERS AX

Marion Yavarkovsky

Welcome to South Shore Audubon. You have joined a vital group of people who are dedicated to birds, the environment, and education. We hope you will join us at monthly meetings when they resume in September, weekly bird walks, and special events, which are open to all.

[For information on joining the South Shore Audubon Society, please call our Membership Chairperson, Marion Yavarkovsky, at 379-2090. The best time to call is after 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.]

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Baldwin Carl F. Benson, Terence
Dougherty, Susan A. Glaser,
Gary Miller, A. & P. Winckler
Bellmore David M. Soave,
Mr. Russell J. Warren
Bethpage Susan Castor, Mr. Adam J.
McKeon, Justin D. Miller
Floral Park Eileen Daly
Garden City Mr. Elmer E. Seaman,
Gloria Weinrich
Hempstead? Marlon
Hewlett? Gorenberg
Hicksville Maria Logatto
Long Beach Amalia Hofberg,
Ms. Deborah Jordan
Massapequa Donald Anderson, Regina Coons,
R. J. Dlouhy, Timothy F.
Hogan, Diane Schultz
Massapequa Park Pat Gangitano
Merrick Ms. Ruby M. Nass,
Richard W. Smith
Plainview Howard & Joan Grossman,
Joel Hauptman
Uniondale June Pappas
Valley Stream Leslie Hill, Rosaleen Murphy,
Mr. Robert Napolitano
Wantagh B. Fontana, Kurt Meier
West Hempstead Mrs. Dorothy Hartigan

BIRDING AND THE ENVIRONMENT IN MINNESOTA

Mort Silver

The twin cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul sit astride the central flyway for migratory birds. Springtime in Minnesota, though a week or two later than in the New York region, comes with a welcoming rush each year — freeing the inhabitants, both human and avian, from the rigors of a long winter. My wife and I had the delightful experience of being in the twin cities this May [1995].

To appreciate fully this unique and atypical region, one must just imagine an almost perfect environment; a society whose #1 priority is education. This all-encompassing idea

and ethic weighs heavily on all aspects of life. Children and schools receive responsible attention by parents and elected officials. To illustrate further the ethics and standards involved, one need only view the park system. Parks and nature reserves are so numerous that it boggles the mind, and each natural area presents a teaching opportunity. Environmental centers, museums, naturalists, teachers, and guides are available in profusion. Trails are well kept and marked, yet few manicured areas are maintained. Prairie remnants are reintroduced, conserved, selectively burnt, and flourish beautifully. It is impossible for one not to learn and appreciate nature.

The cities are growing too rapidly. Yet one cannot imagine the results unless you visit the area. There are a plethora of lakes, streams, marshes, bogs, and prairie remnants. There are so many that one would have to be a deprived citizen not to be living directly adjacent to such a natural area or within one block of the same; this holds true for apartment dwellers also. These are not just natural areas; they are surrounded with trails for running, jogging, cycling, blade skating, sailing, canoeing, and just plain meandering. Winters are long and harsh, so the population is out skiing throughout the cities, in the parks, along the streams, and even in the zoo. Ice skating, ice boating, and ice fishing add further to the outdoor living.

Then there's the birds. We must have visited seven distinct and unique natural reserves in the two weeks we resided there (we missed dozens of others). It was an avian Eden. I cannot imagine why any bird would opt to move on after visiting the

natural areas in Minnesota. Within 5 minutes of parking the car, just 15 minutes from our motel, we were inundated by the birds. At that moment, apparently, there was a hatching of mayflies, which resulted in a frenzy of

feeding. Twenty-one species of warblers were noted during our stay, with the addition of Northern Orioles, American Goldfinch (pictured above), Downy and Red-headed

Woodpeckers (left), Eastern Bluebirds, vireos, and nighthawks. We were delighted to see Golden-winged, Tennessee, Mourning, Wilson's, Blackpoll, and Cape May Warblers, etc., and it was so easy.

Those interested in wildflowers could feast their eyes on the emerging trillium, pasqueflowers, rue anemone, violets, hepatica, trout lilies, bloodroot, and other flora too numer-

ous to mention. Strolling through the prairie meadows and forests reinvigorates the mind and body.

If ever an example were needed to upgrade and vitalize New York City, it should be the twin cities of Minnesota. The practical environmental success noted in Minnesota should be studied and copied by all concerned citizens. A great metropolis need not be a warren of disgruntled and harried humans devoid of the beauty and tranquility of nature. Good planning and responsible, responsive people can live in harmony with the environment. Education is the key.

THE SIXTH ANNUAL THANK-YOU COLUMN

Michael Sperling

It's time once again to thank everyone in our all-volunteer chapter who contributes time and energy to the Skimmer.

First, I'd like to thank the people who wrote or discovered the material that you've been reading for the last 72 pages: Carole Adams, Robert Alvey, Betty Borowsky, Sandy Brenner, Paul Butkereit, Kathy Chapman, Evan Dribbon, Nancy Frame, Betsy Gulotta, Mike Higgiston, Elliott Kutner, Suzanne Lancer, Doreen Remsen, Jim Remsen (who also deserves thanks for attempting to identify a couple hundred bird drawings from a cheapo CD-ROM I bought), Dolores Rogers, Mort Silver, Diane Singer, Porgy Smith, Marcia Specht, Jonathan Staller, Thomas Allen Stock, Marion Yavarkovsky, and John Zarudsky. I'd also like to thank our advertisers, American Littoral Society, Feed & Seed Barn, and Captain Barry.

Next, I'd like to thank F&B Printers for printing, collating, and folding every issue on time and at a steady price.

Finally, I'd especially like to thank the Skimmer Team, the handful of people who do all the behind-the-scenes work: Marion & David Yavarkovsky (for an unexpected and much appreciated 11th year of providing mailing labels, right on schedule as always); Nancy Frame (for picking up some of the address-corrected Skimmers, paying the bills, and mailing the Greening of Long Island fund-raiser); Sal Navasaitis (for mailing all but one Skimmer; I did do one); Jenny Krivanek (for a sixth year of doing most of the F&B trips, including the really soggy one when you saw the "typhoon" wipe out the car wash awning opposite F&B, and for the free hand-medown modem that's connecting me to lots of environmental info); Dan Marsh and/or Jenny's mom Robin (for several Skimmer pickups, one in a snowstorm); Pat Eagen, Marge Jaeger, and Dolores Rogers (for doing the rest of the F&B trips); all the Greening of Long Island envelope-stuffers and labelers at Marge's mom's house (Lisa Borbee, Sandy Brenner, Nancy Frame, Marge Jaeger, Doris Pirodsky, Doreen & Jim Remsen, Chris Schmitt & sister-in-law Katherine, Porgy Smith, and Jonathan Staller); and Mom & Dad, for helping me do the Skimmer labeling and rubber banding.

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BLUEBIRD LICENSE PLATES

Michael Sperling

Back in February, I received a letter from National Audubon's Northeast Regional Vice President, David J. Miller, requesting that I plug New York State's new license plates. Since then, several SSAS members have mentioned it to me and I actually saw a plate on a car at T.R. Sanctuary; the attractive plate includes the message "Conserve Open Space." Here's information from the official NYS flyer:

Drive Home Your Support for Open Space. Order New York's first conservation license plate and help conserve our most precious natural resource

— the open space that provides recreational enjoyment for people, necessary habitat for plants and animals, and economic benefit for businesses and communities.



This is how it works. When you buy your Blue Bird Plate (sic), designed exclusively for New York by world-renowned artist and naturalist Roger Tory Peterson, \$25 goes directly into the State's Environmental Protection Fund, dedicated for conservation projects identified in New York's Open Space Plan. [Editor's interruption: Governor Pataki's proposed budget would divert one-third of the EPF money, as detailed in the April Skimmer.]

Order your Blue Bird Plate now and help the Environmental Protection Fund complete urgent land conservation projects for our families and future generations of New Yorkers.

Help permanently protect the graceful shorelines of Long Island and the Great Lakes — the mile-high peaks and wilderness of the Adirondacks — expand our state park system — provide new parks to serve densely populated urban areas — sustain significant habitats for endangered species — protect and improve water quality.

With your Blue Bird Plate, you can proudly display your support for protecting our unique natural heritage. And, as an added plus, you can order at any time without affecting your registration renewal date. The initial cost for the Blue Bird Plate is \$39.50. This includes the \$25 annual service charge. Personalized plates are also available at an additional fee. To order, call 1-800-364-PLATES; have your Visa or Master-Card ready or visit your local Department of Motor Vehicles office.

For more information about New York's Environmental Protection Fund and Open Space Plan, write to: Open Space, DEC, 50 Wolf Rd, Albany, NY 12233-1040.

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RARE BIRD ALERT (212) 979-3070

WILDLIFE POISONING HOTLINE (800) 356-0560
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AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP STATUS (800) 274-4201
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NY IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS PROGRAM Jeff Wells

[Editor's Note: Jeffrey V. Wells, Ph.D., was recently hired by National Audubon as New York Important Bird Areas Coordinator.]

Protecting Birds and Their Habitats. National Audubon Society's New York Field Office is in the process of launching an Important Bird Areas program that will identify critical bird breeding, migratory stopover, and feeding areas in the state. The purpose of this process will be to develop conservation strategies to ensure the protection of these key bird habitats. Critical to this effort, we will strive to increase understanding of bird habitats in the state and increase public awareness of the importance of these sites. Data will be obtained from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Heritage Program, the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, the Cornell Department of Natural Resources, regional editors of the New York Federation of Bird Clubs' The Kingbird, as well as from Susan Roney Drennan's book The Top 500 Birding Sites in New York State. Nominations for Important Bird Areas will be solicited from Audubon chapters, bird clubs, natural resource managers, and Partners in Flight cooperators to confirm current data and identify new sites. It will be the most extensive migratory bird habitat identification program since the completion of New York State's Breeding Bird Atlas.

Education and Outreach. As these Important Bird Areas are identified, Audubon will provide educational fact sheets on their importance to both migratory and resident birds. To increase public awareness and understanding, Audubon, through its chapter network, will join in a partnership with other birding organizations and the State of New York to provide field trip opportunities to sites already on existing state-owned public lands. These trips will be designed for different age groups and will be locally based to conform to the habitat protection needs of each particular site.

Integration With the New York State Open Space Plan. Important Bird Areas will range from Great Lakes habitats, forests, and wetland complexes in Western New York to grasslands in the Southern Tier, from the forests of the Adirondacks and the Catskills to the coastal regions of the Hudson River, Long Island Sound, and the Atlantic Ocean. Habitats identified in this program will be summarized in an easy-to-understand format that cross references to New York State's Open Space Plan. New York has one of the most extensive Open Space Plans in the country, along with a dedicated fund for land protection projects. However, there has never been a process for prioritizing these sites based on bird habitat needs. Audubon would provide that voice by advocating for the protection of sites in the Open Space Plan identified as a priority for migratory and resident birds. As for IBA sites not currently included in the Open Space Plan, Audubon would push for their inclusion and protection.

Conservation Strategies. Conservation strategies to be utilized for protection of Important Bird Areas in New York State will include:

① public acquisition of lands from willing sellers, as well as, where private land trust funds exist, private acquisition;

2 public conservation easements on lands identified; and

③ private landowner education in addition to local partnerships which provide for the proper management of habitats in question.

Partnerships. Audubon is well positioned to identify, educate the public on, and protect Important Bird Areas in the state. The first year of the program will be devoted to statewide data collection, volunteer recruitment and involvement, and identification of several large habitats selected for national recognition. Memorandums of understanding and partnerships will be developed with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation and Cornell University, with specific joint activities from GIS data collection to sharing facilities. Also, a preliminary list of state sites will be developed for conservation consideration during the 1997 state legislative session. In addition, public educational efforts in partnership with local chapters will be designed for several sites already protected as open space in New York State.

Into the Future. The second year of the Important Bird Areas program will include development of more specific conservation strategies from the initial priority list and end with the completion of a total listing of sites to be identified. The Important Bird Areas publication to be produced in year three of the project by National Audubon will be the guiding document for migratory bird conservation in the state. While the Important Bird Areas Coordinator will continue to keep the publication current, the program's main focus will turn to the conservation policies of the state and the protection and proper management of these Important Bird Areas.

What Can You Do? We will begin soliciting site nominations by fall 1996, but in the meantime we encourage

preliminary planning and gathering of site data. Sites will be selected on the basis of criteria developed with input from a technical advisory committee made up of bird experts from throughout the state. Although these criteria have not been finalized, they will include sites with significant bird concentrations, sites with endangered/threatened species, and sites that represent unique habitats. We encourage Audubon



chapters to begin gathering data that would support nominations of sites in your area. We also encourage chapters and bird clubs to form a committee to begin selecting sites that you may wish to nominate.

For further information, contact Jeff Wells, New York State IBA Coordinator, National Audubon Society, c/o Cornell Lab of Omithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, NY 14850; phone (607) 254-2441; e-mail jw32@cornell.edu. [A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker is pictured above.]

ATTENTION ARMCHAIR ACTIVISTS! It's Time to Renew or Join

Michael Sperling

South Shore Audubon Society has been part of National Audubon's Armchair Activist program since the beginning of 1994. Most chapters charge an annual fee, but we've been mailing out the monthly alerts and information to interested members for free. Since the mailing list has grown to 70 households, we're asking all the current activists to let us know they're still interested by mailing the following form or a postcard to Armchair Activist Program, South Shore Audubon Society, P.O. Box 31, Freeport, NY 11520-0031.

Of course, we're always looking for more members who are willing to write letters to elected or appointed officials after reading the monthly information and sample letter they'll receive as Armchair Activists. The following issues have been covered this year: acid rain in the Adirondacks (support for House bill H.R. 2682), logging without laws (support for H.R. 2745, which would repeal the salvage logging rider), the Magnuson Fisheries Conservation & Management Act (support for Senate bill S. 39, which passed), Saratoga Spa State Park (opposition to a proposed truck route through the park; call 1-800-414-ACTN for tape-recorded details), lead fishing sinkers (support for State Senate bill S. 3471), and the 1997 federal budget (support for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, National Biological Service, Endangered Species Act, and programs that support migratory birds).

If you'd like to become an Armchair Activist, please mail in the form or send a postcard! Several of your elected and appointed officials are among the very worst when it comes to supporting environmental programs and regulations, so they especially need to hear from you (hint: I'm referring to two local Congressmen, one U.S. Senator, a few of our State Senators, and some of our Governor's appointees).

NAME:
ADDRESS:
PHONE NUMBER (just in case):
I'D LIKE TO (please circle one): continue join stop

SHARON AUDUBON FESTIVAL

National Audubon's Sharon Audubon Center, located in the northwest corner of Connecticut, will be hosting its 29th Annual Festival on July 27th and 28th. The longest running event of its kind, the festival is considered to be the premier environmental festival of the tristate area. Complete with renowned naturalists, artists, musicians, and exhibitors, the Sharon Audubon Festival traditionally has provided an exciting and educational day out for family members of all ages. The gates will open at 8:30 on both days and close at 5:00, rain or shine. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$4 for seniors, and \$3 for children. Children under 5 are admitted free. The Sharon Audubon Center, 325 Cornwall Bridge Road (phone 203-364-0520), is located on Route 4 between the towns of Sharon and Cornwall Bridge.

OUR ANNUAL DINNER

Shirley Kutner and Diane Singer have once again reserved the Banquet Room at Pompei Restaurant and Catering in West Hempstead for SSAS's annual dinner, to be held on **Tuesday, June 11th**. The price remains \$20 per person, which includes a cocktail hour with hot hors d'oeuvres at 6:30 and dinner at 7:30. Pompei's address is 401 Hempstead Avenue (take Southern State Parkway Exit 17 north).

Advance registration is **required** this year; please enclose the following form with your check payable to *South Shore Audubon Society* and mail them to Diane Singer, 118 Kent Road, Valley Stream, NY 11580. (On the menu below, *arreganata* means that bread crumbs and lemon have been added, and the fish has been oil-baked in an oven.)

NAME:		
ADDRESS:		
	·	
AMOUNT OF CHECK:		
NUMBER OF PEOPLE:		
NUMBER OF EACH MENU CHOICE:		
	Filet of Sole Arreganata	
	Chicken Francese	
	Eggplant Rollatini	
	Roast Beef	
or, if you prefer:		
On the	Broiled Chicken	
	Broiled Sole	

1995-1996 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

1000 OF FIGURE ONE, AND COMMITTEE CHAINFERSONS	
Carole A. Adams, President	731-4425
Betty Borowsky, Vice President & Conservation Legislation Chairperson	764-3596
Nancy Frame, Treasurer	520-9016
Christine Schmitt, Recording Secretary	887-7713
Doris Pirodsky, Corresponding Secretary & Historian	378-1790
Evan C. Dribbon, Director (6/98)	826-3422
Henry Levine, Director (6/98)	328-8736
Suzanne Lancer, Director (6/97) & Education Chairperson (7 to 9 P.M.)	536-6574
Jonathan Staller, Director (6/97) & Environmental Festivals Coordinator	822-5957
Lisa Borbee, Director (6/96)	897-9589
Steven Goldberg, Director (6/96)	798-0335
Sandy Brenner, Program Chairperson	249-4919
Paul Butkereit, Bird Seed Savings Day	623-0843
Joseph Grupp, Duck Survey	481-4208
Betsy Gulotta, Brookside Preserve Committee Chairperson	546-8841
Marge Jaeger, Fund-raising Chairperson	536-9166
Elliott Kutner, Birding / Field Trips Chairperson	486-7667
Joseph Lancer, Binocular / Book Sales (7 to 9 P.M.)	536-6574
Amanda Neet, Special Events On-Site Coordinator	798-0335
Richard Packert, Special Projects	283-3872
George Popkin, Financial Advisor (8 to 9 P.M.)	378-4467
Doreen Remsen, Birdathon Co-Chairperson	472-6830
James Remsen, Jr., Birdathon Co-Chairperson	764-5168
Dolores Rogers, Welcoming Committee Chairperson	599-1224
Mary Jane Russell, Armchair Activist Chairperson & Hospitality Chairperson	766-7397
Diane Singer, Publicity (5 to 8 P.M.)	561-6118
Porgy Smith, Environmental Information Chairperson	887-2054
Michael Sperling, Skimmer Editor	541-0805
Marion Yavarkovsky, Membership Chairperson	379-2090
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South Shore Audubon Society P.O. Box 31 Freeport, NY 11520-0031

A CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Americans Committed to Conservation

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