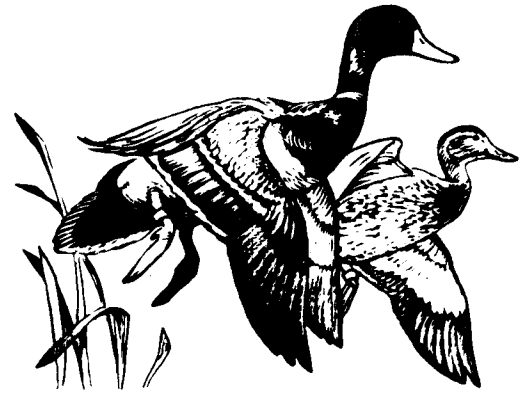


SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

Newsletter



VOLUME 3, NO. 5

FEBRUARY 1973

- NEXT MEETING -

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13th

FREEPORT LIBRARY

The program for our next meeting will be a continuation of our January meeting. Harry Pearson, Environmental Editor of Newsday, will present the other side of the controversial use of Nuclear Power.



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.....
Does anyone need transportation to meetings?
If so, please call one of the following
nearest to you:

| | | |
|------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Al Friedman | Oceanside | RO 4-9069 |
| Frank Bear | Baldwin | 223-2246 |
| Asa Starkweather | Malverne | LY 9-5824 |
| Jack Fisher | Oceanside | RO 4-6529 |
| Ray Ward | Levittown | PY 6-0115 |

Anyone willing and able to provide
transportation? Call or write the
Editor and your name will be added
to the list.

.....



DEADLINE - - - MARCH NEWSLETTER - - - FEBRUARY 10th

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our chapter is constantly increasing its involvement in the complex and mounting environmental problems besetting Long Island.

In keeping with the growing spirit of cooperation among the seven Long Island Audubon chapters, Mike Smiles and I attended the first Nassau-Suffolk Audubon Conference last October in Selden. Discussions and workshops lasted an entire day and resulted in a pledge of further cooperative efforts as well as a thorough understanding of our chapters' individual and collective problems. These meetings will be held semi-annually in the future, and Mike Smiles has graciously consented to represent South Shore on a steering committee to plan coming get-togethers.

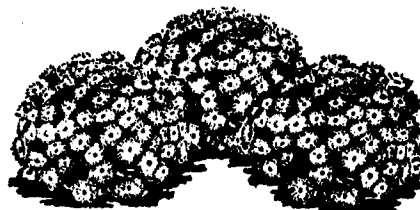
In line with this cooperation we have become involved in an effort to preserve National Audubon's Theodore Roosevelt Wildlife Sanctuary in Oyster Bay, and Mike Smiles and Elliot Kutner have volunteered to serve on a governing committee together with representatives of Huntington Audubon. Other chapters are expected to join shortly.

We are also joining with the Huntington and Great South Bay Chapters in an attempt to have the Connetquot River declared a Wild and Scenic River under the new State law and thus give the greatest possible degree of protection to this unique and unspoiled area, including that great rarity, an unpolluted river. On a recent visit my wife and I were impressed by the large, undeveloped stretches, the numbers of well-fed deer and quail and the excellent wildlife habitat. We were informed substantial numbers of bluebirds nest in the area. I will attend a conference on the Connetquot on January 25, accompanied by our ever-willing Vice President, Mike Smiles.

Since becoming president I have testified at hearings for the recharge of Long Island's water into our ground supply, a master transportation plan for New York State, and a bill to give individuals standing to sue environmental polluters regardless of personal damage. I will also testify January 15th against the proposed Rye-Oyster Bay Bridge.

To continue this scope of activity, however, we need help. What is most urgently needed is someone, such as a retiree or a non-working wife, who can attend and testify, for the South Shore Audubon Society. But assistance is required in many areas: Alvin Friedman must have help with the Audubon film series planned for next year, Miriam Raynor is swamped with the newsletter preparation and mailing (despite the very able assistance of Dorothy Lovering) and Mike Smiles could use aid in the many projects he is tackling. In this age of growing awareness of environmental problems we cannot afford to sit back and limit our activities to bird walks and shows, important as these may be. If any of our members can give some of their time, PLEASE volunteer at a meeting or call me at 735-1110. The gift of time is the greatest gift you can give us, and it is urgently needed now before time runs out on all of us and our bird and animal friends.

Al Lemke



***** DON'T FORGET TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP *****

- LEGISLATIVE ALERT -

Since there are no new emergency legislative issues at this time, I would like to make a few observations concerning the conservation movement. It seems to me that many conservationists were born 700 years too late. They would have been perfect candidates for the Christian crusades of the 11th and 12th centuries. Conservationists have made themselves self-appointed protectors on a crusade of righteousness and anyone with a different viewpoint is some sort of heretic.

I consider myself a conservationist but find it embarrassing sometimes to watch fellow conservationists charge off to meetings like knights on white horses with erroneous facts and figures or just plain ignorance of the subject at hand. It is these people who will destroy the conservation movement faster than any bulldozer or atomic plant. If conservationists really expect to attain workable and sensible solutions to the problems confronting us today they are going to have to get their heads out of the clouds and start accepting certain facts of life. Not everyone is prepared to give up their cars or stop using electricity. Certain modern day conveniences are here to stay no matter what is said or done. Recognizing this fact is a prerequisite to work practically and sensibly in helping to alleviate environmental problems.

A case in point is atomic reactors for producing electricity. A problem more emotional than scientific. Last month we of the South Shore Audubon Society had an opportunity to obtain some factual data on these plants. Instead of coming to be educated and informed it seemed that most people came with their mind made up that atomic plants are bad and that anyone who supports them is a destroyer of nature or is suffering from a credibility gap. Two points to make here:-- one --- I think it is impolite and rude to invite a guest speaker and then with ignorance or erroneous information put him in an adversary role as if he could not be trusted with what he said, anyway.

The second point is the general argument of atomic plants. Space does not allow me to go into a discussion of the pros and cons of atomic plants. However, just think of the alternatives --- more oil-burning fossil fuel plants. This would, of course, increase the demand for more oil. Remember that the next time you protest oil drilling off the coast of Long Island. The peaceful use of the atom was heralded back in the fifties as a boon to mankind. I personally think it can be if our enlightened conservationists don't ruin it for us. It is essential that these people stop their quixotic approach to conservation and start working sensibly with technology if we are to solve these problems.

One last point to finish. The turnout at our last meeting was disgracefully small. It was suggested that the topic was the cause. It is my feeling that this is the type of meeting that conservationists should strive to attend so that they can become better informed of what is happening. It is a sad commentary on our enlightened conservationists when a showing of flower pictures outdraws by three or fourfold a chance to become better informed on a pressing and critical environmental problem.

Mike Smiles
Chairman, Legislation/Conservation

Some After Thoughts on Long Island's
Water Situation -

By John A. Black, President, Moraine Audubon Society

"Since the election the environmental bond issue is no longer an issue, but a direct mandate to the State that the electorate demands a cleaner environment. While it is gratifying to see environmental concern demonstrated in such an overwhelming manner in the ballot box, I feel that on Long Island most votes both for and against were cast for improper reasons. If a "no" vote were cast, in the majority of cases it was due to the fact that the voter did not feel that the environment was worth the expense. If a "yes" vote were cast, in all likelihood the voter was sincerely convinced that this was the answer to our environmental problems and that the State would take an interest in overseeing proper, ecologically sound environmental improvements.

"Unfortunately the State and Department of Environmental Conservation insists on viewing New York as a homogenous environment, when, in fact, it is not. One must realize that New York's entire marine environment is here on Long Island and nowhere else. Long Island is a unique and separate ecological entity and so its problems are also unique and separate from the rest of the State. This is particularly true when one considers our fragile freshwater resources. Unlike the rest of the State we are solely dependent on our subsurface aquifers for our drinking water.

"It is proper that the Environmental Bond provide the bulk of funding in the area of waste water clean up, however, the treatment currently meeting State standards and thus eligible for funding is Secondary Treatment. Admittedly this type of treatment will serve to clean up many of our upstate rivers since the river will take the partially treated effluent and on its way downstream it will be microbially purified and, hopefully, be of sufficient purity for human consumption when it is re-utilized.

"On Long Island, however, we do not, and cannot discharge into our rivers. The effluent from this type of treatment can thus only be disposed of by discharge into the marine environment, since it is not of sufficient purity to return to subsurface aquifers. In addition to adding large amounts of nutrients to our bays and sound, this type of treatment will drain our subsurface fresh water aquifers. Consequently, although secondary treatment is suitable for upstate areas, it will create a disastrous depletion of Long Island's freshwater aquifers and is not a suitable type of treatment for Long Island.

"Although we do have the technological ability to treat wastewater to a sufficient purity for recharge, this type of treatment is very costly and thus it becomes politically inexpedient to propose and advocate this type of treatment. Unfortunately, we Long Islanders have been placed in the position where our treatment plants will be of the type that yields an end product that can only be discharged offshore.

Some After Thoughts on Long Island's Water - cont.

"As responsible citizens we must first educate ourselves and then demand that our elected officials support only treatment plants capable of yielding an end product of sufficient purity for recharge into our water table. It is vital, however, that once our elected officials support an environmentally sound treatment system, we must support them against those who would settle for a degraded environment and a depleted water table in return for lower taxes. In addition, each and every possibility for federal aid must be investigated and we must convince our federal representatives of our endangered groundwater supplies so that they can work on a federal level to preserve our fresh water aquifers."

John A. Black, President
Moraine Audubon Society

Leroy Wilcox of Speonk, who at 72 is New York State's oldest active bird-bander. His career goes back to 1927 when he banded a yellow-billed cuckoo. In 1950, he became the first bander of his breed to have banded 1,000 ospreys.

FROM THE BIRDING FRONT

*****All bird walks start at 10:00 A.M. (unless otherwise stated)
No walk if it rains, snows, or the temperature is 25 degrees or below.*****

*****Keep in mind the car pools to the more distant places - such as Pelham Bay Park. Call one of the people listed on page #1 for transportation to meetings. A hot drink and a snack is also very welcome at these places.*****

- Feb. 4 Gilgo Beach, end of the four lane section of Ocean Parkway, east of Jones Beach (bay side).
11 Jamaica Bay - Cross Bay Boulevard, south of Belt Parkway.
18 Pelham Bay Park (See Jan. 7 walk).
25 West End Jones Beach, Parking Field #2.
Mar. 4 Coast Guard Station, Jones Beach Parking Field #2.
11 Tobay - J. F. Kennedy Sanctuary - east of Jones Beach on Ocean Parkway.
18 Jamaica Bay (See Feb. 11 walk).
25 Cedar Beach, east of Jones Beach on Ocean Parkway, past Gilgo, on the ocean side.



HAVE YOU FED THE BIRDS? SUET, SUNFLOWER SEED, MIXED SEED?
Our friend was waiting - knife and fork in wings - in our last Newsletter! Our friend had no cup; but he still needs a drink, especially in freezing weather. Keep unfrozen water available.

Conservation News



SHEEP MEN WANT TO LIFT BAN ON POISON

"America's sheep industry is working up a behind-the-scenes lobby to lift the government ban on poisons which are killing off helpless birds and mammals. The sheep men want to use government-banned poisons against coyotes, foxes, wildcats and other predators. The poisoned carcasses, however, are eaten by eagles and other carrion feeders. As they die off, the small rodents upon which they prey are able to thrive.

Then the rodents increase and devour grasslands, which causes erosion and cuts down on pasture lands. This forces the sheep men and other livestock growers to put out still more poisons to destroy the prairie dogs and other rodents....."

(Condensed from an article in the L.I. Press)

Thanks to Jean Suss for bringing this to our attention.

From your Editors

* * * * *

It is to be hoped that the heavy pressure on the Environmental Protection Agency is unsuccessful - that the ban will NOT be lifted; that our endangered eagles will be protected, as well as other wildlife from the indiscriminate use of poisons.

: :

Students in Oceanside's Senior School No. 1 have collected enough Hunt Snack Pack wrappers to buy more than 375 square feet of nesting land which will be used to aid in the survival of the United States national symbol, the bald eagle.

There are now only 800 pairs of these magnificent birds living in the United States outside of Alaska.

The Hunt Corporation offered to purchase, for each returned snack pack wrapper, 15 square feet of private land next to the Chippewa National Forest in Minnesota, where the United States Forest Service found two pair of nesting eagles. This nesting area is not a place for sightseeing, (the Forest however, is) because the risk of disturbing the eagles is too great.

SOMEONE CARED -- perhaps we will be lucky enough now to have 1000 pair of nesting eagles.

Is everyone familiar with BIRD-ALERT? If you want to know what birds can be seen and where, call - 212-832-6523 and listen. An up-to-the minute taped message will give you all the latest information.

DON'T FORGET MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

SHRUBS TO ATTRACT WILDLIFE

Are you interested in adding wildlife attracting shrubs to your plantings or wish to plant some vacant plot you own? Through the State Department of Environmental Conservation we can get very small plants of the following:

| | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Cranberry Viburnum (High Bush) | Bittersweet |
| Bush Honeysuckle | Multiflora Rose (not |
| Autumn Olive | recommended by local Rep.) |
| Toringa Crabapple | Norway Spruce |
| Austrian Pine | |



The cost is very nominal. Since it is assumed that no member wants 100 or 250 shrubs, we will accept your orders and make up the minimum requirements for the State order. Should only two members respond, the cost would be \$3.00 for 50 shrubs. If twenty persons order, the cost, depending on quantity, will be about 30 cents! You will be billed on delivery in March or April.

Remember, these are seedlings and need protection from rabbits and such until they grow up.

Call or write Asa Starkweather, 101 Lexington Avenue, Malverne. Or, for questions, telephone LY 9-5824.

Asa Starkweather



The membership will be interested to hear that "South Shore" has donated \$10.00 to the Upper Flint River Audubon Society of Georgia, for the preservation of Flint River.

Ethel Mines has sent us a newspaper clipping of Friends of Animals, Inc., a New York City based organization. It reminded people of the fact that in March 1972 a federal law was passed protecting owls, crows, hawks and 40 other species of migratory birds. Penalty for shooting, setting traps, and/or poisoning is \$500. and/or 6 months in jail.

For robbing a nest, or offering any of these birds for sale, the fine is \$2,000. and/or 2 years in jail.

This law is not really pertinent to our area but as concerned citizens we are interested. The law cannot be enforced without people. So -- if we come across violations of the law when we are in other areas, the thing to do is to report it immediately to the State's Fish and Game Commission.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP PROMPTLY

WHOOPING CRANE LOSS IS SEVEREST IN YEARS

A number of whooping cranes have failed to return to their wintering grounds in Texas, according to American and Canadian wildlife officials. They are unable to account for the decline, which has them concerned. Whooping cranes were near extinction several decades ago but have been making a comeback under Government protection.

The missing birds are believed to be dead, although air search for them continues around their wintering grounds, the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge on the south coast of Texas.

The birds approached extinction in 1941 when only 15 were counted. According to the United States and Canadian Governments, through their wildlife management, that number had nearly quadrupled to 59 wild whoopers (in addition, there are 21 in captivity).

The whooping cranes usually arrive at the Aransas Refuge by Christmas, hence the concern when a census flight confirmed that only 51 whoopers were at the refuge, a net loss of eight in a year. Five of the whoopers now foraging Aransas' tide pools are young birds, born last summer, the number of older birds lost in the year is 13. It is estimated that the national attrition rate should be about three birds a year.

Thus far wildlife workers have neither theories nor evidence to explain the cause of the decline this year. Though the lost birds are believed to be dead, a search for them goes on along the Gulf of Mexico, on either side of Arkansas.

The slowly rising whooper population in recent years has caused crowding at Arkansas, which has caused some whoopers to winter on islands just outside the refuge. Conceivably, this crowding reached a point this year that induced the missing birds to continue south along the coast to find new wintering grounds. Wildlife managers hope that this is what happened but they doubt it.

(Condensed from an article in The New York Times, Dec. 31, 1972).

The following is a list of the names, addresses and telephones of the officers of our Chapter for whom the Editor receives the most inquiries from members. If members can contact these people directly, it will reduce the time of receiving replies.

- Albert Lemke, President - 2108 Stuyvesant Avenue, East Meadow 11554
Telephone: PE 5 - 1110
- Mike Smiles, Vice-President - 1279 Melville Road, Farmingdale 11735
Chairman of Telephone: 293-7225
Legislation/Con/servation
- Raymond Ward, Chairman of - 104 Parkside Dr., Levittown #11756
Membership Telephone: PY 6-0115
- Elliott Kutner, Chairman - 461 Dunster Court, W. Hempstead #11552
Birding Telephone: IV 6-7667
- Miriam E. Raynor, Editor, - 127 Morris Avenue, Rockville Centre #11570
Newsletter Telephone: RO.4-6204

SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY
127 MORRIS AVENUE
ROCKVILLE CENTRE, N.Y. 11570



NEXT MEETING

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13th

8:15 P.M.

FREEPORT LIBRARY

FIRST CLASS MAIL



Befriend the Birds