

BIRD WALKS
Elliott Kutner

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.

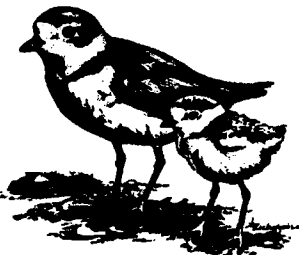
Please Help: We recently received a phone call from JBWR urging us to carpool or park next to the ball field just south of the refuge, because we're not leaving any spaces for people attending programs that start after our walks!

- May 26 *Memorial Day Weekend — No Walk*
- June 2 *Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge*
- ☀☀☀ *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*

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.



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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

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

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.]

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 numerous 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 Butkereiit, 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-me-down 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.

SSAS Mission Statement — *The mission of South Shore Audubon Society is to promote environmental education, and preserve and restore our environment, through responsible activism, for the benefit of both people and wildlife.*

SSAS Post Office Statement — *South Shore Skimmer is published monthly from September through December and February through June by South Shore Audubon Society, P.O. Box 31, Freeport, NY 11520-0031.*

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 MasterCard 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.

RARE BIRD ALERT (212) 979-3070

WILDLIFE POISONING HOTLINE (800) 356-0560

AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP STATUS (800) 274-4201

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 Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road, Ithaca, NY 14850; phone (607) 254-2441; e-mail jw32@cornell.edu. [A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker is pictured above.]

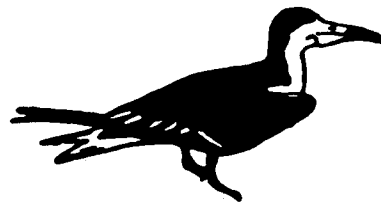


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P.O. Box 31
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A CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
Americans Committed to Conservation



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