

# SOUTH SHORE SKIMMER



VOL.14, NO. 3

SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

NOVEMBER 1983

## Meeting

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15  
FREEPORT MEMORIAL LIBRARY  
8:15 P.M.



## Baja - The Other California

Traveling south from San Diego, California by car, join us on a trip into a wild paradise. The Baja is still basically roadless except for a recently built single lane highway running north and south from the Mexican border to the southern tip.

Discover with us a treasure chest of unusual flora and vistas. Some of the flora, such as the boomjuno tree, is found in only two places in the world!

Discovered by Hernan Cortez over four centuries ago, the Baja is an 800 mile long peninsula, varying from 25 to 125 miles in width and separated from the mainland of Mexico by the sea of Cortez.

For most of its length its terrain varies from desert at the lower elevations, to pine forests at higher elevations and, finally, to a mountain peak over 10,000 feet high. The desert has spectacular oases with palm trees and jungle like atmosphere.

Virginia Hastings

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**DINNER at T.R. SANCTUARY - NOV. 18**

**ART SHOW - DEC. 2**

# PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Tom Torma

If we consider the Earth a spaceship and its people the crew, we must be concerned about our life support systems. Overpopulation is adding to the suffering caused by famine and lack of fuel and shelter.

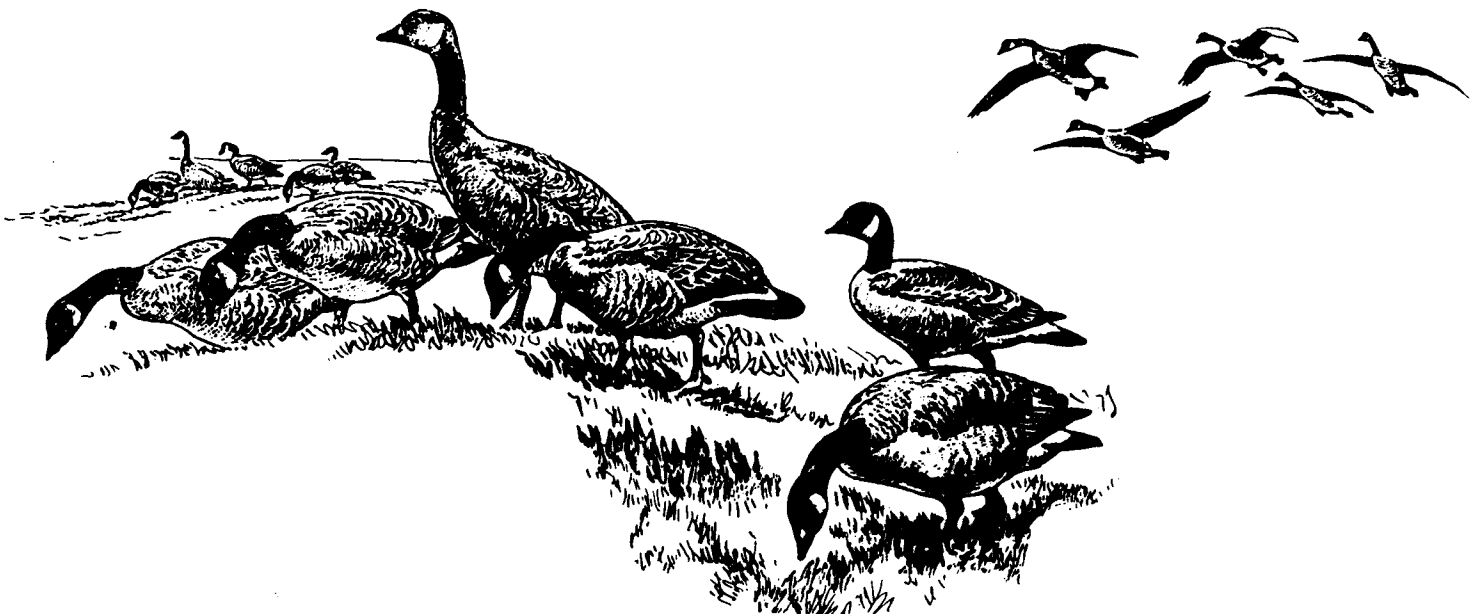
Nepal is a country of marvelous farmers. They have terraced the Himalayas. Overpopulation has forced them to terrace areas that are unsuitable, and the resulting mud slides have devoured villages and destroyed valuable crops. Erosion has silted the rivers, resulting in huge floods downstream. These floods have, in turn, destroyed crops and killed thousands of people.

The people of Nepal have destroyed their forests. A woman seeking fuel to warm her family's home must travel up to twelve hours to find wood and return home with it. The slopes of the mountains have been stripped of trees, increasing the erosion problem.

Ten years ago 200,000 to 300,000 people starved to death in Africa as a result of a devastating drought. Poor land use, deforestation, over-grazing and other poor agricultural practices have led to desertification. Overpopulation compounded the problem.

Now, a far worse drought has struck Africa. Unlike the drought of ten years ago, which was centered in the Sub-Sahara, this drought covers most of Southern Africa. Unfortunately, Africa has not learned its lessons. The suffering from this drought is expected to be far worse than that inflicted by the last one.

This issue of the Skinner features an article by Lynn Beegle of Huntington Audubon about this most pressing environmental problem—Overpopulation.



# OVERPOPULATION WORLDWIDE WOE

The following article was written by editor Lynn Beegle for the October issue of Huntington Audubon's newsletter the Killdeer. Our thanks to Lynn for so graciously allowing us to reprint her excellent article.

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"Short of thermonuclear war itself, rampant population growth is the gravest issue the world faces over the decades immediately ahead."

Robert S. McNamara  
Living in the Environment

Once upon a time a young man applied for employment at the business of a wealthy man. The young man offered his services for twenty-eight days at the rate of a penny for the first day, two pennies for the second, four for the third, and so on, doubling the wages each day. The proprietor agreed, convinced that he was getting the better of the deal.

At the end of the first week he paid the young man \$1.27.

At the end of two weeks, the wages had risen to \$162.56.

The salary for the third week totalled \$20,807.68.

At the end of the month, the young man owned the company! The business man had to default because he couldn't come up with the \$2,663,383.04 for the last week of work.

This is an example of EXPONENTIAL GROWTH, or DOUBLING. Doubling creates a J curve, or a sudden, very sharp increase in numbers.

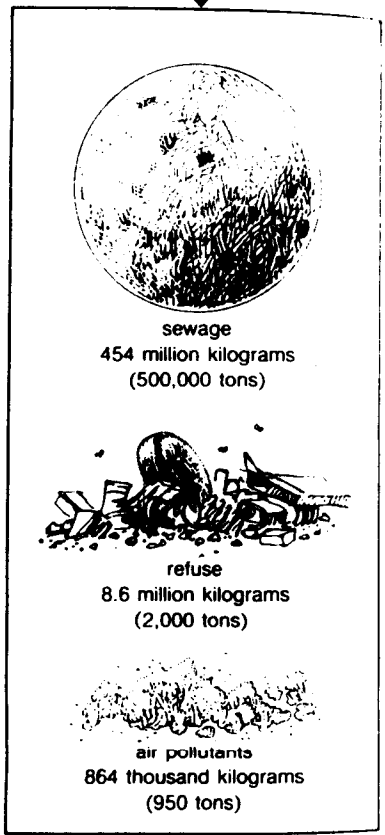
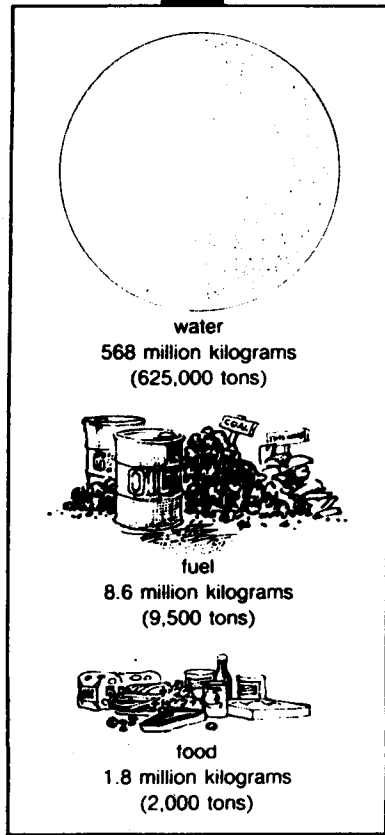
Unfortunately, the human population rounded the bend on the J-curve a few years ago. The net birth rate on this planet is now about 235 babies per minute (388,000 per day). The death rate is around 92 persons per minute (133,000 per day). Thus the birth rate is 2.5 times the death rate. If you use this formula:

POPULATION GROWTH = NET BIRTH RATE - NET DEATH RATE ,  
you will find that the world's population is growing by about 205,000 persons per day! The yearly population growth rate has slowed down in the last ten years, from 1.9 percent to 1.7 percent. But this still means that the world is growing by 75 million people per year ! At this rate, the world population will double in 41 years.

Before you go thinking that overpopulation is only a problem in China or India, let me point out that this earth is an interconnected whole. The actions of one civilization can have profound effects on other nations. You should also realize that there are two types of overpopulation. Malthusian overpopulation is the situation of too many people and not enough food. This is a common problem in countries stricken with poverty or war. Millions of humans die of starvation, malnutrition and lowered resistance to disease each year.

**OVERPOPULATION FIGURES**

\*\*\*\*\*  
 \* Typical daily  
 \* inputs and outputs  
 \* for a U.S. city of  
 \* 1 million people.  
 \*\*\*\*\*



| Resource Consumption   | Waste  |
|--|--|
| 566,000 kilograms (623 tons) of coal, oil, and natural gas           | 764,000 kilograms (840 tons) of agricultural wastes                    |
| 557,000 kilograms (613 tons) of sand, gravel, and stone              | 748,000 kilograms (823 tons) of garbage, industrial, and mining wastes |
| 98,000 cubic meters (26 million gallons) of water                    | 26,000 cubic meters (7 million gallons) of polluted water              |
| 80 cubic meters (21 thousand gallons) of gasoline                    | 64,000 kilograms (70 tons) of air pollutants                           |
| 46,000 kilograms (51 tons) of metals                                 | 19,250 bottles   |
| 45,000 kilograms (50 tons) of food                                   | 19,000 cans  |
| 44,000 kilograms (48 tons) of wood                                   | 7 automobiles  |
| 19,000 kilograms (19 tons) of paper                                  |  |
| 4,700 kilograms (5.2 tons) of synthetic plastics, rubber, and fibers |  |
| 4,500 kilograms (5 tons) of fertilizer                               |  |

\*\*\*\*\*  
 Average Lifetime (70-year)\*  
 Resource Use and Pollution\*  
 per American.  
 \*\*\*\*\*

OVERPOPULATION FIGURES

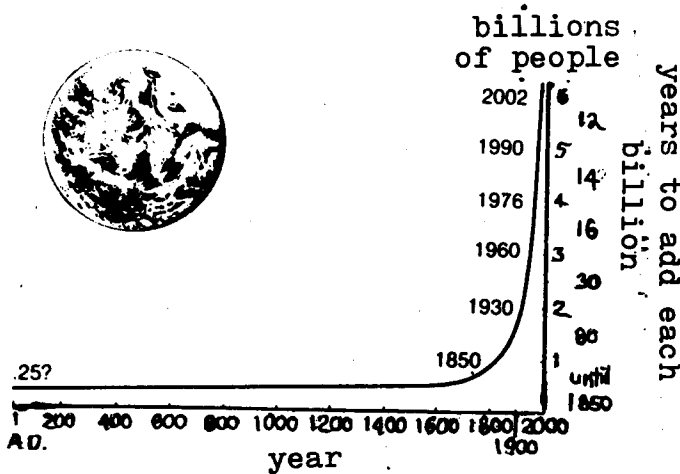
\*\*\*\*\*  
 \* Implications of  
 \* Exponential  
 \* Population Growth.  
 \*\*\*\*\*

| Disasters                                       | Approximate Number Killed | Time Needed to Replace Number Killed* |
|---|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Pakistan tidal wave, 1970                       | 200,000                   | 1 day                                 |
| All U.S. wars (Americans killed)                | 600,000                   | 3 days                                |
| Great flood, Hwang Ho River, 1887               | 900,000                   | 4½ days                               |
| U.S. automobile deaths through 1979             | 2,000,000                 | 1½ weeks                              |
| India famine, 1769-1770                         | 3,000,000                 | 2½ weeks                              |
| All major global disasters†                     | 6,500,000                 | 5 weeks                               |
| China famine, 1877-1878                         | 9,500,000                 | 7 weeks                               |
| Annual global famine today                      | 4,400,000-20,000,000      | 3 weeks to 3½ months                  |
| Influenza epidemic, 1918                        | 21,000,000                | 3½ months                             |
| All wars in the past 500 years (about 280 wars) | 35,000,000                | 6 months                              |
| Bubonic plague (Black Death), 1347-1351         | 75,000,000                | 13 months                             |

\*At present world population growth rate.

†This includes deaths from all recorded major earthquakes, avalanches, volcanic eruptions, tornadoes, floods, typhoons, fires, explosions, shipwrecks, and railroad and aircraft accidents to 1979.

\*\*\*\*\*  
 The J-Curve of Human  
 Population Growth.  
 \*\*\*\*\*



*I was hungry and you circled the moon.  
 I was hungry and you told me to wait.  
 I was hungry and you set up a commission.  
 I was hungry and you talked about bootstraps.  
 I was hungry and you told me I shouldn't be.  
 I was hungry and you had napalm bills to pay.  
 I was hungry and you said, "Machines do that kind of work now."  
 I was hungry and you said, "The poor are always with us."  
 I was hungry and you said, "Law and order come first."  
 I was hungry and you blamed it on the Communists.  
 I was hungry and you said, "So were my ancestors."  
 I was hungry and you said, "We don't hire over 35."  
 I was hungry and you said, "God helps those. . . ."  
 I was hungry and you said, "Sorry, try again tomorrow."  
 Anonymous (Printed in the November-December issue of These Days)*

Reprinted from: Living in the Environment. Miller, G. Tyler Jr. Wadsworth Publishing Company. Belmont, California. 1982. 665pp.

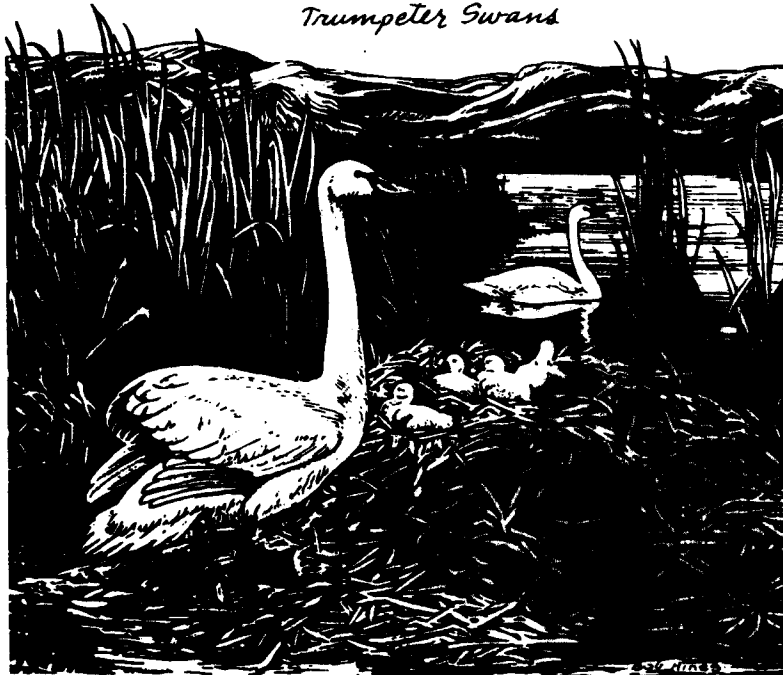
In affluent countries we encounter Neo-Malthusian overpopulation. This is caused by a relatively small number of people using resources at a fast rate, producing high levels of pollution per person. People do not die from a lack of food; they sicken and die from contaminated air, soil and water. The U.S. and U.S.S.R. can thus be considered to be the most overpopulated nations on earth. (If it's any comfort to you, the U.S.S.R. is years behind us in environmental regulations, and pollution is even more serious in that country than it was in the U.S. in the 1960's).

In a future issue, I may go into some of the methods for controlling world population growth. Some of these methods are controversial (of course, population control of any kind is against the customs and beliefs of many people). Let me leave you with a few charts. These are to be found on pages 4 & 5. The charts and information for this article come from a marvelous, though often depressing book called Living in the Environment.\* It contains an amazing amount of information on ecology, pollution, energy, and the relation between ecology, economics and the environment.

Lynn Beegle

\* Miller, G. Tyler, Jr. Living in the Environment. Wadsworth Publishing Company, Belmont, California. Third Edition, 1982. 665 pages.

*Trumpeter Swans*



# CALENDAR

- November 15 - Membership meeting, Freeport Library. Program on Baja, Mexico.
- November 18 - South Shore Audubon will hold its first Covered Dish Dinner at the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary in Oyster Bay. For admission to the dinner, bring a dish of food. SSAS will provide coffee and cake for dessert. You are invited to bring any other refreshments you may wish to accompany your dinner. Please call Tom Torma at 223-7947 for reservations.
- December 2 - Second Annual Art Show at the 247 Gallery, 816 Merrick Road, Baldwin, 7 - 9 P.M. You are invited to spend an evening enjoying the prints of Roger Tory Peterson, Guy Cohleach, Robert Bateman and many other artists. The show will feature signed and unsigned prints. The Gallery will contribute 10% of all sales to the South Shore Audubon Society. Refreshments will be served. (The gallery is on Merrick Road, just east of Grand Avenue.)
- December 13 - Regular monthly meeting, Freeport Library.
- December 17 - Children's Holiday Party, Long Beach Public Schools Environmental Center in Lido Beach.
- January 10 - Regular monthly meeting, Freeport Library.
- January 14 - Bronx Zoo Tour.
- February 11 - Seal Walk. Meet at 8:00 A.M. at Baldwin Railroad Station.

**Eagle Count.** The National Wildlife Federation's annual bald eagle survey, taken in January, indicates that the national symbol is still on the rebound after years of decline due to pesticides, habitat loss, and shooting. Bald eagles are officially endangered in 43 states and plentiful only in Alaska. The 1983 survey of 46 states (excluding Alaska) found 12,098 eagles; fewer than last year, but significantly more than in 1979, when NWF began counting. Missouri, Utah, and Washington had the most eagles.



**Cactus Rustler Convicted.** A Brownsville, Texas, man has earned the dubious distinction of being the first person ever convicted for trafficking in endangered plants. Joseph Anthony Jr. was handed a \$5,000 fine, a one-year suspended prison sentence, and five years' probation after federal agents disclosed that he had sold more than 100,000 illegally gathered plants to private collectors. There is a booming market in rare plants, and many species, especially rare cacti, are threatened by collectors and unscrupulous dealers, like Anthony, who are willing to sell to them.

# SSAS ANNUAL REPORT

## South Shore Audubon Society

Statement of Assets June 30 1983

### ASSETS

#### Cash

|   |                    |     |
|---|--------------------|-----|
| Peter Kutner Scholarship Fund                   | \$ 470.70          | (2) |
| South Shore Audubon Society<br>Scholarship Fund | 213 50             | (2) |
| Reserve for purchase of opticals                | 750 00             |     |
| Unrestricted                                    | 4 729 27           |     |
| Deposit, Island Park Postmaster                 | 108 58             |     |
| <u>Total Cash</u>                               | <u>\$ 6 272 05</u> |     |

Advance payment for Lemmer  
Convention 2090 00 (2)

Due from National Audubon:

May 1983 1,088 25

June 1983 590 00

Total Current Assets \$ 10 040 30

Inventory, opticals + books 1217 99 (1)

Kodak Projector 328 00

Total Assets \$ 11 586 29

### Liabilities - None

Notes (1) + (2) See Financial Report 7/1/82 - 6/30/83

Lemmer A. Gordon Treasurer 7/23/83





*South Shore Audubon Society*  
 Financial Report for the period 7/1/82 - 6/30/83

Budget for the period 7/1/83 - 6/30/84

|   | Budget | Receipts       | Disbursed      | Budget<br>7/1/83-6/30/84 |   |
|---|--------|----------------|----------------|--------------------------|---|
| National Audubon<br>Prior to 7/1/82                 | -      | 235950         |                |                          |   |
| 7/1/82 - 5/31/83                                    | 5100   | 661850         |                | 6000                     |   |
| Interest income                                     | -      | 38395          |                | 275                      |   |
| Contributions                                       | 235    | 7574           |                | 75                       |   |
| Optical & etc. Cash                                 |        | 517318         | 560883         |                          | ① |
| Optical Profit                                      | 1000   | 118042         |                | 1000                     |   |
| Raffles   | 100    |                |                |                          |   |
| Activities - Weekends,<br>Trips & Dinners           |        | 479275         | 441100         |                          |   |
| Bird Seed Sales                                     |        | 2050481        | 1687381        |                          |   |
| Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary                        |        |                | 365100         | 500                      |   |
| Subscriptions to Skimmer                            |        | 2500           |                |                          |   |
| Peter Kutter Memorial Dinner<br>South Shore Audubon |        | 84570          | 37500          |                          | ② |
| Scholarship Fund                                    | 500    | 35350          | 64000          |                          | ② |
| Conferences   | 300    |                | 17500          | 125                      |   |
| Conservation  | 60     |                | 4707           | 50                       |   |
| Contributions                                       | 500    |                | 24781          |                          |   |
| Custodian   | 100    |                | 10000          | 150                      |   |
| Education   | 300    |                | 35052          | 300                      |   |
| Exhibit Library                                     | 250    |                | 25000          | 300                      |   |
| Flexibility   | 150    |                | 12082          | 100                      |   |
| Insurance   | 250    |                | 22500          | 250                      |   |
| Memberships   | 75     |                | 3776           | 50                       |   |
| Parties   | 150    |                | 7579           | 150                      |   |
| Publicity   | 25     |                | 6173           | 60                       |   |
| Skimmer   | 3500   |                | 332505         | 4000                     |   |
| Speakers  | 100    |                | 2500           | 100                      |   |
| Youth Wetlands Project                              |        |                | 4470           |                          |   |
| Denver Convention                                   |        |                | 209000         | 2000                     | ② |
| Island Park Postmaster                              |        |                | 10858          |                          | ② |
| Miscellaneous                                       |        |                | 7727           | 220                      |   |
| <b>TOTALS</b>                                       |        | <b>4231305</b> | <b>3890874</b> | <b>8355</b>              |   |

NOTES ① See Inventory 6/30/83  
 ② See Current Items 6/30/83

Lynn A. Jackson Treasurer 7/23/83



## THEODORE ROOSEVELT SANCTUARY

South Shore Audubon's October 23 Bird Seed Sale was the biggest yet, with 48,500 pounds of seed sold. The proceeds of the twice-yearly sales held by the three local Audubon chapters -- South Shore, Lyman Langdon and Huntington -- contribute very significantly to the operating income of the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary. According to Sanctuary Director Bill Kolodnicki, the sales raised \$13,000 last year -- enough to pay for one full-time staff member.

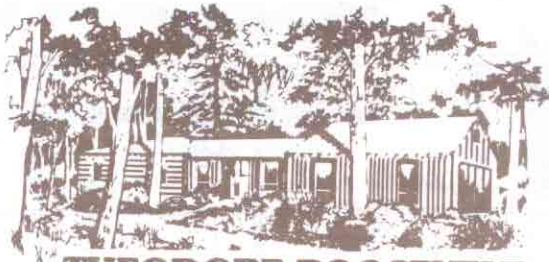
In The Trailside, the Sanctuary newsletter, Bill says, "Educating children about nature has been our major preoccupation here. Yes, we work hard on making this earth better for wildlife; but nothing will save the environment unless children love nature." Judging by the numbers, the staff has been very successful at fulfilling its purpose. In the 1982-83 year, the Sanctuary reached an estimated 14,500 children and adults through its Day Visit, Environmental Curriculum and Weekend Programs. Its income from educational programs in 1977-78 was \$12,510. In 1982-83 it was \$33,241. The Day Visit Program, which has school classes of all levels, Scout and 4-H groups and adult groups visiting the Sanctuary, was booked far in advance for September, October, November, part of December, and all of April, May and June of next year.

There are many projects going on at the Sanctuary in addition to the educational programs. An exhibit on "Theodore Roosevelt and the Conservation Movement" has opened in the Trailside Museum after many years of planning, research and local fund raising. It shows T.R. as naturalist, cowboy, scientist, bird lover and conservationist, pointing out his amazingly diverse interests and considerable scientific knowledge. Also, not to be missed in the Trailside Museum is a beautiful display on the beginnings of the Audubon Society.

The staff is also working on a Wildlife Management Program for the 10.9 acre Sanctuary. In 1936 T.R. was considered one of the best bird sanctuaries in the nation, with 144 nesting birds of 36 different species. Efforts are underway to recapture the Sanctuary's former diversity and abundance of bird life through the planting of various bird-attracting shrubs and a wild-flower garden. Brushy thickets will be restored and nest boxes, pools and ponds will be constructed. There will also be a prototype of a modern suburban backyard designed to attract birds.



T.R. staff member Nancy Pirtle transforms a lawn mower into a bird for Oyster Bay's October T.R. Day.



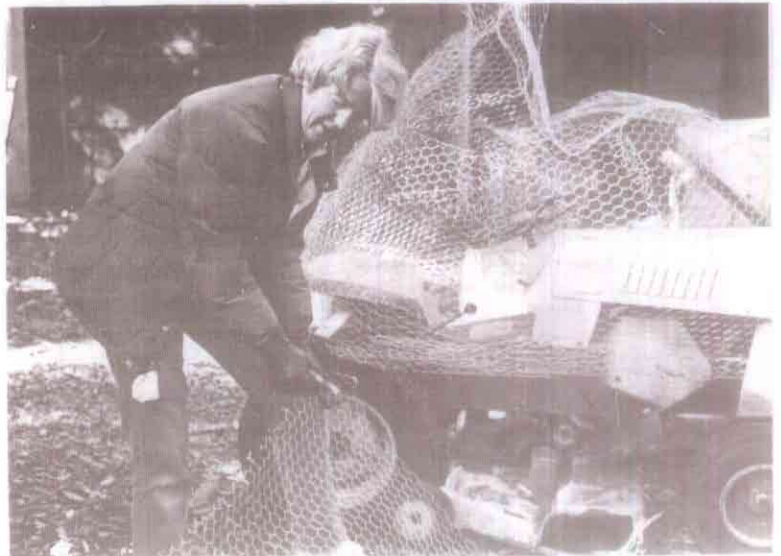
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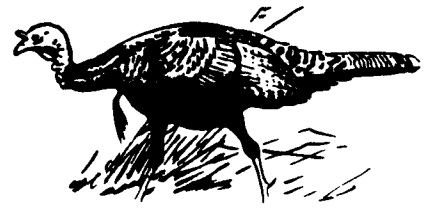
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T.R. staff member Nancy Pirtle transforms a lawn mower into a bird for Oyster Bay's October T.R. Day.



Mounted Snowy Owl is part of T.R. exhibit in Trailside Museum.



This year, approximately 18 volunteers donated over 2,000 hours. Help is always needed, so, if you have some time to spare, call Bill at 922-3200 and he'll be happy to put you to work.

Visitors are always welcome. The grounds are open seven days a week, 9-5 and the Trailside Center is open weekdays 9-5 and weekends 1-5. Several beautiful birds, injured in accidents and unable to return to the wild, are permanent Sanctuary residents. The newest addition is a crow named Elliot.

Otus the Screech Owl, Marsha the Short-eared (marsh) Owl, Lady the Red-tailed Hawk and the Great Horned Owl are the old timers waiting to greet visitors.

Sanctuary membership is available in several categories: Student \$5, Individual \$10, Family \$15, Sustaining \$25, Supporting \$50 and Contributing \$100 and above.

Checks, made payable to the T.R. Sanctuary, Inc. may be sent to the Sanctuary at 134 Cove Road, Oyster Bay, N.Y. 11771.

Alice Orens



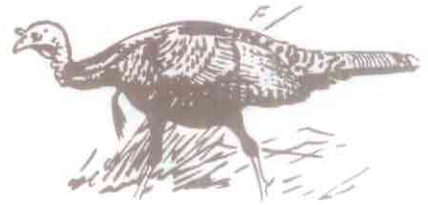
**HAPPY  
THANKSGIVING!**



Otus the Screech Owl is one of the T.R. Sanctuary's permanent residents.



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Alice Orens



**HAPPY  
THANKSGIVING!**



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# BIRD WALKS

No walk if it rains, snows or temperature is 25 degrees or below

Starting time - 9:30 A.M.

- Nov. 13 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge  
20 West End #2, N.W. corner  
27 Pelham Bay (meet at Throg's Neck Bridge Toll Plaza 9 A.M.)
- Dec. 4 Hempstead Lake State Park  
(Penninsula Blvd. Pkg. lot)  
11 Zach's Bay, Pkg Fld. #4, N.E.  
18 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- Jan. 8 West End #2, N.E. corner  
15 Hempstead Lake State Park  
(Penninsula Blvd. Pkg Lot)  
22 Cedar Beach  
29 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- Feb. 5 Zach's Bay, Pkg. Fld #4  
12 Hempstead Lake State Park  
(Penninsula Blvd. Pkg Lot)  
19 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge  
26 Tobay, J.F.K. Sanctuary

# OFFICERS

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A. Orens-Editor 431-9537  
282 Greenway Rd. Lido Beach  
11561



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Bill Herzog 791-7886 (7 P.M.-9 P.M.)  
Asa Starkweather 599-5824

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**FREEPORT, N.Y. 11520**

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