

SSAS TRIP TO COSTA RICA

Betsy Gulotta

large amounts of potable water in the treatment process. This bill would require any sewage treatment plant projects that apply for state or federal assistance to incorporate water conservation measures, including but not limited to reuse of treated wastewater. A6192-A (Yevoli) / S3661-A (Trunzo) passed the Senate but was held in the Assembly Rules Committee.

Sewage Floatables. DEC estimates that an average of 172 million gallons of raw sewage is released daily into New York's marine environment from sewer overflows. This sewage contains floatable material such as syringes and plastics, which contaminate New York's water, litter our beaches, and threaten the health of New York citizens. This bill requires that all sewer treatment outfalls into marine or coastal waters be equipped with devices to remove all floatable material from the sewage discharged. S2316 (Johnson) passed the Senate but did not have an Assembly sponsor.

Sewage Power Sources. This measure requires large sewage disposal systems and those near marine or coastal waters to be equipped with emergency sources of power. In the event of an energy shortage, backup power source generators would prevent tons of raw sewage from spilling out of the disposal facilities and into the waters of the state. Especially threatened by raw sewage spills is the Hudson River estuary, an important spawning area and habitat for many aquatic species. A2830-A (DiNapoli) / S1828-A (Johnson) passed the Senate but was held in the Assembly Ways and Means Committee.

Seepage of Pollutants. A loophole in the existing Environmental Conservation Law excludes the "seepage" of pollution into the waters of the state as an unlawful act. This bill specifically makes unlawful the seepage of pollutants into waters constituting or lying above a sole-source aquifer. The bill also allows consumers and water suppliers who have been affected by the pollution to seek injunctive relief and damages. A1159 (Brodsky) / S4734 (Maltese) passed the Assembly but was held in the Senate Environmental Conservation Committee.

Clarify Liability for Oil Spills. This legislation places the burden of liability for an oil spill where it belongs: with the owner or operator of the vessel. The bill also recognizes the rights of individuals who have been injured due to a petroleum spill to take civil action against the polluter. The ability of a victim to take direct legal action against a polluter is fundamental to the fair and effective enforcement of environmental laws. A8466-A (Boylund) / S4664-C (Johnson) passed both houses and was signed into law by the Governor.

Water Supply Protection. Under current law, if there is a conflict between state and local realty subdivision regulations regarding water supply protection, the locality is given preeminence. This bill would instead insure that the state or local regulations that are most protective of the water supply be followed. A1792 (Hinchev) passed the Assembly but had no Senate sponsor.

Join South Shore Audubon Society for a short and sweet trip organized by Osprey Tours. Although the bent will be toward birding, all aspects of the natural world will be explored. We will visit several of Costa Rica's great parks that represent habitats with different flavors, including Carara Biological Reserve, Monteverde National Park, La Selva, and Cano Negro Wildlife Refuge. We will visit cloud forest, Pacific lowlands, and Caribbean lowlands.

Susan B. Whiting and her husband Flip Harrington will be our escorts. They are frequent travelers to Costa Rica and have been escorting trips there for 10 years. Both are good birders. We will also be joined by a Costa Rican naturalist/guide once we arrive in Costa Rica. The itinerary includes:

January 4, 1993 — Flight from Miami to San Jose, Costa Rica. Welcome dinner with local naturalist/guide.

Jan. 5 — Carara Biological Reserve day trip for Scarlet Macaws and wintering shorebirds.

Jan. 6 & 7 — Monteverde Cloud Forest.

Jan. 8 & 9 — Arenal Volcano and Cano Negro Wildlife Refuge (riverboat day trip for alligators, monkeys, and countless birds). Arenal is over a mile high and is an active volcano that after sleeping over 400 years erupted in July of 1968 and has continued since. A truly spectacular sight, especially at night.

Jan. 10 & 11 — Caribbean coast and Organization of Tropical Studies at La Selva. OTS is in the Atlantic lowlands and is used by many U.S. universities for tropical research.

Jan. 12 — White river rafting or birding around Arenal Observatory Lodge. Return to San Jose.

Jan. 13 — Departure to Miami for New York.

The trip costs \$2185 per person from Miami, which includes a tax-deductible \$100 contribution to South Shore Audubon Society. This cost is based on a group of ten people departing from Miami and is based on September 1992 quotes; it is subject to change if there are increases imposed by airlines or fluctuations in currencies. The \$2185 includes all lodging (\$325 extra for a single room if wanted and available), all domestic land and air transportation, group airport transfers, meals as specified in the itinerary (breakfast, lunch, and dinner for Jan. 5th to 12th, plus dinner on the 4th), entrance fees to parks and reserves, all tips except where specified [includes tips for naturalist/guide and driver (additional tips welcomed if you feel that they did an outstanding job), and for porters and waiters], and the services of a bilingual naturalist/guide and escort.

A deposit of \$300 per person and a completed reservation form are due as soon as possible. Full payment is due 60 days before departure; there is a \$50 charge for cancellation prior to then. Contact Susan Whiting of Osprey Tours at (508) 645-9049 (P.O. Box 832, West Tisbury, Martha's Vineyard, MA 02575) for information and reservations. Please notify Betsy Gulotta if you are going. Any questions? Call Betsy at 546-8841.

BUDGET 1992-1993

Advertising Campaign	500.00
Audubon Camp Scholarships	1400.00
Bird Boxes	150.00
Brookside Preserve	1000.00
College Scholarships	500.00
Conservation	1000.00
Corresponding Secretary	75.00
Donations	500.00
Education	2500.00
Holiday Wildlife Party	150.00
Insurance	700.00
Library Custodians	200.00
Library Donation	400.00
Library Donation (owed from 1991-92)	400.00
Library Overtime	400.00
Membership	100.00
Miscellaneous	1000.00
National Audubon Conference Attendance	1000.00
Refreshments at Meetings	250.00
Skimmer	6500.00
Speakers	500.00
T. R. Sanctuary	700.00
T. R. Sanctuary (owed from 1991-92)	700.00
Wetlands Conference	500.00
Total	21,125.00

FINANCIAL REPORT

Last year, our chapter constitution was amended to require the publication of our financial report. For years, SSAS's Treasurer, Lennox Gordon, valiantly tried to give away copies of the New York State Annual Financial Report for Charitable Organizations that he prepared, but despite announcements in the *Skimmer* and at our meetings, virtually no one requested a copy. His successor, George Popkin, provided the following information.

	<u>Income</u>	
	7/1/91	7/1/90
	to 6/30/92	to 6/30/91
<i>Direct Public Support</i>		
• National Audubon	11576.00	9778.53
• Audubon Adventures	330.00	770.00
• Other / Dues	375.00	3942.45
Total Direct	12281.00	14490.98
<i>Indirect Public Support</i>		
• National Audubon Birdathon	2758.45	1595.16
• Advertising	63.00	384.00
• Field Trips — Net	0.00	216.05
• Misc. / Fund Drive	1610.30	55.50
Total Indirect	4431.75	2250.71

Program Revenue

• Bird Seed Sales	18934.78	21919.64
Less: Costs	- 14307.17	- 16317.03
Net	4627.61	5602.61
• Greening of Long Island	3326.00	0.00
Less: Trees for Jones Beach	- 3228.00	0.00
Net	98.00	0.00
• Binoculars, Scopes, Books — Net	505.45	572.96
• T-Shirts	8.00	91.00
Total Program Revenue	5239.06	6266.57

Other Revenue

• Memorials	381.00	251.00
• Tree Fund	20.00	40.00
• National Audubon Camp Refund	0.00	450.00
• Interest Income	2279.50	3440.42
Total Other Revenue	2680.50	4181.42
Total Revenue	24632.31	27189.68

Expenses

	7/1/91	7/1/90
	to 6/30/92	to 6/30/91
<i>Grants</i>		
• T.R. Sanctuary (Birdseed Sales)	4500.00	5602.61
• Chapter Funds (Birdathon)	1208.97	700.00
• Camp Scholarships	1345.00	1435.00
• Scully Sanctuary	0.00	600.00
• College Scholarships	0.00	500.00
• Other	289.24	510.00
Total Grants	7343.21	9347.61
<i>Rent</i>	555.00	360.00
<i>Program Expenses</i>		
• Audubon Adventures	1982.55	2783.12
• Conservation & Education	331.62	214.67
• Brookside Preserve	1427.30	255.65
• Conferences, Meetings, etc.	1922.44	740.36
• Miscellaneous & Equipment	0.00	769.41
• Insurance	682.00	682.00
• Environmental / Field Trips	100.00	866.47
Total Program Expenses	6445.91	6311.68

Management & General

Postage / Office / Misc.	515.20	186.58
Chapter Publications	6993.62	5742.39
Total Expenses	21852.94	21948.26
NET PROFIT	2779.37	5241.42

 RARE BIRD ALERT (212) 832-6523

 WILDLIFE POISONING HOTLINE (800) 356-0560

 AUDUBON HOTLINE (202) 547-9017

BIRD WALKS

Elliott Kutner

All walks start at 9:30 AM; no walk if it rains. Any questions? Call Elliott at 486-7667.

- Oct. 4 Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner
- Oct. 11 Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
- Oct. 18 Hempstead Lake State Park (Pen. Blvd.)
- Oct. 25 Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
- Nov. 1 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge



EDUCATION NEWS

Rose Ermidis

Fall is here. Now is the time to subscribe to *Audubon Adventures*. Teachers, scout leaders, and librarians are encouraged to call me at 785-6028. Please tell me the size of your group. You may have up to 32 copies and a leader's guide every other month. This year's topics are: Spiders, Endangered Species, Contemplating Conifers, Meet the Mammals, Bird Migration, Soil Invertebrates, and the Gulf of Mexico.

Sixth graders who received *Audubon Adventures* in their classrooms seven years ago will go to school this year to vote in a Presidential election. Let's encourage our children to become aware of the ecology they must inherit.

South Shore Audubon is charged \$30 per subscription. We ask for a donation of \$10 to help defray that cost. This splendid publication is suitable for children in grades three through six. Ask your child's teacher if a subscription would be useful to her or him. Perhaps the PTA would like to sponsor several classes.

Did you know that Audubon volunteers will visit a school to present a program about birds? Thank you for your interest in today's children — they will be the men and women of tomorrow.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Marion Yavarkovsky

Welcome to SSAS! You have become members of a very active and dedicated chapter of National Audubon. We hope you will participate in the many activities we offer. Join us!

[For information on joining the South Shore Audubon Society, please call our Membership Chairperson, Marion Yavarkovsky, at 379-2090. The best time to call is after 4 PM, Monday through Friday.]

- Baldwin Mary J. Barzilay, S. P. Mermell,
Miss Julie M. Whiston
- Bellmore Mr. Paul Bromberg, Joanne M.
Murray, Joyce E. Roth
- East Rockaway F. Lipow
- Farmingdale Darin Garguilo
- Franklin Square Margaret L. Maguire
- Garden City Mrs. John C. Donovan

- Glen Oaks Noel D. Tan
- Hempstead Charles Rook
- Hicksville Rebekah Alpert
- Island Park Maria Vamracaris
- Levittown Marie Cavataio
- Massapequa Park Barbara Rios & Frank Atyert,
Lee Anne Walker
- Merrick Mrs. Henrietta Waterman,
Michael Zone
- Oceanside Paul Oresky
- Plainview Kevin Hanley,
Robert L. Thompson
- Seaford Patricia Hughes
- Valley Stream Marvin Greenberg, Irving
Kornheiser, Jeffrey R. Smith
- Wantagh Mr. Clarence J. Dahl,
Mr. Ron Donohue
- West Hempstead Mr. Lionel Richburg
- Woodmere Mr. & Mrs. Sy Baxter



HIGH FLYING BIRDS

The following article is reprinted from *Nature Detectives*, provided courtesy of the Adirondack Park Visitor Interpretive Centers in Paul Smiths and Newcomb, NY.

How high do birds fly when they migrate? The most common altitude for migrating birds is 1500 to 2500 ft above sea level. Fewer than 10% of migrating birds fly above 5000 ft.

Geese are one of the highest fliers, as some have been seen flying over the Himalayas at nearly 30,000 ft. Ducks and geese travel about 40 to 50 mph, with smaller birds averaging only 10 to 17 mph.

The Arctic Tern is the best long-distance flier. One traveled halfway around the world in less than 4 months as it averaged 100 miles per day. A shorebird, the Lesser Yellowlegs, may hold a record at 322 miles per day.

On a clear night, observers have spotted more than 9000 migrating birds in a single hour.

The tiny Ruby-throated Hummingbird uses a quarter of its body weight for a 10 hour, nonstop, 500 mile voyage over the Gulf of Mexico. The Blackpoll Warbler flies 2000 miles without stopping, which is equivalent to running 1200 miles without stopping.



TWIN LAKES PRESERVE FALL CLEANUP

Saturday, October 24th — 9:30 AM

Dolores Rogers

Enjoy the colorful fall foliage while helping SSAS members and friends clean up this beautiful preserve in Wantagh. Trash bags will be provided. If there's light rain, it's on; if there's heavy rain, the cleanup will be rescheduled.

Directions: Sunrise Highway to Old Mill Road, north to school parking lot (on Sunrise Highway, Old Mill Road is one block west of the Wantagh Parkway).

fledglings (Long Island beaches have the largest Piping Plover population on the Atlantic coast, with approximately 200 nesting sites). It's worth noting that West End was also the site of 180 nesting pairs of Least Terns, thought to be the largest colony on Jones barrier island.

Again, my thanks to all those who volunteered. I hope you all enjoyed your time on the beach. I will be writing up a framework to hopefully aid those volunteering in the years to come. If any of you have suggestions, please let me know.

The Endangered Species Act Is Threatened. Passed in 1973, the Endangered Species Act (ESA) was landmark legislation designed to protect flora and fauna whose very existence was threatened. During the two decades since then, those on both sides of the fence — protection versus development — have found problems with the Act. Now that the ESA is up for reauthorization, legislation representing both viewpoints is being introduced.

National Audubon Society is urging Congress (and asking us to urge Congress) to support the Endangered Species Act Amendments of 1992, H.R. 4045. Introduced by Gerry Studds (D-MA), H.R. 4045 is a bill that will strengthen species protection, help promote population recovery, and provide more funding to accomplish these goals. Specifically, H.R. 4045 includes:

- deadlines for development of species recovery plans;
- development of integrated multispecies recovery plans that will maintain and restore ecosystems (preserving the ecosystem an endangered species depends on);
- alleviation of the backlog of 3000 species awaiting listing decisions, by including them in the multispecies plans.

Another important change included in this bill deals with a 1989 Supreme Court decision that precluded citizens from filing lawsuits to enforce the ESA for 60 days after giving a violator notice. H.R. 4045 would allow immediate action in emergencies posing significant risk to an endangered species.

There are three pro-development bills in the House of Representatives — H.R. 3092 ("Human Protection Act"), H.R. 4058 ("Balanced Economic and Environmental Priorities Act"), and H.R. 5105 ("Environment and Economic Stability Act of 1992"). The exact number of cosponsors of these bills was unknown as we go to press, but, happily, the pro-development bills recently had a total of 30 cosponsors, while H.R. 4045 had 101.

The camps on both sides of this debate are gearing up for a fierce battle. The "wise use" (pro-development) movement is powerful, well funded, and determined. Each one of our voices (or pens) raised in support of H.R. 4045 is vital.

My frequent urgent pleas for action on different issues come not from my flair for the dramatic, but from the sad reality that the assaults on our environment are dangerous and relentless. Please take action on H.R. 4045 today. Write to your Congressman, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515.

ADIRONDACK ACTION BULLETIN

Eric Siy, NAS Northeast Regional Office

A federal windfall could save the undisturbed Follensby Pond, Raquette River, Lake Champlain Shoreline, and Hudson River Gorge if you write now to Governor Cuomo and ask for his leadership.

Question: How can the construction of interstate highways — which in New York State alone have consumed 97,000 acres of open space — be the salvation of some of the wildest, most beautiful lakes and landscapes in the Adirondack Park?

Answer: Through a new federal law that will reimburse one third of a billion dollars to New York State residents each year for 15 years for construction of the NYS Thruway many years ago. The law, called the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991, was sponsored by Senator Daniel P. Moynihan. "It's payback time," the Senator recently told us. "Surely we aren't going to let [all that money] disappear into the state budget. Shouldn't we build something or do something we will then have? Any suggestions?"

Significance: The decision on how the \$5 billion is to be spent rests with the state Department of Transportation — and thus, ultimately, with Governor Cuomo. The state apparently has great discretion on how to use these funds.

The Present Plight: The state's acquisition fund has been empty since the narrow defeat of the environmental bond act in 1990. For the past two years, the State Senate has blocked the creation of an acquisition fund from an existing tax on beer and soda. Meanwhile, some of the state's finest lakes, streamsides, wildlife habitat, forests, and watersheds are up for grabs — and could be lost forever if we fail to act now.

What You Can Do. The competition for the payback money has begun. The line is already forming. All of us who see the preservation of our natural heritage as one of the finest gifts we can leave our children and grandchildren must now position ourselves at the front of that line.

The annual payments of \$338 million will start in 1996. A firm commitment NOW for at least \$100 million each year for land acquisitions (and conservation easements) would enable the state to borrow on this guaranteed revenue to purchase lakes and landscapes NOW AVAILABLE.

Write to Governor Mario M. Cuomo, State Capitol, Albany, NY 12224. Urge the Governor to earmark a fair share of the Thruway payback money to land and easement acquisitions. Interstate highways have devoured almost 100,000 acres of open space in New York State. Governor Cuomo can balance that loss by using some of the payback funds to preserve the best of the state's natural legacy for future generations.

[Editor's Note: If you're interested in protecting the Adirondacks and aren't already on the mailing list, write to Eric Siy, Director, ADIRONDACK ADVOCATES, National Audubon Northeast Office, 1789 Western Avenue, Albany, NY 12203.]

1992-1993 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

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Michael Sperling, <i>Skimmer</i> Editor	541-0805
John Staropoli, Youth Representative	599-1569
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