

# SOUTH SHORE SKIMMER



SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

VOL. 7, NO. 3

NOVEMBER 1976

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9TH, FREEPORT LIBRARY, 8:15 P.M.

GUEST SPEAKER: Mr. Joe Antosca, Superintendent and Director  
National Park Service  
Gateway National Recreation Area



Mr. Joe Antosca will show color slides and discuss the present and future of the Gateway National Recreation Area with special emphasis on the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge which is part of the Gateway area. I'm sure this will be a most enjoyable and interesting evening. Please, join us on Tuesday, November 9th, Freeport Library, 8:15 P.M. See you there!

BIRD SEED SAVINGS DAY

--- NOVEMBER 6TH



As you already know, South Shore Audubon will be holding its first Bird Seed Savings Day on November 6 between 10 A.M. and 4 P.M. at Hofstra University's North Campus. For those of you who did not pre-order seed and now wish to join in our fund raising efforts, there will be plenty of additional seed available on the day of the sale. Our seed trailer will be located in the southwest corner of the Oak Street parking lot, near the student center and high rise dorms. Oak St. is at the first light west of the footbridge crossing Hempstead Tpke. Turn north on Oak and make a right turn at the first gate. We would appreciate your participation in our efforts to support the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary.

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

*South Shore Audubon Society*

CHOICES

At the heart of the American Revolution, lay the proposition that the average guy had the right to choose. No longer would governors have the absolute power to dictate "that which is good for you", but rather we, the governed, would have the right to choose and elect those individuals who best reflect and represent our needs and desires.

But this precious right of choice has a balance in consequence. Where we fail to exercise this right due to self interest, indifference, or personal greed, the results are negative and can approach a loss of the very rights we hold so dear.

Where we take the time to study our needs, read and listen to alternatives, make hard decisions then act on these decisions, we become the beneficiaries of our collective choice.

We have an election at hand. Read about and listen to the candidates. Our "SKIMMER" has published charts rating the candidates in the area of Energy and Environment. The charts are hard facts reflecting the philosophy of the incumbents and their opponents. Use the experience of our "Meet the Candidates" night. You know what you saw and heard.

Lent vs. Halpern  
Wydler(rep.) vs. Lowenstein

Use the information so that your vote represents your best effort, as an informed citizen.

Beyond the election, in our every day lives, we are faced with hard choices right here in Nassau.

A summer day camp has filed for the right to build a bulkhead, 2200 feet long along Bedell Creek in Oceanside. We are on record as being unalterably opposed to any further tampering or damage to our wetlands. There will be a hearing in Mineola on October 26 for any interested in attending.

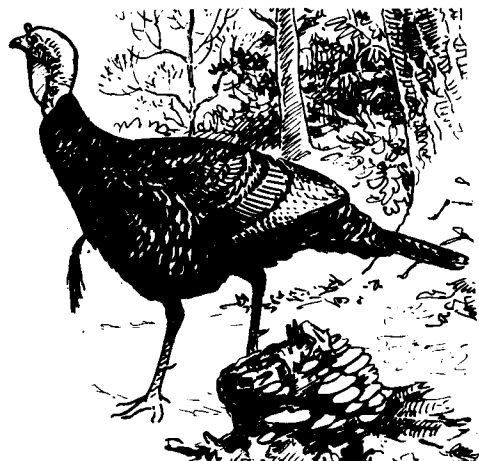
You and I are faced with the need to help T. Roosevelt Sanct. as a wildlife and education area. You have a Choice. BUY seed and help us two-fold. Maintain your own winter bird feeding program and give dollar aid to T. Roosevelt Sanct.

We are well on our way with our Educational Services Program to our community. We need teachers and parents with schoolage children to meet with Elaine Butkerei (Fr.-9-9498) and get our program into as many schools as possible. We must educate our youth in Environmental terms. Make a choice-- call Elaine and join us in this effort. Join us, so that the consequences of our efforts can help guarantee us and our families a bright, clean tomorrow.

Elliott R. Kutner



H A P P Y

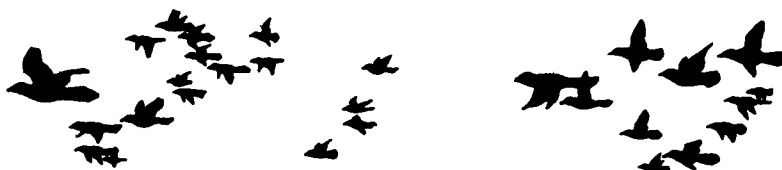


T H A N K S G I V I N G

SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY  
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Asa Starkweather - Roosevelt Sanctuary 101 Lexington Ave., Malverne 11565	LY 9-5824
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Florence Scanlon - Publicity 206 Perry St., Hempstead 11550	489-0023
Elaine Butkereiit - Education 236 Porterfield Place, Freeport 11520	FR 9-9498
Teresa Stoltz - Membership 268 Wallace St., Freeport 11520	MA 3-2114

**NOTE:** All chairpersons are on the Board of Directors. Please keep this listing for future reference.-Ed.



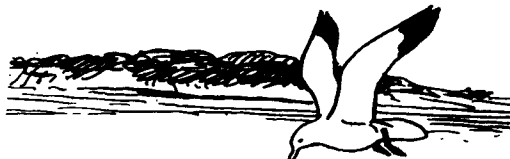
► CONSERVATION NEWS ◀

SLUDGE

With so many unmentionable things washing up on our beaches and forcing their closing this summer, it is interesting to note that one suspected item, sludge, has had its name cleared from the record. It appears that most of the items which came ashore were floatables discharged directly into the Hudson River and lower New York Harbor. They were included in the raw and slightly treated sewer wastes dumped by the City of New York and other towns along the Hudson. This problem will, in time, be corrected as more sewage treatment plants come on line. The by-product of these plants will be sludge and, along with all the sludge produced by existing treatment plants, it will be barged 12 miles out into the N.Y. Bight for dumping. By law, the process of ocean dumping should be phased out by 1981. Until that time an awful lot of treated sewage will be disposed of in this way. We should all be thankful that the problem this summer was caused by floating scum and not the oozing black mayonnaise coming ashore from the bottom. It is hard to imagine what the cost and time would be to clean up a mess of that type. With the name of sludge cleared and the prospect that its dumping will end in five years, many pseudo-concerned parties have seen fit to remove the problem from the public spotlight. We must, as truly concerned parties, continue to question and seek solutions for the most rapid halt in sludge dumping. It would be naive for any environmentalist to believe that the 1981 deadline will not be delayed in implementation like so many other pieces of environmental legislation. It should be noted that one of the reasons why the present dump site was not relocated further from our coastline was New York City's financial inability to do so. If the largest dumper is unable to even slightly change the existing procedure, how in five years will they be able to completely change the sludge removal procedure. The logical choice is to build plants which can utilize the sludge for some purpose. Plants of this type are costly and time-consuming to build. A change in attitude towards sludge dumping must occur now for a transition to progress in time to save our coastal waters. It is also senseless to separate the sludge dumping from dredge spoils dumping, since this latter procedure is also an extreme threat to the marine environment. Both of these procedures are responsible for adding toxic substances and nutrients which will cause a decrease in dissolved oxygen in our water. The net results of this can be sterilization of estuaries and a depletion in our sport fish. It is even possible that many of the fish and shellfish taken currently in the N.Y. Bight area are unsafe for human consumption.

Everyone who is concerned about the sludge dilemma should continue to communicate with their representatives to keep the issue in its proper perspective and to insure that actions both proposed and promised will be implemented in time.

Paul Butkereit,  
Vice President - Conservation



SKIMMER SHORTS

The Snakes That Weren't There

I'm not quite sure, but I think it was about 1969 that ground work was started for the new Hempstead High School. The area that was to be chewed up by the bulldozer was the home of hundreds of Fowler's toads and a few snakes. Any one day in the summer, you could see, if you looked for them, a hundred or more toads. After the school was finished, I was sure that the toad population would pick up again in the surrounding area. After all, one female can lay as many as 8,000 eggs! But this increase in population never materialized.

As Labor Day this year was a nice day, I decided to take a walk into the area just south of the western end of the sports field. It was in this area that the Eastern Hognose Snake used to be most plentiful. There were also a good number of Common Garter Snakes and toads to be found here. But since the building of the school, the snakes were also becoming scarcer.

The last adult Hognose Snake that I found was on August 1, 1971. It was in an extremely emaciated condition. This could possibly have been due to the fact that it was a female who might have recently deposited eggs or who had been having trouble finding toads. The last Hognose Snake I saw in the area was a recently newborn baby. This was on Sept. 8, 1974. The last Garter Snakes I saw, (there were two) were on Aug. 29, 1975. From 1971 through this summer, I no longer saw large numbers of toads. Some days, as I went through the area searching, lifting up pieces of junk, I wouldn't find any. Other days, I might see two or three.

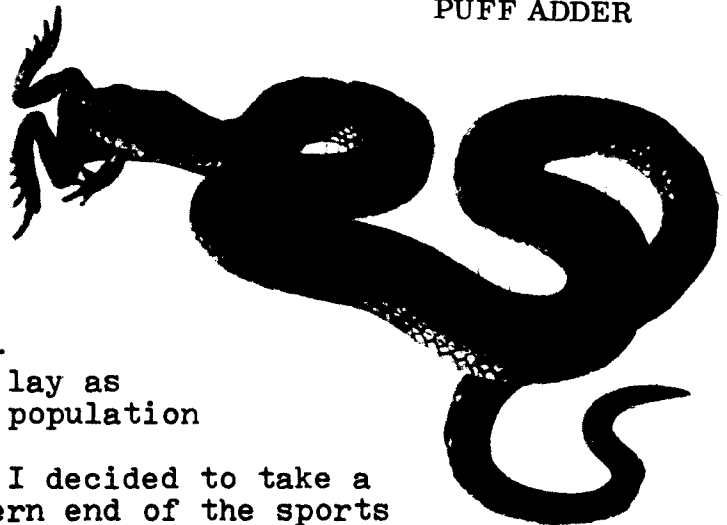
This day, as I went about lifting the pieces of debris, I saw some crickets and spiders but no snakes or toads. There is no doubt in my mind that the depletion of the toads, due to the construction of the school, had a lot to do with the reduction in the number of snakes in the area. Also, I imagine that the students may have collected the few remaining snakes.

The Hognose Snake is my favorite snake found on L.I. If ever a snake were to be given an award for acting, this is the snake. When you first come upon one, it will flatten out its body and hiss. As you get a little closer, it may lunge at you. If this fails to frighten you, it may then play dead. It will turn over onto its back, open its mouth and let its tongue limply hang out. If you were to turn it onto its belly, it would immediately turn again onto its back. It is convinced the position of a dead snake is on its back. In all the years that I've reached down to pick one up, I've never had one try to bite me. This cannot be said about the Garter Snake, Black Racer or Milk Snake. But the bite of these snakes is quite harmless as they are not poisonous. There are no poisonous snakes on L.I.

The Hognose Snake is not a very large snake. The average adult may measure from 18 inches to 36 inches. Its usual color is brown or yellow with black patches. It gets its name from its turned-up nose. It is also called the Hissing Adder and Puff Adder.

As I said before, the Hognose Snake is one of my favorite snakes and I hate to think that some day it might not be found on Long Island.

PUFF ADDER



COMING EVENTS

Regular Monthly Meeting  
Tues., November 9th,  
Freeport Library, 8:15 P.M.  
Mr. Joe Antosca  
Gateway National Recreation  
Area

Audubon Wildlife Film  
Thursday, November 11  
Hempstead Town Pavillion  
8:15 P.M.  
Norman Wakeman  
"Pacific Shores"

Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary  
Sunday, November 14, 1:30 P.M.  
"Nature's Bounty"  
Natural foods and teas plus  
a nature walk

REMEMBER --  
BIRD SEED SAVINGS DAY  
NOVEMBER 6TH  
HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY



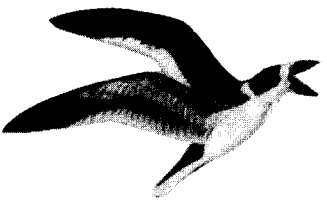
BIRD WALKS 1976-77

FIELD TRIPS: Starting time - 9:30 A.M.  
No walk if it rains, snows, or temper-  
ature is 25 degrees or below.

- NOV. 7 - Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- 14 - West End #2, N.W. corner
- 21 - Zach's Bay, Pkg. Fld. #4
- 28 - Tobay - J.F.K. Sanctuary
- DEC. 5 - Pelham Bay-Meet at 9:00  
Toll Booth at Throgs Neck  
Bridge - Owls
- 12 - Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- 19 - Short Beach Pkg. (J.B.)
- 26 - Tobay - J.F.K. Sanctuary
- JAN. 2 - Zach's Bay, Pkg. Fld. #4
- 9 - Pelham Bay - Meet at 9:00  
Toll Booth at Throgs Neck  
Bridge - Owls

Elliot Kutner, Birding

**SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY**  
**P.O. BOX 31**  
**FREEPORT, N.Y. 11520**



**FIRST CLASS MAIL**