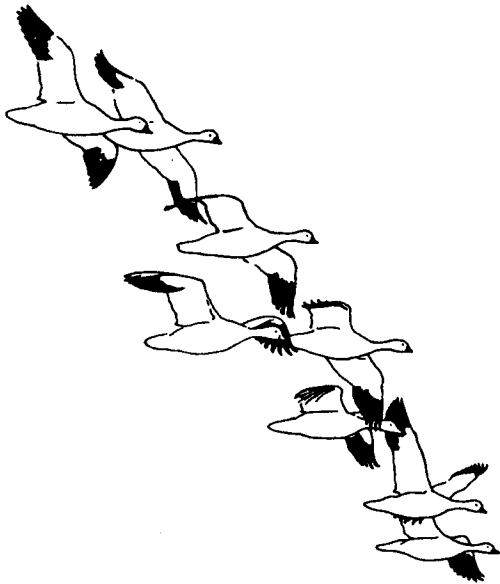


SOUTH SHORE SKIMMER



VOL. 16, NO 3 - SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

NOVEMBER 1985



Meeting

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1985
FREEPORT MEMORIAL LIBRARY
Merrick Road and Grove Street Freeport N.Y.
8:15 P.M.

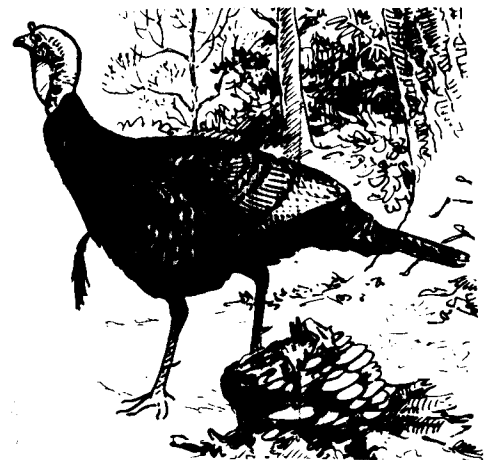
SUBJECT: Audubon Energy Plan
SPEAKER: Ron Dodson

Mr. Ron Dodson, Northeast Regional Director, National Audubon Society will present an audio visual program detailing the Audubon Energy Plan. After the session there will be a question and answer period relating to the Audubon Energy Plan and other items of interest to the membership. This is one of the few times that we will have an opportunity to meet and question an officer of the National Audubon Society.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, December 11, 1985
FREEPORT MEMORIAL LIBRARY
8:15 P.M.

Mr. Rich Miller will present a program on the "Long Island Tern Warden Program."



PRESIDENT'S PAGE

The oceans, though vast and covering over 70% of the earth, are a vulnerable and complex environment. Numerous unique and important species live in or depend upon the oceans. Too often, however, our ocean and coastal resources are mismanaged due to narrow, short range special interests, with inadequate scientific understanding of the consequences. As a result, some of our ocean and coastal areas are approaching, and others have reached or exceeded, the limit and abuse of mismanagement that can be assimilated without serious, perhaps irreversible, damage.

Policies affecting the future of ocean and coastal resources must be developed with environmental consequences as a primary consideration. They must be set with appropriate respect for the linkages in the ecosystem. An ecological ethic is essential to ensure the protection, conservation and wise use of our vital marine resources.

It is in this context that I acquaint you with the latest EPA draft regulations for the incineration of hazardous wastes — PCB's, dioxins, and other mixed toxic wastes — aboard vessels at sea.

Incineration as a process for the destruction of hazardous wastes on land is not new, but incineration at sea of hazardous waste is a relatively new phenomenon, domestically and internationally. At-sea incineration technology was first developed in Europe, where industrial organochloride wastes have been incinerated at sea since 1969. The practice was first regulated under the Convention of Pollution of Dumping of Wastes and other Matter, which is popularly known as the London Dumping Convention (LDC). The United States and all of the European states (with the exception of Belgium, which is an observer) are among the global treaty's 55 state members. The state members of the LDC have included incineration at sea as a form of ocean dumping under the treaty. In general, the LDC prohibits ocean dumping of certain materials and establishes minimal requirements for ocean dumping of other wastes, including incineration at sea. For certain wastes where doubts existed as to the thermal destruction and efficiency of combustion, such as polychlorinated terphenyls (PCTs), special studies were mandated before permits for dumping be issued.

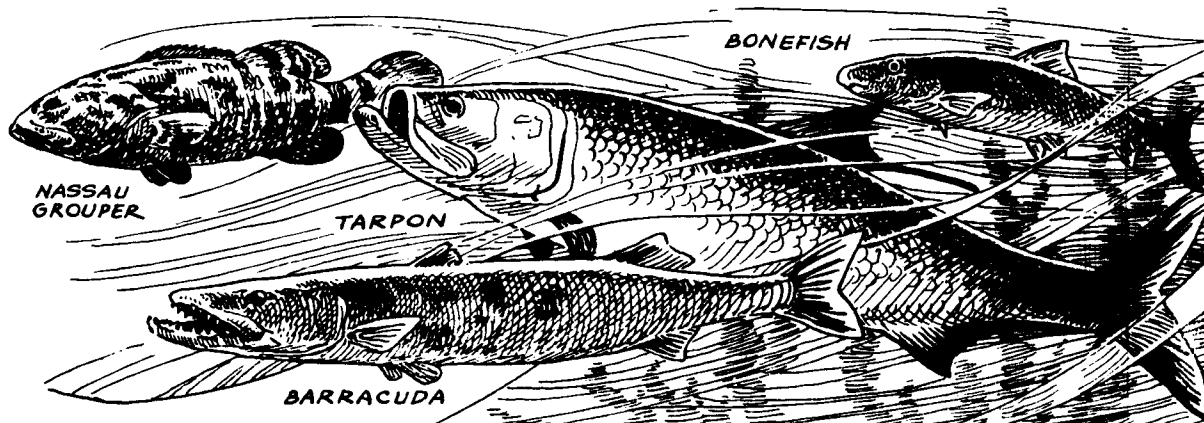
The EPA draft regulations are premature because not enough is known about the effectiveness of the technology or the effects of toxic emissions on the marine environment. Among the numerous and legal concerns raised is the failure of the EPA to propose the use of air pollution devices on ocean incinerators to restrict the release of hydrochloric acid and metals into the atmosphere and ocean waters. There is great concern about new substances being formed in the combustion process which the EPA has not been able to identify during test burns and which are believed to be even more toxic than the original waste. The inability of the EPA to identify what substances are coming out of the stack is just part of the problem. Effects on the marine environment are virtually unknown. However, it is felt that the area of greatest impact will be on the micro-layer of the oceans that support a wide variety of marine organisms at the base of the food web.

Congress has taken an interest in this as well. Legislation has been introduced in the House (HR.1295) and Senate (S.1039) to prohibit the EPA from issuing permits for incineration until necessary research is completed and until EPA develops a national plan for managing hazardous wastes. Both bills are pending committee action.

In the meantime, the EPA is forging ahead with its incineration program without first resolving critical scientific, environmental, and technical uncertainties. The EPA plans to issue final regulations for the incineration program by the end of 1986. The permits raise problems due to the inadequacies in the EPA's research plan, the failure of EPA to adequately address the potential for spills, and the prospect that research will be conducted in sites for which no environmental assessment has been prepared. While the only site currently designated for ocean incineration is located in the Gulf of Mexico, North Atlantic and West Coast sites are being considered.

The issuance of permits for incinerating at sea, by the EPA, should be prohibited until proper research has been conducted to the satisfaction of all parties concerned.

Jerry Bernstein





ALL ABOUT BETSY

Betsy Gulotta is vice-president of South Shore Audubon, so I thought you'd like to know more about her.

She grew up in Tarrytown, one of three sisters. Betsy loved nature study and animals - they had two dogs and other pets, including ducks and flying squirrels. She graduated from Smith College with a degree in Zoology. One of her interests in college was birding.

Betsy took a Master's Degree, also in Zoology, from the University of Michigan and did field work with Dr. Olin Sewall Pettengill on bobolinks in northern Michigan. She worked for two years as Scientific Assistant at the Museum of Natural History in the Mammal Department and raised "tons of gerbils." She has been a teacher for sixteen years and is Professor of Biology at Nassau Community College.

Betsy is married to Tom Gulotta (the Presiding Supervisor of the Town of Hempstead). They live in North Merrick with their three children, two boys and a girl, ages 11, 8 and 6. They, too, are interested in nature, love animals and sometimes go on Sunday walks. They have a 13-year-old Springer Spaniel (always in the family pictures!), a dwarf lop rabbit, two guinea pigs "in the family way," a parakeet, a cockatiel and one goldfish (he ate all the others). They also had a harmless snake who slithered away - his present whereabouts are unknown.

And, to set the record straight, they do feed the birds!

RUTH GROSSMANN



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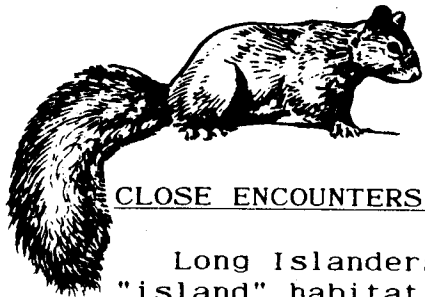
And, to set the record straight, they do feed the birds!

RUTH GROSSMANN

NEW MEMBERS

IT IS WITH GREAT PLEASURE THAT WE WELCOME THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS.
WE LOOK FORWARD TO MEETING YOU ON OUR BIRD WALKS AND AT OUR MONTHLY MEETINGS.

- BALDWIN - GEORGE BRUNO, RALPH W CLARK, ALFRED COHN, THE FAZZOLARE FAMILY, WILLIAM F KELLER, FRED MANNARINO, BRYAN OLSON, JULES SCHER, LILLIAN WHITE
- BELLMORE - ATHANASIA ALEFERIES, BRENDA BROWN, A DISTEFANO, HELEN GERAUSER, R PASSANANT, D THOMPSON
- BETHPAGE - MISS JEANNE FOURNIER, GILBERT LAP
- BROOKLYN - DEVORA BURKE
- ELMONT - DR LAUREN ALEX, CATHY LACH, E SPAHN
- FARMINGDALE - JOHN J DELTIEURE, PAUL ENUS, J FEUERSTEIN, JACQUELYN D GARRY, S GREENBERG, JOHN LISSENDEN, MS SUE M STRAUSS, MRS FRANK VALENTI, M RICHTER, ANTHONY J TOMASINO
- FLORAL PARK - KEVIN M BRADLEY, ANDREW J COHEN, MADELINE RABIN, ROBERT J STADELMANN
- FRANKLIN SQUARE - CAFFINE, JOSEPH DIMILTE, MATTHIAS MULLER, PROF PLANTSMEN LTD, M DWAIN SMITH
- FREEPORT - J DOBROWOLSKY, R N GROVE
- GARDEN CITY - JAMES OLSEN, GEORGE PALLADINO
- HEMPSTEAD - E R BAAS, JOHN KIRKLEY, RICHARD MAFFUCCI, DENNIS MAYS, JACKIE MOSS, T SCHWEERS,
- HEWLETT - FREDERICK BRUELL, DEBBIE L WILLIAMSON
- HICKSVILLE - KENNETH J DROESCH, MARGARET L FONTANES, THOMAS F MENTON, MRS LEWIS MITTLEMAN, MRS ALBERTA MURRAY, D PIETZAK, MISS DOT RAUSCH, LOIS SCHLEGE, PHIL SCHOLNICK, ANDERS SORENSEN, DONALD & FRANCINE UNGER, MRS JOANNE VINCIGUERRA
- ISALND PARK - JENNIFER K KRIVANEK, MICHAEL TURSI
- LEVITTOWN - L C MOLLOT, BRIAN T REILLY, G SOUCY, FRANK STROUD, FRANK S WILLIAMSON
- LITTLE NECK - MR & MRS FRED MEIER
- LONG BEACH - MARY A BREGLIA, JOHN D DEMPSEY, CHARLES FULLER, MARK PHILLIPS, CHRISTINE SCHAMP
- LYNBROOK - SAM HOFFMAN, MR & MRS D P MILLERICK
- MALVERNE - KENNETH BERNTZEN, FATHER COLLINS, ANNETTE DOHERTY
- MASSAPEQUA - GREGORY BETTS, MRS LORRAINE A GEORGE, BARBARA KRAEGER, HANS OLSEN, MICHAEL REA, JOHN SCHAEFER, T SMITH
- MASSAPEQUA PARK - S L KANNER, CARL J MULLER, JEANNE B REILLY
- MERRICK - CECILIA P FARRELL, H FOX, GEORGE A LUCHAUER, MARGARET WILSON
- OCEANSIDE - JOAN FARRELL
- PLAINVIEW - GERALD S FOX, MS NANCY J HALL, ANNA MC KENNA, WILLIAM SCHLITTER
- ROCKVILLE CENTRE - THOMAS J AVELLINA, MICHAEL BOWER, GAIL LAMASTRO, B K LEFFERT, SEYMOUR J LEICHE, DIANA SILON
- SEAFORD - MRS JEANNE COX, MR WEBER JR, JANE RECKNER
- STONY BROOK - GAEL BUCKLEY
- UNIONDALE - MR & MRS PUCILOSKI, JOSEPH RYAN
- VALLEY STREAM - JOHN BORCHERS, ROBERT E BUTCHER, ROBERTA COSTANZO, DR M D FORMAN, RONALD J KEMPERLE, MS S LASHER, LAWRENCE J LEVINE, MS JANILEE MILLER, JOHN MURELLO, THOMAS & MARYANN NEWMAN, J PHAIR, MISS MARION E RAEDER, C SAFT, CLIFFORD THOMAS, MISS M M ZULCH
- WANTAGH - CARL S BERNSTEIN, GERALD H COHEN, NORBERT J GRIFFIN, CHARLES R HACK, DANIEL JOHNSON, MARY W QUINN, MS VIRGINIA THURSTON
- WOODMERE - BERN KOVIT



CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE WILD KIND

Long Islanders share their "island" habitat with at least 67 species of mammals and nearly 300 species of birds. Some of the more human-adaptable wildlife species such as raccoons, squirrels and opossums have flourished on Long Island because they can tolerate living in close proximity to large human populations.

With the conversion of large tracts of natural wildlife habitat into new human communities and industrial parks, the wild animals living in these areas are displaced and forced to relocate. Whereas wildlife on the mainland can theoretically move to less developed areas when necessary, wildlife on Long Island must stay within the boundaries of their island habitat. When the remaining natural wildlife habitat is filled to its carrying capacity, displaced wildlife often seek food and shelter in and around human habitations. Food is readily available in the volume of garbage that humans generate. Shelter is accessible through any opening into a home, from an open garage door to an uncapped chimney. Human-adaptable wildlife find such places to be suitable substitutes for natural denning sites for over-wintering and rearing young in the spring.

Wild "tenants" often become nuisances and can cause extensive damage in their use of denning sites by tearing up insulation and chewing. Such wildlife intrusions can be prevented or at least dealt with after the fact in a humane manner. Below are some pointers on the prevention and handling of nuisance wildlife problems.

Prevention

Before a nuisance wildlife problem occurs, PREVENTION is the key word. Any access to a sheltered area is a potential denning site for a wild animal. Since autumn is the time when animals seek winter shelter, NOW is the time to check foundations, eaves, attics, and roofs for small openings. All openings should be closed off with caulking, hardware cloth (fine mesh) or some other metal medium since wood is easily chewed through. Chimneys, crawl spaces, and window wells should be closed off. And, all enclosures should not have more than $\frac{1}{4}$ inch openings as bats, squirrels, and other rodents only need openings the size of their skulls to have access.

Food is another attractant for wildlife, especially during the lean winter months. Easily accessible garbage is an inviting feast for raccoons, opossums, and rodents. Garbage should be kept in tightly closed metal cans. If possible, garbage cans should be kept indoors (in the garage) and put out only on the day of garbage pick-up. If not, attachments are available at Agway and some garden centers that will secure the top of the can. If a problem persists, an enclosure can be built for garbage cans with a locking latch

If you do not mind sharing your yard with wildlife, prevention can also include providing outdoor nest boxes for wildlife. Feeding wild animals, however, is not recommended (except for wild birds). Providing food for the raccoon in your backyard may attract others seeking food and shelter. An example is the Westchester woman who left graham crackers out nightly for a neighborhood raccoon. In two weeks, she had eight raccoons coming to her back door after dark. In two months, she had thirty! Also, like the wild birds at your winter feeders, wild animals can become dependent on a human food supply during the leaner months. Or, they may defer from natural foods. In short, feeding backyard wildlife aside from birds, will more likely create nuisance wildlife problems than prevent them.

Encouraging Animals to Leave

If all else fails and an animal finds entry into your home, it may be encouraged to leave if you make living conditions uncomfortable. Animals prefer a dark, quiet place to spend the winter and to raise their young in the spring. You, as their landlord, can use this to your advantage and make their new found home bright and noisy.

A mechanic's trouble light can be used to light up a nesting area. It can be hung in a chimney or attic and should be left on all of the time to be effective. A radio set on a talk show or news program at full volume is also effective. Animals can get used to music, but do not like the sound of loud human voices near their nesting site. Set the light and the radio up and be patient. It may take a certain amount of time to convince the animals to leave and these methods may take several days to work.

Don'ts

Some methods used to evict wildlife tenants can result in more problems for the landlord. DO NOT light a fire in the fireplace in an attempt to smoke out animals in the chimney. This may burn the animals especially if there are young. The animals may die in the chimney or the mother may go off in a frenzy and not return for her young.

DO NOT block the entrance to the chimney when you see an animal leave until you have checked for young. If a mother is blocked from her young, she may be extremely destructive in her efforts to get back to her babies. If you find babies in the fireplace after the mother has left, leave them outside in a box close to where she was sighted. If the chimney is blocked, she will find a new home and carry the young to it.

DO NOT trap and destroy the mother. If there are young, the babies will die and along with the odor, the dead animals will attract maggots.

Other Alternatives

Some other alternatives for dealing with nuisance animals in the home include:

1) Tolerance. If there is a nest with young, wait until the nesting season is over. When the young are old enough, they will leave with the mother daily (or nightly) in search of food. Careful observation of the animals can reveal their daily time schedule. When the family leaves for the day (or night), be prepared to block access to their denning site.





Tolerance, however, can have its disadvantages. Animals can cause damage and create an odor where they nest.

2) Removal. Hav-a-hart traps are available for rent at many hardware stores and can be used to remove nuisance wildlife. This alternative is not recommended unless you are experienced in handling wildlife. In removing wildlife with live-traps, every effort should be made to keep family groups together. Otherwise, you make orphans of the young. Also, keep in mind that a trapped wild animal can be vicious and extremely difficult and dangerous to handle.

3) Professional Removal. Professional Nuisance Wildlife Agents are licensed to remove wildlife in nuisance situations. This alternative can be costly, however, and many times will result in the destruction of the animal. The names of local nuisance wildlife agents can be obtained by calling the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in Stony Brook at 751-7030.

Questions regarding nuisance wildlife problems can be directed to Volunteers for Wildlife at 367-4468. Volunteers provides a referral service with information on how to solve specific nuisance wildlife problems.

Submitted by:

Gina Nichol
Associate Director
Volunteers for Wildlife, Inc.

NOVEMBER EVENTS

- Nov. 2 Nature Walk, Tackapausha Preserve, Seaford, 9:30 A.M.
- Nov. 3 Family Nature Series: Indians, Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary, 2-4 P.M.
- Nov. 12 SSA Bd of Directors, 8:00 P.M.
- Nov. 14 Astronomy Night: T.R. Sanctuary, 7:30 - 9:30 P.M.
- Nov. 16 Nature Walk, Tackapausha, 9:30 A.M.
- Nov. 16 Wild and Wonderful Late Fall Weeds, T.R.Sanctuary 2-4 P.M.
- Nov. 17 Family Nature Series: Mammals, T.R. Sanctuary, 2-3:30 P.M.
- Nov. 19 SSA General Meeting, Freeport Memorial Library, 8:15 P.M.
- Nov. 30 Nature Walk, Tackapausha, 9:30 A.M.



BIRD WALKS

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

STARTING TIME - 9:30 A.M.

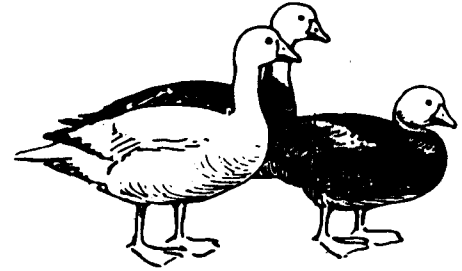
- Nov. 10 West End #2, N.E. Corner
17 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
24 Hempstead Lake State Park
(Peninsula Blvd. Pkg. Lot)
- Dec. 1 Pelham Bay (Meet at Throg's
Neck Bridge Toll Plaza, 9 A.M.)
8 Zach's Bay, Pkg. Fld. 4 N.E.
15 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
22 West End #2, N.W. Corner
- Jan. 5 Hempstead Lake State Park
12 Zach's Bay, Pkg. Fld. 4 N.E.
19 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
26 Pelham Bay (Meet at Throg's
Neck Bridge Toll Plaza, 9 A.M.)
- Feb. 2 West End #2, N.E. Corner
9 Zach's Bay, Pkg. Fld. 4 N.E.

OFFICERS

Jerry Bernstein, President 623-8255
Betsy Gulotta, Vice President 546-8841
Len Gordon, Treasurer 223-1365
Nora Lourenco, Secretary 868-4505

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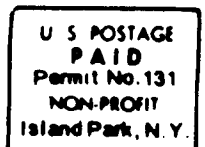
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Barbara Tancredi (11 A.M. - 1 P.M.) . . . 354-4524
Bill Herzog (7 P.M. - 9 P.M.) 791-7886

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