

SOUTH SHORE SKIMMER



VOLUME 18, No. 3 — SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

NOVEMBER 1987

NEWS FROM NAS

by Peter A.A. Berle

President, National Audubon Society

The decision of the Board of Directors at their May meeting to reduce Audubon field staff in order to meet budget goals generated a lot of confusion and turmoil. This was understandable, because we did not at the time have a workable plan for chapter liaison services, and Audubon's work on a regional basis. In addition we did not do a good job of communicating with chapter leaders. After a healthy internal debate, some positive results emerged.

First: The restructuring of field offices, while still painful, has not been as drastic as it seemed at first. We lost some valuable people, but we still have nine regional offices and four state offices. In some areas, chapters are helping with the fundraising to keep offices open.

Second: A board committee and an advisory group made up of chapter leaders developed a plan by which chapters will directly elect nine of the 36 board members. This is an important and complicated process that must be accomplished quickly this year. Your chapter leaders have been fully briefed on the process, and we hope all of you will participate.

Third: Any consideration of changing the way members are assigned to chapters or the formula by which chapters and National share dues will be deferred and will only take place (if at all) after the election of chapter-selected board members. This election will take place at the annual meeting, December 4, 1987.

Fourth: We have resolved to improve communications with Audubon. This column, prepared especially for chapter newsletters, is one part of that effort.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Betsy Gulotta

Election results are in, and the Northeast Region has a new representative to the National Audubon Society Board of Directors. B. Bartram Cadbury, from Maine, will begin his two year term in December. Mr. Cadbury has a long history serving Audubon; Director of the Audubon Camp in Maine for 12 years, member of the camp staff for 12 years, past president, director, and conservation chairman of Maine's Mid-Coast Audubon Society.

Although we are sorry that our own Jerry Bernstein did not win, I wish to thank him for his interest in being a candidate to serve in that capacity, and his efforts on behalf of the South Shore Audubon Society. There will always be future elections.

Some chapters across the country are still concerned about fair chapter representation on the NAS Board of Directors. One representative from each of the nine regions provides only nine out of 36 members. The Ohio Audubon Council has established a proxy campaign in order to elect up to 12 Directors for a three year term (legal under present by-laws, if enough members vote in person or by proxy).

Their slate of nominees include:
Wilma Anderson, Pres. Audubon Council of Texas
Edgar Burstow, III, MD N.J., past president, Atlantic Audubon Society.
Jan Burch, Neb., legislative coordinator for Nebraska Audubon Council
B.Bartram Cadbury, Maine (due to his election, most likely will be replaced)
Doris Falkenheimer, La., past president and director of Baton Rouge Audubon Society
John Gallagher, Ohio, treasurer Ohio Audubon Council
Myrt Jones, Al., president Mobile Audubon Soc.
Anita McFarland, Az., past president and director of Northern Arizona Audubon Soc.
V.Crane Wright, Wa., former director National Audubon Society
Jan Marsh, Wi., president Milwaukee Audubon Soc.

If you, as an Audubon member, agree with this philosophy, you may vote by signing the enclosed proxy form. Return the signed form to me immediately, as I must send them all to Ohio by Nov. 10. My address is 2 Anding Avenue, Merrick, N.Y. 11566.

MEETING

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 1987
FREEPORT MEMORIAL LIBRARY
Merrick Road and Grove Street, Freeport, N.Y.
8:00 P.M.

Subject: Guam, Costa Rica, and the Role of Zoos
Speaker: Mr. Frank Indiviglio

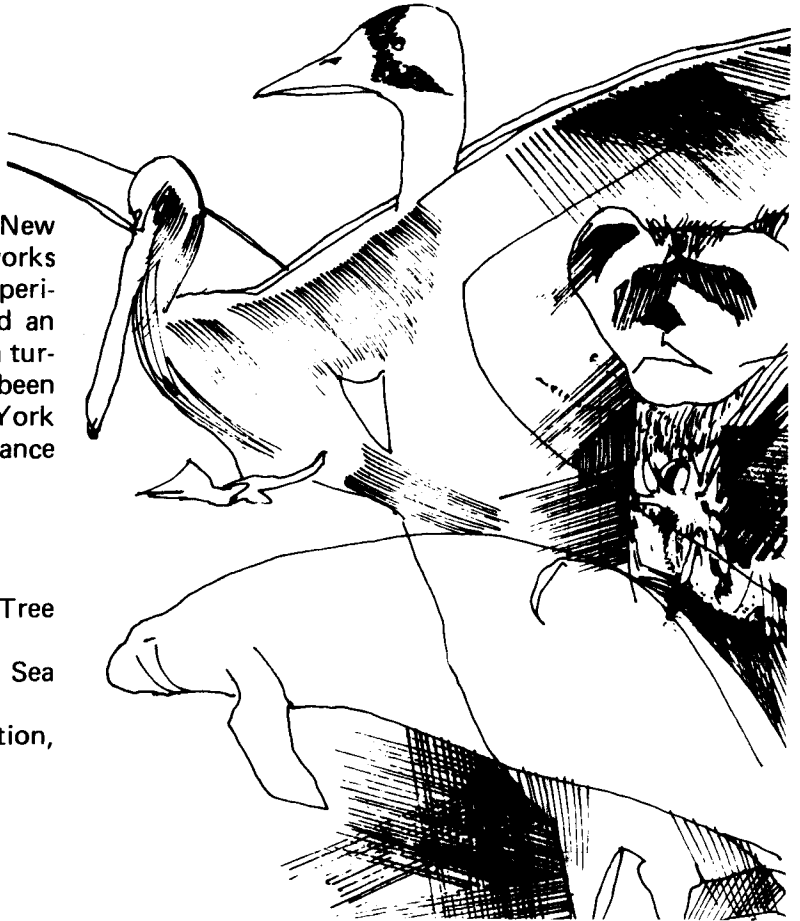
Mr. Frank Indiviglio is an animal keeper at the New York Zoological Park (Bronx Zoo). Presently, he works with birds and invertebrates. He has extensive experience with reptiles, mammals, and fish. He has led an expedition to Costa Rica to study nesting green sea turtles, collected reptiles in Western U.S.A., and has been a guest speaker on radio and T.V. He is New York State licensed for Wildlife Rehabilitator and Nuisance Wildlife Control.

Mr. Invigilio will discuss the following:

- Guam — Elimination of introduced Brown Tree Snakes to rescue avifauna.
- Costa Rica — Studies and tagging of Green Sea Turtles.
- Zoos — Their role in conservation, education, breeding programs and exhibits.

NEXT MEETING: DECEMBER 8, 1987
FREEPORT MEMORIAL LIBRARY
8:00 P.M.

Subject: Biology and Management of Black Ducks.



BIRD OF THE MONTH

NORTHERN PARULA WARBLER

Parula Americana



The active, chickadee like behavior of this tiny wood warbler as it forages in the foliage of high trees led to the name "parula", which means little titmouse.

A species that breeds in eastern and southern U.S., the Northern Parula is the only bird in that region with a yellow throat and blue back. The yellow-green spot in the middle of its back is also a unique field mark. The male has a black and reddish band across its breast. In the North, parulas weave nest cups into festoons of usnea lichen, 6 to 100 feet above the ground, while those in the South nest in Spanish moss. Four to five white eggs spotted with brown are incubated by the female for at least twelve days. Because parulas subsist entirely on insects and spiders, they winter from Florida to the Bahamas and from Mexico to Nicaragua.

CONSERVATION

Joan Butkerei, Conservation Chairperson. .623-0843

WETLANDS SAVED

CONGRATULATIONS Audubon members. We did it! Nassau County, in its new emphasis on land preservation, has agreed to repurchase the Freshwater Wetlands parcel in Freeport and establish a preserve to be kept forever wild. Everyone who wrote letters on this important issue should feel proud. It was the public outcry that stopped the developers from destroying this tiny, vital spot. We should thank County Executive Tom Gulotta for his new Open Space Preservation Program. An editorial in the newspaper "The Leader" of Oct. 1, 1987 stated that Nassau County "needs to preserve as many as possible of the undeveloped woods and meadows that provide fresh air and water and quiet places where Nature's creatures can live in peace and we can share that peace also."

CONCRETE VS. NATURE PRESERVE?

"A call to all friends of Nature Conservation on Long Island... Once more an emergency call must be sounded to save an important nature resource close to home — a last remaining part of Hempstead Plains."

You won't believe this, but that bulletin is 17 years old. Back in 1970 there was an all out effort to create a natural heritage preserve out of the remnants of the original 60,000 acre Hempstead Plains. That was before major roadways plowed through some of the best parts of the area, acres of parking lots were paved over for the Coliseum, or the Marriot Hotel was built. During all those years numerous proposals to protect "The Hempstead Plains Preserve" have been laid aside as the County pushed for the "Economic Growth of Mitchel Field." In all fairness we should state that a 16 acre parcel has been saved through an agreement with the County, The Nature Conservancy, and Nassau Community College. There is however, another 9 acre parcel just south of this area which is slated to be paved over for a parking field for the Marriott Hotel Expansion. These 9 acres are part of a 60 acre Preserve. It is a beautiful area, full of exquisite plants (221 species), among them Birdsfoot Violet, Butterfly Weed, Flowering Dogwood, Crabapple, and Bittersweet. These plants are protected in New York State. The impact statement of May 1987 lists the following animal species: Upland Plover, Grasshopper Sparrow, Short-eared Owl, Long-eared Owl, Savannah Sparrow, Ring-Necked Pheasant, Eastern Meadowlark, Mockingbird, Kestrel, Meadow Vole and Rabbit. Also recently seen have been the Barn Owl and Bobolink.

The Development is slated to include the construction of an additional 493 rooms, banquet areas, and office space called the "New Suite Hotel." All of this will occur on already paved areas. However, parking for 349 cars and the moving of a major access road, the James Doolittle Boulevard, will occur on approximately 9 acres of vacant Hempstead Plains leased from Nassau County. This vacant land is part of the Hempstead Plains Preserve and is located as Sec. 44, Block F. Lots 350/345. This agreement for expansion was made several years ago and has only been held up due to a building moratorium of the area because of water restrictions. However, this moratorium has just been lifted and plans are underway to complete the necessary zoning and environmental hearings early in December in order to proceed with this development.

South Shore Audubon strongly feels that this development should not be permitted to usurp this land which is a vital water recharge area, as well as an important part of the Hempstead Plains Preserve. This area, is the only part of the remaining Plains to contain soil that is original Hempstead Loam. This is an **Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Natural Resources**. It is vital that this land should remain in the Nassau County Preserve System. The County's own "Final Generic Environmental Impact Statement" of 1984 stated that this parcel has "a high priority for establishment of a Hempstead Plains Preserve; ground water recharge area and greenbelt area."

Letters are needed from those of you who wish to help. These letters should be addressed to the persons listed below and should begin by stating "Please include this letter as part of the hearing record for the Marriott Hotel Expansion." Copies of your letters should be sent to South Shore Audubon Society, P.O. Box 31, Freeport, New York 11520.

Here are the addresses:

Presiding Supervisor Joseph Mondello
Town Hall, Town of Hempstead
Hempstead, N.Y. 11550

Thomas Gulotta
Nassau County Executive
County Executive Building
1 West Street
Mineola, N.Y. 11501

Mr. Gino Aiello, Commissioner
Dept. of Conservation & Waterways
Lido Boulevard, P.O. Box J
Point Lookout, N.Y. 11569

**YOUR LETTERS ARE NEEDED TO SAVE
THIS NATURAL HERITAGE!!**

SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON CLEAN AIR CAMPAIGN UPDATE

This past summer, several members of SSAS participated in a letter writing campaign to Congressman Norman Lent to express concern about clean air and to urge him into supporting strong clean air legislation. Lent acknowledged these letters but was negative about leading the House in efforts to pass tough clean air legislation this year. Thanks to all of you who wrote. This was an important first step in SSAS's Clean Air Campaign and there is more in the works! During the first week in October the National Clean Air Coalition brought together various groups with the hope of planting the seed for a "Long Island Clean Air Coalition." The newly budding L.I.C.A.C. would like to expand its base to include other groups who would have a natural interest in clean air and acid rain, such as physicians and veterinarians, joggers and other outdoor enthusiasts, fishermen, biologists, teachers, and children. Once all these interested parties are gathered together, an important next step will be to learn as much about the issues as possible. A Clean Air Education Committee Workshop is in the works. In addition to working with the L.I.C.A.C., the Conservation Committee would like to gather interested South Shore Audubon members to sign a petition and pay a visit to Congressman Lent. Expect more specific information in upcoming newsletters. If you are interested in learning more about acid rain and ozone depletion, the education workshop will be open to South Shore Audubon members. If you are interested or have thoughts about SSAS's Clean Air Campaign, please call Chiara Nuzzo at 516-486-4723.

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY PRIORITY ISSUES

National Audubon Society has identified five high priority issues for intense and immediate focus:

- Safeguard the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, which is under threat of oil development.
- Conserve ancient, virgin forests, especially in the Northwest, where they are rapidly disappearing.
- Preserve wetlands, which this country continues to lose at a rate estimated to be 450,000 acres per year.
- Fight the spread of toxics, including acid rain.
- Protect the Platte River ecosystem in Central Nebraska, home to many species and migratory habitat for sandhill and whooping cranes.

Of course, National Audubon Society will continue to work on the dozens of other important issues, but these five are being attacked in coordinated campaigns that involve every facet of the Society as well as the grassroots membership.



SEABIRDS ADD NUTRIENTS TO TROPICAL ESTUARIES

Audubon research on seabirds just yielded a breakthrough advance in the esoteric field of nutrient cycling in tropical estuaries. Dr. George Powell, working in Florida Bay at Audubon's field research center in Tavernier, discovered that seabird excretions influence the type and density of marine plants growing in Florida Bay's shallow waters.

Scientists have labored a long time to identify the role that nutrients play in estuaries. Marine plants form the base of major food chains in these bodies of water, in addition to serving as a primary source of protection and support for fish and invertebrates. Powell carried out an ingenious set of experiments that took advantage of double-crested cormorants' and royal terns' natural penchant for sitting on pilings and navigation markers. Powell constructed two types of artificial stakes: one like the navigation markers, on which the birds could perch; the other too small for birds to land on. After a year he returned to see what effects the accumulated guano had on plants beneath the stakes.

Dense grass surrounded the stakes that the birds used as perches. Additionally Powell observed around the bird stakes a grass that was rare except where the birds had been roosting. His analysis of grass nutrient content showed that it was enriched by phosphorous from the guano.

These results reveal that nutrients limit seagrass growth in Florida Bay. This contrasts with what happens in more temperate waters, where nutrients are not the critical limiting factor. Powell's results have important implications for conservation management because they reveal that small changes Florida Bay's nutrient balance, either through removal or addition, will have a pronounced impact on the habitat. If nutrient flow is cut off by channelization, as happening in Florida Bay, seagrass growth will decline. This will likely be followed by a decrease in wildlife that depends upon marine vegetation in the bay. At the other end of the spectrum, dumping excess nutrients into these waters may affect the species composition of grasses and induce dramatic changes through over-enrichment. This study alerts us to the delicate ecological balance prevailing in tropical estuaries.

EDUCATION NEWS

Rose Ermidis, Education Chairperson 785-6028

AUDUBON ADVENTURES is the publication of The National Audubon Society for children in grades 3 to 6. This splendid publication is issued bi-monthly. Environmental concerns are communicated to the youngsters and their teachers in a delightful yet serious tone. Each issue emphasizes a special theme. Teachers receive an informative Leaders Guide to further extend learning.

Last year South Shore Audubon sponsored 50 classes. This year we are aiming to double that number. We will begin with 40 classes. The cost, to the chapter, has risen from \$20.00 to \$25.00 per class subscription. Actual cost is higher for National Audubon. Please help us underwrite the cost of subscriptions for this worthy project. We should like to see as many classes as possible enjoying this informative publication. Healthy hearts develop in a healthy environment. Informed citizens will understand their responsibility to maintain, change, and improve the world that our children will inherit. Children who grow up knowing the dangers and assets of maintaining a functioning environment will want to preserve their inheritance.

Does your school district know about Audubon Adventures? Currently Audubon Adventures are in the following schools:

E. Rockaway: Waverly Park School
Farmingdale: East Memorial School
Freeport: Bayview Ave. and Atkinson Ave. Schools
Hicksville: Woodland Avenue School
Levittown: Seaman Neck, Carpenter Avenue, and Gallow Lane Schools
Merrick: Camp Avenue School
Lindenhurst: Albany Avenue School
Massapequa: Fairfield School
Manhasset: Munsey Park School
Oceanside: Boardman, Oceanside, and Fulton Avenue Schools
Lynbrook: Davison Avenue School
Wantagh: Wantagh and Forest Lake Schools
Floral Park Public Library
Garden City Public Library

We will be grateful for your help in sponsoring these and additional classes. You may help by sending a complete subscription at \$25.00 or any part of that amount. Your contribution will help to insure a better world for the youth of our country. In this year of our Constitution, let us pass on an inheritance of informed responsibility. Thank you.

MEMBERSHIP

Marion Yavarkovsky, Chairperson 223-1365

NEW MEMBERS

New members! Come on down and join us! We have meetings! We have activities! We have walks! So now that we have your names, show us your faces. We would love to meet you.

Baldwin Elizabeth Cava, Denise Bisogui, Mrs. John Maxwell, Martin and Rita Press
Bellmore Mrs. W.J. Alberico, Rita Eilenberg, Dolores Hofman, James H. Leach, Ms. P. Loughran, Mrs. Lorraine Myers, Mel Springer, R. Wulff
Brooklyn Bob Baum
Cedarhurst Fred Mandelbaum, Miss M.E. Raftery
E. Meadow Charles Bedford, H. Deutsch,
Elmont Mindy Hersh, Jan Kwartowitz
Farmingdale Mrs. Joan Breiding, Dr. Charles Fishman, Jan Hubar, Mrs. John Mace, John Nelson, Andrew Petti, Mrs Frank Valenti
Floral Park Ms. Roberta Flatow, David Riker
Franklin Sq. Anthony Farah, Kathy Musgrave, Mrs. Phylliss Panteleo, Mrs. K. Schubach
Freeport Miss F. Garnier, James Reed, Jay Stewart
Garden City Elliot Brennan, Dr. Becker, Claire Kamp, William Kelly, John Miller
Great Neck Linda Ormaont
Hempstead Ms. Deb Barnard, James Kelly, A. Kritzer, Miss Dora Papa, Marta Pedzik, Noga Shapiro, J. Van Scotter
Hicksville Ubaldo Gonzalez, P. Heckler, Sheila Linquist, Frieda McInerney, Sharon Seltenright, Joseph Smith
Levittown Patricia LeBlanc, Miss Susan Staskewicz
Long Beach Herbert Kagel, Annette Napier, Jackie Rubin, Michael Sidorowicz, Steven Welsher
Lynbrook Sol Rosenbaum
Massapequa Ms. Catherine Collado, A. Frohman, Donald Houser, Susan Lane, Albert Molinari, Ms. Dianne Molter, Irene Mueck
Massapequa Pk Mrs. Charles Birck, J. Robbins
Merrick Mrs. Pamela Clark, Howard Cohn, D. Dramer, Evan Dribbon DVM, S. Hennessy, Mark Marturano, Thomas Ocera, Barry Rosenberg, Pam Stanaslofsky, Joseph Whalen
Oceanside Miss Rose Jennings
Plainview E. Braglia, Gary Curtin, Kerriann Flanagan, Sara Vorwald
Pt. Lookout Tracy Aigner, Thomas Burchell
Rockville Ctr Mrs. William Ashley, Paula Comans, William Faraday, Nina Horenstein, Bert Leffert, Albert Power, Ira Stahl
Roosevelt Joan Stewart
Seaford Mrs. Tcelia Lizotte, S. Olsen
Syosset Charles Bevilacqua
Uniondale L. Samson, Ronald Strothkamp
Valley Stream Debra Bauer, D. Bleekman, Joseph Green
W. Hempstead June Hoffelder, Michael Rocca, Bonnie Silverman
Wantagh Robert Lyons, Marlucci Martins, John Russell, Mrs. Leroy Westervelt
Woodmere Carol Harvey

BIRD WALKS

Elliot Kutner, Chairperson516 486-7667

All walks start at 9:30 A.M.
No walks if it rains, snows, or temperature
is 25° F or below.

- Nov. 1 West End No. 2, N.E. Corner, Jones Beach
- 8 J.F. Kennedy Sanctuary, Tobay Beach
- 15 West End No. 2, N.E. Corner, Jones Beach
- 22 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- 29 Pelham Bay Park (Meet on Service Road after going through Throgs Neck Bridge Toll Plaza, 9:00 A.M.)
- Dec. 6 Hempstead Lake State Park (Penninsula Blvd. Parking Lot)
- 13 Zach's Bay, Jones Beach, Field No. 4, N.E. Corner
- 20 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- 27 No Walk

RARE BIRD ALERT
212-832-6523

**1987-1988 SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY
OFFICERS, DIRECTORS,
AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS**

- Betsy Gulotta, President 546-8841
- Joseph Grupp, Vice President 481-4208
- Louise Halpern, Recording Secretary 546-6147
- Malcolm Marum, Treasurer 752-0396
- Ruth Grossman, Corresponding Secretary 378-8809
- George Appoldt, Director 678-4964
- Arthur Atlas, Director 223-2327
- Ann McIntyre, Director 379-2206
- Lois Schlegel, Director 822-1546
- James Browne, Director & Preserve Chairperson 889-9330
- Evelyn Blume, Director & Trip Chairperson 378-7122
- Joan Butkereit, Conservation Chairperson 623-0843
- Paul Butkereit, Bird Seed Sales 623-0843
- Rose Ermidis, Education Chairperson 785-6028
- Elliot Kutner, Birding Chairperson 486-7667
- Marion Yavarkovsky, Membership Chairperson 379-2090
- Jack McLoughlin, Publicity Chairperson 889-8092
- Len Gordon, Program Chairperson 223-1365
- James Remsen, Youth Representative 764-5168
- Bill Herzog, Binocular & Book Sales(7-9 PM) 791-7886
- Myrna Brier, Hospitality Chairperson 764-7523
- Frieda Malament, Holiday Parties 795-5842
- Jerry Bernstein, Skimmer Editor 623-8255



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A CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
Americans Committed to Conservation