

DIGITAL ADVERTISING SIGNS PROPOSED

Michael Sperling

Clear Channel Outdoors, the world's largest outdoor advertising company, with nearly a million displays in 49 countries on five continents, submitted a proposal to Nassau County last April to add to its collection of almost 200,000 displays nationwide. The Nassau County Planning Commission endorsed the plan in September, but subsequently the County's Open Space and Parks Advisory Committee voted against it. SSAS's board opposes the plan, too, and asks you to write to your County Legislator to urge him/her to reject it.

The plan would place 65 digital LED (light-emitting diode) displays on Nassau County property, often at park entrances. Thirteen displays would be double-sided; 18 sides would be large, 30 medium, and 30 small (dimensions not provided). All would be on continuously and would show a static ad, typically for eight seconds, with each ad repeating every 64 seconds. "Sample locations" proposed by Clear Channel Outdoors include the Nassau County Correctional Center, Family Court, Juvenile Detention Center, Department of Public Works garages in Manhasset and Westbury, Hangar 7 at the Grumman property in Bethpage, Nassau County Museum of Art, Museum Row, Mitchel Field, Cantiague Park, Cedar Creek Park, Christopher Morley Park, Eisenhower Park (30 sides), Grant Park, Jericho Preserve, Leeds Pond Preserve entrance, Milburn Pond Park, Nickerson Beach, and Wantagh Park. The 20-year proposal would provide Nassau County with a minimum income of \$86 million and would include free benches, tables, and trash receptacles at the County's five largest parks; County access to Clear Channel's Times Square billboard to promote events; and use of the 65 displays for emergency alerts.

SSAS's board is especially opposed to installing advertising displays at parks, preserves, and other natural areas. If approved, they would set a precedent for towns and New York State agencies to do likewise.

PRESIDENTIAL QUOTATIONS

From *A Dictionary of Environmental Quotations*, compiled by Barbara K. Rodes and Rice Odell (published by Simon & Schuster, copyright 1992):

"Conservation and rural-life policies are really two sides of the same policy, and down at bottom this policy rests upon the fundamental law that neither man nor nation can prosper unless, in dealing with the present, thought is steadily taken for the future." — Theodore Roosevelt, *The Outlook*, August 27, 1910

"Here in the United States we turn our rivers and streams into sewers and dumping-grounds, we pollute the air, we destroy forests, and exterminate fishes, birds, and mammals — not to speak of vulgarizing charming landscapes with hideous advertisements. But at last it looks as

if our people were awakening." — Theodore Roosevelt, *The Outlook*, January 25, 1913

"By 1980 we will be self-sufficient and will not need to rely on foreign enemies ... uh, energy." — Richard M. Nixon, responding to the current gasoline shortage, 1973

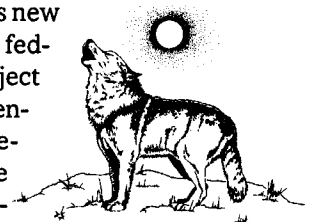
THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION'S LAST SHOTS AT THE ENVIRONMENT

Michael Sperling

Less than a week before this *Skimmer* went to press, the website of Time magazine (www.time.com) contained an article entitled "George W. Bush's Last Environmental Stand" that stated: "With less than three months remaining in office, the Bush Administration has proposed a flurry of last-minute changes that will likely weaken several of the nation's environmental protections — and could remain well into the next presidency." The proposals mentioned are the following:

Power Plant Pollution. Changing the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's rules regarding power plant modifications to allow an increase in total emitted pollutants if there was no maximum hourly emission rate increase.

Endangered Species Act. Virtually eliminating the role of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's scientists in reviewing development projects, such as new roads or mines (instead, the federal agency in charge of the project would evaluate its impact on endangered species). Also, removing the gray wolf in the northern Rockies from the Endangered Species List.



Water Quality. Reclassifying valley fills and other mining waste as nonpolluting, while extending the existing 100-foot buffer zone around streams so that it also covers lakes and wetlands. Also, ruling that over 15,000 factory farms can avoid Clean Water Act oversight if they state that they are complying with waste discharge rules.

"If you thought the first 100 days of the Bush Administration were bad, just wait and see what the last 100 could bring." — Democratic Representative Edward Markey, chairman of the Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming

BROOKSIDE PRESERVE'S FALL CLEANUP

SSAS's October 19th cleanup at chapter-managed Brookside Preserve had fine weather; an interesting assortment of garbage was collected and invasive species were pursued. We thank our volunteers — Jim Brown, Betsy Gulotta, Marilyn Hametz, Charles Krieg, Therese Lucas, Wendy Murbach, George Peters, Michael Sperling, Bill Youngfert, John Zarudsky, and Freeport Kiwanis club members Greg Abbate and Jim Kaimakides.

HOLIDAY PARTY AT TACKAPAUSHA

On **Saturday, December 13th**, from 1 to 3 P.M., SSAS will have its annual Holiday Party for children at Tackapausha Museum & Preserve on Washington Avenue in Seaford. Tickets are \$3 for adults and \$2 for children (ages 5 to 14; free for younger children), which are the normal museum admission prices. This includes a chance for attendees to make feeders for birds. At 2 P.M., a special guest will provide a live-animals program.

Halloween Thanks. A big thank you to all of the SSAS volunteers who helped out at our annual Halloween Party at Tackapausha: Ruth Aptacker, Alice Blaustein, Helen Buckley, Marilyn Hametz, Louise Leonard, Wendy Murbach, and Michael Sperling.

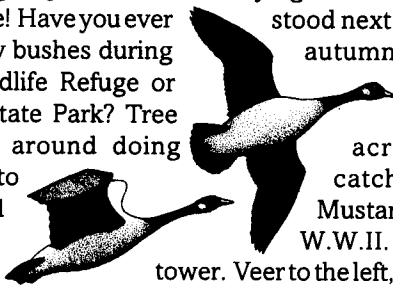
ROGER THAT; YOU CAN ENGAGE AUTOPILOT NOW

Jonathan Staller

I was gazing up towards the sky. It was a cool, cloudy morning. The autumn sun was trying to burn through the clouds. An American Robin flew by roughly 50 feet above me. Five minutes later, a Blue Jay came through about 25 feet higher than the robin. Are there highways in the skies for birds? Are there air traffic controllers who tell which birds can fly at what altitude? I actually enjoy watching birds just fly through, going wherever they're going and minding their own business. The crows fly even higher than the Blue Jays.

Of course, the birds come down to rest or to feed in the trees or shrubs. I enjoy those that start at one point and fly until you can't see them anymore. There goes an American Goldfinch; he sings every time he flaps his wings in mid-flight. They fly much lower than the robins, just above the treetops.

Flight is a necessity in most birds' lives. Red-tailed Hawks and other birds of prey are like soaring jumbo jets, circling, looking for an ideal spot to attack. Then there is the spring and fall migration. Honk, honk — did you hear that? High up in the clouds, flying in a vee formation, are geese! Have you ever stood next to a hedge of bayberry bushes during autumn at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge or Beach State Park? Tree Swallows, buzzing around doing acrobatic maneuvers to catch their prey like P-51 Mustangs dogfighting in control tower. Veer to the left, do you copy? **VEER To The LEFT!**"



I'm glad to be able to share with you another side of bird-watching and some of my experiences. Maybe you can be the control tower and watch them pass by. A bleep on the radar screen to many who don't understand, but to us — a beautiful bird of some type for our enjoyment and pleasure.

JOIN A CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT TEAM

SSAS President Wendy Murbach is the team leader for the Northern Nassau Christmas Bird Count (CBC) quadrant that is surveyed from Gerry Park in Roslyn to Garvies Point in Glen Cove. This CBC is run by North Shore and Huntington Audubon Societies (the Southern Nassau CBC is several decades older than SSAS and consequently is not organized by us). If you're interested in participating (for the usual CBC fee of \$5), contact Wendy at Wmrbch@aol.com or 546-6303.


The **Saturday, December 20** count will begin at 8 A.M. and continue through the day, but you can join it after lunch (ask for Wendy's cell phone number in order to locate her team).

 Phone: (516) 931-1445
 Fax: (516) 931-1467
 E-Mail: lgk1cpa@aol.com

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ANNUAL HOLIDAY PARTY (Sat., Dec. 6, 5–9 P.M.). Come to a fun informal party at historic air control tower on Floyd Bennett Field. Cost: \$45 incl. food & drink, wine, beer, plus entertainment (Flamenco and Exotic dancers) and "Ugly Auction."

NEW YEAR'S DAY BEACH WALKS (Thurs., Jan. 1). Start off the new year with a brisk walk on the beach. Sites include: Fort Tilden (Breezy Point) and Jones Beach (West End 2 parking lot) at 11 A.M.; Fire Island Lighthouse at 10 A.M.

MONTAUK WINTER WEEKEND (Jan. 9–11). Visit shorelines, walking dunes, bluffs, and woods during peak winter birding time. See scoters, loons, and seabirds galore. Cost: \$345 incl. 2 nights at luxurious Manor House, 5 full meals, 5 guided hikes, 2 evening programs, star watch, free pickup at LIRR station.

FLORIDA EVERGLADES (Feb. 21–28). Visit the best wildlife areas of S. Florida, incl. N. & S. Everglades, Big Cypress and Corkscrew Swamp Preserves, Ding Darling and Loxahatchee Refuges, Wakodahatchee Boardwalk, state parks, and more. Travel by van & see roseate spoonbill, bald eagle, purple gallinule, reddish egret, wood stork, Everglades kite, burrowing and barred owls, American crocodile, lots of gators, butterflies, maybe a bobcat or river otter. Cost: \$1,795 incl. airfare, lodging, breakfasts & lunches, van, gas, park fees & guides.

For information and free field trip brochure,
 call/write Don Riepe, (718) 318-9344, driepe@nyc.rr.com,
 28 West 9th Road, Broad Channel, NY 11693; www.alsnyc.org.

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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 COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

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- Joe Landesberg, Director (6/10) 536-4808
- Marilyn Hametz, Director (6/09) & Publicity 799-7189
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- James Remsen, Jr., Birdathon 631-957-0949
- Dolores Rogers, Welcoming 599-1224
- Mary Jane Russell, Hospitality 766-7397
- Michael Sperling, *Skimmer* Editor 221-3921

BECOME A MEMBER OF SSAS
Think Globally, but Join Locally!

Option 1. You can join SSAS for a year by sending \$15 payable to **South Shore Audubon Society** using the form below. Our address is P.O. Box 31, Freeport, NY 11520-0031.

Option 2. To join NAS and your all-volunteer local chapter, you can help SSAS survive NAS's major dues-share cutbacks by joining Audubon through us for the same price that it costs if you join through NAS (we get \$0 unless you join through us). Mail the form below and your check payable to **National Audubon Society** to SSAS at the address above. The special rate for the first year is \$20 per household; \$15 for students and seniors.

➔ **Renewing?** Please send NAS renewals directly to NAS (we now get \$0 for all NAS renewals).

Donations to SSAS are always welcome!



Yes, I'd like to join: SSAS only National Audubon too

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NO.: _____

E-MAIL: _____

Chapter Code R15 7XCH (South Shore Audubon Society)

