

SOUTH SHORE SKIMMER



SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

VOL. 7, NO. 2

OCTOBER 1976

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12TH, FREEPORT LIBRARY, 8:15 P.M.

MEET THE CANDIDATES

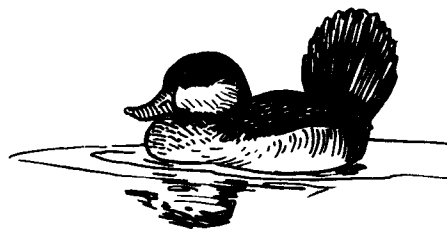
We are pleased to announce that we will be having an energy and environmental presentation by local inhumants in Congress and the candidates on the Democratic side seeking those seats. Please come and "Meet the Candidates":

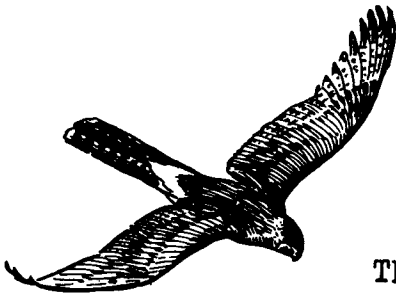
Allard Lowenstein
Gerald Halpern
Norman Lent
John Wydler

All are invited, so please bring your friends to this most important meeting. Our congressmen should represent their constituents. This is your opportunity to hear their viewpoints on two subjects of great concern to all of us: energy and the environment. So, please, make a point of attending on Tuesday, October 12th, Freeport Library, 8:15 P.M. See you there!

OCTOBER ACTIVITIES AT THE THEODORE ROOSEVELT SANCTUARY

On the 1st, 3rd and 4th Sundays in October guided nature walks will begin at 1:30 P.M. On the 2nd Sunday, October 10, a "Roadside Walk to Sagamore Hill" at 1:30 P.M. is planned. A work party is being set up for Saturday, October 16, from 9:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. to spread wood chips, transplant shrubs, and build brush piles. Please visit the Sanctuary soon and give it your interest and support.





October, 1976

The Head and the Heart of it.

The American dream of constant expansion of our wealth, as a nation, and a guarantee of "The Good Life" for its citizens is a goal we can take for granted no longer.

The promise of open ended economic opportunity has been shaken by daily reports of one "Eco-Environmental" disaster after another. As each new incident surfaces, we begin to see that each is part of the same general problem.

We know about raw garbage, oil balls and fecal matter rolling on to our precious beaches. In early July, fishermen discovered an area of dead fish, clams and lobsters 1,600 square miles in size immediately off the Jersey coast. In early July, people in Washington, D.C. were resorting to masks to protect themselves from the smog in our capitol city. Nightly, Johnny Carson jokes about the smog in Los Angeles. Our papers tell us about PCB in the Hudson and Mirex in Lake Ontario. Duck hunters have been warned against eating Scaup and White winged Scoter taken on the Great Lakes or the Hudson because of the PCB and/or Mirex content in the birds.

DEAR NEIGHBORS -----WHAT IS ENVIRONMENT?

Environment is your home, your garden, the place you work and the place you play. In order to survive, we must have air, water and a food supply. What is the worth of your lovely home and garden, a car, a fresh wardrobe, and every leisure time activity at your disposal, if there is no air to breathe, if our waters are sewers, rapidly destroying our supply of fish for our table and destroying our source of fresh water to drink? The pursuit of the good life is fine BUT--BUT only after we make certain that we have those basic elements crucial to our very survival as a species--Air, Water, and a Food Supply. At this moment, the issue is very much in doubt.


WHAT CAN WE DO?

We must fight for constructive legislation at the Federal level. We must have a comprehensive Toxic Substance bill. We must push for a more aggressive stand against time rollbacks on anti-pollution devices in the auto industries, this coming year. Pay particular attention to the candidates seeking your vote. Be aware of their past record and proposals for the future.

Our tristate region should be declared an environmental disaster area. We need federal funding now to help us construct and try out a plant that burns garbage as fuel. We must quicken the completion of New York City's waste disposal plants, making sure they come on line in the next two years. This business of Nassau County suing New York City for contamination is ludicrous and insults our capacity to grasp the dimensions of our waste problems.

We should run "FREEDOM DAYS". Use them to clean up (FREE) areas we have littered in the past. Our beaches are loaded with cans, plastic six-pack holder plastic cups, paper, and trash.

We have taken our environmental blessings for granted for too long. It is time for us to pay our dues. We must treat our surroundings with reason and good management so that we can continue to enjoy the beauties of this best of all possible worlds.


Elliott R. Kutner
President

◁ CONSERVATION NEWS ▷

We at Audubon are unique. It is important to understand the focus of the National Audubon Society as compared to a host of other environmental organizations. Each group, including the Sierra Club, Defenders of Wildlife, Environmental Defense Fund, etc., serves an important purpose by investing their efforts and money towards goals that at times involve joint actions, but which are usually quite individual. We at Audubon have come to be known though the years in our tremendous efforts in the establishment of sanctuaries and in the field of environmental education. The selection, development, and protection of sanctuaries throughout the U.S. is an obvious Audubon activity. The understanding that an animal is not separate from its environment, indeed cannot exist without its unique habitat has involved Audubon in many battles to protect precious land and water habitats from rape and abuse. We cannot engage in full time lobbying activities and continue to enjoy our tax free status, although a bill has been introduced to allow such organizations as ourselves the lobbying advantage that industry is blessed with. Industry is not only able to hire professional lobbyists, but can write off such expenditures as legitimate business expense. Members of Congress often rely on competent information sources to provide information about bills they have little time to research before acting on. It is time other valid points of view with carefully researched data be equally available to Congress. Until a workable version of the lobbying bill is passed, the importance of individuals writing their representatives cannot be overstressed. This is where the increasing importance of continuous environmental education comes in. The thrust of this education not only involves the development of a keen interest and sense of responsibility to our environment among children and adults, but in a continuous growth of this sense of obligation into creative action. While Audubon has to make a concentrated effort to hold back its lobbying efforts, it is literally exploding with information about needed protection and potential legislation in areas all of us are so concerned about. Any trip to "wilderness" areas of our country will show industry ready to pounce on such precious reserves without adequate weighing of priorities or exploring more sane and long-term valuable procedures. It seems a fast buck is more important than a stable one. When the general public, our governmental agencies, and industry realize that environmental protection is good business and an investment in the future, our efforts will seem well worth it.

Over the summer I noticed a small article in Newsday which has repercussions far greater than the meager space allotted the article. It appears that the State Department of Transportation has reopened the planning of the Atlantic Expressway. This road, which is steadily creeping up on us in the form of tiny finished sections and set aside parcels of land, would be an "8-lane megaway leading from the Verrazano Bridge to Riverhead and Greenport." Tremendous opposition to the proposal of building this road along the route of Sunrise Highway more than a decade ago influenced the Department to pick a route along the waterfront. This should not be surprising since a finished section of the road near the airport points it in that direction, and the southern terminus of the Wantagh-Oyster Bay Expressway is well south of Merrick



Road. It is interesting to note that renewed interest in the building of this road closely parallels attempts to resell the idea of a Rye-Oyster Bay Bridge. It also occurs at a time when New England conservationists find themselves fighting an interstate type revamping of Route 7 to be known as Super 7. Such a road would be a perfect connection to auto and truck traffic moving north after crossing the Sound. It was brought to my attention after my article on the proposed bridge last spring, that many of us on the South Shore fail to realize the implications a new bridge and further expressway expansion will have on Long Island. Dr. Robert Johnson, in one letter, stressed that polls taken showed residents north of 25A more opposed to the bridge than South Shore residents. It is time for all of us to carefully weigh the effects of such rampant building on our wetlands and residential communities.

Paul Butkerei
Conservation Chairman

BIRD WALKS 1976-77

FIELD TRIPS: The starting time for all bird walks is 9:30 A.M. There is no walk if it rains, snows, or the temperature is 25 degrees or below.

- OCT. 10 - Tobay - J.F.K. Sanctuary
- 17 - Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- 24 - West End #2, N.W. corner
- 31 - Tobay - J.F.K. Sanctuary

- NOV. 7 - Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- 14 - West End #2, N.W. corner
- 21 - Zach's Bay, Pkg. Fld. #4
- 28 - Tobay - J.F.K. Sanctuary

- DEC. 5 - Pelham Bay-Meet at 9:00 Toll Booth at Throgs Neck Bridge-Owls
- 12 - Jamaica Bay Wildlife Sanctuary
- 19 - Short Beach Pkg. (J.B.)
- 26 - Tobay - J.F.K. Sanctuary

- JAN. 2 - Zach's Bay, Pkg. Fld. #4
- 9 - Pelham Bay-Meet at 9:00 Toll Both at Throgs Neck Bridge-Owls



Elliott Kutner
Field Trip Chairman

PCB DUMPING SETTLEMENT: The New York Department of Environmental Conservation announced recently that the General Electric Company agreed to stop dumping PCB's into the Hudson River and to pay \$3-million to help the state clean this chemical out of the river plus another million for research on how to do it.

SKIMMER SHORTS



"Progress"

Last Thursday, the trucks and caterpillars arrived. Within hours all the trees were torn down.

The small plot of land next to our house had been vacant, that is uninhabited by people, for many, many years. Of course, it was hardly vacant! A large and facinating number of birds, field mice, squirrels, and toads lived, reproduced, and died in this little patch of greenery situated along a busy street, surrounded by noise and humanity. Once it was probably part of a potato farm but when the houses were built 25 years ago, this plot was mercifully left in the middle of the development. At that time, it was sold to an investor who apparently felt it would turn a good profit someday. "Someday" came a few months ago when the land was sold and we were informed that a two-family house would be built soon. Weeks passed and nothing happened; then last Thursday, the bulldozers came.

When I walked outside with seed for our feeder, the birds did not greet me with their usual boisterous chirping. I knew the reason. The noisy upheavel in the lot disturbed and frightened them. Albert, the gray squirrel who has been a frequent visitor for the past three years, sat on our fence watching the workmen. Moments later, he was gone. He didn't wait for his usual sunflower seed breakfast.

The young maples were eliminated first. Some of the older trees were stronger and had to be hacked and sawed before they also were destroyed. I know it is silly but I kept the shades drawn on that side of the house, not to keep the dust and dirt out, but just so I would be spared the sight of those beautiful crumbled trees.

Today, a week after that fateful Thursday, the birds are busy outside, once again chirping and eating their seeds. Albert is happily munching in his usual feeding spot and everything appears to be back to normal. But the pair of cardinals who raised three young in the now depleted lot this past summer have not returned. A few of the field mice who were unlucky enough to be caught by the neighborhood children were killed because their mother thought they were rats. As for the rest of the evicted inhabitants, who knows? We all must adapt to change or die.

I am sure the new house will be very attractive, but I cannot forget the proud tall trees and endearing little animals who once lived there.

Pat Davis

SUFFOLK FARMLANDS: The Suffolk County Legislature has approved the purchase of up to \$21 million in development rights for agricultural property. This will preserve farmlands and open space from development. The County will offer to buy and hold the development rights for such lands; the owner (or any future owner) could continue to farm the property, or to leave it in open space, but could not use it for any other purpose.



NOV. NEWS DEADLINE OCT. 15

---NEXT MEETING---
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12TH
8:15 P.M.
FREEPORT LIBRARY

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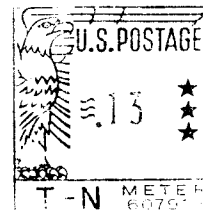
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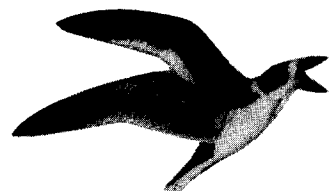
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