



The

BIRD CALL

Newsletter of the Bronx River-Sound Shore Audubon Society, Inc.

Excerpt from: **FIELD TRIP REPORTS**

Larchmont Reservoir Nov. 2

By David Kaufman

Despite driving past the Larchmont Reservoir on Weaver St. numerous times, I really never knew its history until this trip. The larger body of water is known as Sheldrake Lake and was once used as the water supply for the Town of Larchmont. The smaller Goodlife Pond was harvested for ice in the winter. Now the Larchmont Reservoir is a 60 acre preserve with hiking trails open to the public.

Twenty five from several Audubon chapters attended. Some members of BRSS were treated to a quick view of a belted kingfisher skimming along the surface of Goodlife Pond. In addition, several water birds were identified, including northern shovelers, hooded mergansers, ruddy ducks, and piedbilled grebes.

While hiking we came upon a great blue heron, looking down on us as we approached. The photographers got some great close up photos of the bird before it tired of all the attention, spread its enormous wings and flew off. Three common species of woodpeckers, and both Cooper's and red-tailed hawks were seen soaring over the reservoir.

The only other surprise occurred at the end of the hike when we startled a group of tiny birds out of an old tree. About 20 pine siskins flew up into the sky as we approached. A total of 31 bird species were seen that morning.