PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE
Just Say No!
Joan Butkereit

I see the woods and forked stream along the Meadowbrook Parkway as it heads south of the Southern State Parkway towards Jones Beach as beautiful space. In some places the woods are deep and the stream is clear and cool. I once walked up the whole length of that stream, which was not so very long ago was home to trout. Although the stream became silted with the construction of the EAB office parking structure close to its border, and the trout were lost, the woods adjacent to the parkway’s entire stretch are very important as a natural green corridor for all types of migratory and resident birds. However, there are plans in the works to widen the Meadowbrook Parkway south of Stewart Avenue as far as Jerusalem Avenue. I don’t have much faith in the need for this project, especially since it doesn’t get traffic to any terminal that will help congestion, and it takes fiscal support away from the more urgent needs of other projects to correct unsafe curves and hazards on other roadways. Furthermore, the Meadowbrook Parkway corridor has been classified as Freshwater Wetlands, and as such is offered protection from development. New York State classifies this type of wetland according to the vegetation found on the site, and this is often governed by the type of soil which forms these areas. There is an interdependence between the type of soil, the type of vegetation, and the ability to handle freshwater as it negotiates its way to the saline water of the bay.

New York State’s Department of Environmental Conservation is charged with the task of protecting these areas for many reasons, including their scarcity, their significance in the overall ecological balance, their importance as wildlife habitat, their aesthetic value, and their eminent ability to handle large volumes of water to prevent flooding. In my estimation this agency didn’t do an adequate job in protecting the stream during the EAB construction, but I hope that this time they will prevail to protect the Meadowbrook Wetland Corridor from shrinking to obscurity as the State’s Department of Transportation endorses plans for the Parkway expansion. We can help by writing and requesting that all the wetlands, and at least 100 feet of adjacent land, be protected from encroachment. Letters should be addressed to:

NEXT MEETING
Sandy Brenner
(and Joan Butkereit)

DATE: Tuesday, Feb. 5, 1991 (NOT FEB. 12!)
REASON: Library is closed on Lincoln’s Birthday
TIME: 8:00 PM
PLACE: Freeport Memorial Library
Merrick Rd. & Ocean Ave.

TOPIC: James Bay II
South Shore Audubon presents “North by Northeast,” a play with a cast of characters showing you wilderness through their eyes. This creative role playing drama will help bring focus on the many viewpoints raised by the James Bay II hydropower project, including those of utilities, consumers, wildlife advocates, Native North Americans, conservationists, and the future generations. Come and join us to make the drama complete.

IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE WASTE, PLEASE
BRING COFFEE MUGS TO OUR MEETINGS
THE RENDEZVOUS
Joan Butkereit

We were not formally introduced, although I had been given instructions by a mutual friend as to what he would like, and where and when I might meet him. I must admit that I was a bit nervous, this being my first time, and having to sneak out while my husband was at work, but anxiously I drove along the parkway to the predetermined meeting spot and pulled over. He was everything I was told he would be, absolutely a knockout, although I think he expected less of me than I did of him. The most amazing thing about him was his stature and intensity of expression as he was poised there against the bluest of skies. I wondered how he looked so neat — after all, it was very windy. He finally looked my way, but I could see that he wasn’t really interested at all, and gazed off into the distance. Our mutual friend told me he would be special, but standing there by the ledge, he took my breath away. He looked around, stepped forward without hesitation, and soared off into the current of air. I couldn’t believe his wingspan as he circled in the wind. The pigeons disappeared quickly, but the gulls on the ground paid no notice. I stood there staring for several minutes when I noticed he was not alone. There on the ledge, nestled against the carved stone, was a slightly larger, female, peregrine falcon, watching him, the sky, and his world with an intensity I couldn’t compete with.

The Rendezvous

Peregrine Falcon
WELCOME NEW MEMBERS
Marion Yavarkovsky

We hope all of our newest members will make a New Year's resolution to join us at one or more of our many activities. Weekly bird walks, monthly meetings, committee meetings, and special events are for you to participate in. Make 1991 the year you become active in the South Shore Audubon Society.

Atlantic Beach .......... Mrs. Lynn Gambino
Baldwin ................ Weiss
Bellmore ............... C. Cahn, David C. Herrick, Mark Kobulnick
Bethpage .............. Mrs. Barbara Bryer, B. L. Townsend
Douglaston .......... Irving Kleiman
East Meadow .......... L. E. Immoor
Farmingdale .......... Kathleen MacDonald, Jean McDonough, Caroline Murray
Franklin Square ...... Lester Speiser
Freeport .............. June Anson, Mrs. Patricia Norris, Robert Norris, Gail Pernice
Garden City ........... Ms. Jane Chinnici, Bruce Smith
Hempstead ............. Scott
Hewlett ............... Charles Jaffe, Mr. & Mrs. S. J. Zwerling
Hicksville ............ James J. Cunningham, Ms. Linda Diehl, Mark Kalen, Andrew Squires
Levittown ............. Dr. Terry Schoenig
Little Neck ............ Viola Rubin
Long Beach ............ Heidi Tulman, M. Allen Visekas
Lynbrook .............. Carolyn M. Mulholland, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Plonsky
Massapequa Park ...... William A. McQueen
Merrick ............... Barbara A. Bunting, Adam Hird
North Massapequa ...... Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Froese
Oceanside ............. Mr. & Mrs. Arthur Lefkowitz, Mr. Andrew D. Schiffrin, D. M. Viteretti
Plainview ............ Mrs. Ruth Brown, Rose Hilton, Terry Zwick
Rockville Centre ...... Mrs. J. Henesy, Freda Hertz, I. Tumarkin
Seafood ............... Patricia Brown, Paulette Coyle
Uniondale ............. Miss L. A. Gajewski, Paulette Lalljee, David Stern
Valley Stream ........ James McKillop
Wantagh ............... Mr. Billy H. Kavoros, Neysa Levenstein
West Hempstead ...... Robert Martino, Frank Salamino, Fred Thaggard, Jonathan Wasser
Woodmere ............. Mr. Mario Boldini, B. C. Fennbock

THOUGHTS FROM THE 19TH CENTURY

Chief Seattle (1790–1866) said “The white man is a stranger who comes in the night and takes from the land whatever he wants. The earth is not his friend, but his enemy, and when he has conquered it, he moves on. He kidnaps the earth from his children and he does not care. He treats his mother, the earth, and his brother, the sky, as things to be bought, plundered, and sold like sheep or bright beads. His appetite will devour the earth and leave behind only a desert.

“What happens to the earth, happens to the children of the earth. The earth does not belong to us; we belong to the earth. All things are connected, like the blood which unites one family. Mankind did not weave the web of life; we are but one strand within it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves. All things are bound together.”

YOU TOO CAN CONTRIBUTE TO THE SKIMMER!

Michael Sperling

Everyone reading this is invited to contribute suitable 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.

REMINDER – BIRD SEED SAVINGS DAY IS (WAS?) JANUARY 27TH AT TACKAPAUSHA FROM 9:30 AM TO 2:30 PM
ALL WALKS START AT 9:30 AM; NO WALK IF IT RAINS OR SNOWS OR TEMPERATURE IS BELOW 25°F. ANY QUESTIONS? CALL ELLIOTT AT 486-7667.

FEB. 3 Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, Northeast Corner
FEB. 10 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
FEB. 17 Jones Beach West End #2, Northeast Corner
FEB. 24 Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, Northeast Corner
MAR. 3 Massapequa Preserve [Take Sunrise Highway to Broadway, Massapequa. Go north (under LIRR) to first traffic light (Veterans Blvd.). Turn right onto Veterans (which is surrounded by metered LIRR parking spaces); at end of Veterans turn right into the unmetered parking lot. Meet at the southeastern corner of this lot.]
MAR. 10 Cedar Beach
MAR. 17 Jones Beach West End #2, Northeast Corner
MAR. 24 Tobay JFK Sanctuary
MAR. 31 Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, Northeast Corner
APR. 7 Twin Lakes Preserve (take Sunrise Hwy. to Old Mill Rd., go north to school)
APR. 14 Jones Beach West End #2, Northeast Corner

MORE WALKS TO COME!

THOUGHTS FROM 1972

In Volume 2, Number 1, of the South Shore Audubon Society’s Newsletter, the following article appeared, written by Helen Mintz:

Trash — Love It, Don’t Leave It

The garbage you put out three times a week, to you, is just that. But today, even garbage can be turned into an interesting and provocative art form.

View the exhibit now on display at Hallmark, 56th St. and Fifth Ave. This is a “must see,” as seeing is believing. Go down the winding staircase and be jolted out of your complacency by an authentic junk heap. Piled high with debris, it seems to be waiting for the next pickup. File past the room arrangements and appreciate what can be recycled. A light fixture made from plastic tumblers, kitchen cabinets that once were wooden shipping crates. Mobiles that appear to be from “outer space,” on earth, are everyday chlorox bottles. Egg crates painted to form a modern geometric design. Tin work that could almost have come from Mexico. A chair from beer cans and much more. One could easily decorate and furnish a home. I suggest calling it “Recycled Modern.” Just think! You’d be taking in the trash as opposed to those weekly trips to the curb.

This exhibit was set up to dramatize how our planet is becoming one big junk heap. It is most effective and to the point. Everyone contributes his share to this junk heap. Now, it’s about time for everyone to undo his contribution to it. Sort your throwaways, recycle your throwaways, deposit your throwaways. Make the tomorrow a thing to look forward to for all our senses, physical and mental.

What you do today will make tomorrow possible. Let not history record this generation left a legacy of trash to mankind. What a way to go!

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AUDUBON HOTLINE  (202) 547-9017
RARE BIRD ALERT  (212) 832-6523
WILDLIFE POISONING HOTLINE  (800) 356-0560
SCHOLARSHIPS  
Deadline — March 8, 1991  
Evelyn Blume

South Shore Audubon Society once again is making possible two scholarships, one to be awarded to a youth and the other to an adult.

The adult scholarship will be awarded to a candidate who is an active member of SSAS and who will be involved in an educational role in the chapter, community, a school, etc.

The youth scholarship will be awarded to a young person, between ages 10 and 14, recommended by an active SSAS member.

The adult scholarship is for the 7-day Introductory Field Ecology program at the Audubon Camp in Connecticut, which is offered weekly from June 30th to August 17th. The youth scholarship is for the August 15th through August 25th program held at the Audubon Camp in Maine.

Please submit scholarship applications by March 8th to Evelyn Blume, 313 Smith St., Merrick, NY 11566, or call 378-7122 after 7 PM.

The following descriptions are taken from Audubon’s 1991 Natural History Workshops brochure, which includes programs throughout the U.S. and in Costa Rica, Venezuela, and Trinidad. Copies are available from Evelyn Blume, or write to National Audubon Society, 613 Riversville Road, Greenwich, CT 06831.

Audubon Ecology Workshop in Connecticut. A piliated woodpecker may be your alarm clock as its drumming breaks the silence of the New England forest. This is one of nearly 100 avian species you could see during your week-long stay here — though you’ll do much more than identify birds. Our purpose is to learn how birds and all other species are tied together in an intricate web of life.

You’ll take leisurely hikes on our beautiful 485-acre nature sanctuary in Greenwich, through magnificent deciduous and hemlock forests, across rush meadows, alongside (and sometimes in) life-filled lakes, ponds, and streams. And you’ll explore beach, intertidal, and marine ecosystems on Long Island Sound. Lecture and lab work supplement field studies, while optional classes might include nature photography and microcomputer use. There’s also ample time for stargazing, book browsing, meadow lounging, and camp camaraderie.

Many educators come to improve their professional skills in sessions that emphasize practical teaching techniques for school classes, youth groups, and local Audubon chapter education programs. These sessions offer total immersion in the major natural habitats and ecosystems of New England. Modern facilities include a library, auditorium, and double-occupancy rooms furnished with private baths.

Audubon Youth Camp in Maine. At the Youth Camp in Maine, a sense of wonder prevails. Children 10 through 14 learn more about themselves, about nature, and how they relate to their natural environment. Participants learn by doing — if we talk about something, we’ll also see it, feel it, touch it, experience it.

The primary aim of Audubon’s Youth Ecology Camp is to instill a love and respect for the natural world. While working toward this goal we hope to aid your child in acquiring the knowledge and skills to understand the environment and the human impact upon it. The National Audubon Society’s Youth Ecology Camp has been designed to enhance scientific literacy in children and challenge them to learn more about themselves, their environment, and how they relate to the natural world.

The staff are dedicated science educators from throughout the country who have a proven knowledge of science as well as a strong background working with middle school-aged children. Staff are selected based upon their commitment to the natural world and their desire to learn with young people. The camper–instructor ratio of 5 to 1 and the enrollment of 48 campers creates a warm, personal atmosphere. Each child will be part of a small group of campers and one instructor. The staff maintains a commitment to the highest standards of boat and camper safety.

Young campers dredge the ocean floor for marine creatures, search for organisms in tide pools, and learn about seabirds, seals, and other wildlife. The evenings are filled with night hikes, stargazing, special guests, and songfests.

There are few dry eyes when it comes time to leave. But it doesn’t end there. This experience is designed to stay with these camp “graduates” and illuminate the course of their lives for a very long time to come.

———

PEREGRINE FALCONS

Since mid-November, Elliott Kutner has been keeping an almost daily log and making movies of the activities of two peregrine falcons that are roosting in the Jones Beach tower. As of early January, the pair are mate bonding. If they bond, they should be mating by late January. Elliott has registered with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation as an official monitor of this duo.
THE FAR SIDE

The bozone layer: shielding the rest of the solar system from the Earth's harmful effects.

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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
Feb. 6 = Animal Homes
13 = Wonders in Your Own Backyard
20 = Wonders in a Country Stream
27 = World in a Marsh

Natural History Cinema: Sat. & Sun., 11:30 AM, 12:30, 1:30, 2:30, 3:30 PM
Feb. 2, 3 = Five Colorful Birds
9, 10 = Flipper the Seal
16, 17 = San Diego Zoo
23, 24 = Strange Bird

Tackapausha Presents: Sat. & Sun., 2:00 and 3:00 PM
Feb. 2, 3 = Long Island’s Amazing Mollusks
9, 10 = The Raccoon
16, 17 = Myths and Misconceptions
23, 24 = The Black Bear

Mid-Winter Recess Program — Arts and Crafts: 11:00 AM to 11:45 AM and 2:00 PM to 2:45 PM
Each session is limited to 20 children; please register in advance. For children too young to attend the workshops, we will be showing a film while each session is in progress.
Feb. 19 = Sand Painting
20 = Slate Etching
21 = Yarn Flowers
22 = Seed Mosaics

South Shore Audubon is seeking advertisements to help support the printing and mailing of the Skimmer, which currently has a circulation of approximately 2100 copies. An ad one-fourth the size of the one that appears below costs just $20 (see the November Skimmer), and one the same 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).

Wouldn't You Like Your Child's School to be an Oasis?

The Waldorf School of Garden City, located on ten carefully groomed, pesticide-free acres, has been called an oasis where children can be children and students can learn by Dr. Margaret Griffith, Professor of Education and professional school evaluator. From our Nature Trail for young students to our required study of biology, including botany (and all the other sciences), in the High School, we strive to educate our students to become free, conscious, and reverent human beings. Please call us to find out more about our unique and challenging program.

(516) 742-3434 • College Preparatory Coeducational • Grades 1 - 12 Nursery & Kindergarten

THE WALDORF SCHOOL OF GARDEN CITY CAMBRIDGE AVENUE, GARDEN CITY, NY 11530
AUDUBON'S TOP 10 TIPS FOR SAVING THE PLANET

The following is taken verbatim from an 11 x 17 inch poster issued by National Audubon Society last July. Copies are available for $1 from Information Services, National Audubon Society, 950 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10022. The poster is printed on recycled paper and includes 10 drawings by prominent cartoonist Chip Bok, whose cartoons appear in each issue of Audubon Activist.

IF WE WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE, WE HAVE TO CHANGE OUR LIFESTYLES.
THAT'S NOT AS DIFFICULT AS IT SOUNDS.
HERE'S WHAT TO DO.

1 Recycle. Locate your nearest recycling center and recycle aluminum, paper, glass, plastic, and whatever else is accepted. ◊ If you don't have a recycling center, ask your state and county officials to set one up. ◊ Purchase products made from recycled paper. ◊ Give away what you no longer need. Re-use plastic and paper cups and other goods when possible. Minimize throwaways.

2 Learn About Household Poisons. Avoid purchasing pesticides, solvents, and household cleaners containing toxic chemicals. When you must use them, buy only what you need and use them up. ◊ Urge your local government to set up drop-off points for household hazardous wastes.

3 Stop Junk Mail. Write to companies now sending you junk mail and ask them to remove your name from their lists. ◊ You can request that your name not be sold to most large mailing list companies by writing to Mail Preference Service, Direct Marketing Assn., 6 E. 43rd St., New York, NY 10017.

4 Use Less Water. Install aerators on your faucets, and use a low-flow showerhead. ◊ Fill a bottle with water and put it in your toilet tank to use less water when flushing. ◊ Better yet, get a new, low-flush toilet.


6 Improve Your Travel Habits. Use public transportation, walk, or bike as much as feasible. ◊ Organize car pools for traveling to work, shopping, and transporting the kids.

7 Smarten Up On Packaging. Avoid buying products that are excessively packaged. ◊ If the products you buy regularly are packaged in nonrecyclable materials, write to the manufacturer and ask for recyclable packaging. ◊ Protest unnecessary packaging of produce to store managers. ◊ Return your grocery bags to the supermarket, re-use them, or use a cloth bag. You can purchase an Audubon string bag for $5.

8 Help Wildlife. Snap rings on 6-pack holders. They end up in dumps and waterways where birds and other wildlife get caught in them and strangle. ◊ Plant berry and fruit producing shrubs and bushes to feed wildlife. ◊ Don't buy products made from wild animals that are endangered or threatened in their country of origin. When in doubt, don't buy at all. ◊ Wild animals don't make good pets. If you want an exotic pet, buy captive-bred.

9 Research Energy Efficiency Before You Buy. Fuel economy and energy efficiency vary among cars and appliances. Research and consider these factors as carefully as you consider price. ◊ Write for a copy of the Audubon Activist Carbon Dioxide Diet Poster (see address below) for more specific tips on how to cut down your energy calories. ◊ Consumer Reports, 256 Washington St., Mount Vernon, NY 10553, and the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy, 1001 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20036, are also good sources for information.

10 Write! Telephone! Join! Contribute! Keep passing the word. Communication keeps ideas alive. ◊ Express your views to your friends; tell them what you are doing. ◊ Write to your local newspaper and your elected officials. Keep environmental issues in the forefront. ◊ Become part of the Audubon Activist Network. Join more than 12,000 citizen-activists who are doing something about big environmental problems. ◊ Support the conservation organization(s) of your choice. Add your name to the worldwide effort to restore the health of our planet.

For more information, write: Audubon Activist, 950 Third Ave., New York, NY 10022. (Editor's note: Recently, National Audubon made Audubon Activist subscriptions free to all members who pledge to write at least 2 letters and make at least 2 phone calls to their elected officials each year. Audubon Activist, to quote National Audubon, is "a monthly newsjournal that provides up-to-date information on key environmental issues and how readers can get involved. It is written in a lively style by grassroots activists, lobbyists, scientists, and environmental journalists, and includes articles on 'green living,' international issues, legislative updates, and in-depth articles on Audubon priorities such as the protection of ancient forests and wetlands." Subscribe!)
1990–1991 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

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Louise Hillen, Recording Secretary .................................. 546-6147
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Lois Bartow Schlegel, Conservation Co-Chairperson (to 8:30 PM) 822-1546
Diane Singer, Publicity .............................................. 561-6118
Michael Sperling, Skimmer Editor .................................. 541-0905
John Sperpoli, Youth Representative .............................. 599-1569
Marion Yavarkovsky, Membership Chairperson ................ 379-2090

South Shore Audubon Society
P.O. Box 31
Freeport, N.Y. 11520
A CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
Americans Committed to Conservation

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL

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