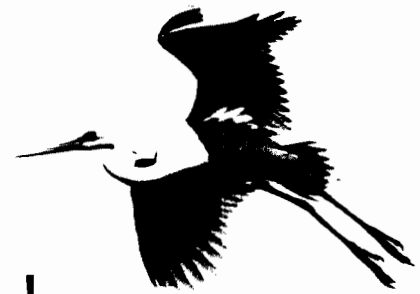


NEWSLETTER



SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

VOLUME 1, No. 6

OCEANSIDE, NEW YORK

April 15, 1971

N E X T M E E T I N G -- A P R I L 2 6 , 1 9 7 1

The next meeting will be on Audubon's birthday! We would like this to be somewhat special with a good turnout. Will our many members who have not gotten out before please make an effort to attend. The meeting will be in the "Little Theatre" of the Oceanside High School, corner of Skillman and Brower Avenues in Oceanside. The program will include the Presentation of Awards for our High School essay competition on "What Conservation Means to Me"; and a movie, "Run-a-Round", a film on pollution.

Our last meeting was at the Baldwin Public Library. About 45 members attended. Leo and Fidelus Romalewski showed slides of their many rock collecting trips and exhibited an interesting collection of rocks.

We included in our last issue an exhortation to "Renew your Audubon membership". It has been felt that a further explanation is in order. As you know, there are no Chapter dues. The reason for this is that your Chapter membership is dependent on your National Audubon membership. As a result of this, we receive a part of your membership fee from the National when you join the Chapter. This gives us a small working fund which pays for these bulletins and mailings, prizes for our essay competition, meeting expenses, and such. Incidentally, we get no funds from student memberships. So membership keeps our group marginally solvent to work toward the greater goal of having a good, participating membership.

Nevertheless, if anyone wishes to make an additional financial contribution for our Audubon Bookshelf in the Freeport Library, or to our bulletin which is faced with rising costs, they may be so earmarked and sent to our Treasurer, Seymour Dashow, 3281 Oceanside Road, Oceanside, L.I. #11572.

The Nominating Committee has met and agreed on the following suggested names for next year's officers:

For re-election: President - Alvin Friedman
Vice-President - Jack Fisher
Recording Secretary - Audrey Roberts
Treasurer - Seymour Dashow
New nominees: Mina Goldstein - Corresponding Secretary
Clara Thrush - Program Chairman
Susan Ross - Membership Chairman

These are just suggestions. Nominations for officers are open to all of our membership and may be made at our April meeting. Elections will be held at our May meeting - to be announced.

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It may be that someone besides Mrs. Catropa of Freeport has a flat roof on which Herring Gulls drop clams. The specific cure is to paint your roof blue or green or greenish blue. Green looks like grass to gulls - blue and greenish blue, water. If you feel artistic, add waves. This has worked!

FROM OUR MEMBERSHIP

March 14, 1971

Dear Asa,

Weeks ago, we started out as a group of eight total strangers - two individual birders, three teenagers, and a couple of couples.

It was a cold, overcast day in February. The wind was strong and out of the northwest as we moved to the edge of the bay on the Channel side of Jones Beach. The white caps confirmed the chilly blasts biting at our cheeks, but these same white caps framed out feeding American Mergansers, and a flock of Lesser Scaup.

Mike teaches biology at the State University of Farmingdale. His interest in birds comes quite naturally. Karen instructs a biology lab course at Adelphi University. Her love of the outdoors stems from a childhood spent along the shores of our Finger Lakes.

We moved west through the dunes in search of owl in the pines, hawk over the brush, or waterfowl in the bay.

Laurie is a high school sophomore. She is the most knowledgeable, most motivated human being in this world of birds whom I have had the pleasure of meeting in a long while. Her friend, Ricky, was our busiest member that day. He split his time between can collecting and helping the group identify plants on the dunes.

Five snow geese flew directly overhead moving north over the channel.

Mr. Lindner has been a revelation! He has forced me to review my definition of terms such as "growth, youth, age". His abiding desire to learn and his sincere offer of facts and ideas attests to the fact that you and I can continue to grow and grow and grow.

We turned back to the east along the center apron. Charles and Margaret Keller are a couple of veteran, no-nonsense birders. But they aren't limited to a single love. They boycott all products that threaten endangered species as well as those that could harm the environment.

We saw the Marsh Hawk and the Sparrow Hawk.

Two hours can really fly!

We spent this last Sunday morning at Tobay. Our original eight had grown to sixteen.

Mike spread the news to Dennis and Janet C. Ricky brought Paul and Bob. Cosmo Fazio, his wife Grace, and their daughter, Madeline, joined up. Laurie brought Stuart. Jane S. came equipped for any turn in the weather - stocking hat et al. Barry joined the "Colonists" and loved every minute of it. Why not?

We saw Pintails, Wood Duck, American Widgeon, Green-Winged Teal, Marsh Hawk and Laurie's life-long ambition, the sight of a Short-Eared Owl. That touches the high spots of our day.

Asa, the word has gone out that we have something going. We are beginning to jell. Each one brought some item of genuine interest to the rest of us. Dennis turned back some matted marsh grass, revealing the crustacean alive beneath our feet!

We're no longer strangers. I look forward to many more days with some very nice, knowledgeable people with whom I share a common bond - birds and birding.

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Elliott Kutner

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Return of the Seal Massacre

It is that time of year again, March 12 - April 24, when the helpless seals are terrorized and killed for the sake of the U.S. Government Treasury. Men with clubs hit the seals squarely on the head - supposedly the most humane and painless way for them to die. But sometimes, a seal is skinned alive and then its corpse with a beating

heart is laid on the ground. But why are these seals killed? For the U. S. Treasury to make \$5,000,000 on valuable seal pelts. Isn't there some other way the government can make money instead of having to kill one of nature's most beautiful creatures unable to live a life of true freedom?

Is the Ivory-Billed Woodpecker Extinct?

For many years people have believed the Ivory-Billed Woodpecker has taken the same trail to extinction with such birds as the Great Auk, Passenger Pigeon and Carolina Parakeet. A few years ago a geologist, surveying a swamp in East Texas, saw two Ivory-Billed Woodpeckers and photographed one. The area was kept secret to protect the unknown number of survivors. Remarkably these birds had made a life pattern change from nesting and feeding exclusively in the once vast hardwood forests to the present southern pine and cypress. Now, a recent article in the New York Times states that a naturalist heard the unmistakable call of this woodpecker in a remote forest area in South Carolina. Further cutting of timber in this area was halted to protect, hopefully, the Ivory-Billed. Is the Ivory-Billed still on this earth? Hopefully, in some isolated area down South, the Ivory-Billed Woodpecker is still alive, enjoying life without the threat of man.



An ivory-billed woodpecker of the type seen in Santee Swamp, S. C.

Laurie Mass

Should anyone find an injured wild bird and wish to have it taken care of, Dr. Kamin, Bellerose Animal Hospital, 242-01 Jamaica Avenue, Bellerose Manor, Queens, will care for it.

BIRDING NOTES:-

March 14 - Tobay Beach - 13 members and friends came

The setting of our trip was Tobay, with a beautiful day and some great birds. The pond at Tobay was filled with Black Ducks and Pintails. To our delight, we watched through a scope a Wood Duck, Common Merganser, and American Widgeon. But that wasn't good enough. Everyone watched a Short-Eared Owl soaring over the marsh. He (or she) sat on a rock and what a view we got through the scope!

Total species - 25

Total individuals - 23

March 21 - West End Field #2, Jones Beach - 19 members and friends participated

Meeting at West End Field #2, we went on to Tobay Beach because the wind was so strong. But the gale force winds still did not dampen our spirits. The pond at Tobay was almost completely empty, except for a Red-Breasted Merganser, Pintail and Black Ducks. On the bay side of Tobay, our sure-footed president, Alvin Friedman, fell into one of the water ditches, covering the bottom of his pants and shoes with mud and water. But still we forged forward. On the wing, we saw a single old squaw and a flock of Brant, and a Canvasback. Our friends, the tree swallows were beginning to return to their spring home here.

Total - 28 birds

March 28 - Tobay Beach - 25 members and friends came

March 28th was a wonderful day for our bird trip. The weather was just beautiful and we had a fine assortment of birds. The pond at Tobay was full of ducks and geese.

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March 28th was a wonderful day for our bird trip. The weather was just beautiful and we had a fine turnout of people. The pond at Tobay was full of Black Ducks, Pintail, Common, and Red-Breasted Mergansers mixed in. A pair of Blue-Winged Teal helped to make this trip a success. After our birding, the group had a picnic on the dunes near some beautiful pines. The setting was magnificent. After eating, the group had a rap session, talking about the environment. Mr. Bert Lindner, our senior birdwatcher, bestowed upon us many aspects of his knowledge.

Total - 21 birds
