

SOUTH SHORE SKIMMER



SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

VOL. 12, NO. 3

NOVEMBER 1981

Meeting

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10
FREEPORT MEMORIAL LIBRARY
8:15 P.M.

Mary Sterling of South Shore Audubon will present a program on Antarctica and New Zealand.

Please join us for this beautiful and interesting presentation.



CITIZEN MOBILIZATION

The National Audubon Society has sent each member information on the Clean Air Act. The folder "Hold Your Breath" suggests how and what to write to your representatives in Congress. We have a great coalition. We have a great cause. We have a large membership. **WRITE NOW!**

A sign-up sheet entitled "Join the Battle to Save Our Environment" is enclosed with this issue of the Skimmer. Ask people to sign. They will be doing something for themselves - not a favor for you! Return the sheets at our meeting or mail to South Shore Audubon Society, P.O. Box 31, Freeport, N.Y. 11520. Additional sheets can be obtained at the meeting or by calling (516) 223-1365.

Lennox A. Gordon

SIGN UP TO SAVE OUR AIR, LAND, WATER, AND WILDLIFE.

Join the Audubon Campaign

The National Audubon Society was organized at the turn of the century to stop the slaughter of plumed birds whose feathers were used to adorn ladies' hats. Working together, these early conservationists stopped the "plume hunters" and saved the birds from extinction.

Today a new breed of plume hunters, as short-sighted and self-seeking as ever, has declared war on environmental protection. Under the pretense of eliminating government waste and ending inflation, the Reagan Administration, led by Secretary of the Interior James Watt, is attempting to reverse two decades of progress in protecting our birds and other wild animals and the air, land, water, and forests on which all life depends.

To counter this attack, the National Audubon Society has launched an emergency Citizen Mobilization Campaign. You can join the campaign at no cost to yourself and at great benefit to your natural heritage.

Sign up and be kept informed. The Audubon Society will notify you of current threats to our air and water, wilderness and wildlife, parks and forests. And we'll let you know how you can help defeat the modern-day plume hunters.

Bureaucratic Brush-Off

The Hempstead Plains Preserve was once an extensive area of plains in central Nassau County. It was the easternmost true plains in the United States. Rare plants such as the Crows Foot Violet used to grow there. Upland Plover once nested there. Historically, the plains are often called the "Cradle of Aviation."

When Mitchel Field was given to Nassau County some of the land was set aside to preserve this heritage. Now development in the area threatens the preserve. Recently I wrote County Executive Francis T. Purcell and asked for the following information: 1. The exact size and location of the preserve, 2. A copy of the master plan for Mitchel Field and 3. Information on any biological or ecological studies being planned of the preserve.

Mr. Purcell's office replied saying I could call Commissioner Cacciatore of the Department of Commerce and Industry. He would answer my questions. When I called the Commissioner, he was at a conference and his secretary said he would call back. He never did. I wrote him a letter with my request. Again, he did not reply. I wrote a letter to County Executive Purcell complaining about Commissioner Cacciatore's lack of response. Mr. Purcell's office wrote back stating that they would see to it that the Commissioner answered.

Later in the week my wife received a call from the Commissioner. He said he did not "understand" what I wanted. My wife was not familiar with the situation. The next day my wife called back with my instructions. Once again, the Commissioner was not in. My wife did get to talk to his assistant, a Mr. Fitzgerald. He said that his department was too busy to answer my inquiries. We could get the information from the newspapers. He had better things to do than be bothered by us. We had no right to the information.

My wife then called Mr. Purcell's office and told Special Assistant Fred Hager what happened. He said that he would try to get as much information as he could. At this time I still have not received any of the requested information.

Local politicians tell us that development of Mitchel Field will increase tax revenue and provide jobs. Environmental problems, they claim, could easily be solved. If this is so, they should be proud of the plan. I should think they would be bragging about it. Instead, they refuse to give any information to the public. Are they hiding something? Why hasn't the County Executive's office handled the matter directly? Are they trying to separate themselves from the problem? Why doesn't the Commissioner answer the inquiry as the County Executive's office says he will?

The issue goes beyond the Hempstead Plains. It concerns the citizens' right to know what government is doing. Some people in our county's government seem to think they stand above its citizens. Well, they don't! We have a right to know what they are doing and I will fight to get that needed information. I will keep you informed as to my progress.

Note: The article on Gypsy Moth control published in the October Skimmer did not imply that anyone at South Shore Audubon is in favor of pesticides. So far as we know, the programs being considered do not involve the use of pesticides.

MOBILIZATION WORKSHOP

On November 21 the Northeast Regional Office of the National Audubon Society will hold a Citizen Mobilization Workshop at the First United Methodist Church in Baldwin. They have asked for volunteers to bring cakes. If you can bring a cake, please drop it off between 5 and 6 P.M. on November 20 or after 8 A.M. on the 21st at the church on Merrick Road next to the Baldwin Theatre.

Some of the subjects to be covered at the workshop are; how to lobby your congressman, how to write a more effective letter to your congressman and how to get environmental stories in the newspapers. The workshop is aimed at those who wish to be activists in the environmental movement.

Tom Torma

Tom Torma

Waterfowl Rescue

Lynne Frink of Tri-State Bird Rescue watches as two Coast Watch Volunteers practice bird handling with the cooperation of a very patient duck. The October 17 Coast Watch Workshop at Hofstra was a great success. One hundred and thirty volunteers were trained in various aspects of waterfowl rescue by seven Tri-State committee chairmen.



Photo: James P. Browne

Story: Eileen Hathaway

After a very successful Coast Watch workshop, we are now much closer to our goal of being prepared for an oil spill disaster. However, we are still at least one year's work away from completing our task. We must acquire a long list of supplies through donations and purchases before we will be adequately equipped. Coast Watch will be able to store supplies on the south shore at the Long Beach School District Preserve in Lido Beach. Addi Quinn has generously allowed us the use of one entire building at the site. The cleaning and rehabilitation facility for the south shore is practically across the street on the beach.

Everyone at Coast Watch extends warmest thanks to the people of the south shore for the terrific response to this worthy cause. Please keep up the enthusiasm and help us locate the supplies we so desperately need. We cannot begin to solicit large donations from oil companies until our tax-free incorporation status is complete, so we are depending on donations at this stage. Donations can be dropped off at the following sites:

South Shore Audubon meetings and bird walks
Long Beach School District Preserve at Lido Beach
A & A Veterinary Hospital in Franklin Square
Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary in Oyster Bay

We need:

picnic tables	cages (any sort)	plastic bags (all sizes)
card tables	feeding dishes (any sort)	indoor/outdoor carpeting
work benches	plywood	(not soil-release type)
shelves	2x3's and 2x4's	heat lamps (not sun lamps)
cabinets	BLACKBOARDS!	heavy duty stapler
desks	first aid kit	trash cans
blender	hammers, nails	DAWN DISHWASHING LIQUID!
fire extinguishers	screw drivers	plastic piping (large diam)

Maxwell C. Wheat, Jr. of Freeport has recently had published a paperback book of 24 poems about birds entitled Thermalling. One of the poems from Mr. Wheat's book follows:

SNOWY OWL

On December dunes at Amagansett.
I breathe and its head swivel snaps.
Over the immaculate shoulder
yellow eyes fix on me from earth's reptilian age

Waterfowl Rescue

Lynne Frink of Tri-State Bird Rescue watches as two Coast Watch Volunteers practice bird handling with the cooperation of a very patient duck. The October 17 Coast Watch Workshop at Hofstra was a great success. One hundred and thirty volunteers were trained in various aspects of waterfowl rescue by seven Tri-State committee chairmen.



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yellow eyes fix on me from earth's reptilian age

FIELD TRIPS

No walk if it rains, snows or temperature is 25 degrees or below

Starting time 9:30 A.M.

- NOV. 8 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
15 Zach's Bay, Pkg. Fld. #4,
N.E. corner
22 West End #2, N.W. corner
29 Tobay, J.F.K. Sanctuary
- DEC. 6 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
13 Pelham Bay. Meet 9:00 A.M.
Throg's Neck Bridge Toll Plaza
20 West End #2, N.E. corner
- JAN. 3 Zach's Bay, Pkg. Fld. #4
10 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
17 Tobay, J.F.K. Sanctuary
24 West End #2, N.W. corner
31 Tobay, J.F.K. Sanctuary
- FEB. 7 Zach's Bay, Pkg. Fld. #4
14 West End #2, N.E. corner
21 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

If you can bring a cake to the meeting,
please call Roz Stein at 223-0608.
Please remember to bring your cups.

SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY
P.O BOX 31
FREEPORT, N.Y. 11520

OFFICERS

P. Davis-President 822-6189
7 Meyers Ave., Hicksville 11801
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921 Van Buren St., Baldwin 11510
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461 Dunster Ct., W. Hempstead 11552
D. Pirodsky-Membership 378-1790
225 E. Dean St., Freeport 11520
A. Orens-Editor 431-9537
282 Greenway Rd., Lido Beach 11561



BINOCULAR SAVINGS

Joan Butkerei 593-4554
Asa Starkweather 599-5824
Bill Herzog 791-7886
(7 P.M.-9 P.M.)
Barbara Tancredi 775-1890
(11 A.M.-1 P.M.)

DECEMBER NEWS DEADLINE
NOVEMBER 16

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FIRST CLASS MAIL

Make Your Voice Heard— JOIN THE BATTLE TO SAVE OUR ENVIRONMENT

In the misguided belief that regulations to protect air, land, water and wildlife are stifling the economy, the Reagan Administration, exemplified by Interior Secretary James Watt, is trying to wipe out the environmental gains and safeguards won by a generation of caring citizens.

Sign up and be counted in our fight. And ask your friends, neighbors and associates to sign up, as well. When enough of us speak out, Washington will listen. Together we can prevent the needless destruction of our natural heritage.



I wish to join the Audubon Campaign and be kept informed of what's happening in Washington and what I can do to defend—and strengthen—the environmental laws of the land. (Those who sign up will be added, at no cost to them, to a special mailing list to receive environmental news bulletins.)

Signature _____	Street _____	Audubon Member Check Here
Printed Name _____	City & State _____ Zip _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Signature _____	Street _____	Audubon Member Check Here
Printed Name _____	City & State _____ Zip _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Signature _____	Street _____	Audubon Member Check Here
Printed Name _____	City & State _____ Zip _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Signature _____	Street _____	Audubon Member Check Here
Printed Name _____	City & State _____ Zip _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Signature _____	Street _____	Audubon Member Check Here
Printed Name _____	City & State _____ Zip _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

(use reverse side for additional names)

ENLISTER'S NAME _____
Address _____

Return sheets to Audubon Campaign, 950 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10022

Printed Name _____	City & State _____	Zip _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Signature _____	Street _____		Audubon Member Check Here
Printed Name _____	City & State _____	Zip _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Signature _____	Street _____		Audubon Member Check Here
Printed Name _____	City & State _____	Zip _____	<input type="checkbox"/>
Signature _____	Street _____		Audubon Member Check Here
Printed Name _____	City & State _____	Zip _____	<input type="checkbox"/>

(use reverse side for additional names)

ENLISTER'S NAME _____

Address _____

Return sheets to **Audubon Campaign, 950 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10022**

You need not fill the sign-up sheet for it to be valid, but please gather as many signatures as you can.

Please send me _____ additional sign-up sheets.
(Or you may photocopy this sheet if you wish.)

Please send me _____ Audubon Campaign Leaflets.

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY CITIZEN MOBILIZATION CAMPAIGN

