



aware of the importance of the health of the surrounding waters. The problems and potential problems to these waters are being addressed in a variety of ways.

To the north there is the Long Island Sound Study. To the west is the NY/NJ Estuary organization. To the east the problems of the Peconic estuary system are being addressed. That leaves an enormous stretch of water spanning our southern shore with no plan to help ensure its protection.

In order to act in a positive way rather than react to threats as they may occur, a group of people are in the beginning stages of a planning coalition. The hope is to bring together any and all of the varied parties interested in the protection of LI's southern waters. A planning meeting is (was) scheduled for November 10th. I will print further updates on this topic. If any of you feel that you'd like to participate, please let me know.

**Arctic Refuge Update.** In light of the number of new members we continually get, a brief overview of this issue is probably in order before I bring everyone up to date.

The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is a pristine wilderness that lies on Alaska's northern coast, bordering Canada. The fate of one area, the 1002 (pronounced "ten-o-two") area, was left unresolved when the original Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act was passed back in 1980, due to the 1002 area's oil and natural gas potential. While there's only a 5% chance to find oil, exploration itself will destroy the heart of what's been called the North American Serengeti.

One assault was averted when the Energy bill passed during the last days of the 102nd Congress with no Alaska provisions included.

Legislation designed to avoid any further assaults on the Refuge, namely wilderness designation bills, has moved along slowly. In the 102nd Congress, S. 39 had 26 cosponsors and H.J.R. had 131, hampered by President Bush's strong pro-drilling stance. President-elect Clinton supports wilderness status for the area — we need to start lobbying our newly elected officials to sponsor this critical legislation, to finally put an end to these continual threats to this vital national treasure. As always, any questions, comments, etc., are welcome. Protection of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is one of National Audubon Society's high-priority campaigns.



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## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Marion Yavarkovsky

We are pleased to welcome our new members. There are many planned activities and you will find them stimulating. In this day of heightened environmental awareness, it is important to be involved. Join with us in an exciting adventure.

[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.]

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- Valley Stream ..... Caroline Cataldo, Mrs. Margaret  
Frick, Karl Hahnenberger
- Wantagh ..... Rosanne M. Mamo
- West Hempstead ..... Mr. Willard F. Smith







## 1992 NYS ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION

Michael Sperling

The Environmental Planning Lobby, founded in 1969, is a nonprofit, nonpartisan alliance of individuals and over 100 environmental organizations; it is New York State's only full-time environmental lobby. EPL's Board of Directors includes National Audubon Society's Northeast Regional Vice President, David Miller. Their annual Voters' Guide, available for \$3 from EPL, 353 Hamilton St., Albany, NY 12210, includes the voting records of all of our State Senators and Assemblymembers on the following bills, plus articles on individual issues, favorite legislators, and least favorite legislators — winners of oil slick awards.

Maurice Hinchey, Chairman of the Assembly's Environmental Committee and sponsor of many of the good bills listed below, was just elected to Congress and will be missed in Albany. Hopefully, someone will be able to fill his shoes.

Beginning with the 1992 legislative session, EPL implemented a new system for rating legislation. The purpose of the system is to weigh bills based on their potential impact on New York's environment. Each bill that EPL took a position on in 1992 received one of six ratings:

**3 Trees.** Proposed legislation would be of significant assistance and benefit to help resolve a pressing problem facing New York's environment.

**2 Trees.** Proposed legislation would provide substantial benefit to New York's environment.

**1 Tree.** Proposed legislation would be beneficial to some aspect of New York's environment.

**1 Stack.** Proposed legislation would be detrimental to the cause of environmental protection in New York.

**2 Stacks.** Proposed legislation would do substantial harm to New York's environment.

**3 Stacks.** Proposed legislation would likely result in major or lasting harm to New York's environment.

The following is the first installment of the EPL's descriptions of the bills, some of which were also passed by either the Assembly or Senate in 1991, so they will look familiar unless you joined SSAS very recently. You can look forward to seeing the worst bills described in an upcoming *Skimmer* or two.

**James Bay Bill** ▲▲▲. When the New York Power Authority (NYPA) first agreed to purchase power from Hydro-Quebec, state law and practice did not dictate a review of the potential environmental consequences of such a power purchase. This bill would ensure that all major contracts for power purchases outside state boundaries be subject to an environmental impact review under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA). A2162-B (Hoyt) / S7743 (Sheffer) passed the Assembly but was held in the Senate Energy Committee.

**Essential Habitats** ▲▲▲. Loss of habitat is the chief cause of species extinction. Here in New York, there is no protection against destruction of the habitats of our threatened and endangered species. EPL considers this bill, which

seeks to preserve species diversity, one of the most important environmental measures for New York. Despite the fact that this bill limits the amount of land that could be designated as essential habitat to less than 1/2 of 1% of all land in the state, the Senate has repeatedly failed to act on this measure. A5754-A (Hinchey) passed the Assembly but was not sponsored in the Senate.

**Environmental Trust Fund** ▲▲▲. Since the defeat of the 1990 Environmental Quality Bond Act, the state has had no available funding for a number of critical environmental programs. This bill creates an environmental trust fund to provide approximately \$90 million annually for recycling and landfill closure, water quality protection, and preservation of critical resources and endangered spaces. The money for this fund would be derived from two preexisting sources: \$82 million in excise taxes on beer and soda containers, originally enacted to help finance the bond act; and the ten cent per quart tax on motor oil. A7613-C (Hinchey) passed the Assembly but had no Senate sponsor.

**Environmental Enforcement Act** ▲▲▲. In dozens of other states and for certain federal laws, citizens have the right to enforce environmental protection laws. This bill would ensure that New Yorkers also have this fundamental right to protect themselves and their environment from lawbreaking polluters. Although few "citizen suits" have been brought to court in other states, this provision has been very effective as a deterrent for would-be environmental violators and as a motivator for government enforcement. A8010-B (Rules Committee at the request of Hinchey) passed the Assembly but did not have a Senate sponsor.

**Adirondack Park Protection** ▲▲▲. The Adirondack Park, which is the last intact boreal ecosystem in the continental United States, celebrated its 100th birthday this year. Alarming, if current development patterns persist, this magnificent wilderness may be celebrating its bicentennial as suburban housing tracts. This bill is a critical measure that would strengthen protection of backcountry wilderness and undeveloped shorelines and provide economic assistance to local governments to preserve the tourism and forestry industries. A9019-B (Hinchey) passed the Assembly but was not sponsored in the Senate.

**Comprehensive Energy Plan** ▲▲▲. This bill substantially increases energy conservation and efficiency efforts in New York State by putting in law a comprehensive, long-range energy plan that requires all new supplies of energy to pass a "least cost" test that includes environmental and public health impacts. For example, this provision will insure that ecological impacts are taken into account when New York considers buying power from a source like Hydro-Quebec. The bill also repeals the "six cent law," which guaranteed a minimum price of six cents per kilowatt hour for any power producer. The repeal of this law will serve to discourage the construction of new, unnecessary energy generators such as incinerators and coal burning plants. A11022-C (Tonko) / S4912-A (Seward) passed both houses and was signed into law by the Governor.

**BIRD SEED SAVINGS DAY  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 1993  
TACKAPAUSHA MUSEUM  
9:30 AM — 2:30 PM**

The museum is located on Washington Avenue in Seaford and lies about 1/2 mile south of Sunrise Highway, just north of Merrick Road. Preordering greatly aids us in determining the amount of seed needed; an order form appears below for your use. **Please keep this upper portion as a reminder of the sale date.** All preorders should be received by JANUARY 12th. **Please make checks payable to the South Shore Audubon Society. Mail check and order form to Paul T. Butkerei, 268 Wallace St., Freeport, NY 11520.**

Once again we are offering three types of sunflower seed: black oil seed, large white striped seed, and a blend of the two consisting of 60% oil and 40% striped. We will also be offering a 10% reduction on Bird Feeders. Help will be needed on the sale date to take orders and to aid in unloading seed. If you wish to volunteer, call (516) 623-0843 late evenings and ask for Paul. **Our next sale will be in OCTOBER 1993.**

My name is \_\_\_\_\_

My address is \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ S.S.A.S. Member? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION	PRICE	TOTAL
	25 lb Black Oil Sunflower Seed	7.00	
	25 lb Striped Sunflower Seed	7.50	
	40 lb Blended Sunflower Seed	11.00	
	25 lb Regular Wild Bird Seed Mix (sunflower, millet, cracked corn, milo, wheat)	5.50	
	50 lb Regular Wild Bird Seed Mix	10.50	
	20 lb Special Mix (sunflower, millet, milo, wheat, peanut hearts)	5.25	
	40 lb Special Mix	10.00	
	40 lb Premium Mix (sunflower, millet, cracked corn, niger seed, peanut hearts)	10.50	
	25 lb Cracked Corn	5.50	
	10 lb Sunflower Hearts	6.00	
	10 lb Safflower Seed	4.50	
	10 lb Peanut Bits	5.25	
	10 lb White Proso Millet	2.75	
	10 lb Thistle Seed (Niger)	10.00	
	Maine Manna Suet Cakes	3.90	

*All blends and mixes are based on current research*

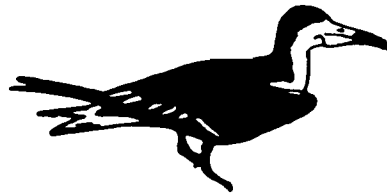
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A CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY  
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