

SOUTH SHORE SKIMMER



VOLUME 20, NUMBER 2 – SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

OCTOBER 1990

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: A TALE OF TWO VISIONS

Joan Butkerei

While lunching at a popular seafood restaurant, I overheard the following scenario, which had layers of meaning for me on environmental matters. Four businessmen at a nearby table were discussing places they had visited. One had visited the North Fork, and was giving glowing reports about the beauty, lushness, and interesting features of the region. Another voiced dismay – “There’s nothing there except farm stands, vineyards, swamps, and trees,” said he. “That’s right,” chimed another. “My family and I found nothing to do. Perhaps they could build a casino and resort ... that would help the region grow.” As I choked on my salad, I hoped that the fourth in their party would support the first who spoke. I waited – the group grew silent – he spoke ... “Dessert anyone?”

Whether it’s about the North Fork of L.I., the Adirondacks, our Pacific Northwest rainforest, or the Amazon, whose vision is it that gets to shape our world, and with what authority? As we envision loss, it is of entire ecosystems. When we fear development, it is when it threatens the last that remains of particular habitats, species, or highly regarded and vulnerable ways of life. If we remain silent, whose ideas will be realized? When I say “we,” I recognize the vast differences of opinion even among those of us who have an environmental conscience. However, where conservationists differ is mainly in the how to accomplish, not in the what is of value. How do we share our visions in a timely, well-conceived way in order to secure equal time with those who don’t recognize the existence of those visions, much less their merits? Or with those who exclude themselves from the responsibility even when they see the vision? One particularly important responsibility is to show our support for legislative initiatives that will help our environment, and to stop being embarrassed about caring.

NEXT MEETING

Sandy Brenner

DATE: Tuesday, Oct. 9, 1990
TIME: 8:00 PM
PLACE: Freeport Memorial Library
Merrick Rd. & Ocean Ave.

SPEAKER: Ann Lockyer
TOPIC: Conserving Sarus Cranes and Wetlands

Ann Lockyer will present a wonderful slide program from the International Crane Foundation. She will speak from personal experience about the people and country of Vietnam, and the effort to protect endangered species there.

Please join us for this unique program.

One such issue is the **ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOND ACT, PROPOSITION 1**, on November’s ballot. Will Proposition 1 pass? There are some serious doubts, even though it will only cost approximately 2 cents per day per person in New York State to provide funding for **landfill closings, toxic waste disposal, recycling, and land acquisition**. If this Bond Act does not pass, you can bet that local taxes will rise throughout New York State in order to meet the mandated landfill closings that will help insure safe drinking water. And what will happen to land acquisition? There won’t be any funding for it, that’s for sure. The large tracts of wilderness that are up for sale in the Adirondacks might go the way of large-scale development, and this loosely held together park, which is New York’s treasure, might very well become another kind of vision realized.

Another issue recognizably tenuous is an amendment attached in August to the Defense Authorization Bill. This Murkowski Amendment, snuck in prior to recess, allows any federal land, including wildlife refuges, national parks, and all coastal shelves, to be opened up for oil and gas exploration when imports exceed 50% of consumption. This Amendment wipes away all the

protective legislation won in the last 20 years, and has already passed the Senate. It still has to pass the House. The vision of "waste not, want not" sure would have helped! Write your Congressman. Sweeping legislative changes such as this should require full public review.

The Dolphin Protection Consumer Information Act (S. 2044, H.R. 2926) would require that tuna can labels accurately indicate whether or not the can contains dolphin-safe tuna. The current trend for some major tuna brands to advertise themselves as dolphin safe is a clever means to overrule a boycott; the phrase "dolphin safe" needs to be defined and enforced by law. H.R. 2926 is hung up in the House Commerce and Energy Committee; contact your Congressman and tell him to support that bill.

***VOTE YES FOR PROPOSITION 1,
THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOND ACT!***

HELP OUR HISTORIAN

South Shore Audubon Society's Historian, Mrs. Doris B. Pirodsky, is searching for old Skimmer issues and any other memorabilia pertaining to our chapter. If you have anything that might help Doris reconstruct SSAS's history, please call her at 378-1790 or write to her at 225 East Dean Street, Freeport, NY 11520.

SAVING THE THREATENED PIPING PLOVER

Brigitte Braff

As the swallows return to Capistrano every spring, so do the piping plovers, small and shy shore birds, return to the beaches on Long Island to nest and have their young. But their habitat and nesting sites are shrinking every year, due to building and recreation along their coastal habitat. Everyone can help to insure the piping plover's survival and save it from extinction by respecting all areas fenced and posted for its protection, and by reporting and documenting any disturbance at any nest site to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The piping plover became a protected species under the Endangered Species Act on January 10, 1986. Let's make sure that the Endangered Species Act stays intact and strong. It provides penalties for taking, harassing, harming, or disturbing the piping plover, and protects all our endangered and precious wildlife.

Remember, extinction is forever.

Brigitte is an active member of SSAS; readers are invited to write to her at 2064 Pacific Blvd., Atlantic Beach, NY 11509.

TACKAPAUSHA MUSEUM AND PRESERVE

Nassau County Dept. of Recreation and Parks
Washington Avenue
Seaford, NY 11783
(516) 785-2802

Mid-Week Movie: Wed., 4:00 PM

Oct. 3 = Life in the Forest

10 = Plant-Animal Communities – Changing Balance of Nature

17 = Seashore Life

24 = Dinosaurs: Puzzles from the Past

31 = Understanding Our Earth: Rocks and Minerals

Tackapausha Presents: Sat. & Sun., 2:00 and 3:30 PM

Each weekend in October, an introduction into the biology and ecology of bats will be presented. Answers to everything you want to know about these nocturnal flying mammals will be featured throughout the month. This is a slide-talk program and is entitled "The Wonderful World of Bats."

Natural History Cinema: Sat. & Sun., 11:30 AM, 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, 4:00 PM

"Blind As a Bat" – Echolocation, the ability of bats to fly around in total darkness, is described in this short film which will be shown each weekend in October.

T-Shirt Day (Columbus Day): October 8th, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Bring in a light-colored or white T-shirt and we will imprint it with a linoleum block print of a bat. Also bring along a hanger, as the ink takes a few days to dry. One T-shirt imprinted free for each 25¢ admission to the Museum.

Educational Program

T-9 "Untold Truth About Bats" – A program for school or scout groups by prepaid reservation only. \$20.00 / 25 maximum per group. Groups wishing to have T-shirts imprinted must make advance arrangements. They will be charged 25¢ per T-shirt in addition to any other program fees. Call Miss Jordan at 785-2802 to make arrangements.

Halloween Party: Saturday, Oct. 27th, 1:00 to 4:00 PM

Children ages 6 to 12 are invited to play games, including bean bag toss, and participate in bat crafts. Light refreshments will be served. A live bat will be featured in our program, "The Wonderful World of Bats," which will be given throughout the afternoon. Come join in the fun.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Marion Yavarkovsky

It is our pleasure to welcome the following new members. We hope you will become active participants in our chapter. There is something for everyone – so join in!

Baldwin	Mrs. Nancy Anne Mitchell
Bellmore	Mr. & Mrs. Mel Goldstein, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Hirten, Gerry Smith, Ms. Pearl Steinberg, Mr. Nick E. Vaream
Bethpage	Mr. John Simonetti
Cedarhurst	Mr. & Mrs. Irving Pollack
East Meadow	Donna M. Baldwin, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Ferraris, Conrad Lopez, Celeste Mordini
East Rockaway	Audrey Berg, W. H. Hoberg
Elmont	James J. Shannon
Farmingdale	Ms. Gail Cunningham, Steven M. Heller, Mr. Ronald Hotchkin, A. Pellicane, Seymour & Pearl Weinstein
Floral Park	Ruth Klemanski
Freeport	Nathanael Berry, Jeff Ferguson, Ellen Ginzburgsky, L. Phillips
Garden City	Ms. Carole Olkoski
Hempstead	Lisa Donovan, Deryk Regelman, Mr. Harold Tuch
Hicksville	Mrs. Joanne Alster, Mrs. Pamela Berg, Dawn Cardone, Ken Hogan, Mrs. Shirley Karish, Mr. Walter Nangel, Mr. Jimmy Yellen, Mr. John Pierson
Island Park	Mr. Alfred Neaman
Levittown	Ms. Carole A. Adams, Stanley Bergman, Dolores & Leonard Schuster, Ms. Diane Tortorella, Elizabeth D. Tyler
Long Beach	Mr. Frederic Gray, Mr. Stephen Koczian, Ms. Lynn Seifert, Robin J. Taubman DDS
Lynbrook	Edward Bottini, Mr. C. Mitchell
Malverne	Susan Shulman
Massapequa	Marcia Baltz, W. A. Gerrie, Kara A. Gilmartin, Peter Maher, Mr. George Mena, Mr. Neal Passoff
Massapequa Park	Sandra J. Kaltsas
Merrick	Mr. & Mrs. Max Barnett, Jack Rubinstein, Ms. Barbara Salonsky, Ms. Barbara Wilkens, Mr. Charles Wittmer, Ms. A. Markovich Young
Oceanside	D. Currie
Plainview	Mrs. Albert Faup, Mrs. Nell Grootendorst, Richard Heller
Point Lookout	Mary Kastner
Rockville Centre	Paul G. Wood
Uniondale	Ms. Joan P. Shearer, Miss Janice Weinmann
Valley Stream	Lillian Koshefsky, Jennifer Loskant, Mr. J. W. Lundgren, Patricia Nicotera, Rob Reilly, Mr. & Mrs. David Rolnick, Annmarie & Randy Thomson
West Hempstead	Edna & Sigmund Klein
Wantagh	Mr. Seymour Gold, K. Goudket, Mr. Roger C. Johnsen, Mr. & Mrs. John Norbeck, Mrs. Eva J. Wood

BEACH GRASS PLANTING

Carole Ryder & Lois Bartow Schlegel

Volunteers are needed on Saturday, October 13th to help plant 10,000 clusters of beach grass at Nassau Beach Park. Meet at 8:00 AM at the main building, rain or shine. Bring work gloves and a trowel or army shovel; dress for the weather. For information call Carole at 938-5675 (home) or 785-2802 (work).

YOU TOO CAN CONTRIBUTE TO OUR SKIMMER

Michael Sperling

Everyone reading this newsletter is invited to contribute conservation-oriented original articles and any suggestions for improving the Skimmer. Please call me at 541-0805 weeknights or weekends after noon if you have any ideas. Thank you.

CONSERVATION REPORT

Lois Bartow Schlegel

Vote YES on Proposition One, November 6!

The NEW YORK STATE 21st CENTURY ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOND ACT (EQBA) is up for vote November 6th and will appear on the statewide ballot as PROPOSITION ONE.

It is crucial that New York State voters pass this Act for continued preservation of New York & Long Island's lakes, streams, rivers, seashores, wetlands, aquifers, open spaces, wildlife, endangered species, and disappearing farmlands. Other funds will be available to create new municipal parks, expand state park facilities, and help restore our historic buildings and places.

The EQBA will provide the funds to attain this preservation. The 1986-1989 EQBA successfully funded such projects, though the \$250 million has been exhausted. There is still plenty to be restored and protected in New York State; that is why it is up to us to VOTE YES for initiation of the 21st Century Bond Act in November.

The achievements of the New York 1986 EQBA totalled 123 projects. 41,864 acres were bought outright; easement rights were purchased on 39,722 acres. This included many forest preserves upstate. Long Island alone had 23 projects, totalling 4,092 acres. Included were 18 parcels of Rocky Point's pine barrens (Suffolk) and the Boergner estate in Westbury (Nassau).

The New York State 21st Century EQBA will include \$300 million for RECYCLING, \$275 million for LAND-FILL CLOSINGS, and \$800 million for LAND ACQUISITION (\$685 million more for land acquisition than 1986!). The land acquisition portion is broken down 4 ways: (1) Open Space, (2) Working Landscape, (3) Forest Preserves, and (4) Unique Character.

Our endangered animal and plant species on Long Island could sure use these monies to keep them from peril. The tiger salamander, piping plover, least tern, seabeach amaranth, and sandplain and maritime gerardias are crying for help, as well as our overdeveloped wetlands and pine barrens, and our at-one-time clean aquifers for drinking water.

Indeed, it is essential to make the ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY BOND ACT a reality. Please speak with your friends, family, neighbors, and workmates on the importance of VOTING YES on the Bond Act November 6th. Your phone calls this spring to State Senator Ralph Marino helped to keep the land acquisition portion in when it was threatened with removal. You are needed again to help retain our irreplaceable natural resources, by VOTING YES to the EQBA (listed as PROPOSITION ONE on the ballot), and telling your family, friends, and acquaintances to do the same. Take a few minutes, too, to write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper in support of the Bond Act.

Hydro-Quebec Project (James Bay II)

How can New Yorkers directly contribute to the devastation of the LARGEST MAJOR WILDERNESS AREA left in eastern North America?

By allowing the New York Power Authority to issue contracts to receive power from the proposed HYDRO-QUEBEC PROJECT (also known as James Bay II) in the James Bay region of northern Quebec and Ontario. Hydro-Quebec is a publicly owned power utility agency.

This region, equivalent to the size of France, is home to 10,000 Cree Indians and Inuit Eskimos, the rare freshwater seal (its only other habitat is northern Russia), and the rare wolverine. Shoreline habitat, caribou calving grounds, waterfowl nesting sites, snow geese staging areas, and forests are destined for ruin by this proposed project.

JAMES BAY II actually includes two major projects: The Great Whale (due to begin this fall) and the Notaway-Broadback-Rupert projects. Together these two represent 14 hydroelectric centrals, 16 dams, 10 major storage reservoirs, and over 70 dikes. Eight rivers will be diverted and destroyed. The damming of virtually all the wild rivers leading into James Bay will flood a forested area correlative to Lake Ontario. Fish in the drainage basin will be contaminated with mercury. Native people will be displaced.

The New York Power Authority has signed a contract with Hydro-Quebec for 1000 megawatts of power, to provide electricity to New York City, Westchester, Rockland, Orange, Nassau, and Suffolk counties. We will be prime contributors to this proposed ecocide.

Is there anything we can do to try to stop this project? YES. Assemblymen William Hoyt (D) and Maurice Hinchey (D) have introduced the QUEBEC HYDRO-POWER BILL (A 10985). It would require all future hydropower contracts involving generating sources outside the state to conform to New York environmental impact assessment requirements which are much stricter than those in the province of Quebec.

This bill is supported by National Audubon Society, the Sierra Club, the Grand Council of the Cree, and many other environmental organizations.

The bill is likely to pass, having 23 sponsors, although it is a ONE HOUSE BILL. It must pass in both houses of the legislature in order to become law. Letters are urgently needed to the leaders of the NEW YORK STATE SENATE.

Please write letters OPPOSING THE POWER CONTRACT and URGE THEM TO SUPPORT A COMPANION BILL TO A 10985.

Write to the leaders of the State Senate (all are in the Legislative Office Bldg., Albany, NY 12247):

Hon. Owen Johnson (R) (Chair of the Senate Environmental Conservation Committee)

Hon. Ralph J. Marino (R) (Senate Majority Leader)

Hon. James L. Seward (R)

Hon. Paul Kehoe (R)

Also write to Governor Mario Cuomo, Executive Mansion, Albany, NY 12247. Ask him to OPPOSE THE POWER CONTRACT.

New York has plenty of electricity, and will continue to if conservation technologies are used to their cost-effective potential. There is no justification in displacing animals, native people, and wilderness for resources that are available to us through conservation and alternative methods. Maine has already cancelled its contract for this reason.

BIRD WALKS — 1990-1991

Elliott Kutner

All walks start at 9:30 AM; no walk if it rains (or in the not very likely event that it snows or temperature is below 25°F). Any questions? Call Elliott at 486-7667.

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|---------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Oct. 7 | Jones Beach West End #2, Northeast Corner |
| Oct. 14 | Hempstead Lake State Park (Peninsula Blvd.) |
| Oct. 21 | Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge |
| Oct. 28 | Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, Northeast Corner |
| Nov. 4 | Tobay JFK Sanctuary |

Wildlife Festival Craft Show

“Wildlife - its gifts and preservation”

November 10th & 11th

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Sun 11am - 4pm



Admission:

\$5.00 Adults

\$3.00 Seniors

\$2.00 Kids 7-12

\$10.00 Parents w/kids

Directions

Exit 41 north off of L.I.E. take Rte. 106 north to Rt. 25A.
Turn left and follow signs to Planting Fields.

WILDLIFE REHABILITATION

Gayle Wertz

Hi again, everyone. Hope you all enjoyed your summer. We had the busiest summer of all time, topping off at 123 animals in July ... Whew! At this writing we are "down" to 85, with many to be released by the time you read this. Release of the babies, now adults, and the injured, now healed and well, is truly bittersweet. May God care for them all. Our work has been lovingly completed.

Please look *carefully* at birds and waterfowl from now on. Do you notice fishing line wrapped on ankles? Fish hooks on beaks, etc? Broken wings? Emaciated or "puffed" birds? Birds bleeding from being shot, etc.? Be observant and save a life.

To bring you up-to-date, from my last column in the June Skimmer: The Canada goose family, with the father goose that had his foot snap completely off, have been released into the location they came from. The father's stump healed beautifully and he has no difficulty walking, swimming, taking off, or landing. We took the family to their location one lovely summer day and opened all the carriers together. Mom and Dad came out first, stretched their wings, and talked their young out of their carriers. They walked around on the grass a bit, lined up on the dock side-by-side, and jumped into the bay. We received a honk and a head-dipping from the parents and the family swam into the bay, noisily rejoining their flock on a small island. Now I know where the term "goose pimples" comes from. It was beautiful!

Remember the mother mallard duck and her 15 ducklings? Every one survived (*that* is a record) and fly in and out of our yard daily. Out for fun and in for food!

Some of you called during the summer, inquiring as to the status of these two cases. Thank you for your sincere interest. It is encouraging to know how much you care about the wildlife we are helping.

Auduboner Lucretia Forster called to tell me of another type of bird feeder (see my May 1990 column). She uses a milk crate (metal — maybe the plastic will work also), turns it upside down, and puts a large tray of seed in it. Squirrels and pigeons cannot enter, and small birds get a chance to get their meals. In bad weather she places a large board over the top that extends well beyond the crate. This keeps the seed dry. Fantastic, Lucretia; thanks for sharing this idea with us!

AUDUBON HOTLINE (202) 547-9017

RARE BIRD ALERT (212) 832-6523

WILDLIFE POISONING HOTLINE (800) 356-0560

EDUCATION NEWS

Rose Ermidis

The California legislature has introduced a bill that will fund an endangered species education program for grades K-8. Students will learn to identify an endangered plant or animal species in a nearby habitat. They may adopt a single species through a democratic process. Then they could discover the threats to its habitat and educate the public about their findings, in the hope of saving the habitat. National Audubon has received a small grant to assist in this project. Will New York be the next state to consider such a bill? Why not encourage our local politicians to introduce such a bill?

Students can now earn high school and college credits at National Audubon Expedition Institute. Three buses of excited students will travel across the country to study the environmental sciences. They will explore a northern hardwood forest, a southern swamp, a southwestern desert, or an alpine tundra — the U.S. will be their classroom. Do you know a young person who might be interested? Call the Audubon Center in Sharon, CT, at (203) 364-0522 for more information.

Do you know a teacher who would like to have Audubon Adventures? Our chapter is offering subscriptions now. Let me know the class level (grades three through six) and number of students. You may supply your own child or grandchild with an individual subscription for the small cost of three dollars. Send the child's name to Audubon Adventures, 613 Riversville Rd., Greenwich, CT 06830. Six issues will arrive in the mail, plus a poster.



Canada Goose

BIRD SEED SAVINGS DAY

Our first Bird Seed Savings Day this season is Sunday, October 21, 1990, from 9:30 AM to 2:30 PM at Tackapausha. All preorders should be sent to Paul T. Butkerei by October 9th (see last month's Skimmer for the order form).

HELP IS NEEDED to take orders and carry seed. If you'd like to help keep your Editor in working order, please volunteer to help us carry the 40,000 to 50,000 pounds of seed around the parking lot! Help is especially needed at 9:30 AM, since many of you arrive bright and early to pick up your orders. Thanks.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Lennox A. Gordon

Our return of "Organizations Exempt from Income Tax" for the period 7/1/89 — 6/30/90 has been filed with the Internal Revenue Department and New York State, Office of Charities Registration. The inventories of lot No. 2 tee shirts and the chapter's physical properties were not available at the time the report was prepared.

A copy of the report will be furnished upon written request.

NASSAU COUNTY'S NEW HOUSEHOLD WASTE COLLECTION FACILITY

On September 8th, a permanent household pollutant collection S.T.O.P. facility for Nassau County residents opened at 170 Cantiague Rock Road in Hicksville, replacing the single day collection programs that had been held in various locations during the past several years.

The new facility will be open every Saturday from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, except holidays. Special appointments can be made by individuals who are unable to visit on Saturdays; call 997-8962 weekdays for information or directions.

Under the Stop Throwing Out Pollutants program, materials brought to the facility will be disposed of by a registered professional disposal company free of charge. Materials which cannot be treated or recycled will be taken off Long Island and disposed of in a licensed regulated landfill. The following items will *not* be accepted: explosives, radioactive materials, infectious wastes, tires, gas cylinders, and barbecue tanks. In addition, accepted materials are limited as follows: a maximum of 5 gallons or 50 pounds of materials will be accepted per vehicle per day; materials must be in containers that are structurally sound; and containers must be labeled or must have contents that can be identified by the resident delivering them.

PIPING PLOVER

Wisp of whistle
Trace of black necklace
On thin, yellow legs
it runs into invisibility

Soul of a bird

Maxwell Corydon Wheat, Jr.

Maxwell Corydon Wheat, Jr., of Freeport, New York, has written a paperback book of 26 poems about the earth's waters called *Limulus* (the scientific name of the Horseshoe Crab). His poems have appeared in Bird-watcher's Digest. He is listed with Poets and Writers, and is a member of South Shore Audubon Society.

South Shore Audubon is seeking advertisements to help support the printing and mailing of the Skimmer, which currently has a circulation of approximately 2000 copies. An ad the size of the ones that appear below costs just \$20, and one four times that size (one quarter of a page) costs \$60. We reserve the right to review ads. For information, please call Elliott Kutner (486-7667) or Michael Sperling (541-0805).

A MESSAGE FROM SHAKLEE

serving the public for over 30 yrs.,
founded by Dr. Forrest C. Shaklee, Sr.

"The water we drink, the air we breathe, and the earth that nourishes our food all contribute to our well-being. Like other natural resources, they are limited in supply. Pollute, misuse, or destroy them & you risk human life. Shaklee cares about nature and takes care of it with nonpolluting & biodegradable cleaning products that are as safe & effective for cleaning your home as they are for the environment." For info and ordering call Joann & Stephen Lee (931-5436) or Lois Schlegel (822-1546).

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Mary Jane Russell, Hospitality Chairperson	766-7397
Lois Bartow Schlegel, Conservation Co-Chairperson (to 8:30 PM)	822-1546
Diane Singer, Publicity	561-6118
Michael Sperling, Skimmer Editor	541-0805
John Staropoli, Youth Representative	599-1569
Marion Yavarkovsky, Membership Chairperson	379-2090

South Shore Audubon Society
P.O. Box 31
Freeport, N.Y. 11520

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