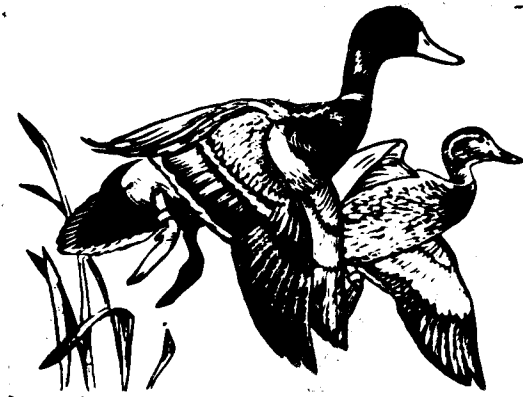


SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

Newsletter



VOLUME 4, No. 6

February 1974

NEXT MEETING -- FEBRUARY 19th

Note the date - one week later than our usual meeting day because of the Lincoln's Birthday holiday. And one would not want to miss this meeting because Mike Smiles is going to tell us about his summer at the Audubon Camp in Maine last summer; as well as show us his pictures.

Board Meeting will be on the usual first Tuesday, this month February 5th - at the Freeport Library.

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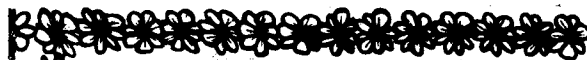
And February is the month that our Wildlife Film series resumes. The date - Friday, February 8th - at the Bayview Avenue School, Freeport. The program is "Scandinavian Saga", narrated with pictures by John D. Bulger.

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ART AND CRAFT SHOW: Don't forget - Our current ice will melt and May will be here before you realize it. We have nothing further to report, but ---

Will the woman who called Jack Fischer about a taxidermy exhibit, please get in touch with him? RO.4-6529

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Transportation
to meetings? Call ---



| | |
|------------------|-------------|
| Alvin Friedman | - RO.4-9069 |
| Frank Bear | - 223-2246 |
| Asa Starkweather | - LY 9-5824 |
| Jack Fischer | - RO 4-6529 |
| Ray Ward | - PY 6-0115 |

FROM THE PRESIDENT

There is mounting evidence that the energy crisis is largely contrived. When the oil import quotas were loosened some two years ago, big oil imported only about one-third of the permissible increase. When the quotas were dropped completely no appreciable rise in imports occurred. Furthermore, despite requests by the Federal Government no attempt was made to expand refinery capacity. It has frequently been reported that a large number of tankers are standing offshore with no attempt being made to land their cargo. The oil companies steadfastly refuse to release any figures on production or supplies on hand.

The petroleum giants have several motives for creating a shortage. It will enable them to realize such long-cherished ambitions as construction of the Alaska pipeline, expanded off-shore drilling, including Long Island, and full-scale shale extraction. It also gives them an opportunity to freeze out the independents as well as vastly increasing their already skyrocketing profits.

A friendly administration seems assured - purchased by vast contributions to the Nixon campaign fund. And now Congress is also caving in to big oil's demands. Not only was the Alaska pipeline approved but the project was removed from the safeguards of all environmental legislation. Under heavy pressure by the administration and the threat of a filibuster by some southern senators the Senate dropped a provision to guard against windfall oil profits from the energy bill. Fortunately, as of this writing this provision is still in the House bill and may yet survive House-Senate negotiations.

The near future thus will be a difficult time for the environmental movement. We must remain on our toes and fight to preserve the hardwon gains of recent years and not let them be buried under an avalanche of panic legislation. We must lead in energy conservation so as to give the petroleum and utility industries as little excuse as possible to step up their rape of the environment.

On the brighter side the energy crisis is bringing some gains. The shortage of gasoline is slashing demand for the seven-mile-per-gallon monsters as well as resulting in a cut in driving, which should help lower air pollution. And it is finally forcing a long-overdue effort by government to upgrade and even subsidize mass transit, which should also diminish America's almost slavish dependence on the automobile. And it may bring a decrease in our fantastic waste of energy. We can cut our consumption substantially with no hardship and only minor, occasional inconvenience.

Al Lemke, President

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Off-shore oil drilling -- Hearings will again be heard on off-shore oil drilling, including Long Island. If you share our feelings about this, it is important to let them be known. Write -- Council on Environmental Quality, 775 Jackson Place, N.W. Washington, D. C. #20006.

As we said way back, "letters do count".

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

The Department of the Interior has taken a bold step to cut off the importation of live wildlife by the pet trade. Live wildlife, (except for a few "low-risk wildlife" such as some fish, canary, and bull frog), can be imported only for scientific, educational, zoological, or medical purposes under a permit from the Department of the Interior. This means that once the regulations go into effect, the trade in exotic pets, which is taking a serious toll on wild animals, including rare species, would be effectively ended. Because the pet trade will undoubtedly launch a massive campaign to oppose these regulations, it is vital that Audubon members present their all-out support. Written comments should be sent, in triplicate, by March 1, to the Director (FSF/LE), Bureau of Sport Fisheries & Wildlife, Washington, D. C. #20240.

Congress completed action on the endangered species bill and it has been signed into law by the President. The new law for the first time provides federal protection for domestic endangered species and authorizes funds and procedures for states to develop their own protective programs. This long due measure is generally a strong one and an important achievement for the 93rd Congress which conservationists can applaud.

Hearings on Senator Mark Hatfield's "Non-returnable Beverage Container Prohibition Act of 1973" (S. 2062), which has been referred to the Senate Commerce Committee, will be held sometime in February. A similar ban is now in effect in Oregon and has been working quite successfully. Letters in support of this measure can be sent to your Senator asking that your views be made known to the Senate Commerce Committee.

The mining lobby has been effectively delaying completion of a strip-mining regulation bill in Congress. This delay is occurring in the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, and the strong bill, (S. 425), passed by the Senate, will probably not be brought before the House floor until late March. The mining and utility lobbies figure the delay, and the cold winter they are hoping for, will help scuttle or gut the bill. Let your Representative know that you still support the Senate's strip-mining bill, #S. 425.

Two bills that Audubon is against are H.R. #10796, which will allow spraying of DDT, and H.R. #12266, a predator control bill. Details on why Audubon is against these bills can be obtained from the January 1974 issue of Audubon magazine, page #126.

Two more areas are being reviewed for wilderness protection under the Wilderness Act of 1964. One of these areas is Mount Ranier National Park. You may wish to send a short statement supporting wilderness designation for Mount Ranier National Park. Letters should be sent to: Hearing Officer, c/o Superintendent, Mount Ranier National Park, Longmire, Washington #98397. Be sure to ask that your letter be included in the hearing record and that it be sent before February 19, 1974. The other area is the Uncompahgre-Wilson Mts. of Colorado. Again you may wish to send a letter indicating your support for the Citizens' 172,000-acre wilderness proposal in the Uncompahgre-Wilson Mountains country and for a moratorium on surface disturbance by mineral development activities within the boundaries of the wilderness areas. Send letters to Regional Forester W. J. Lucas, Building #85, Denver Federal Center, Denver, Colorado #80225, before February 15, 1974.

Mike Smiles, Chairman, Legislation

!SPECIAL BULLETIN!

The Bureau of Land Management Organic Act: Support is needed now so that the B.L.M. (Bureau of Land Management Organic Act) before the Senate be amended to permit wild areas now administered by the B.L.M. be included in the National Wilderness Preservation system. Failure to provide this protection for B.L.M. lands will result in the loss of some of the most superb wilderness found anywhere in this country.

LETTERS should be written immediately to Senator James Buckley, who is a member of the Senate Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, which will be marking up a final version of the B.L.M. Organic Act very soon.

ALSO, to President Nixon letting him know of your concern that B.L.M.-administered wilderness be given protection in the National Wilderness Preservation system.

DO IT NOW.

Mike Smiles, Chairman
Legislation/Conservation

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Alert conservation officials: During a routine check of hunters in Columbia and Green counties, over the long October Veterans Day weekend, environmental conservation officers seized 29 birds including robins, juncos, rusty blackbirds, downy and pileated woodpeckers, killedeer and mourning doves. 17 hunters were charged with illegally taking the songbirds and were fined a total of \$2,012.50 for taking protected birds in violation of the state fish and game law. While this sort of violation occurs from time to time, according to the N.Y.S. Environmentalist, it is rare for so many hunters to be apprehended in one weekend.

It proved to be a costly way to beat the high cost of meat, which, believe it or not, was apparently the motive!

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**New disposal unit for solid waste -
for Town of Hempstead?**

Is everyone aware that the week of January 14th the Town of Hempstead put out bids for construction of a new disposal plant for solid waste for the Town of Hempstead? This will be built with private funds (the Town getting a percentage of the profits) and will dispose of 2,000 tons of solid waste per day - waste which is now further wasted by dumping. If successful, it will be expanded to dispose of 3,000 tons per day which is approximately the amount of solid waste currently collected in the Town of Hempstead. (Total amount for Nassau County is approximately 5,000 tons per day of which the Town of Hempstead accounts for roughly 2/3rds.)

Through a separation process, the plant will recover per day 140 tons of ferrous metals, 20 tons of aluminum, 2 tons of brass and 80 tons of glass. Profits to the operator should amount to about \$1,750,000 / year. Non-recoverable inorganic and organic materials such as paper fibers, yard waste, etc., will be made into fuel for large generators which will have the potential to produce over 225,000,000 (225 million) kilowatts of electricity (about 25% of residential energy requirements of the Town).

Contracts are expected to be awarded this spring and the plant will be built on a 15-acre site at the intersection of Meadowbrook Parkway and Stewart Avenue.

---FROM THE BIRDING FRONT---



Wood Duck

Bird Walk Schedule - February

-- All walks start at 10:00 A.M. unless otherwise noted. No walk if it rains, snows, or the temperature is 25 degrees or below.
For further information, call the birding chairman, Elliott Kutner - IV 6-7667 --

- February ---- 3rd - Pelham - Meet 9:00 A.M. - extreme right lane of parkway after going through toll booth of Throggs Neck Bridge.
- 10th - J. F. Kennedy Sanctuary (Tobay Beach) - east of Jones Beach - north side of Ocean Blvd.
- 17th - Jamaica Bay - South of Belt Parkway off Cross Bay Blvd.
- 24th - Jones Beach, West End Parking Field #2

Elliott Kutner
Chairman, Birding

Transportation to Sunday bird walks? -- Anyone needing transportation to the bird walks from the Freeport or Baldwin area, call --- Elliott Kutner -- IV 6-7667, or Alvin Friedman -- RO 4-9069

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Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary:

The third winter walk at the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary will be on Sunday, February 3rd, at 1:30 P.M.

As currently scheduled, there will be one more walk after this - in March.

Mike Smiles, Chairman

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Bird Watcher's Exchange?

How about letting the Editor know of any different, or unusual birds you may see in your yard, or elsewhere? We're sure each of us will be interested in what others may have seen; and a monthly report can be made in the Newsletter. There was much interest in Harry Hopping's Baltimore Orioles and two years ago there was as much interest in the Evening Grosbeak's which appeared in many of our yards. A card or 'phone call to the Editor will be sufficient. This month we'll start with :-

Larry Fischer - who, until Daylight Saving Time, said Good Morning each day to a Belted Kingfisher, working the stream behind the Oceanside High School. After Daylight Saving Time, the Kingfisher did not get up as early as Larry.

Alma Morton - and, just in time for the Newsletter, is a card from Alma Morton, wintering in Sanibel, saying "wish you could see these birds -" White Pelicans, Coots, Gooney birds, etc.

BIRDING FROM OUR MEMBERS - its ups and downs!

At this season of the year, when the water in the rock garden is frozen, and a few hardy sparrows peck in the snow, I like to look back and remember some of the highlights of my birding memories.

There was the day that Jack was cleaning fish on the back steps, and a fledgling sparrow landed on his head for a moment's rest, on its uncertain way from nest to feeder. Or the day the starling got caught under the safety net on the pool. And most of all, I remember the day **THE SPARROW GOT HIS HEAD CAUGHT IN THE BIRDHOUSE**. I was fixing breakfast, looking for lost sneakers, etc. when Larry looked out the window and yelled, "there's a bird stuck in the birdhouse!" We all rushed out, me in my nightie, Jack in his shorts, and Larry in his bare feet (lost sneakers). Sure enough, this fool bird had gotten his neck feathers snagged on a split in the wood, and was hanging there, head in the hole, body out, flapping his wings furiously, and screeching like crazy. The female was circling around him twittering. Larry got the ladder out of the pool, Jack went up and grasped the bird gently but firmly to keep it from breaking its neck, then Larry went up the other side, and worked the house loose from the tree. Here's the picture now. Jack, holding the bird in one hand, the house in the other, Larry and I with an assortment of possibly useful tools, including a can opener, shouting advice, and the female, circling around our heads making plaintive noises; obviously very upset by this hitch in her marriage plans. Well, with very cautious manipulating Jack worked the bird loose. He sat for a moment, shook himself, and flew off, never to be seen again. The female hung around for a few days, perched forlornly on the dislodged house that spelled the ruin of her hopes, then she, too, flew off. We returned to the kitchen with the sense of accomplishment that a job well done brings, cold breakfast, and coffee boiled all over the stove.

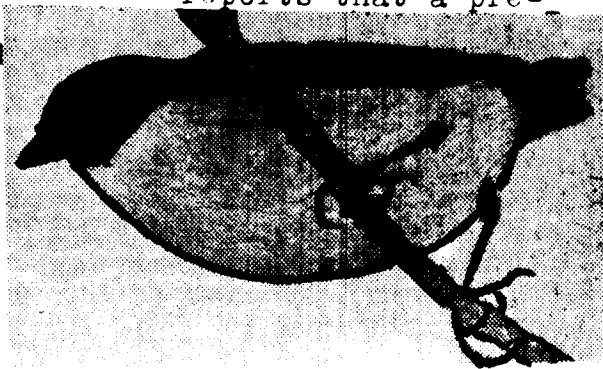
Marge Fischer

New Species of Honeycreeper found in Hawaii?

Previously unknown bird has been sighted in a remote rain forest of Hawaii. Believed to be a member of the Hawaiian Honeycreeper family, it would be the first new genus and species of bird reported in 10 years, according to the National Science Foundation, which announced the discovery. It is an exciting event for bird watchers who tend to assume "that everything has already been discovered", said Allan D. Cruickshank.

The bird, yet to be named, was sighted by a group of eight students working on an ecological study of the forest on Haleakala volcano on Maui. "When we first contacted professional ornithologists and presented drawings, it seemed incredible that in 1973 a totally unknown species existed, said John Kjargaard, student project director for the study.

The New York Times reports that a pre-



Newly sighted member of Hawaiian Honeycreeper family

EARLY DEADLINE FOR MARCH NEWSLETTER - News must be in by the 10th of February. Because of the lateness of our meeting date, and a short month meeting night will be too late. (Editor)

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-- USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS --

HELP..... HELP..... HELP..... and/or advice, for injured birds:

A. and A. Veterinary Hospital, 414 Franklin Ave., Franklin Square
Tel. GE.7-2222. Free care for any wild bird.

Mrs. Arlene Thomas, author of "Bird Ambulance", at 212-HO.8-2330

BIRD ALERT - 212-832-6523 for an up-to-the-minute taped message.

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AIR POLLUTION? To report complaints, call 535-3232, Mondays through
Fridays, 9:00 A.M. to 4:45 P.M. - Nassau County Bureau of Air
Pollution Control.

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Our Congressmen --- We have been asked to list the names of
our Senators and Representatives, so we
will include this each month, on the last page, so that the page can be
removed and kept for permanent referral.

Representatives: Norman Lent; Anthony Roncalli; J. Grover; John Wydler,
and L. Wolff
Address: Honorable _____
House Office Buildings, Washington, D.C. #20515

Senators: Jacob Javits, James Buckley
Address: Senator _____
Senate Office Buildings, Washington, D.C. #20510

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SOUTH SHORE CHAPTER, NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

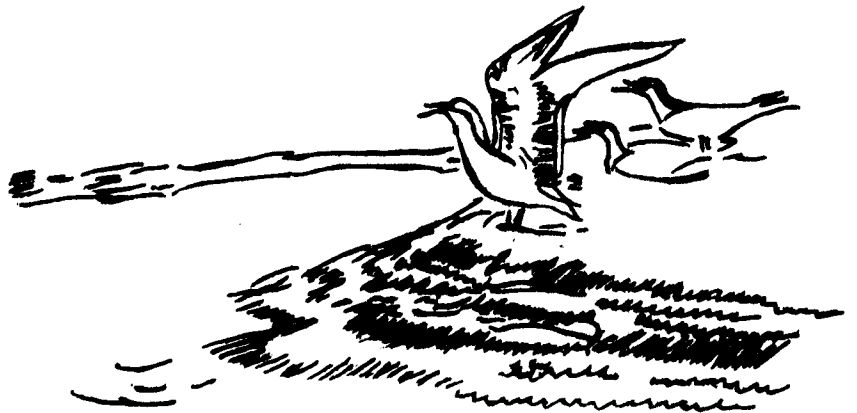
- Albert Lenke, President - 2108 Stuyvesant Ave., East Meadow #11554
Tel. PE 5-1110
- Michael Smiles, Vice-President - 1279 Melville Rd. Farmingdale #11735
Chairman, Legislation - Tel. 293-7225
- Jack Fischer, Treasurer - 204 Forest St., Oceanside #11572
Tel. RO 4-6529
- Laura Friedman, Secretary - 3275 Oceanside Rd., Oceanside #11572
Tel. RO 4-9069
- Raymond Ward, Membership - 104 Parkside Dr. Levittown #11756
Tel. PY 6-0115
- Elliott Kutner, Birding - 461 Dunster Court, West Hempstead 11552
Tel. IV 6-7667
- Miriam E. Rayner, Editor - 127 Morris Ave., Reckville Centre #11570
Tel. RO 4-6204

DEADLINE FOR MARCH NEWSLETTER - February 10 - Meeting night is too late

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL

-- FEBRUARY MEETING --
Tuesday, February 19th
Freeport Library - 8:15 P. M.



"If Beasts and Birds Abound No More
and Fish Grow Scarce on Every Shore -
What Chance Have You and I, my Friend,
to Meet a Different Gladder End?"
Anon.