





**SSAS VISITS TRS — NOVEMBER 5th**

*Michael Sperling*

Last April, a few SSAS crazies (including yours truly) braved severe thunderstorm warnings and some torrential downpours and thoroughly enjoyed our chapter's first scheduled visit to National Audubon Society's oldest sanctuary. Starting at 10 A.M. on Saturday, November 5th, we will once again visit the interpretive center, learn about TRS's activities, eat lunch (bring your own), and — weather permitting — walk on the trails of the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Bird Sanctuary's 12 acres of heavily wooded habitat.

The TRS staff will give us up-close and personal introductions to many of the live animals that call TRS home, including a Red-tailed Hawk, Golden Eagle, Turkey Vulture, Peregrine Falcon, red fox, a six-foot boa constrictor, and a huge Burmese python. The star of our first visit was Bobby the imprinted Harris' Hawk, who flew alongside and between us on the trail; his lunch was placed on a glove worn by a variety of SSAS members and as soon as the glove was raised, Bobby swooped in and landed.

The Sanctuary is located at 134 Cove Road in Oyster Bay, near President Roosevelt's grave and about a mile from Sagamore Hill National Historic Site. Take the Long Island Expressway to Exit 41 north, take Route 106 to the village of Oyster Bay, make a right turn on East Main Street, and go 1-1/2 miles; you will see signs for TRS parking. The parking lot is on your right, followed by the sanctuary's entrance.

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**BUDGET 1994-1995**

Audubon Camp Scholarships .....	1500
Brookside Preserve .....	1000
College Scholarship .....	500
Conservation .....	750
Corresponding Secretary .....	150
Donations .....	500
Education .....	2000
Holiday Wildlife Party .....	150
Insurance .....	800
Library Custodians .....	200
Library Donation .....	400
Library Overtime .....	400
Membership .....	100
Miscellaneous .....	1000
National Audubon Conference Attendance .....	1500
Publicity .....	200
Refreshments at Meetings .....	300
Skimmer .....	6500
Speakers .....	600
T. R. Sanctuary .....	1000
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>\$19,550</b>



**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 (except for the Festival). All program fees are required at the time of registration.

*Sunday, October 2nd (8 A.M. to 10 A.M.) — Raptor Banding.* If you can't make it to our free program for SSAS on October 1st, sign up for this one. Join us near the Fire Island Lighthouse to visit our research station and discover the beauty of raptor migration. We'll catch some birds; measure, study, and band them; and take a nature hike. TRS members \$3, nonmembers \$5. 🦅

*Thursday, October 13th (7 P.M. to 9 P.M., adults) — Bats.* Come and discover these maligned mammals, meet a live bat, take a night hike, learn about bat conservation. Find out about our local bats. TRS members \$3, nonmembers \$5. 🦇

*Saturday & Sunday, October 22nd and 23rd (11 A.M. to 5 P.M.) — Annual Wildlife Festival at Planting Fields Arboretum in Oyster Bay.* Some of the featured programs with live animals will be: the wonders of flight (with a trained owl, hawk, falcon, crow, and more), nocturnal animals (hedgehog, fox, skunk, owl, etc.), jewels of the rainforest (parrots, snakes, raptors, etc.), rare and beautiful endangered species (Peregrine Falcon, Golden Eagle, huge python, fruit bat, etc.), and native wildlife of Long Island. We'll have children's crafts, the TRS shop, nature walks, educational displays, an environmental organization fair, and much more. Children \$3, adults \$5; there's a parking fee at Planting Fields, but the setting is beautiful. Hope you can join us, we're looking forward to it!

*Saturday, October 29th (7 P.M. to 9 P.M., children) — A Wild Halloween.* Live nocturnal animals, games, night hikes, pumpkin decoration, and much more. An annual children's party here at TRS. Reserve early for this always popular nature bash. TRS members \$3, nonmembers \$5. 🎃

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## 1993 NYS ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION

Michael Sperling

The Albany-based Environmental Planning Lobby's annual Voters' Guide rates New York's State Senators and Assembly members on the basis of their votes on legislation that reached the floor of at least one house of our legislature. In the February through April *Skimmers*, I started reprinting the EPL's descriptions of the bills that counted in the last guide. New SSAS members have missed the 3 tree, 2 tree, and most of the 1 tree bills; however, you do get to see all the anti-environment bills (call me after 8:00 P.M. if you'd like to receive the back issues). The ratings are as follows: 1 tree if the bill would be beneficial to some aspect of NY's environment, 1 stack if it would be detrimental to the cause of environmental protection in NY, 2 stacks if it would do substantial harm to NY's environment, and 3 stacks if it would likely result in major or lasting harm to NY's environment.

Here's a recap of the first three installments: Seven 3 tree bills passed the Assembly last year, three of which also passed the Senate and were signed into law (the other four bills died in the Senate). Eleven 2 tree bills passed the Assembly, two of which became law (the other nine died in the Senate). Four 2 tree bills passed the Senate; of the two not counted above, one became law by being incorporated in another bill and the other wasn't introduced in the Assembly. So far, nine 1 tree bills have been covered — all nine passed the Assembly; six died in the Senate, two passed the Senate but were vetoed by the Governor, and one passed the Senate and was signed into law by Governor Cuomo. Here's the rest:

**Motor Oil Recycling ♣.** By facilitating the collection of motor oil throughout New York, the state has already prevented thousands of gallons of motor oil from being unnecessarily discharged into the environment. This bill ensures that service stations provide non-customers with the opportunity to recycle their used motor oil. S4086 (Johnson, R-Babylon) passed the Senate but was not sponsored in the Assembly.

**"2A" Waste Sites ♣.** The Environmental Planning Lobby has repeatedly urged the Legislature to establish a schedule for the expeditious classification of inactive hazardous waste sites. This bill requires the Department of Environmental Conservation to classify all sites that are currently listed as "2A" sites within 12 months after the bill becomes effective, and requires all "2A" sites listed thereafter to be classified within 18 months. "2A" is DEC's own category used for sites lacking the sufficient data for proper classification. S1094 (Daly, R-Lockport) passed the Senate but was not sponsored in the Assembly.

**Urban Forestry ♣.** Trees, shrubs, and other greenery are critical to maintaining New York City's livability by decreasing air pollution, reducing airborne carbon oxides, and cutting energy costs. This bill allows NYC residents to make a donation to a "Parks, Trees and Urban Forestry Fund" on

their city income tax returns. The money would be used for the planting of trees and shrubs, and park preservation and expansion within the city. S1887 (Veleva, R-Yonkers) / A3263 (Glick, D-Manhattan) passed the Senate but was held in the Assembly Ways and Means Committee.

**Catskill & Adirondack Signs ¶.** Much too often, the beauty and integrity of New York's scenic areas are compromised by billboards, signs, and other advertisements. Current law allows the Catskill and Adirondack Parks to preserve much of their beautiful vistas. Both of these bills undermine existing regulations and allow businesses in the Catskill and Adirondack Parks to post up to four additional directional signs. S437 (Stafford, R-Plattsburgh) / A6412 (Orloff, R-Plattsburgh) and S2287 (Cook, R-Delhi) both passed the Senate. The Adirondack bill was held in the Assembly Environmental Conservation Committee; the Catskill bill did not have an Assembly sponsor.


**93/94 LEV Vehicles ¶.** This bill would have prevented New York State from requiring the sale of California low emission vehicles for the 1993/1994 model year. No single source is responsible for more air pollution than the automobile. The adoption of these standards is an important first step to achieve the objectives of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990. S3487 (Johnson) / A6997 (Brodsky, D-Scarsdale) passed both houses but was recalled from the Governor's desk. ♣


**Pelham Bay ¶.** Pelham Bay is an area that has been designated for recreational purposes under New York State's Public Trust Doctrine, but for the past 34 years a police firing range has violated this law by operating on park grounds. The bill allows the police firing range and bomb site to continue their operation on parklands in Pelham Bay. A8595 (Kaufman, D-Bronx) / S5982 (Rules Committee) passed both houses and was signed by the Governor.


**Cadmium Exemption ¶.** In 1990, the Toxics in Packaging Law was established, requiring the reduction of certain heavy metals used in packaging products. Recently, a company which sells art supplies applied to DEC for an exemption to allow cadmium on the labels of their paints in order to allow a more accurate representation of color inside the container. The company had not received the exemption from DEC, so they turned to the Legislature, which chose to override DEC's authority and pass a bill granting the exemption. Cadmium is highly toxic and a suspected carcinogen. A7017 (Rapplelea, R-Norwich) / S5834 (Seward, R-Oneonta) passed both houses but was vetoed by the Governor.


**Billboard Vegetation ¶.** New York State has rightly gained a national reputation for its longstanding commitment to preserving the scenic and environmental integrity of its state roadways. This bill represents a substantial reversal of New York's historic commitment by permitting the destruction of trees and plants to improve the visibility of billboards. A3999-B (Graber, D-West Seneca) / S2399-B (Stafford) passed both houses but was vetoed by the Governor.




**Emission Offsets** . The bill prevents taxation or confiscation of emission offsets obtained under the federal Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990. This bill represents unwarranted and potentially damaging interference with the state's attempt to reach attainment under the Clean Air Act. A8023-A (Schimminger, D-Kenmore) / S4720-A (Skelos, R-Rockville Centre) passed the Senate but was held in the Assembly Environmental Conservation Committee.

**Bear-Dog** . During last session, the Environmental Planning Lobby successfully lobbied the Governor's office to veto legislation which would have allowed the use of packs of dogs to hunt bear. Unfortunately, this year [1993] the Governor reversed his position on the issue, supporting a last minute amendment to allow the use of dogs to hunt and kill "nuisance" bears, and allow training seasons for dogs to chase any bear. A1032-E (Bragman, D-North Syracuse) / S720-E (Stafford) passed both houses and was signed by the Governor.

**Striped Bass** . The bill eliminates the Department of Environmental Conservation's authority to regulate the striped bass population in New York, and bans the commercial harvest or sale of the species. Passage of the legislation would achieve no natural resource protection purpose and would, in fact, severely impair New York's ability to implement sound resource management initiatives aimed at striped bass, a valuable commercial and recreational species. A3390 (Connelly, D-Staten Island) / S1961 (Johnson) passed the Senate but was held in the Assembly Environmental Conservation Committee.

**NYC Watershed** . New York City's water system, at one time one of the most renowned in the world, has measurably decreased in quality due to the by-products of development. This bill would accelerate that trend by eliminating the NYC Department of Environmental Protection's authority to protect their sources of drinking water in the Catskill and Delaware watersheds. S3558 (Cook) / A6013 (Rappleyea) passed the Senate but was held in the Assembly Health Committee.

**Flawed Clean Air Proposal** . Prior to passage of the clean air legislation which was signed into law, a significantly flawed proposal was carried in the Senate. Although the bill did contain a number of programs mandated by the federal Clean Air Act Amendments, the bill's passage and implementation would still not have prevented New York from violating the federal act. The bill failed to give state agencies the regulatory and financial resources necessary to comply with the federal law. S5900 (Johnson) passed the Senate but had no Assembly sponsor.

**Senate Voting Chart.** The average score for the entire State Senate was 66.3% correct in 1993 (ranging from 36% for Manhattan's frequently absent Paterson to 98% for Manhattan's Ohrenstein; Peekskill's Pataki, now running for Governor, scored a 64%, but as an Assemblyman in 1989 he was named EPL's Legislator of the Year). The average score for the 1992 State Senate was 61.6% (ranging from

33% for Bath's Kuhl to 100% for New Rochelle's Oppenheimer; Pataki wasn't in the Senate yet). The scores don't reflect all the Assembly-passed pro-environment bills that never even reached the Senate floor for a vote. Here are the 1993 & 1992 EPL percentages for Long Island's State Senators:

- Hannon (R-Westbury): 57 & 56
- Johnson (R-Babylon): 55 & 44
- Lack (R-Hauppauge): 62 & 52
- LaValle (R-Selden): 69 & 63
- Levy (R-Freeport): 81 & 70
- Marino (R-Oyster Bay): 54 & 44
- Skelos (R-Rockville Centre): 55 & 52
- Trunzo (R-Hauppauge): 55 & 44
- Tully (R-Roslyn Heights): 60 & 63



**Assembly Voting Chart.** The average score for the entire Assembly was 81.9% in 1993 (ranging from 46% for West Islip's Barraga to 100% for Manhattan's Glick). The average score for the 1992 Assembly was 84.0% (ranging from 40% for Potsdam's O'Neil to 100% for the two locals listed below). Here are the 1993 & 1992 EPL percentages for Nassau's Assembly members:

- Balboni (R-Garden City): 91 & 95
- Becker (R-Lynbrook): 93 & 91
- DiNapoli (D-Great Neck): 90 & 95
- Ferrara (R-Westbury): 97 & not in office
- Healey (R-Massapequa): 96 & 89
- Hill (D-Hempstead): 89 & 98
- Muscarella (R-Franklin Square): 97 & 96
- O'Shea (R-Bellmore): 98 & 100
- Parola (R-Levittown; now our Comptroller): 98 & 100
- Sidikman (D-Plainview): 86 & 94
- Weisenberg (D-Long Beach): 85 & 98



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**GARDEN CITY BIRD SANCTUARY MEETINGS**

Efforts are under way to create a 5-acre sanctuary in Garden City. Meetings will be held at the public library, 60 Seventh St., at 7:30 P.M. on October 12th and November 2nd, coordinated by the Land Use Committee of the Village of Garden City Environmental Advisory Board. For further information, contact chairperson Robert M. Alvey at 326-1720.

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**BIRD SEED SAVINGS DAY**

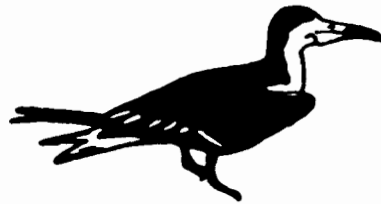
Our first Bird Seed Savings Day in our 25th year is Sunday, October 23, 1994, from 9:30 A.M. to 2:30 P.M. at Tackapausha Museum in Seaford. All preorders should be sent to Paul Butkerei by October 11th (see last month's *Skimmer* for the seed order form and bird feeder price list or contact Paul or Michael Sperling to get copies). *HELP IS NEEDED* to take orders, sell bird feeders, and carry seed around the parking lot. Call Paul at 623-0843 to volunteer.

**1994-1995 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

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

A CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY  
*Americans Committed to Conservation*



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