

VOLUME 22, NUMBER 3 — SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

NOVEMBER 1992

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

James Remsen, Jr.

Becoming environmentally aware ultimately allows one to see the value in simple components of the world around us which most people either take for granted or actively try to avoid. It is a sensitizing process that has, I suspect, given each of us who calls him or herself a "naturalist" numerous experiences so special that we wonder how those who haven't yet opened their eyes to them can really consider their lives "full."

One such component of our natural world has inspired awe, fear, and wonder in man ever since he first looked at the stars or heard the howl of a wolf beneath the full moon. It is those hours between dusk and dawn when our portion of the planet is shrouded in darkness. While the human species is basically diurnal, the majority of the known species of terrestrial vertebrates are not, as are countless species of aquatic life forms.

Think for yourself of times you may have spent outdoors after dark that have heightened your sense of what "environment" means to you. I can recall several. I recall being atop Mt. Greylock in Massachusetts ten years ago with my sister and a guide (we being the only two who showed up for his night nature hike) in darkness so intense that every star we could see glowed brightly, and the park ranger challenged us to step over a small brook by using our hearing to judge its size. At the Audubon Camp in Maine, I was led away from the main camp one night by a tree frog calling in the spruce woods. Here on Long Island, I have stood atop a small hill in Muttontown Preserve after dark to see a meteor streak across the night sky and hear the calls of Eastern Screech Owls float out of a forest alive with the chants of myriad insects.

I like to think of the night as part of our environmental heritage, as integral a part as old growth forests and wetlands. In suburbia true darkness is difficult to find, but merely step outside and listen to the insect chorus on a late summer or early autumn night, or listen to the silence that a snowy winter night imparts to our noisy surroundings, and you will appreciate the value of renewing one's relationship with the night. It is only then that we fully understand the value of the "wildness" that we, as environmentally concerned individuals, are constantly striving to protect.

NEXT MEETING

Sandy Brenner

DATE: Tuesday, November 10, 1992

TIME: 8:00 PM

PLACE: Freeport Memorial Library

Merrick Rd. & S. Ocean Ave.

SPEAKER: Melissa Beristain

TOPIC: <u>The Long Island Sound Study</u>

Our speaker, who is a marine environmental quality specialist, has been the NY Coordinator of the Public Outreach Program for the L.I. Sound study since 1988. The Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan for this most vital body of water is expected at the end of November. This slide show will inform us about National Estuary Programs, review the research, and give proposed management solutions.

IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE WASTE, PLEASE

BRING COFFEE MUGS TO OUR MEETINGS

HELP WANTED

Michael Sperling

South Shore Audubon Society is an all-volunteer organization. The more active our members are, the more effective we can be, so please step forward if you'd like to help with anything we're already doing or would like to start something new!

The Skimmer is mailed nine times per year at the Freeport Post Office on Merrick Road, one block east of the Library. Because I work in the city, I'm dependent on volunteers to carry the 2000+ newsletters (in ten sacks) to the post office's loading dock. If you have a strong back and are available after 9 AM on Monday mornings, please call me at 541-0805. I will bring the mailing to your house on Sunday, ready for delivery to the post office.

Anyone who would like to submit a suitable item for publication in the *Skimmer* is urged to give me a call, too. The best time to call is weeknights after 8 PM.

FOUR MEN AND A PLANET

The following article is reprinted with permission from the September/October 1992 issue of Sierra magazine. Unlike the Sierra Club, the National Audubon Society and South Shore Audubon Society cannot endorse candidates for any office. I can, however, provide you with information on politicians' histories and promises concerning the environment. I have omitted the original article's introduction (where, for the second time in its history, the Sierra Club endorsed one ticket), but have retyped the rest in its entirety. Readers should note that the positions of the National Audubon Society don't always agree with those of the Sierra Club.

If you received this newsletter after Election Day, then your post office spent the last 15 days delivering tons of holiday mail order catalogs instead of the *Skimmer* (which was mailed October 19th). In any case, this article provides a nice summary of what we can expect next year.

Renewable Energy and Conservation. George Bush's energy plan adopts the oil industry's agenda for accelerated oil production, failing to include substantive incentives or requirements for renewables or energy-efficiency measures. While Bush enacted a ten-year moratorium on oil drilling off the Florida Keys, Massachusetts, and parts of California, the administration still calls for drilling in sensitive areas elsewhere. Bill Clinton wants to ban new offshore drilling, expand the use of natural gas, create tax incentives for renewable energy sources, redirect federal weapons funding to renewables and light rail, and mandate percentages of recycled materials required for specific products.

Stabilizing Carbon-Dioxide Emissions at 1990 Levels. At every international conference for the last three years, the United States has resisted efforts to limit annual emissions of worldwide greenhouse gases at 1990 levels by the year 2000. At the Earth Summit in Rio this year, Bush blocked an international climate treaty until it was purged of specific targets and timetables, a move that rendered the agreement meaningless. The U.S. was the only developed nation to oppose precise goals. Clinton says he supports the Rio treaty's original goal. In addition, he would "give serious consideration" to a 20- to 30-percent reduction in CO, emissions by 2005 and "would consider supporting" a carbon tax to discourage emissions, as long as its revenues were used to offset existing taxes. Clinton's running mate, Senator Al Gore, led a congressional delegation to the Summit, and is a strong proponent of U.S. participation in a cooperative global effort to protect the planet.

Fuel Economy. The Bush administration opposes raising the corporate average fuel-economy rating of new automobiles from 27.5 miles per gallon to 45, the single-biggest step the United States could take to reduce emissions of gases that cause global climate change. Clinton supports the higher standard, and would institute "revenue-neutral" measures such as rebates for purchasers of fuel-efficient cars, to be paid for by a tax on gas-guzzlers.

Nuclear Energy. George Bush's National Energy Strategy calls for dramatically increasing the number of U.S. nuclear power plants, and Congress has approved his proposal to limit public input during the licensing process. Bill Clinton promises to "avoid increased reliance" on nuclear energy.

Population Policy. Anti-abortion candidate George Bush continues the Reagan policy of denying that uncontrolled population growth is an environmental problem. He halted support for the United Nations Population Fund and maintained the so-called Mexico City policy, under which any private organization receiving U.S. funds for family planning cannot use the money to provide abortion services or related information. Pro-choice candidate Bill Clinton supports funding the U.N.'s population program and reversing the Mexico City policy.

International Trade. George Bush backs both the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and the North American Free Trade Agreement, which would remove trade barriers between nations but might also induce companies to open factories in countries that have less-stringent environmental laws. Bill Clinton has said that he would support free-trade agreements only if they guarantee adequate environmental and health safeguards.

International Forest Protection. Just before the Rio conference, George Bush announced plans to increase funding for world forests by \$150 million. However, the United States refused to support a strong forest agreement at the Summit, and has been widely criticized for failing to protect its domestic forests. Bill Clinton has called on banks and multilateral institutions such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank to negotiate debt-for-nature swaps, which allow developing nations to reduce debt burdens without plundering rainforests and other resources.

Clean Air. Laurels for George Bush's support of the 1990 Clean Air Act wilted under the continuing attempts by the White House's Council on Competitiveness to cripple the law's implementation. To his credit, Bush resisted efforts to water down the law's acid-rain-control provisions, and doubled the EPA's enforcement budget. While the environment has long taken a back seat to economic issues in Arkansas, in 1991 Bill Clinton won approval of tougher anti-pollution laws, the first big package of environmental measures that he had pushed since his first term as governor in the late 1970s. He has pledged support for the Clean Air Act; his state is one of only four that meet all federal airquality standards.

Wetlands and Clean Water. President Bush's "no net loss of wetlands" campaign pledge [in 1988] was rendered meaningless by his administration's proposal that such areas simply be redefined, effectively eliminating protection for half the country's wetlands. Up for reauthorization this year, the Clean Water Act (which encompasses wetlands protection) is bound to be stymied by the heavy hand of the Competitiveness Council. Bill Clinton has condemned the administration's attempt to rewrite wetlands laws. His own clean-water record (dealing primarily with rivers in his home

state) is mixed: he has long courted the powerful Arkansas poultry industry, which has severely polluted rivers in the northwestern portion of the state. By most accounts, the state's attempts to tackle the problem have been weak. But Clinton's administration did develop new water-quality regulations in 1988, and even critics say he's been tougher on the state's chicken barons than any previous governor.

Solid Waste and Recycling. In 1990 the Bush administration forced the EPA to drop a proposed requirement that municipalities recycle 25 percent of the solid waste in areas served by incinerators; its National Energy Strategy proposed a seven-fold increase in incineration. While Bill Clinton supports his state's plan to incinerate dioxin-contaminated waste from an abandoned herbicide factory, the Clinton platform on waste is otherwise solid: he proposes a moratorium on the construction of new garbage and hazardous-waste incinerators; economic incentives for recycling and source reduction; mandatory diversion of recyclable material from landfills and incinerators; a national bottle bill; and tax incentives for manufacturers that use recycled material. Arkansas has established a goal of recycling 25 percent of its waste by 1995 and 40 percent by 2000.

Arctic Wilderness. George Bush supports oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, even though its output could only meet the country's needs for 200 days at best. Bill Clinton supports wilderness designation for the refuge.

U.S. Forests. George Bush continues Ronald Reagan's policy of recommending timber cuts at unsustainable levels in U.S. forests; only litigation or its own scientific reports have forced the White House to scale back its plans. Bill Clinton supports "the basic outline" of Sierra Club-supported bills now in Congress, which would provide nearly total protection for ancient forests while also protecting workers. Though old-growth forests are not an issue in Arkansas, Clinton has shown a lack of leadership concerning clearcutting in his home state. In 1986 he took no position on a Forest Service plan to allow clearcutting on virtually all marketable timber in Ouachita National Forest.

Endangered Species Act. The Bush administration overrode the Endangered Species Act this year to permit logging on 1,700 acres of federal land in Oregon that are home to the threatened northern spotted owl. Simultaneously, Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan announced a "preservation plan" for parts of the Pacific Northwest that would protect only about half the acreage mandated by the act and the courts. Bill Clinton supports the Endangered Species Act and says that — unlike President Bush — he would have signed the international biodiversity treaty at the Earth Summit, protecting plant and animal species worldwide.

BIRD WALKS

Elliott Kutner

All walks start at 9:30 AM except for Pelham Bay Park, no walk if it rains or snows. Any questions? Call Elliott at 486-7667.

Nov. 1	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Nov. 8	Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
Nov. 15	Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner
Nov. 22	Pelham Bay Park for Owls (pull over to
	street on extreme right after going through
	Throgs Neck Bridge toll; meet at 9:00 AM)
Nov. 29	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Dec. 6	Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner
Dec. 13	Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
****	***********************

SQUIRREL NESTS

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

What makes those large leaf nests on the limbs of trees? If it is 1 to 2 feet tall, made primarily of leaves, with some bark and twigs thrown in, spherical in shape, and has a roof, it's a summer camp of the Gray Squirrel.

Generally, the Gray Squirrel will vacate the nest during the early autumn before the leaves fall from the tree (exposing the nest) and take up winter residence in a tree hole. You could, however, check this out easily since the Gray, like its cousin the Red, will tend to use the same "highways" or welltravelled routes over and over.

Once you spot the squirrel, watch it and see if it returns to the nest.

Red Squirrels make a similar nest that is slightly smaller than the Gray, with more shredded bark in the composition. Reds will, however, tend to build them in evergreens, while Grays prefer the branches of hardwoods.

Early winter is a good time to begin to look for the biannual "squirrel chase" when male squirrels chase after females as part of their mating ritual. A female will lead the pack, with one to ten males chasing after her through the branches. The best time to look for the chase is early morning, between 7 and 9 AM.

BINOCULARS, SCOPES, AND FIELD GUIDES

Binoculars, spotting scopes, and field guides are sold by South Shore Audubon Society year-round at competitive prices and make splendid gifts for Christmas, Chanukah, and New Year's. Joe Lancer has a supply of Bushnell 7×35 binocs and Golden Guides to the Birds of North America, plus a Bausch & Lomb / Bushnell catalog. For information, call

him at 536-6574 (7 to 9 PM) or look for Joe at our meetings and walks.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT SANCTUARY

134 Cove Road Oyster Bay, NY 11771 (516) 922-3200

Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Bird Sanctuary is owned by the National Audubon Society and operated by the Community and three local Audubon chapters, including South Shore Audubon. The following programs are open to the public. Space is limited and registration is required. All program fees are required at the time of registration.

Sunday, November 15th (1 PM to 3 PM) — Birds of Prey. We'll be talking about and displaying all of our raptors. Birds to be seen in the hand include falcons, owls, and hawks. This program is always a favorite. Program fee \$4 for TRS members, \$6 for nonmembers.

Sunday, November 22nd (1 PM to 3 PM) — Native Americans Festival. A chance for children to learn about how Native Americans lived on Long Island, which plants they ate, how to make corn cakes, and how to use a bow drill to start a fire. We will also do some trail hiking. Program fee \$4 for TRS members, \$6 for nonmembers.

Wish List. If you can fulfill any of the following wishes we have, please give us a call. Objects can be used, but should be in working condition: a 35 mm auto camera, a portable cassette player, an adding machine, an incubator, desk lamps, a chain saw, a camcorder, and especially binoculars.

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SCORECARD

Michael Sperling

The League of Conservation Voters, whose board of directors includes representatives from the National Audubon Society, Sierra Club, National Wildlife Federation, Environmental Defense Fund, Wilderness Society, Natural Resources Defense Council, National Parks and Conservation Association, and other national environmental groups, publishes an annual scorecard that rates House and Senate members according to how they voted on specific issues.

This year, the three Congressmen whose districts include SSAS territory are not seeking reelection, so this time I won't print the scores for all of NY State's Congressmen. For the record, the locals' scores for 1991, 1989/1990, and 1987/1988 were as follows: Robert Mrazek (D), 54% (counting four absences as wrong votes; he voted correctly on seven of the remaining nine), 83%, and 75%; Norman Lent (ranking Republican on the House Energy and Commerce Committee), 8%, 28%, and 44%; and Raymond McGrath (R), 46%, 78%, and 75%. The average NY Congressman scored 60% in 1991; the national average was 46%. Four House incumbents are running for the Senate; their scores were as follows: Barbara Boxer (D-CA), 85, 89, and 88%; Ben Nighthorse

Campbell (D-CO), 38, 28, and 69%; Rod Chandler (R-WA), 15, 50, and 50%; and Wayne Owens (D-UT), 77, 89, and 81%.

To help keep you entertained on election night, what follows are the scores of all the U.S. Senators whose terms are expiring, including those of NY's Alfonse D'Amato. Admittedly, several of these Senators are not seeking another term in office, but I'm including their scores for reference and because I'm not sure if anyone else has retired. Among the voluntary retirees are Brock Adams, Kent Conrad, Alan Cranston, Jake Garn, Warren Rudman, Steve Symms, and Tim Wirth. Alan Dixon lost his primary bid to Carol Moseley Braun. Another possible retiree is Vice Presidential Candidate Albert Gore, whose term doesn't end until 1996 (his scores for 1991, 1989/1990, and 1987/1988 were 73, 95, and 50%). New York's Daniel P. Moynihan, whose term expires in 1994, scored 93, 86, and 90%.

Since the 1992 scorecard hasn't been compiled yet, the following are the scores for 1991, 1989/1990, and 1987/1988, respectively.

Brock Adams (D-WA) 87	95	80
Christopher Bond (R-MO) 13	13	10
John Breaux (D-LA) 20	18	30
Dale Bumpers (D-AR) 47	68	40
Dan Coats (R-IN) 20	32	
Kent Conrad (D-ND) 47	36	60
Alan Cranston (D-CA) 80	91	70
Alfonse D'Amato (R-NY) 40	41	40
Tom Daschle (D-SD) 53	64	5 0
Alan Dixon (D-IL) 53	5 9	20
Christopher Dodd (D-CT) 73	82	60
Bob Dole (R-KS) 13	22	20
Wendell Ford (D-KY) 7	13	30
Wyche Fowler (D-GA) 60	73	60
Jake Garn (R-UT) 13	13	10
John Glenn (D-OH) 73	55	5 0
Bob Graham (D-FL)	95	70
Charles Grassley (R-IA) 33	22	30
Ernest Hollings (D-SC) 67	59	5 0
Daniel Inouye (D-HI) 27	46	5 0
Bob Kasten (R-WI) 40	50	40
Patrick Leahy (D-VT) 100	95	100
John McCain (R-AZ) 33	18	5 0
Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) 93	<i>7</i> 7	70
Frank Murkowski (R-AK) 20	22	30
Don Nickles (R-OK) 7	4	0
Bob Packwood (R-OR) 13	59	60
Harry Reid (D-NV) 53	82	5 0
Warren Rudman (R-NH) 53	36	5 0
Terry Sanford (D-NC) 67	64	80
John Seymour (R-CA) 14		
Richard Shelby (D-AL) 13	22	20
Arlen Specter (R-PA) 40	64	30
Steve Symms (R-ID) 13	8	0
Tim Wirth (D-CO) 80	91	70
Average for This Group 43.9	48.3	42.3

THE BIRDER'S EXCHANGE

Michael Higgiston

The Manomet Bird Observatory is a center for long-term environmental research and education, and is located in Plymouth, Massachusetts. It was founded to improve understanding of wildlife populations and natural systems and to stimulate conservation action throughout the Americas.

One of MBO's programs is the Birder's Exchange, which was established in 1990 to provide assistance to Latin American and Caribbean birders, researchers, conservationists, and educators by supplying them with such basic equipment as new and used binoculars, spotting scopes, cameras, bird guides, and field equipment. These items are needed to identify and protect habitats crucial to resident and migratory birds, and to help educate the public about conservation issues. Most North American migratory birds spend half their lives in the neotropics.

If you wish to help, contact the Birder's Exchange, Manomet Bird Observatory, Box 1770, Manomet, MA 02345; their phone number is 508-224-6521.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Marion Yavarkovsky

Welcome to SSAS. We urge you to become active members in our chapter by attending our monthly meetings or spending a couple of hours in the great outdoors on our bird walks. Meetings and walks are free, friendly, and fun!

[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.]

rol A. Dugan, Barbara Gerardi,
ndrew & Laura Schofer,
ancy Solomon
ss Petra L. Durnin, Michael
eldman, Frederick Gottesman,
usan Kratina, L. Lo Re, Mrs. E
/. Mindermann, Ann Marie
ozzini, Richard L. Wolf
n J. Burford, Mr. & Mrs.
Villiam W. Dell
. Michael Capobianco,
P. McCallister, B. Slonim
rm Taylor
. A. Genis, Mr. Nicholas P.
alenich, A. Shafkowitz
niel T. Arcieri
. John T. McCann,
fr. Lester W. McCarty
Bradshaw, Miss J. Copley, Mrs
fartha Hall, Ruth Rosenbaum
֡֡֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜֜

Freeport	Mr. Gerald J. Bergman, Barbara Bruce, Ms. Carol Feldman, Stephanie Salkin,
Garden City	Margaret N. Turner Dr. & Mrs. Howard Eddy, Herman Kraskow, Bill Manny, Mr. William A. D. Rhind
Hempstead	Ms. Irma Cohen, John D. Krafchuk, Mrs. Linda S. Lorenzana, Mrs. C. Nicosia, Ruth Oram, Mr. P. Smalls,
Hewlett	Barbara Vaccaro, V. R. White
HICKSVIIIe	Mr. Steven Chios, Mr. Raymond
	Hewitt, Ms. Karen Jensen,
	Donna Naggy, Mr. Richard M.
	Ruckdeschel, Mr. William H.
	Snekenberg, Nancy J. Wood
Levittown	C. Marshall, Mike Mills,
	Miss Mary E. Wagner
Long Beach	John C. Curlander
Lynbrook	
	Mrs. Carole Hawkins
Massapequa	Evelyn I. Blank, Glenn G.
	Debona, William Gill, Keith R.
	Gonsor, Mr. Robert D.
	Montario, Thomas Sena,
	Alison Velez
Massapequa Park	Francis W. Ahlert, Sophie Noska,
	Joan Scancarelli,
	Evelyn Stephens
Merrick	Caterina Gencorelli, Ms. Joy
	Linden, Ms. Nancy S. Metviner, Caroline Walter
Occamaido	
Oceanside	Tobi Indyke, Ms. Louise Ryals,
	Tobi Indyke, Ms. Louise Ryals, Mr. Joel Silverman
Old Bethpage	Tobi Indyke, Ms. Louise Ryals, Mr. Joel Silverman Thomas J. Spindler
	Tobi Indyke, Ms. Louise Ryals, Mr. Joel Silverman Thomas J. Spindler Mrs. Belle Burrill,
Old Bethpage	Tobi Indyke, Ms. Louise Ryals, Mr. Joel Silverman Thomas J. Spindler Mrs. Belle Burrill, Mr. Emrick Sedlak
Old Bethpage	Tobi Indyke, Ms. Louise Ryals, Mr. Joel Silverman Thomas J. Spindler Mrs. Belle Burrill, Mr. Emrick Sedlak Samantha Banilower, Justin M.
Old Bethpage	Tobi Indyke, Ms. Louise Ryals, Mr. Joel Silverman Thomas J. Spindler Mrs. Belle Burrill, Mr. Emrick Sedlak Samantha Banilower, Justin M. Brown, Mr. Thomas Connolly,
Old Bethpage	Tobi Indyke, Ms. Louise Ryals, Mr. Joel Silverman Thomas J. Spindler Mrs. Belle Burrill, Mr. Emrick Sedlak Samantha Banilower, Justin M. Brown, Mr. Thomas Connolly, Mr. Gary Kaplan, Mr. Michael
Old Bethpage Plainview Rockville Centre	Tobi Indyke, Ms. Louise Ryals, Mr. Joel Silverman Thomas J. Spindler Mrs. Belle Burrill, Mr. Emrick Sedlak Samantha Banilower, Justin M. Brown, Mr. Thomas Connolly, Mr. Gary Kaplan, Mr. Michael G. Petrizzi, Ms. Selma R. Siege
Old Bethpage	Tobi Indyke, Ms. Louise Ryals, Mr. Joel Silverman Thomas J. Spindler Mrs. Belle Burrill, Mr. Emrick Sedlak Samantha Banilower, Justin M. Brown, Mr. Thomas Connolly, Mr. Gary Kaplan, Mr. Michael G. Petrizzi, Ms. Selma R. Siege
Old Bethpage Plainview Rockville Centre	Tobi Indyke, Ms. Louise Ryals, Mr. Joel Silverman Thomas J. Spindler Mrs. Belle Burrill, Mr. Emrick Sedlak Samantha Banilower, Justin M. Brown, Mr. Thomas Connolly, Mr. Gary Kaplan, Mr. Michael G. Petrizzi, Ms. Selma R. Siege Andrea Poppiti,
Old Bethpage Plainview Rockville Centre	Tobi Indyke, Ms. Louise Ryals, Mr. Joel Silverman Thomas J. Spindler Mrs. Belle Burrill, Mr. Emrick Sedlak Samantha Banilower, Justin M. Brown, Mr. Thomas Connolly, Mr. Gary Kaplan, Mr. Michael G. Petrizzi, Ms. Selma R. Siege Andrea Poppiti, Marion J. Schneider
Old Bethpage Plainview Rockville Centre	Tobi Indyke, Ms. Louise Ryals, Mr. Joel Silverman Thomas J. Spindler Mrs. Belle Burrill, Mr. Emrick Sedlak Samantha Banilower, Justin M. Brown, Mr. Thomas Connolly, Mr. Gary Kaplan, Mr. Michael G. Petrizzi, Ms. Selma R. Siege Andrea Poppiti, Marion J. Schneider David T. Brown, Edwin A.
Old Bethpage	Tobi Indyke, Ms. Louise Ryals, Mr. Joel Silverman Thomas J. Spindler Mrs. Belle Burrill, Mr. Emrick Sedlak Samantha Banilower, Justin M. Brown, Mr. Thomas Connolly, Mr. Gary Kaplan, Mr. Michael G. Petrizzi, Ms. Selma R. Siege Andrea Poppiti, Marion J. Schneider David T. Brown, Edwin A. Filippelu, Dolores Konchalski, Raya Kouletsis
Old Bethpage	Tobi Indyke, Ms. Louise Ryals, Mr. Joel Silverman Thomas J. Spindler Mrs. Belle Burrill, Mr. Emrick Sedlak Samantha Banilower, Justin M. Brown, Mr. Thomas Connolly, Mr. Gary Kaplan, Mr. Michael G. Petrizzi, Ms. Selma R. Siege Andrea Poppiti, Marion J. Schneider David T. Brown, Edwin A. Filippelu, Dolores Konchalski, Raya Kouletsis Patricia Fader, William Sauter, Lois B. Ward
Old Bethpage	Tobi Indyke, Ms. Louise Ryals, Mr. Joel Silverman Thomas J. Spindler Mrs. Belle Burrill, Mr. Emrick Sedlak Samantha Banilower, Justin M. Brown, Mr. Thomas Connolly, Mr. Gary Kaplan, Mr. Michael G. Petrizzi, Ms. Selma R. Siege Andrea Poppiti, Marion J. Schneider David T. Brown, Edwin A. Filippelu, Dolores Konchalski, Raya Kouletsis Patricia Fader, William Sauter, Lois B. Ward Mr. Morris Brofman, Mr. J.
Old Bethpage	Tobi Indyke, Ms. Louise Ryals, Mr. Joel Silverman Thomas J. Spindler Mrs. Belle Burrill, Mr. Emrick Sedlak Samantha Banilower, Justin M. Brown, Mr. Thomas Connolly, Mr. Gary Kaplan, Mr. Michael G. Petrizzi, Ms. Selma R. Siege Andrea Poppiti, Marion J. Schneider David T. Brown, Edwin A. Filippelu, Dolores Konchalski, Raya Kouletsis Patricia Fader, William Sauter, Lois B. Ward Mr. Morris Brofman, Mr. J. Munger, Gordon Schaaf,
Old Bethpage	Tobi Indyke, Ms. Louise Ryals, Mr. Joel Silverman Thomas J. Spindler Mrs. Belle Burrill, Mr. Emrick Sedlak Samantha Banilower, Justin M. Brown, Mr. Thomas Connolly, Mr. Gary Kaplan, Mr. Michael G. Petrizzi, Ms. Selma R. Siege Andrea Poppiti, Marion J. Schneider David T. Brown, Edwin A. Filippelu, Dolores Konchalski, Raya Kouletsis Patricia Fader, William Sauter, Lois B. Ward Mr. Morris Brofman, Mr. J. Munger, Gordon Schaaf, Susan Ward
Old Bethpage	Tobi Indyke, Ms. Louise Ryals, Mr. Joel Silverman Thomas J. Spindler Mrs. Belle Burrill, Mr. Emrick Sedlak Samantha Banilower, Justin M. Brown, Mr. Thomas Connolly, Mr. Gary Kaplan, Mr. Michael G. Petrizzi, Ms. Selma R. Siege Andrea Poppiti, Marion J. Schneider David T. Brown, Edwin A. Filippelu, Dolores Konchalski, Raya Kouletsis Patricia Fader, William Sauter, Lois B. Ward Mr. Morris Brofman, Mr. J. Munger, Gordon Schaaf, Susan Ward Lydia Matielde Castro
Old Bethpage	Tobi Indyke, Ms. Louise Ryals, Mr. Joel Silverman Thomas J. Spindler Mrs. Belle Burrill, Mr. Emrick Sedlak Samantha Banilower, Justin M. Brown, Mr. Thomas Connolly, Mr. Gary Kaplan, Mr. Michael G. Petrizzi, Ms. Selma R. Siege Andrea Poppiti, Marion J. Schneider David T. Brown, Edwin A. Filippelu, Dolores Konchalski, Raya Kouletsis Patricia Fader, William Sauter, Lois B. Ward Mr. Morris Brofman, Mr. J. Munger, Gordon Schaaf, Susan Ward

PLANET EARTH - COMING TO THE RESCUE

The following is reprinted from a sheet provided by the National Audubon Society's Conservation Information Department.

Many of us feel overwhelmed by the magnitude of the environmental problems that surround us. Acid rain. Global warming. Air and water pollution. Deforestation. They are indeed serious. But having created the problems, we are also the key to solving them. We can do a lot in our personal lives to make a difference.

Did you know that Americans represent only 5% of the world's population, yet we use more than a third of the world's resources? Each year, demands for energy increase as we buy more automobiles, air conditioners, and new appliances. We use up our natural resources — trees, water, open space — so voraciously that nature itself cannot keep pace with our greed. Such wasteful lifestyles exact a high toll on our environment and on the quality of our lives and that of future generations.

Simple acts can get us on the road to a more environmentally positive and healthier future. Writing letters using both sides of a page is a good example. This means fewer trees are cut down; less energy is needed to power paper mills and transport logs; and fewer chemicals are required to produce paper from wood, resulting in less pollution. Finally, reducing the amount of paper thrown out can save landfill space and decrease the amount of garbage that must be incinerated.

Here are some suggestions of how you might plan a more environmentally sound lifestyle. Be creative, and remember that your actions will affect the planet, for good and bad.

Be Energy Efficient. The United States emits more than 20% of the world's total emissions of the gases that contribute to global warming. That amounts to yearly emissions of more than 14 trillion pounds of carbon dioxide and its equivalent in greenhouse gases, or about 55,000 pounds for every man, woman, and child. Here are some practical ways to cut carbon dioxide emissions:

- Lower your thermostat by 2°F in the winter. In a typical house, this would reduce heating-fuel-related carbon dioxide emissions by 6 percent.
- Set your air conditioner thermostat higher. For central air conditioning, an increase from 75°F to 78°F can reduce CO₂ emissions by 8%.
- Use compact fluorescent bulbs. Replacing a 100-watt incandescent bulb used four hours a day with a 22-watt fluorescent can save 114 kilowatt hours and 180 pounds of carbon dioxide a year.
 - Turn off lights and appliances when they are not needed.
- Select an efficient model when buying a new refrigerator or air conditioner.
- Make sure your new car gets more miles to the gallon. If you replace a 20-miles-per-gallon vehicle with a 30-miles-per-gallon vehicle, at 12,000 miles driven per year you will cut your annual CO₂ emissions by 4,400 pounds.
 - Minimize driving. If you have a 25-miles-per-gallon car

and reduce your driving from 12,000 miles to 10,000 miles a year, your annual CO, emissions will drop by 1,800 pounds.

• Avoid auto air conditioners where possible. Just having one results in chlorofluorocarbon emissions equivalent to 4,800 pounds of CO₂ — whether you use it or not.

Reduce Your Garbage. Each American discards close to 4 pounds of garbage per day — an amount unmatched in any other industrialized nation. Most of our garbage — 80% — is dumped in landfills, and we are fast running out of inexpensive and licensed facilities.

Plastics: In 1960, less than 1% of our solid waste by weight was plastics. Today, that figure is more than 7% and growing — for example, more than 16 billion disposable diapers, 2 billion razors, and 1.6 billion pens are thrown out every year. These plastics comprise 32% of our waste stream by volume and do not biodegrade in the environment, causing unsightly pollution and posing a threat to wildlife. It doesn't take much to lessen your own contribution of plastics:

- Avoid "disposable products" where alternatives are available. For example, when possible, use reusable razors, refillable pens, and cloth diapers.
- Avoid products that have excessive packaging. Buy bar soap, not soap that is packaged in a plastic container. Buy a large container of juice, not several small containers, etc.
- Recycle any plastics that are accepted in your neighborhood. If your community does not have a recycling program, lobby your local representatives to get one launched.

Paper: Paper comprises about 36% of our waste stream — about 50 million tons each year. Recycling paper both reduces our waste load and saves valuable forests. You can reduce paper waste:

- Recycle newspapers and other types of paper accepted in your community.
 - Use both sides of a sheet of paper whenever possible.
- Attach the blank side of old bills and other waste paper to a clipboard to make a note pad.
- Take a reusable shopping bag to the market; don't use paper or plastic grocery bags.
- Junk mail wastes resources and increases our output of garbage. Write to companies whose mail-order catalogs you don't use and ask to be taken off their lists. To prevent your name from being sold to other companies, write to Mail Preference Service, Direct Marketing Association, 11 West 42nd St., P.O. Box 3861, New York, NY 10163-3861.

Hazardous Household Products: Toxic household products that enter the waste stream present a threat to human health as they may leach into water supplies and cause other types of environmental problems. There are natural and less expensive alternatives to common household products:

- To get windows sparkling clean, use a solution of hot water and one-quarter white vinegar with a dash of lemon juice; dry with newspapers.
- To prevent clogged drains, pour a gallon of boiling water once a week directly into your drain, rather than harsh chemicals which can ruin pipes and pollute groundwater.
 - · Boric acid is effective against roaches.

- Baking powder can be used as a mild scrubbing agent for cleaning.
- Help your community develop a collection center for hazardous household wastes.

Conserve Water. In some areas, the flow of streams and rivers has been greatly reduced due to demands for water. This affects both people and wildlife.

You can help by installing water-saving shower heads. Don't let water run while washing your hands and brushing your teeth. Use low-flush toilets. Take short showers instead of baths. Run your dishwasher only when full. In many dry areas, a lawn is a luxury that nature cannot afford.

MISSING A HAT?

The bus driver for our Greenwich Hawk Watch trip has returned a navy blue hat with lots of appropriate pins on it. If it's yours, call Diane Singer at 561-6118.



621 Fulton St. (Rt. 109), Farmingdale, NY 11735 Located between McDonald's & Dunkin' Donuts

SNOW GEESE

Tom Torma

The western sky was ablaze with color created by the setting sun. The eastern sky was already dark, marking the advancing night. As I looked to the northeast I saw flashes of light in the sky. They did not appear to be from either heavenly or manmade objects. I pointed my scope towards the flashes. When I looked into the scope, I saw a flock of Snow Geese, the light of the setting sun reflecting off their bodies and wings. Behind the first group of geese came numerous waves of geese, all heading straight towards me. It was October and I was at Brigantine National Wildlife Refuge. I was witnessing the arrival of the Snow Geese migration.

Every year, 1.5 to 2 million Snow Geese migrate from the Canadian tundra to the United States. Their wintering grounds are from Jamaica Bay down the east coast to the coast of the Gulf of Mexico, and along the west coast south to Baja California. Snow Geese prefer salt marshes and marshy bays. They can sometimes be seen on freshwater marshes and in adjoining grain fields. The best time to see Snow Geese on Long Island is in October, when they are migrating

through this area. Since Snow Geese winter over in Jamaica Bay, it is an excellent place to see these birds all winter long.

There are two color phases of Snow Geese. The white birds with black wing tips are the most common on the east coast. The blue-phase birds are often called Blue Geese. The Blue Geese are dark gray with a white neck and head. They nest in northern Canada at places with names like Foxe Basin, Baffin Island, and South Hampton Island. The Blue and Snow Geese are considered one species. Where the two phases nest in the same area, they will breed with each other. Each fall, the Blue Geese gather at the southern end of Hudson Bay. When they leave this location, they make one nonstop flight to the gulf coast, where they are commonly seen.

Brigantine National Wildlife Refuge is a great place to photograph Snow Geese. A gravel road leads you out onto the marsh. You can use your car as a blind. A tripod can be set up inside your car and used to mount your telephoto lens, but this can be awkward. A good window mount is better. A beanbag or even a pillow can be used to support a camera and lens on a car window.

Brigantine National Wildlife Refuge (now a division of Edwin B. Forsythe NWR) is located off New Jersey Route 9, just north of Atlantic City. There is a small user's fee to enter the sanctuary, unless you have a duck stamp, which can be used for admission. Old Smithville is nearby, with restaurants and shops to provide a break from a hard day of birdwatching or photography.

The next morning after the geese arrival, I returned to Brigantine early. The marsh was filled with Snow Geese. I set my telephoto lens up on a window mount. I soon found a beautiful goose resting in the tall grass at the side of the road. Its neck and head were resting across its back. I pulled my car up to the bird, focused my camera lens, and got my picture. Seeing the Snow Goose fly in over the marsh at dusk is a sight I will never forget. That memory and the picture I took made the trip to Brigantine National Wildlife Sanctuary worthwhile.



1992-1993 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

James Remsen, Jr., President	. 764-5168
Mark Phillips, Vice President	. 731-1341
George Popkin, Treasurer (8 to 9 PM)	
Louise Hillen, Recording Secretary	. 546-6147
Doris Pirodsky, Corresponding Secretary & Historian	. 378-1790
Paul Devendittis, Director (6/95)	. 489-0547
Bruno Leporati, Director (6/95)	. 735-4904
Marge Jaeger, Director (6/94)	. 536-9166
Richard Packert, Director (6/94)	. 437-9683
Evelyn Blume, Director (6/93) & Scholarships Chairperson	. 378-7122
Tom Torma, Director (6/93) & Fundraising Chairperson	
Sandy Brenner, Program Chairperson	
Joan Butkereit, Wetlands Conference Committee Chairperson	
Paul Butkereit, Bird Seed Savings Day	
Rose Ermidis, Education Chairperson	
Joseph Grupp, Duck Survey	. 481-4208
Betsy Gulotta, Brookside Preserve Committee Chairperson	
Elliott Kutner, Birding / Field Trips Chairperson	
Joseph Lancer, Binocular / Book Sales (7 to 9 PM)	
Annie F. McIntyre, Conservation Chairperson	
Doreen Remsen, Birdathon Chairperson	
Dolores Rogers, Welcoming Committee Chairperson	
Mary Jane Russell, Hospitality Chairperson	
Diane Singer, Publicity	
Michael Sperling, Skimmer Editor	
John Staropoli, Youth Representative	
Marion Yavarkovsky, Membership Chairperson	
•	

South Shore Audubon Society P.O. Box 31 Freeport, NY 11520-0031

A CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

Americans Committed to Conservation

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED





U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 1181
NONPROFIT
Freeport, NY