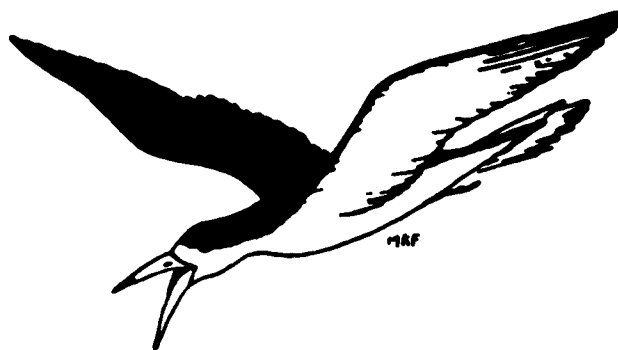


SOUTH SHORE SKIMMER



VOLUME 29, NUMBER 1 — SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER 1998

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Doreen Remsen

It has been a summer of nonstop activity, adventure, and discovery. I have had the opportunity to make new friends, deepen friendships I already treasure, and learn more about myself, my role in caring for the environment, and just how powerful committed individuals are in affecting change for the good of all. Let me share with all of you some summer "snapshots."

July 5th: I'm off to Estes Park, Colorado with our multi-talented, remembers-just-about-every-Audubon-person-he's-ever-met-at-any-meeting [Editor's interruption: excluding SSAS meetings], makes-great-travel-arrangements, and, yes, WILL GET UP BEFORE 6 A.M. to go birding with the rest of us certifiable people, *Skimmer* editor Mike Sperling, to attend the National Audubon Biennial Convention. The convention was attended by over 700 Audubon representatives from the United States, as well as Mexico and Central America. The theme of this year's convention was "celebrating successes" — and there was much to celebrate. Yet, as I listened to the many wonderful evening speakers, among them Carl Safina, speaking about the threats to our oceans and fisheries; Brock Evans, who heads the Endangered Species Coalition, a group working to keep our Endangered Species Act from being weakened and nullified; and Art Wolfe, naturalist, author, and photographer, who spoke of the great treasure we all share in Alaska, and how the refuges and wild places will be saved by those of us living in the lower 48 states, I realized that it will take all of us being educated, aware, and vigilant to keep our natural world green and viable so future generations can benefit and enjoy.

No trip is without its classic moments: on an overnight field trip to Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge, we toured with 12 other participants plus two very able Colorado birders/ornithologists and a one-of-a-kind bus driver who got "infected" by our eager enthusiasm to see as many diverse habitats and life birds as we possibly could in 29 hours. From the moment our trip started, our guides

assured us that besides birds we were in some of the best wildlife habitats around. And every habitat was "moose habitat...so keep your eyes open." This became the battle cry every time we entered another forest, river, open wetland area, and we all would chime in as our guides would say, "this area is ideal moose habitat...so keep your eyes open!" When our first day wound down and we arrived in beautiful downtown Walden, Colorado (another story in itself!), what was at the corner near the Elkhorn Cafe? Yep! A very big, very phony, moose! We all took pictures and figured that was planted for us. [Your editor again: SSAS has a bigger population than Walden, the Jackson County seat; you know you're in trouble when the only "Welcome to Walden" sign is painted on a storefront

NEXT MEETING

DATE: Tuesday, September 8, 1998
 TIME: 8:00 p.m. ☺
 PLACE: Freeport Memorial Library
 144 W. Merrick Rd. (at S. Ocean Ave.)
 SPEAKER: Robert Villani
 TOPIC: Nature's Long Island

Since last October, Robert Villani's photograph-filled book, *Long Island: A Natural History*, has been prominently displayed throughout our area's bookstores. The book has received several awards, including 2nd place for its category in the prestigious NY Book Show. The book and tonight's slide presentation illustrate Long Island's geology, as well as the Island's various ecosystems and the flora & fauna within; signed copies will be available at our meeting at a 25% discount. This Native Long Islander last did a program for SSAS in 1993, based on his book about Maine's Baxter State Park; his work has appeared in *National Geographic*, *Birder's World*, *National Wildlife*, and Audubon's calendars. Join us!

◆◆◆◆◆ IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE WASTE, PLEASE
 ☺ BRING COFFEE MUGS TO OUR MEETINGS
 ◆◆◆◆◆

window that also has a "For Rent" sign! No wonder Walden's not mentioned anywhere in AAA's TourBook.]

The following day, when we arrived at Arapaho, and before we met the ranger, we did indeed see two very large male moose in a river not twenty feet away! It was fabulous, and after that, we were asking to see all kinds of birds and wildlife, and much to our amazement, as well as to our guides, we would see them! It was magical!



July 9th: An all-day field trip to Rocky Mountain National Park. There are too many snapshot moments for me to be able to do this justice...the lodgepole pines; winding roads; tumbling waterfalls; walking across the tundra at 12,000 feet and seeing wildflowers, snow-capped mountains, and White-tailed Ptarmigans; being inside the Alpine Visitor Center and then being surrounded by a thunderstorm which drove elk to come down past the parking lot to a lower, safer, elevation; walking the trail along the Continental Divide as the Native American tribes had over a hundred years ago; and finding the American Dipper beside a river where a Three-toed Woodpecker was feeding young...humbling, awesome, renewing are a few adjectives which get close to the experience.

It is good to be home, and I am looking forward to sharing many new "snapshot" moments with all of you as South Shore begins another new year!



SSAS GREENWICH TRIP

Dolores Rogers and Marge Jaeger have made arrangements with National Audubon's 522-acre Audubon Center in Greenwich, Connecticut for us to visit them on **Saturday, September 19th**. On that day, the local chapter, Greenwich Audubon Society, will be holding its annual hawk celebration. The Center (to quote the Audubon Ecology Camps & Workshops brochure) includes "magnificent deciduous and hemlock forests, lush meadows, and life-filled lakes, ponds, and streams." The east branch of the Byram River flows through the sanctuary and the six-acre man-made Mead Lake is there, too. Eight hundred plant species, 35 mammal species, and 150 bird species have been recorded there. Join us.

If you'd like to carpool to Greenwich, bring your lunch to the Merrick Park Golf Course at 8 A.M. (entrance is on the south side of Merrick Road, just east of the Meadowbrook Parkway). We plan on starting bird walks and hawk counting at 9:30 A.M.

Directions will be available on the morning of the 19th; the Center's address is 613 Riversville Road and can be reached at (203) 869-5272 or aew@audubon.org, or call Michael Sperling after 7:30 P.M. (I should have directions by the time you read this; if you have AAA's 1993 booklet of NYC and vicinity maps, on page 13 you'll find "Audubon Center," spelled that way, in box A-10).

SSAS BIRDSEED SALE COMING

Our annual October birdseed sale is scheduled for the 25th; see next month's *Skimmer* for the order form.



AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP STATUS (800) 274-4201






WELCOME NEW MEMBERS



South Shore Audubon welcomes all of the new members who've joined us during the *Skimmer's* summer break. We hope you'll become active members of our very active all-volunteer chapter as we start our new year. Unless otherwise noted, everything mentioned on these pages is free; try one!

[To receive an application for membership in National Audubon Society and SSAS, please call our new Membership Chairperson, Jackie Richichi, at 826-1187, or send e-mail to Jacee13@aol.com. Introductory membership is \$20; \$15 for students and senior citizens.]

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Baldwin | Nancy W. Caldwell, Mr. Kenneth J. Carl, Catherine DeVivo, Thelma R. Healy, Louise Leonard, Debbie Lucas, Ms. Katherine Luger, Mrs. Ann Maio, Joseph Malone |
| Bellmore | Kathy J. Battaglia, Mrs. Patricia Graff, Richard Hess, Cornelius Hosey, S. Karunakar, Ms. Iris T. Kinzer, Iris Kunofsky, John Mc Queen, Mr. Rudolph P. Riesz |
| Bethpage | ? Debiak, Richard Ehli, Robert Havel, Jessie Kearney, Cathy Portner |
| Cedarhurst | Ms. Harriett Zion |
| East Meadow | Jim Cruz, Jack H. Lam, Leslie Roth, Mr. John Runyan, Walter Smith, Mrs. F. Trunk |
| East Rockaway | Edward Aarne, Joseph Kelley, Peg O'Neill |
| Elmont | Norman Alston, Mr. Emery R. Bartha, T. J. V. de Ven, Mr. John Kaz, Mr. Emil Spahn, Stanley L. Weiss, William Wheeler |
| Farmingdale | Rosemary Kennedy, Helene Klem, Marie A. Knabbe, G. Mormanis, Robert Ryndfleisz, Cathy Smith |
| Floral Park | Mrs. Anthony R. Bucalo, P. G. Elsbeck, Mary Farrell, C. J. Switzer, Mrs. A Verrelli |
| Franklin Square | Miss J. Copley, Mrs. Edna Muske, Ann Schaffner, Dorothy & Anthony J. Tatta, Mrs. Marianne E. Vanora |
| Freeport | Mr. K. E. Combs, Mrs. ? Edwards, Harriet E. Fortunato, Mr. Carl G. Geiling, Mrs. A. Schrynemakers |
| Garden City | Arthur Albro, Joan Catell, Michael R. Hepworth, Robert E. Herman, Charles H. Hughes, Anne E. Kotraba, John G. McMahon, F. K. Miller, Ms. J. VanMeter |



- Glen Oaks Mr. & Mrs. Henry Smith
 Hempstead Dr. Calvin Browne, P. Devendittis,
 John E. Hearn, Geraldine Linton,
 Barbara V. Luks, Rodolfo E. Sorto
 Hicksville Ms. Patricia R. Clark, Ms. Mary E.
 Dixon, Christopher J. Fetta, Sidney
 Fox, Ms. Beatrice Greer, Roberta
 Itzkowitz, Thelma Kuhajda, Libby
 Landy, John Lupski, Janet Mc
 Govern, Patricia Nagle, D. Peitzak,
 Joyce Smith, Francis Winkler

 Huntington Station Judith Wexler
 Lawrence Ms. Susan Gelfand
 Levittown Mr. Frank J. Cuva, Mr. John
 Fusevich, Mr. Joseph Gehrsitz,
 Helen Hettrich, Mr. John Keogh,
 Mrs. Dorothy Levy, George
 McElroy, Ernest & Elva Orlandini,
 Mr. Nicholas Rosa, S. Sirbello,
 Sylvia M. Skillman, Harold L. Suriff
 Long Beach Jonathan Barras, Carolyn DeSablou,
 Mr. S. Jenkins, Jeanne Kaskel,
 Irving Leiner, David Levine,
 Anthony Palermo, Allan Richter,
 Kathy Riker, Joseph Smith,
 Muriel M. Tribble

 Lynbrook Laurence Abelove, Ms. Carol Abrook,
 J. Katie Barndt, Mrs. Libby C.
 Camin, Harold Demarest, Elizabeth
 C. Rogers, Mrs. Irene Young
 Malverne Mrs. Katherine Aichinger,
 CasaGrande family, John Labbate,
 Ms. Kathy A. Marciniak,
 Kristine Schroeder
 Massapequa Mrs. Doris Boehm, Ms. Anne
 Costantino, Mr. William J. Cuddy,
 Therese A. Dunne, Diane M. Howe,
 Irene MacFie, Mildred Mantell,
 Kathy McQuillan, Joanne Stanley,
 Andreas Valentine, Arthur Venezia,
 R. Vollmer, Maureen Weaver

 Massapequa Park Grover W. Cordts, Blaine Friedman,
 Mrs. Anita Halberstadt,
 Mr. David Klepeis
 Merrick Dr. Pamela M. Clark, Ruth Friedman,
 Joyce Gerrits, Peter Walsh,
 Alexandria M. Young
 Oceanside Harold & Jean Fichter, Arthur
 Pizzigati, Seth & Carolyn Rosenthal,
 Ms. Patricia L. Slater, Bette Sondike
 Old Bethpage Elaine Harvey, Ms. Lucille Mandala
 Plainview Copeland Bershader, Russell S.
 Bodwell, Edith Bushman, Ms. Ruth
 H. Linn, Lin Miller, Mrs. Bernice
 Schindler, Mr. Lawrence Seiden
 Rockville Centre A. W. Attonito, James R. Day, Peter
 D. Feine, Mary Harrow, S. Kriss,
 Anne P. La Fave, James D. Neitz,
 Anthony Ristuccia, Judy Wolosoff
 Roosevelt Ms. Barbara Bailey; Ellsworth
 Frye, M.D.

- Seaford Ms. Sheila LoGerfo, Mrs. Michael
 J. Murphy, Karen Neiman, Mary
 Ann O'Donnell, Mrs. S. Olsen
 Uniondale Margaret Heckmann, John Novotny
 Valley Stream Regina DeMarino, Ms. Denise M.
 Gerardi, Jeffrey Jacobson, Lois
 Kichilinsky, Mr. Neil Lefkowitz,
 Paul Maquine, Josephine Petillo,
 Mrs. Annette Zelenetz

 Wantagh Mr. & Mrs. Walter Bullis, Mr. & Mrs.
 Michael Di Donna, Richard Fram,
 Sheri Manza, Mr. Saul Richman,
 G. Ruege, Dolores Santora, Joyce
 Schwartz, Mr. & Mrs. Frank Ucinski,
 Arline Yee

 West Hempstead Robert Ollquist, Mr. Michael L.
 Siskind
 Woodmere Jesse I. Abrahams, Edward Maday,
 N. V. Mehta

*SSAS Mission Statement — The mission of South
 Shore Audubon Society is to promote environmental
 education, and preserve and restore our environ-
 ment, 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.*

BIRD WALKS
 Elliott Kutner

All walks start at 9:30 A.M.; no walk if it rains. Any ques-
 tions? Call Elliott at 486-7667.

Aug. 23 & 30 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge [take Belt
 Parkway Exit 17 South (Cross Bay
 Boulevard) for four miles; turn right at
 Refuge's traffic light]



- Sept. 6 *Labor Day Weekend — No Walk*
 Sept. 13 Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
 Sept. 20 Hempstead Lake State Park [Exit 18, first
 lot south of Southern State Parkway
 (Field #1), south end of lot]; see note
 Sept. 27 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
 Oct. 4 Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)

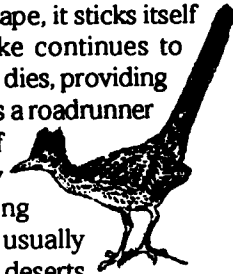
Editor's note: The NYS Parks weekend toll season now
 lasts well past Labor Day, so if you don't have an Empire
 Passport (\$39 for the year ending 3/31/99), either arrive
 before 8 A.M., carpool, or be prepared to contribute \$4 to
 the state parks on September 20th.

ROADRUNNER

Tom Torma

It was still dark out, but the mountains above me had a faint rosy glow. They call it *alpenglow*, when the sun is still below the horizon but its light is reflected off distant clouds onto snow-covered mountain tops. A short time later, coyotes' howls welcomed the sun as it rose above the horizon. This was truly a magical moment. I was standing in Sabino Canyon at the foot of the Santa Catalina Mountains on the outskirts of Tucson, Arizona. The Sonoran Desert was cold that morning, but warmed quickly as the sun rose. I was here to see and photograph a bird that Native Americans consider magical, a war bird, the Greater Roadrunner.

The most famous bird of the American Southwest is the roadrunner, also known as the Chaparral Cock. It is a bird of legend, myth, and cartoons. Its expressive crest and long tail identifies this cuckoo that prefers to walk or run rather than fly. It can run at speeds of 15 miles per hour, with even faster bursts when chasing fast-moving prey. Its diet includes insects, reptiles, rodents, and other birds. Great predators, they have been known to grab hummingbirds in midair. They also have a reputation for hunting rattlesnakes. An old cowboy tall tale has it that they build corrals of cactus around a sleeping rattlesnake. When the snake wakes up and attempts to escape, it sticks itself with the cactus needles. The snake continues to move in a circle, sticking itself until it dies, providing an easy meal for the bird. The truth is a roadrunner is really overrated as a hunter of rattlesnakes. Needless to say, they have never been observed building corrals of any type. Actually they usually catch prey with their bill. They live in deserts and open country with scattered brush, from Texas to California, north to Utah, Colorado, and Oklahoma.



On my first visit to Arizona I was determined to capture an image of a roadrunner on film. Sabino Canyon is desert with a stream flowing through it, creating natural swimming pools popular with local residents. The stream runs cool from the mountains above the canyon. I had hiked the area, lugging my camera equipment with me, looking for the Chaparral Cock. I saw Gambel's Quail, Gila Woodpecker, and Pyrrhuloxia, but no roadrunners. By mid-morning it was getting hot, so I packed it in. While sitting on a bench putting my camera away, I looked up and saw a roadrunner standing on a nearby wall. Quickly I unpacked, set up my camera and telephoto lens on my tripod, and focused, and as I was about to trip my shutter the bird disappeared. As he distanced himself from me I thought I heard him call "beep beep."

The canyon is a recreation area in the Coronado National Forest. There is a road in the lower part of the canyon but it is closed to autos. In the early hours when it is still cool, I like to walk up the road and watch the soft

morning light spread across the mountains and canyon. In hotter weather I take a tram that runs up the canyon for four miles to the upper canyon trailhead and walk back, cooling myself off in the stream that runs through the canyon. The lower part of Sabino is famous for its majestic growths of saguaro cactus. From the trailhead you can hike to Bridal Veil falls in the lush oak-forested canyon. The canyon is a treasure for photographers. The stream meanders back and forth along the road, with low bridges crossing the stream. The pools of water allow for dramatic pictures of the desert terrain reflected in the water of the pools, or of the stream water as it moves through the desert.

One of the interesting characteristics of the roadrunner is its zygodactyl feet (two toes pointed forward and two to the rear). The bird's footprint leaves an "x" imprint on the ground. When roadrunners hunt, they chase around the brush and cactus, moving in no particular direction, thus creating a confusing maze of footprints. This confusing pattern of footprints along with its speed, intelligence, and hunting reputation impressed Native Americans of the southwest. That is why they considered him a war bird. It was the x-shaped footprint that Native Americans considered so important.

War parties need to confuse their enemies; some groups of southwest Native Americans wore roadrunner feathers on their moccasins. The quill ends of the upper and lower tail feathers crossed in the "x" pattern. From these feathers came courage and knowledge, for the roadrunner is considered the keeper of courage. Other Natives of the area used to paint an "x" on their horses or on clothes for the same reason.

The x-shaped footprints were also involved in some funeral rites. For example, there were rites that consisted of placing blue corn and a club beside a deceased person. Around these tokens a circle of roadrunner tracks was scratched into the ground; this was a magic circle to keep away evil spirits or ghosts. At other times, tracks were placed in a confusing pattern similar to the actual pattern of roadrunners hunting, in an attempt to confuse any evil spirits lurking in the area to take over the soul of the deceased.

I did not get a picture of a roadrunner that day. Fortunately, I did have an opportunity to talk to some Forest Service employees and the people who operate the tram. I also had the opportunity to talk to some other photographers who I met in the canyon. All the conversations led me to an area near the entrance to the canyon. The tram leaves from there, and the tram operators put out birdseed there. This I was informed is a good location to see or photograph roadrunners. The next morning I returned to Sabino Canyon, hung out near the entrance for a few hours, and sure enough there was the Chaparral Cock posing for me to photograph. There is a good lesson here: talk to the local birders, photographers, and rangers; they often have information that can be valuable when looking

for birds to watch or subjects to photograph. If there is a nature walk in the area, join in (I'm sure they won't have an Elliott Kutner, but it might be fun anyway). Check out a local Audubon Society or Nature Conservancy for information. Do your homework and you will find the birds you are looking for. But there still is something to say about being in the desert early in the morning, roaming on your own, listening to the coyotes howl, even if you don't find what you are looking for.



SSAS WELWYN WALK

Joanne Del Prete

On Saturday morning, **September 12th**, South Shore Audubon plans to go birding at Welwyn Preserve in Glen Cove. Welwyn Preserve's 204 acres include four marked trails, a wooded stream valley, freshwater ponds and swamps, a coastal salt marsh, and a stretch of shoreline. One of Long Island's last stands of old-growth tulip trees is here; some of the trees are 14 feet wide and 100 feet tall. Welwyn's inhabited by over 100 bird species, including White-breasted Nuthatches, Black-throated Blue Warblers, Wood Thrushes, Belted Kingfishers, Snowy Egrets, Great Blue Herons, Great Horned Owls (pictured), Ospreys, and Hairy Woodpeckers.

Directions. Take Long Island Expressway to Exit 39 North (Glen Cove Road). Glen Cove Road becomes Route 107 (follow all signs for Route 107 north), after which bear left at major fork (do not take Cedar Swamp Road). You'll travel approximately 6.2 miles from the LIE to the end of Glen Cove Road [your editor's atlas shows the name changing to Pratt Boulevard at the very end]. Turn right on Glen Cove Avenue (at the firehouse) for one block and then right on Brewster Street.

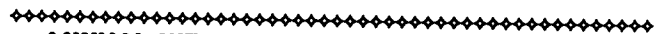


Go approximately 0.5 miles and turn left on Dosoris Lane (there's a school in the far left corner). Proceed approximately 0.7 miles and turn left on New Woods Road. Go 0.4 miles to its end and turn right on Crescent Beach Road for a short distance. Across from North Shore Day Camp & School you'll see a sign reading "Holocaust Center of Nassau County" (the Holocaust Museum, closed on Saturdays, is in Welwyn's Georgian-style mansion). There are gray stone pillars at the entrance; you'll see a Welwyn sign on the inside of the pillars. Follow the winding driveway to the main parking lot; we will meet at 9:30 A.M. in front of the mansion, weather permitting. Call Joanne at 433-0739, evenings, if you have any questions.

Suggestions/Help Wanted. If you'd like to help Joanne scout out new places for us to go, please call the number above or e-mail our new special trips chairperson at delpretej@lilco.com.

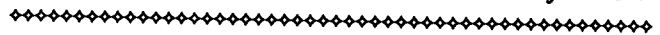
ATTENTION TEACHERS, TROOP LEADERS & PARENTS

Audubon Adventures is the youth education program of the National Audubon Society, geared to elementary school classes and other children's groups grades 3 through 6. Topics to be covered this year include wildflowers, animal communications, marine mammals, snakes, songbirds, and ponds. A classroom kit, available in English or Spanish, consists of 32 copies of a bimonthly newspaper and a Leader's Guide for each issue, and costs \$35; an individual kit is available to the public for \$22. SSAS sponsors groups by paying full or partial costs, and offers individual kits for just \$19. For further information, contact SSAS Education Chairperson Suzanne Lancer at 536-6574.



ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP

Last year, 2029 Nassau County volunteers removed and collected data on 17,783 pounds of debris from our shorelines. For information on this year's NY cleanups, contact the American Littoral Society's Beach Cleanup Coordinator, Barbara Cohen, at 718-471-2166 or send e-mail to alsbeach@aol.com. Cleanups are scheduled for September 19th at Cow Meadow Park in Freeport, Hempstead Lake State Park, Jones Beach West End 2 and Field 6, and at six sites in Long Beach; on the 18th at Jones Beach's Sunset Beach; and on the 25th at Tobay Beach.



*Explore the coast
with the*

AMERICAN LITTORAL SOCIETY

FIRE ISLAND HIKE (Sat., Sept. 26th). Hike the boardwalk, dunes & beach at the Sunken Forest during peak bird/butterfly migration. Cost: \$20 includes round-trip ferry & guides.

CAPE COD WEEKEND (Oct. 1-4). The Society's 37th Annual Meeting at the Cape Cod Sea Camp in Brewster, MA. Cost: \$210 (\$100 kids) covers 3 nights' lodging, all meals, barbecue, clam bake, two boat trips, guides. Call (732) 291-0055.

JAMAICA BAY ECOLOGY BOAT TOUR (Sat., Oct. 24th, 10 A.M.-1 P.M.). Cost: \$35 includes a guided tour of the wildlife refuge and breakfast-on-the-bay. Learn about the history, birds, fish, and ecology of this 9,000 acre preserve.

ASSATEAGUE FALL WEEKEND (Nov. 5-8). Cost: \$245 covers three nights at Refuge Motor Inn (heated pool, jacuzzi), guided hikes at Chincoteague Refuge, Assateague beaches. See Bald Eagles, Peregrines, Snow Geese, Brown Pelicans, wild ponies, river otter, red fox, Sika deer, and maybe a White Pelican. Close-up views of herons, ducks, and other wildlife. Trip fee includes Saturday night "All-You-Can-Eat" seafood buffet and safari tour of back dune areas.

For information and free field trip brochure, call/write Don Riepe, (718) 634-6467, 28 West 9th Road, Broad Channel, NY 11693

THE ELEVENTH ANNUAL SSAS BIRDATHON

Jim Remsen

For the first time in eleven Birdathons, SSAS confronted a rain out on the scheduled day of our annual spring fundraiser. The heavy rains that were so common early this year prevented us from searching the skies and bushes on May 8/9, as planned, but on our rain dates of May 15/16 the weather cooperated and our 24-hour Birdathon rolled without incident to a final chapter total of 158 species. A list of all species observed has been compiled and will be published in the *Skimmer* before the next Birdathon; I will also be glad to supply it by e-mail to anyone interested (my address: remsen@amnh.org).

If you like wood warblers, this was your year to participate in the Birdathon. Our teams racked up 27 species of them. Jamaica Bay was particularly productive for warblers, although other sites were good too. (Massapequa Preserve, the starting point for the Grupp/Remsen team, was surprisingly poor, although it did yield other songbirds for the list, included an Olive-sided Flycatcher, which sat still for prolonged observation.) This was also the year of the American Woodcock (pictured), as all three teams had it on their lists. An accommodating White-



crowned Sparrow provided all three teams with a look at Jamaica Bay. And there were other tantalizing species reported

by one or more teams: Monk Parakeet, both cuckoos, and Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, to name a few.

National Audubon's Population and Endangered Species campaigns will benefit by half of the over \$4200 raised by our participants. This is the third highest total in the history of our Birdathon and was greatly enhanced by our regular meeting raffle profits. The Birdathon Committee intends to keep these going next year and use the profits to supplement our regular Birdathon pledges.

We wish to thank all of those who bought tickets for, or donated prizes to, these monthly raffles. You gave us the "little extra" that helped us achieve a truly outstanding funds total this year. There are too many prize donors to thank them all, but we do wish to give a special acknowledgement to Dave and Marianne Isbister for their large donation of children's computer software.

In addition, we thank the following who made donations of prizes specifically for our annual dinner meeting drawing: Kevin J. Colver Productions, Lang Elliott/Naturesound Studio, Sam Jannazzo, Terryanne Maenza-Gmelch, Doris Pirodsky, George Popkin, Valerie Rizzuto, and Ken and Karen Wenzel.

More thanks...to all the team leaders — Paul Butkerei, Mike Higgiston, Bill Hollweg, Joe Grupp, Elliott Kutner, and Ken and Karen Wenzel — and to our President, Doreen

Remsen, for organizing the post-Birdathon dinner at the Super Buffet in Rockville Centre. Last but not least, thanks to all of you who decided, for one reason or another, to follow us crazy people all over Long Island and New York City looking for birds!

Is there anyone I've forgotten? If so, please let me know and I'll make sure to correct the situation!

We've come to the end of another Birdathon, but your chairman will continue looking for ways to improve the event. Suggestions are welcome. Also, if you want to donate a prize for our monthly raffle or next year's dinner meeting, I will gladly accept it. Just bring it to our monthly meeting or call me at the number on the back page of this newsletter.

THE JANET LOUISE

1-4 Passenger • 23 ft. Dory Skiff

Bird Watching

Scenic Excursions to the Tidal Creeks & Marshes of Hewlett, Woodmere, and Lawrence

U.S.C.G. Licensed • Fully Insured

Two-hour trips: \$10 for adults, \$5 for kids

Captain Ed Maday

(516) 374-4943

Seed - Feeders
Houses - Baths
Books - Gifts

(516) 694-2180



WILD BIRD CENTER

"NEW YORK'S LARGEST WILD BIRD SPECIALTY STORE"

621 Fulton St. (Rt. 109), Farmingdale, NY 11735

Located between McDonald's & Dunkin' Donuts

NYS AUDUBON BIRDING TRIP

National Audubon Society of New York State's Habitat and Population Campaign is sponsoring *A Birding Adventure Trip to the Dominican Republic* on February 13-21, 1999. The trip leaders will be Alison Heaphy, Habitat and Population Organizer, and Jeff Wells, New York State Bird Conservation Director. For more information contact Alison at 518-869-9731 and ahephy@audubon.org or Jeff at 607-254-2441 and jw32@cornell.edu. Space permitting, some details will be in the next *Skimmer*.

NASSAU COUNTY POLLUTION HOTLINE 739-6666

WILDLIFE POISONING HOTLINE (800) 356-0560

JAMAICA BAY UPDATE

Doreen Remsen

On July 18th I attended a meeting of the Save Our Sanctuary Committee, a coalition of various environmental and civic organizations committed to stopping the proposed multi-use recreational corridor (aka asphalt "bike" path) at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. The meeting was held at the Alley Pond Environmental Center and chaired by Al Ott, the founder of S.O.S., and attended by approximately 20-25 representatives of the participating organizations. The purpose of the meeting was to provide background information and history to those groups not fully informed on the issue, update all on the positive movement that the National Park Service has initiated (thanks to the involvement of New York State Senator Frank Padavan and NYS Assemblyman Daniel Feldman responding to the issue of using matching funds for the project from the Jamaica Bay Damages Account), and discuss our continuing involvement and actions. The committee drafted a resolution stating our support of maintaining Jamaica Bay as the urban wildlife refuge that it is, our opposition to the asphalt recreation corridor and any development on the refuge property, and our commitment to seeking a solution that is beneficial for both people and wildlife.

The good news: The current proposal is, for the moment, in the cement mixer. On July 17th, the National Park Service sent a copy of a letter/memo stating that the Environmental Assessment will undergo a revision based on a technical review by the funding and regulatory agencies involved (N.Y.S. Department of Environmental Conservation, N.Y.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, and the National Park Service). The new document and proposal will conform with all federal, state, and local agency requirements. This will include a review of alternatives, and the environmental document will be subject to public review and comment. Notification of the comment period will be in a widely read publication.

To all of you who have written, phoned, e-mailed, and let your views be heard on this matter...thank you! What can you do now while we are awaiting the meeting date of the Advisory Committee? It is imperative that the pressure be kept on by writing your state senators and assembly representatives, as well as Governor Pataki, and letting them know that using funds from the Jamaica Bay Damages Account (monies New York City was fined for polluting Jamaica Bay) as the matching funds required to build this alternate transportation/recreation pathway through the wildlife refuge is unacceptable.

AUDUBON ACTIONLINE (800) 659-2622

TAPE-RECORDED UPDATES FROM WASHINGTON, DC

LAST CALL FOR FAHNESTOCK WEEKEND

11,000 acre Fahnestock State Park is the largest park in Putnam County and contains the Taconic Outdoor Environmental Center (which has been reserved by SSAS); oak, hickory, and hemlock forests; lakes; and ten miles of trails. The official bird checklist says the following species and more are abundant or common in fall: Ring-necked



Duck, Bufflehead, Turkey Vulture, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Ruffed Grouse, Wild Turkey, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, White-breasted Nuthatch, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Swainson's Thrush, Cedar Waxwing, Yellow Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Prairie Warbler, American Redstart, Ovenbird (pictured), Chipping Sparrow, and American Goldfinch.

SSAS's *Armchair Activist* coordinator, Mary Jane Russell, has until September 10th to give Fahnestock our payments, so there's still time to sign up for a fun-filled weekend of **October 17 & 18**. A \$55 check payable to South Shore Audubon Society will get you a bed in one of the nine heated and lighted cabins (up to ten Auduboners per three-bedroom cabin), three meals cooked by a Culinary Institute chef (Saturday at noon and 5 P.M., Sunday at 8 A.M.), and a ranger-led tour. Sunday's optional \$7 boxed lunch and linens/towels may be purchased at the park (bring a sleeping bag if you have one, plus a Saturday afternoon snack, soap, etc., and a flashlight for nighttime excursions to the nearby plumbing facilities).

Please mail your check to Mary Jane Russell, 2470 Foxdale Avenue, Oceanside, NY 11572-1727 and, at the request of the park, include your home address and the number of children coming with you (if any). We'd like to carpool — drivers and passengers are needed!

ENVIROFEST 1998

Doreen Remsen

On **Saturday, September 19th**, the city of Long Beach will be holding its annual Envirofest from 11 A.M. to 4 P.M. The celebration is held on the boardwalk at Riverside Boulevard, weather permitting, and South Shore Audubon will have exhibit tables.

Volunteers are needed to meet, greet, and share with the public and other participating groups and organizations, all the wonderful programs South Shore has to offer!

If you are not planning on rambling up to Greenwich and have an hour or two to spare, bring a bag lunch and join us! We will be there between 10 A.M. and 10:30 A.M. to set up and enjoy the ocean view!

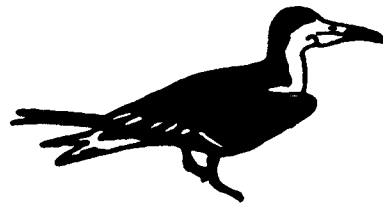
RARE BIRD ALERT (212) 979-3070

1998-1999 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Doreen Remsen, President	472-6830
Jonathan Staller, Vice President & Environmental Festivals Coordinator	822-5957
Nancy Frame, Treasurer	520-9016
Christine Schmitt, Recording Secretary	887-7713
Doris Pirodsky, Corresponding Secretary	378-1790
Denise Comeau, Director (6/01)	437-7133
Michael Goldsmith, Director (6/01)	822-5272
Michael Higgiston, Director (6/00)	538-8376
Judy Hoyer, Director (6/00)	775-0159
Sandy Brenner, Director (6/99)	249-4919
Bill Holtweg, Director (6/99)	226-2519
Betty Borowsky, Conservation Legislation Chairperson	764-3596
Paul Butkerei, Wild Bird Feed Savings Day	599-0395
Joanne Del Prete, Special Trips Chairperson	433-0739
Joseph Grupp, Duck Survey	481-4208
Betsy Gulotta, Brookside Preserve Committee Chairperson	546-8841
Janice Howard, Hospitality Chairperson	420-9468
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
Suzanne Lancer, Education Chairperson (7 to 9 P.M.)	536-6574
Annie F. McIntyre, Educational Media Chairperson	379-2206
George Popkin, Financial Advisor (8 to 9 P.M.)	378-4467
James Remsen, Jr., Birdathon Co-Chairperson	764-5168
Jackie Richichi, Membership Chairperson	826-1187
Dolores Rogers, Welcoming Committee Chairperson	599-1224
Mary Jane Russell, <i>Armchair Activist</i> Chairperson	766-7397
Michael Shannon, Youth Representative	867-6084
Diane Singer, Publicity (5 to 8 P.M.)	561-6118
Michael Sperling, <i>Skimmer</i> Editor	541-0805
Tom Torma, Program Chairperson	223-7947

South Shore Audubon Society
P.O. Box 31
Freeport, NY 11520-0031

A CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
Americans Committed to Conservation



U.S. POSTAGE PAID Permit No. 1181 NONPROFIT Freeport, NY
--

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

 PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

DATED MATERIAL