

VOLUME 25, NUMBER 5 — SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

FEBRUARY 1995

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Carole A. Adams

Here it is February 1995 and by now most of us have forgotten our New Year's resolutions. For some, cabin fever is setting in and thoughts of spring are surfacing every now and then as we hope for mild weather for "Bird-walking Sundays." This is a great time for reflection and planning.

It was not so very long ago that I was concerned about my first President's Message. Since that time, I've attended a Northeast Region Meeting, New York Council Meeting, and National Convention; chaired five SSAS board meetings; and attended meetings of the SSAS Planning Committee, Brookside Preserve Committee, South Shore Estuary Technical Advisory Committee, and SSAS 25th Anniversary Committee. It's been a very busy five months and I've noticed a trend. Of the almost 2000 members of SSAS, the same names appear on committee after committee, at meetings and on bird walks. What I've also realized is this trend is just as obvious at the state level, the regional level, and the national level. Remember my reference to make things happen, watch things happen, and wonder what happened? Well, opportunity is knocking — better make that pounding. We have new leadership for our state and a new Congress for our nation. The issues have neither gone away nor changed. The Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Safe Drinking Water Act are only three of the major environmental concerns. Now is the time to make your move. If you're a make things happen person, keep up the terrific work; don't get discouraged, help is on the way.

For you watch things happen people, get in there. I just told the make things happen people that help is on the way. Get more involved. Join the Armchair Activist program your only costs are your time (your most valuable commodity), stationery, and postage. Got some time but fall short on stationery and postage? Let us know; we can certainly help with the mailing [Armchair Activists in New York State receive info on one issue each month, a sample letter, and a request to write letters; call Betty Borowsky to join]. Now that I've got you psyched up, open the door of opportunity by

NEXT MEETING

Sandy Brenner

DATE:

Tuesday, February 14, 1995

TIME:

8:00 P.M. ② ♥

PLACE:

Freeport Memorial Library Merrick Rd. & S. Ocean Ave.

SPEAKER: Evan C. Dribbon

TOPIC:

Bald Eagles of the Chilkat River Valley

Evan Dribbon is a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine at the South Shore Animal Hospital in Wantagh, where sick and injured wildlife have been treated for many years. He teaches nature photography in the continuing education program at Hofstra University and presents slide programs to elementary school children (to introduce them to the wonders of the natural world).

This slide program will explore every facet of the life of Bald Eagles in the Chilkat area of southeastern Alaska. Evan will show these magnificent birds in flight, roosting, and in a variety of feeding behaviors, and will discuss the fragile ecosystem of the area.

IN ORDER TO MINIMIZE WASTE, PLEASE BRING COFFEE MUGS TO OUR MEETINGS

getting actively involved with the Endangered Species Coalition Medicine Bottle Campaign (see inside). You can get your preprinted stickers at the next SSAS meeting or bird walk, or by calling Mary Jane Russell, Betty Borowsky, or me. Have some fun and help get a very serious message across — the Endangered Species Act is important for your good health and for the good health of our environment.

Now, for those of you who are what happened? people: Aren't you just the least bit jealous? Just think, you've taken a first step. In all probability, you are a member of SSAS, and you're reading this newsletter, so you are obviously a caring and intelligent person. Finish reading your Skimmer and make a phone call to get on SSAS's Armchair Activist mailing list. After all, you are part of a make things happen Audubon chapter.

Speaking of chapters, SSAS's 25th Anniversary dinner isn't too far off. Everyone is more than welcome to join us. Twenty dollars gets you an evening of great food, sensational door prizes, a fantastic display of photographs from SSAS activities, and a chance to see a fun slide show about SSAS over the past 25 years. Who knows, you might see your own picture. Mark your calendar (June 13th) and look in future Skimmers for the reservation form; sign up for a casual dress-up evening of pure fun and enjoyment, with everyone taking home a gift, at the site of our traditional annual dinners, Pompei Restaurant in West Hempstead.

I've only shared the fringes of SSAS past and SSAS future, so stay tuned — there is much, much more to come, including a college scholarship, the Birdathon, the 25th anniversary of Earth Day in April, and cleanups and walks at Cow Meadow and Brookside Preserves.

P.S.: Thanks again to Marge, Diane, Judy, Kari Sioux, Roger, Evelyn, Jenn, Connie, Jonathan, Caroline, Alice, Betty, Dick, and Betsy for making the Tackapausha Holiday Party such a great success. Every year just gets better and better! Kids of all ages used up more than 20 pounds of peanut butter mix and birdseed to cover pine cones for our feathered and furry friends. Cranberries and popcorn were strung, games were played, and our friends at T.R. Sanctuary provided us with two terrific educational programs about birds. The volunteers from Tackapausha and SSAS truly deserve a standing ovation. Without them, this event never would have happened. See you out there on the bird walks.

ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEY RESULTS

Last spring, 1005 adults were surveyed by phone (with a 3% margin of error) by Roper Starch Worldwide in the third annual National Environmental Forum Survey commissioned by Times Mirror Magazines. Five of the results, printed below, appeared in the December 1994 issue of Audubon Activist, an 8-page free newspaper published nine times per year by National Audubon Society. To subscribe, send your membership number (from your Audubon magazine mailing label) and a pledge to write two letters and make two phone calls a year on behalf of the environment to Audubon Activist, 700 Broadway, New York, NY 10003.

Can environmental protection and economic development go hand in hand? 66% said yes, 25% no, and 10% didn't know.

How far have environmental laws and regulations gone? 53% chose not far enough, 23% chose right balance, and 16% chose too far.

Federal spending should be shifted to environmental programs from other areas. 63% agreed, 30% disagreed.

How do you classify yourself in terms of environmentalism? 79% chose active or sympathetic, 16% chose neutral, and 2% chose unsympathetic.

How much do personal efforts to benefit the environment make a difference? 90% chose make a difference (large or small), 8% chose no difference, and 2% didn't know.

ENDANGERED SPECIES COALITION MEDICINE BOTTLE CAMPAIGN

The Endangered Species Act keeps us healthy by safeguarding many of the species we rely upon to fight lifethreatening diseases.

Now, we can voice our concern for the health of ourselves and the environment. Join people everywhere who are sending empty prescription bottles to their elected officials. Each bottle carries the message that we want the Endangered Species Act strengthened to safeguard the plants and other species that protect the health of ourselves and our children.

The Facts. Many of today's most important medicines, as well as the foundation for research into future cures, come from a full range of species from the forests to the oceans. Nearly one quarter of the prescriptions distributed in the U.S. are based on substances derived from nature. The chemical treasury of nature is literally disappearing before we have the opportunity to assess it. If we protect nature, nature will protect us.

How it Works. Free preprinted stickers and directions are available via SSAS (see p. 1) from the Endangered Species Coalition. After adding the name of your Congressman, either Senator, or President Clinton to the message on the sticker, affix it to an empty medicine bottle and give the bottles to SSAS for mailing, or mail them yourself to the Coalition (for bulk delivery to Clinton), House, or Senate.

BRONX ZOO TRIP 4

On Saturday, April 1st, SSAS will once again be visiting the Bronx Zoo, thanks to arrangements made by Diane Singer and Evelyn Blume. Because the zoo is nearby, we decided to use a school bus for transportation, which reduces the cost to \$9 per person — less than the cost of tolls and parking if you go alone. The zoo has agreed to charge us a reduced entrance fee of \$2.50 per person (\$1 for seniors).

The bus will leave from the Merrick Road Park Golf Course parking lot in Merrick at 8:30 A.M. and leave the zoo at 3:15 P.M. We will be led on morning and afternoon tours by docents. Bring lunch with you or buy fast-food zoo cuisine.

Checks for \$9 made out to South Shore Audubon Society should be received before March 1, 1995 (in the unlikely event that we don't have enough people signed up by then, the trip will be canceled, since SSAS doesn't subsidize bus trips). Please send checks to Diane Singer, 118 Kent Road, Valley Stream, NY 11580 and include the following form:

NAME:	
ADDRESS:	<u>_</u>
PHONE NUMBER:	
NUMBER OF PEOPLE:	
AMOUNT ENCLOSED:	·

THE CONTRACT WITH AMERICA

Elizabeth Raisbeck

[Editor's Note: A letter written by Liz Raisbeck, National Audubon Society's Senior Vice President for Regional and Government Affairs, was sent to chapter presidents, conservation chairs, and editors in early January. The letter ends by urging chapters to take immediate action in response to the environmental provisions in the Contract with America and to plan effective Earth Day celebrations. In case Carole's President's Message (written prior to our receipt of this letter) didn't inspire you to become more vocal and sign up as an Armchair Activist, I'm reprinting the first half of Liz's letter, which sketches what's on the horizon.]

Most of America is aware that a political revolution of great import happened in November, but few are aware of the implications for the environment.

I do not exaggerate when I say that some provisions in the Contract with America, produced by the new Congressional leadership, would dismantle the environmental protection framework of national legislation and federal programs built over the last 25 years. Some of the proposals in the Contract are truly revolutionary, and the new Congressional leadership is coupling it with proposals for massive budget cuts that are very likely to cripple vitally important federal programs such as enforcement of pollution laws, listing of species under the Endangered Species Act, and habitat acquisition. Perhaps the most revolutionary aspect of the proposals is a radical change in the individual's relationship to his/her private property and the government's rights and obligations to provide community safeguards to each of us.

When the 104th Congress convenes January 4, we can expect a flood of Republican-led initiatives to fulfill their goals in the Contract with America in 100 days. Time is very short. The new Republican leadership is very disciplined, and we can expect much faster action on legislation than we have seen in recent Congresses. Among those first out of the gate will be legislation to prohibit unfunded mandates by the federal government and some kind of rescission (withdrawal of dollars already allocated) legislation that could prohibit funding for programs that are due for reauthorization, such as the National Biological Survey, the Endangered Species Act, and the Clean Water Act. There may be a bill to put a moratorium on all environmental regulations, anywhere from 100 days to two years. The Contract will be enacted into law through 10 different bills. When one of those, the Job Creation and Wage Enhancement Act, is dropped in, its provisions will change our historical interpretation of property rights under the Fifth Amendment of the Constitution.

Never has a greater challenge to environmental protection surfaced in this country, not even in the days of Interior Secretary James Watt and EPA Administrator Ann Gorsuch. Our early Hill visits tell us that few House members are aware of what is actually in the massive fine print in the Contract. As knowledgeable and committed environmentalists, our chapters provide a critically important citizens'

voice to tell our elected representatives that the Contract is unacceptable and harmful to us and to our children and grandchildren.



The National Audubon Society is calling on all of our chapters and our larger membership to sound the alarm to the media and to elected officials about the threats posed to the environment in this Contract. If this Contract, as embodied in the Job Creation and Wage Enhancement Act, is enacted by Congress, we can expect the following:

- Any person whose private property values are reduced by more than 10 percent due to government regulation has an entitlement to be paid the lost value by the federal government.
- State and local governments would no longer have to comply with federal laws or regulations under the Clean Water Act, the Clean Air Act, or the Endangered Species Act, unless the federal government pays in full for the incurred costs (so-called unfunded mandates). While this may seem reasonable on its face, the fact is these costs are largely exaggerated, and exemptions for complying with many regulations have long been granted local governments. The proposals in the Contract for fixing this problem will not help municipalities and state government meet their obligations to provide clean water, clean air, and a safe community.
- Polluters would be relieved of the obligation to pay for their pollution either under the new property rights provisions, or through a new set of regulatory requirements that would allow polluters easy access to the courts to stop governments from enforcing the law.

What You Can Do. We ask every chapter to organize a special effort to alert the media and your elected officials to the dangers inherent in the Contract with America and the budget reduction proposals. Our January Letter-of-the-Month to the Armchair Activist network will feature the Job Creation and Wage Enhancement Act and its proposals to radically redefine property rights and release local and state governments from their obligations to provide a clean and healthy community for their citizens.

[Another Editor's Note: Just in case you think that both of your U.S. Senators and your Congressman are inclined to vote on our side and don't need to hear from you, here's the official scores for 1993–94 from the League of Conservation Voters, based on 13 Senate items or 26 House items — Daniel P. Moynihan 83% (80% in 1991–92), Alfonse D'Amato 10% (down from 49% in 1991–92), Peter King 26%, and the defeated David Levy 26%. Congressmen King and Levy were rookies last session; the three other Long Island Congressmen, whose districts are outside SSAS territory, scored 72% (George Hochbrueckner, who lost), 52% (Rick Lazio, another rookie Republican), and 76% (Democrat Gary Ackerman). Of New York's 31 Congressmen, 24 scored higher than our pair; the state average was 63.]

AUDUBON ACTIONLINE (800) 659-2622

CONSERVATION REPORT The Expensive American

Betty Borowsky

Americans are expensive to keep. Per capita, Americans use up more nonrenewable resources and produce more nondegradable wastes than any other people in the world. Until recently, we didn't notice this too much, since we had an abundant supply of natural resources and plenty of space to get rid of our wastes. Now we're beginning to worry. It turns out that nondegradable wastes are not neutral. It turns out that even if you dump garbage in one spot, far away, and call these spots sanitary landfills, the garbage will come back to haunt you.

There are three landfills on the shores of Jamaica Bay. These landfills were thought to be a nifty idea for discarding local wastes. First of all, Jamaica Bay was a useless tract of land; it was just filled with marsh grasses and diluted seawater. We could certainly dump things there and nobody would care. We would even improve things by converting the marsh to dry land. Second, Jamaica Bay was so large that it would never be filled in completely. Finally, whatever was filled in could be used for new homes and businesses.

Well, of course, planners were wrong on all counts. Jamaica Bay and, indeed, all estuaries, are the foci of riverine and marine ecosystems; they are the most productive places in the world and serve as the nurseries for numerous commercially important fresh- and saltwater fish and invertebrates. A lot of damage was done to striped bass, oyster, clam, and other commercial fishery operations by tampering with the bay's habitat (this was done not only by landfills, but by dredging to permit larger vessels to pass through the bay). In addition to reducing the salt marsh areas, the landfills have introduced toxic substances to the bay. If you go by the Pennsylvania Landfill, which is right off the Pennsylvania Avenue exit of the Belt Parkway, and open your window, you will be assailed by the odor of diesel fuels and kerosene. If you walk out on the marsh at low tide, you will see oil oozing out of the sands and washing into the bay. Sometimes you can see a moiré sheen on the water from oil seepage. That's what you can see. We know that there is actually a witch's brew of toxic substances leaching into the bay - in the early years there was absolutely no control of what was dumped there.

New York City has stopped dumping at Jamaica Bay landfills and has given up on constructing new homes and businesses there. The City is devising other methods of waste disposal, including incineration. The point here is that there is no good way to discard the wastes that are produced in the New York metropolitan area.

The key is to reduce the amount of wastes that have to be discarded. This can be done several ways and they are not mutually exclusive. First, don't create so much waste. Tell me why you have to put a single grapefruit on a paper tray and wrap the whole thing in plastic (I've seen this, I swear). Why do you have to provide bags at grocery stores (they don't do

that in Europe)? Second, reuse the wastes that are produced. Recycle. I note with absolute astonishment that the recycling plan (which has met with remarkable compliance in NYC and elsewhere) is threatened with budgetary cuts — even though recycled materials pay for the program! Finally, we wouldn't have so much waste if there weren't so many people creating it. This is the fundamental problem. We are overcrowded — and the population is growing.

World leaders are increasingly concerned with population growth; witness the international conference on this topic some months ago. Future articles will address this issue in more detail.

VACATIONING ON HOG ISLAND: AUDUBON CAMP IN MAINE

Jonathan Staller

It was mid-July of 1994 and I arrived at LaGuardia Airport at 8:00 A.M. for an 8:59 flight to Portland, Maine. The airplane, which had a propeller on each wing and sat only 24 passengers, took off on time. Getting off the plane and feeling a little shaky (it was a bumpy flight), I found my ride to the town of Damariscotta. From there, I would meet the Audubon counselors and they would bring me to the camp.

Hog Island, which is one of many Audubon camps throughout the U.S., is really fantastic. The island is located 1/4 mile off the coast of Maine in Muscongus Bay. It has rocky shores surrounding it and is made up of a mixture of red and white spruce forests, northern bayberry bushes, and an assortment of ferns, lichens, mosses, fungi, and mushrooms. The smell of the ocean salt spray and the evergreens mixed together is wonderful.

After unpacking my belongings in my room, which was very rustic looking, I went for a hike around part of the island. There were many red squirrels, which later kept me up all night. I also saw Dark-eyed Juncos, an Osprey, Song Sparrows, Black-backed Gulls, and Common Terns.

The next morning, I went on a 7:00 bird walk before breakfast, led by one of the birding counselors. He taught us the songs of the Pine Siskin, Winter Wren, Black-throated Green Warbler (which I later saw), and of course the Osprey. There are three Osprey nests on the island; one of them was close to my room.

After breakfast, I went on a boat cruise with the other campers and counselors on a tour of Muscongus Bay. There

we found harbor seals

the rocks along the

basking in the sun on shores of the other islands of the bay. We also saw Common Loons [pictured] in their summer mating plumage, Common Eiders, Black Guillemots, and Common

Ravens. That night, we played volleyball in a court that's located in the middle of spruce forest.

The next day, I did something that I don't recommend to most people. I jumped into the cold, chilly, freezing waters of the bay. As fast as I jumped in, I flew out!! I'm telling you, my heart stopped beating and I couldn't breathe. The counselors were laughing.

Later on, we went back to the mainland of Maine, to a town called Medomak. Here we saw two Virginia Rails, Purple Finches, Cliff Swallows, an Iceland Gull by itself, a Rubythroated Hummingbird, American Goldfinches and Redstarts, Pine Siskins, a Red-eyed Vireo, and a Marsh Wren.

The next day, we went on a day trip by boat to Eastern Egg Rock island. This is a home of the National Audubon Society's Puffin Project. There I saw Atlantic Puffins in summer mating plumage, and Arctic, Roseate, and Common Terns. I also spotted a harbor porpoise in the water.

Another island we saw is called Wreck Island. Here there's a Great Blue Heron colony nesting in the trees. There's also a Bald Eagle nest, which had a pair of eagles sitting in it.

The last night of the camp, everybody got a diploma. I also received an award for spotting organisms from jellyfish to eagles and porpoises to Ospreys. Thanks, SSAS.

Marion Yavarkovsky

1995 has started off with a bang — 110 new members. We welcome you to SSAS. It is our hope that you will all become actively involved in our chapter. Join our Sunday bird walks and monthly meetings. We are certain you will feel right at home. [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 p.m., Monday through Friday.]

Atlantic Beach	Patricia Roth
Baldwin	Lynn Bammann, Mr. Lawrence C.
0-0	Buck, Charles Fisher, Susan A.
0.0	Glaser, Nancy Murphy, Kumkum
	Prabhakar, Howard C. Smith
Bay Shore	Phyllis Oder
Bellmore	Mr. Gene Candreva, Jr.; Doris
	Dennis; Mr. Joseph Lupo; Selig &
	Selig; Matthew Spinelli
Bethpage	Patricia T. Maurin,
	Debra E. Rizzieri-Mullen
Cedarhurst	William Cohen
East Meadow	Ms. Grace Lobelia,
	Mr. Michael P. O'Leary
Elmont	Emily DeMaria, Mr. Joseph M.
	O'Leary, Mrs. Helene M. Schneider
Farmingdale	Mrs. M. Acker, Lucille Carola,
	Christopher Dinas, Robert J. Krapp,
	Roger P. Maier
Floral Park	F. Kaupp, Daniella Labate,
	Kathy MacTiernan

Franklin Square	Paul Borgwald, Frank Gonzalez III, Jeffrey Maye, B Sheil	
Freeport	Mrs. Pearl Bauer, Steven Cattano,	
	Jessica Soderberg,	
Gorden City	Mildred B. Thayer John & Vera Aloia; Mr. M. Kay;	
Garden City	Anne M. G. Kilbourn;	
	Mr. James B. Wallace, Jr.	
Hempstead	Mr. Harold Borton, Mr. & Mrs.	
110111po1044	George Greller, Jeannette Miller,	
	Maureen More, Ginny Pergola	
Hewlett	Mrs. F. Glass, Mary Lee Morris	
Hicksville	John J. Dietl, Donald Lasurdo,	
	John Young	
Levittown	Mrs. Oswald L. Brett, Constance	
	Chapman, Adak Foy, Wendy J. Loss,	
	? Moisa	
•	Ge M. Chu, Jack Phillips	
Lynbrook	Mary V. Donohue,	
	J. M. Schwarzenbach	
	Ms. Patricia E. Gallagher	
Massapequa	Mr. & Mrs. M. T. Komornik, Mr.	
	Robert D. Montario, V. Geraldine	
	Pelle, Mr. Jaime A. Rojas	
Massapequa Park		
Merrick	S. Carroll (Sacred Heart School);	
	John T. Clement; James Conway;	
	Eleanor Fay; Peter D. Field, Sr.; John J. Norton; Mr. Jalma Olson;	
54	Judith Sussman	
Oceanside	Lisa Bedziner; Bert Forman; Charles	
C A	W. Howkins, Jr.; Klaus Jager;	
	Carl Lamm; Harold P. Smith;	
713.7	Judy Thoresom	
Plainview	Florence Cogan, Richard	
	Kranglewitz, Rhonda Prensky	
Point Lookout	S. Cunningh	
Rockville Centre	Christopher Cioffi, Sue Ennis, R.	
(ô)	Koehler, Miss Laura L. O'Donnell,	
2000	Mr. Martin Pegler, Ms. Monique	
	Remy, Karen Voorhees	
	Joan Payne Kincaid	
	Barbara Buehring, Robert E. West	
Shirley		
Uniondale		
Valley Stream	Mrs. M. Finkelstein, Michael &	
Wantagh	Margaret Landi, Mrs. S. Longo Mr. William Hauck,	
wantagn	Christine Rothblatt	
West Hemnstead	Raymond LaCasse, A. O. Severson	
-	Susan Colen Shulman	
	Elliot Cohen, Joseph A. Popper, Gael	
	Shern, Jared C. Schoenfeld	
+>+>+>+>+>+>+>	*********	
AUDUBON MEMBERSHIP STATUS (800) 274-4201		

AUDUBON CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS

Michael Sperling

SSAS once again will be awarding two full scholarships, one to an adult and one to a child age 10-14, to attend an Audubon camp. Applicants or their parents should be members in good standing and be interested in sharing their camp experiences with fellow members, the community, and/or schools. Financial need is not a basis for receiving a scholarship; the winners must provide their own transportation.

The Youth Ecology Camp in Maine takes place on Hog Island, which also hosts the Ecology Workshop described in this Skimmer by last year's adult winner, Jonathan Staller. The camper-instructor ratio is 5 to 1, with an enrollment of 48. Campers dredge the ocean floor for marine creatures, search for organisms in tide pools, and learn about seabirds, seals, and other wildlife. The evenings are filled with night hikes, stargazing, special guests, and songfests. The Youth Camp will be offered August 2-12 and August 15-25.

This year, our adult scholarship is for the Audubon Ecology Workshop at NAS's 485-acre nature sanctuary in Greenwich, Connecticut. SSAS enjoyed a hawk watch bus trip to this sanctuary in September 1992. Subtitled "Introductory Field Ecology for Educators," this workshop includes bird identification (nearly 100 species could be seen); on-site hikes through forests, meadows, lakes, ponds, and streams; a visit to Long Island Sound; lecture and lab work; and more. Rustic facilities include a library, auditorium, and double-occupancy rooms furnished with private baths. The Workshop will be offered July 2–8, 9–15, 16–22, and 23–29; July 30–August 5; and August 6–12 and 13–19.

For copies of National Audubon's Ecology Camps and Workshops brochure and for a scholarship application (due March 7th), call SSAS Education Chairperson Suzanne Lancer at 536-6574 between 7 and 9 p.m. or send SSAS a postcard. We can usually count the number of scholarship applicants on our fingers, so by all means, apply!

THEODORE ROOSEVELT SANCTUARY

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

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

Wednesday, February 8th (8 P.M. to 9 P.M.) — Trinidad and Tobago. Discover the tropical wildlife of these islands and find out more about our affordable trip there. Program is free; trip will be April 14–22 and costs \$1600, including airfare.

Saturday, February 11th (1 P.M. to 3 P.M., all ages) — Rainforests. Through live animals, activities, and a nature walk, find out more about these imperiled habitats. Our

naturalist will let you know what's going on and what you can do. TRS members \$3, nonmembers \$5.

Sunday, February 19th (2 P.M. to 3:30 P.M., ages 6 to 10) — The World of Birds. This program is one of the most popular for schools who visit the Sanctuary. We use costumes, games, specimens, live birds, and a walk to teach children the value of birds. TRS members \$3, nonmembers \$5.

Sunday, February 26th (1 P.M. to 2:30 P.M., all ages) — Maple Sugaring. Sit by a roaring fire and find out where maple sugar comes from. We'll tap a tree and boil down the sweet, delicious sap. You can try some on a corn cake. We'll also have a tree walk. TRS members \$3, nonmembers \$5.

February Recess Nature Camp. TRS will be offering day camp for children grades PK-4 during winter vacation, February 20-23, from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. The focus is on winter ecology and wildlife. TRS members \$85, nonmembers \$95.

Free Workshops. TRS is presenting a group of workshops intended to empower educators to lead their own field trips. We encourage elementary and secondary educators, education students, scout leaders, etc., to attend these free workshops. For each topic, participants receive a curriculum guide composed of background information, preparatory material, field trip suggestions and activities, resources, follow-up material, reading lists, and more. The L.I. groundwater workshop is scheduled for the first three Saturdays of February, starting at 9 A.M. and ending at 12, 5 (trip day), and 1 P.M. Call for a brochure and to register.

BIRD SEED SAVINGS DAY REMINDER

Our second and last BSSD is/was Sunday, January 29th, from 9:30 A.M. to 2:30 P.M. at Tackapausha Museum, on Washington Avenue in Seaford (between Merrick Road and Sunrise Highway). Although it's too late to preorder, bird feeders and extras of all types of seed will be available. Proceeds benefit Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary. Help is needed to take orders and carry seed around the parking lot. To volunteer, call Paul Butkereit late evenings at 623-0843 or just show up! Please join your editor for an hour or five.

Seed - Feeders
Houses - Baths
Books - Gifts

FEED&SEED

WILD BIRD CENTER

"NEW YORK'S LARGEST WILD BIRD SPECIALTY STORE"

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

WILDLIFE POISONING HOTLINE (800) 356-0560



All walks start at 9:30 A.M.; no walk if it rains or snows or temperature is below 25°F. Any questions? Call Elliott at 486-7667.

Jan. 29	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
	• •
Feb. 5	Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
Feb. 12	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Feb. 19	Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner
Feb. 26	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
Mar. 5	Cedar Beach [head east on Ocean Parkway
	until you're about 5 miles into Suffolk
	County; use first entrance on right]
Mar. 12	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Mar. 19	Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner
Mar. 26	Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
Apr. 2	Massapequa Preserve (LIRR N.E. lot)
Apr. 9	Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
Apr. 16	Jones Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
Apr. 23	Hempstead Lake State Park (Penin. Blvd.)
Apr. 30	Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner
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GREENS OUTGUNNED

[Editor's Note: The following is reprinted with permission from the December 15, 1994 issue of Capital Eye: A Close-Up Look at Money in Politics, an eight-page free bimonthly newsletter published by the Washington, D.C.-based Center for Responsive Politics. The goal of Capital Eye is "to educate our readers and to encourage them to examine the role of money in the U.S. political system and explore its effect on the workings of our democracy." The Center "does not take sides on the substance of any particular bill or policy debate."

The article "Greens Outgunned" by Mark Dowie is subtitled "Failed Legislation Underlines Futility of Environmental Contributions." Accompanying this article were the results of a November 1994 CBS News / The New York Times poll that asked: "Do you think that most members of Congress are more interested in serving the people they represent, or more interested in serving special-interest groups?" 16% answered people they represent, 78% answered special-interest groups, and 6% didn't know or didn't answer.]

Lobbying Washington for a better environment has become an almost futile endeavor. If the 103rd Congress didn't prove the point to movement leadership, the 104th surely will.

When did national enviros ever have it better than with the 103rd Congress — a Democratic House, a Democratic Senate, and, if campaign rhetoric was to be believed, the most environmentally committed administration in recent history? Yet in two years, only one piece of environmental legislation was signed into law — a weak and severely compromised bill protecting part of a desert in California — while the administration that had greens staining the inaugural ballroom floor with tears of joy broke all records in

environmental betrayal. It was enough to depress the most hardened veteran of Beltway politics.

In terms of talent, experience, and resources, the environmental lobby has never been stronger. Numbering over 100 seasoned advocates, representing scores of organizations and millions of voters, they are pound-for-pound the most impressive lobby on the Hill. But pounds don't count in Washington, dollars do. And in dollars, almost any way you measure it, greens are outgunned ten-or-more-to-one by any lobby they face [SSAS's emphasis].

"When I visit a congressional rep. on a toxics issue, I can offer him or her ten thousand dollars max, five for the primary, five for the general election," laments Sierra Club lobbyist Dan Becker, one of the few national environmentalists with a PAC [political action committee] behind him. "The next visitor could easily be representing the Chemical Manufacturers Association — over a hundred members, each of which has a PAC that can offer ten thousand to the next campaign. Even with the facts on my side, I am likely to be ignored."

Becker doesn't even mention the fact that each of those chemical manufacturers has at least one law or lobbying firm in Washington able to contribute additional support to the same candidate. And many do so.

From January 1991 to June 1994, covering the preelection period and one-and-a-half sessions of the 103rd Congress, the entire environmental movement, through their 14 existing PACs, contributed \$1.7 million to congressional candidates, including roughly \$500,000 for the 1994 elections. During the same period, chemical industry PACs donated \$3.8 million to federal candidates; agriculture PACs, \$22.7 million; energy and natural resources PACs, \$21.7 million; transportation (including automotive), \$20.9 million; construction, \$7.8 million; timber, \$2.3 million; mining, \$1.9 million; and the waste management industry, \$1.4 million.

The consequence of all the generosity showed in the sad fate of environmental legislation during the first two years of the Clinton-Gore administration. [Nine detailed examples are omitted from this *Skimmer* for space reasons.]

What's Next? By the close of the 103rd Congress, it became patently clear that the best strategy for the Washington environmental lobby was to leave existing statutes alone and work against aggressive anti-environmental initiatives such as the takings, risk assessment, and unfunded mandate bills that are now lined up for the 104th Congress. That should leave considerable talent and energy to fight the real fight that has to be fought in Washington before environmentalism or any other social movement can make headway in America — campaign finance reform.

All of the 25 largest environmental organizations in the country have substantial offices in Washington. If they were to assign half their lobby to join forces with a coalition of other progressive movements and fight a concerted battle for campaign reform, the playing field could be leveled considerably for the 105th Congress, or maybe the 106th — whatever the party in power. [Meanwhile, write those letters!]

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