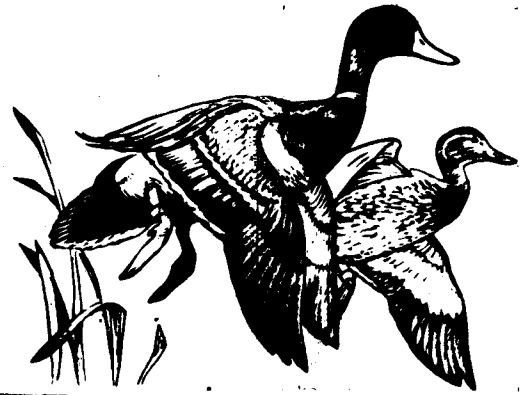


SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

Newsletter



VOLUME 5, No. 5

JANUARY 1975

- NEXT MEETING -

In January, our meeting (on the 12th) will feature our own Al. Lemke who will show his pictures of Yellowstone and the Grand Tetons, taken on his vacation this past summer.

We will continue to have the attraction of 'coffee and'. This was enjoyed by everyone at our December meeting, hosted by Elsie Smiles featuring a homemade cake, and homemade cookies. Come and enjoy it with us in January.

There will be a Board Meeting on the 7th of January, as usual a week before our meeting.

The next Audubon Wildlife Film at the Hempstead Town Hall Pavilion will be Tuesday, January 28 - 8:15 P.M. The title is "The Vanishing Sea" by Robert W. Davison. Great Salt Lake is the focal point of this photographic study of life in and around the Great Basin in Western United States.

Coming Events at Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary:

- January 12: Winter Search Party. 1:30 P.M. This is a walk to look for animals and where they stay in winter.
- January 23: 7:30 P.M. Demonstration on caring for oiled birds. This will be under the direction of Dr. Tangretti and Sally Ruppert.

The Sanctuary has now been designated an Emergency Rescue Center for Waterfowl. Volunteers are urgently needed; the above demonstration is part of the program. If you will volunteer; and, if you can and will attend the demonstration, please call the Sanctuary -

Alan and Estelle Ruppert - WA.2-3200 or write
P.O. Box #5, Oyster Bay, N.Y. #11771

All programs at the Sanctuary are free and open to the public.

Scholarship to Maine Audubon Camp: Last call for applications. The committee will soon meet to decide on the recipient; but there is still time to get your application in, but you must act now.

-- FROM THE PRESIDENT --

Recently the Board of Directors of the South Shore Audubon Society decided to take an extraordinary step to protect the environment of Long Island. It was decided to join the Environmental Defense Fund and various other Long Island conservation groups as co-plaintiffs in their suit against the Environmental Protection Agency and State Department of Environmental Conservation.

This suit, which was filed several weeks ago in U.S. District Court in Brooklyn, seeks injunctions to stop all federal funding of sewer projects that involve treatment plants wholly dependent on ocean outfall pipes. Immediately, this suit specifically affects the Southwest Sewer District of Suffolk County and any expansion of the Bay Park Sewer Plant. The suit is also seeking a comprehensive study of Long Island's water supply problems and a land acquisition plan to insure adequate open space in the two-county area for natural recharging of ground water. The basis of the suit is that the Environmental Protection Agency's present plans do not reflect any comprehensive water resources planning and therefore violate the 1972 Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments and the National Environmental Policy Act that require the defendants to protect by 1983 water supplies, shellfish, recreational streams and ocean waters. The South Shore Audubon Society feels that the Environmental Protection Agency's reliance on structural techniques such as centralized coastal treatment plants with ocean outfalls indicates that the agency has not considered problems unique to areas such as Long Island where ground water reservoirs are the sole source of drinking water. To prevent salt water intrusion into ground aquifers, the drying up of all lakes and rivers on Long Island, and the altering of salinity levels in coastal waters, as much water must be returned to the ground as is withdrawn. This can only be done by some type of closed cycle water management program. More consideration and effort must be put into water treatment measures such as ground water recharge, spray irrigation, dual plumbing systems, and water conservation programs.

This suit is not asking for total recharge and advanced treatment of sewer plant wastes, but rather for 'a mix' with present day treatment methods in order to preserve the ground water and the quality of the Island's recreational streams, lakes, and beaches. South Shore Audubon feels that something must be done NOW to protect our water resources if we are to meet the 1983 deadline of clean water. Other advanced alternative technologies must be given their fair chance to replace presently accepted, but obsolete techniques for Long Island's situation. For these reasons, South Shore Audubon Society has decided to join this suit to help protect Long Island's critical water resources.

Michael Smiles, President



--LEGISLATION - CONSERVATION--

Last month Secretary of Interior Rogers C. B. Morton introduced an amendment to the BLM Organic Act now before the House Interior Committee which would allow oil development on protected public lands except when Congress passes a resolution of disapproval. Only National Parks would be exempted and after 1983 National Wilderness areas. This means that National Wildlife Refuges, National Forests, National Monuments, National Wild and Scenic Rivers and all other public lands would not be protected from oil development. This amendment would kill major protective features of public lands and could be extended to the establishment of mineral reserves on these lands as well. I will keep you posted as new information becomes available.

The Senate and House finally passed legislation to help assure safe drinking water. Hearings are expected re the accelerated proposed oil and gas leasing plan for 1975 - will keep you posted.

Nationwide the November elections increased environmental strength in many states. Wyoming elected a new governor, Ed. Herschler, who unlike the incumbent, wants to slow down development plans, particularly in the coal rich Powder River Basin. In Montana, M.S. Baucus defeated Representative Richard Shoup by taking a strong stand against development of power plants. In Colorado, Senator-elect Gary Hart and Governor Richard Lamm won on strong environment platforms. In Ohio, Senator-elect John Glenn was backed by environmentalists and in Arkansas, Senator-elect Dale Bumpers added his opposition to the channelization of the Cache River. In South Carolina, William Campbell, a founder of the South Carolina Columbia Audubon Chapter, was elected a state representative and the new governor, James Edwards, has made several statements opposing industrial development of the state coastline. Jay Hammond became Alaska's new governor defeating pro-development William Egan. Egan was a major backer of the Alaska pipeline and has a poor environmental record. Our own Governor-elect Hugh Carey is a backer of mass transit and land-use planning. California's new governor, Ed. Brown, and Oregon's Bob Stroud (who replaces Governor Tom McCall) were backed by environmentalists. Representative Joel Broyhill (Va.) ranking minority member of the House Ways and Means Committee and a strong backer of oil subsidies and urban freeways, was defeated. Information on bond issues in next month's Newsletter.

The World Food Conference in Rome which ended November 16 established a new United Nations Agency, the World Food Council, to supervise long and short term international efforts to deal with famine, malnutrition and starvation. Although environmentalists were disappointed that no other concrete proposals were passed, at least the conference did focus the World's attention on the suffering and death from starvation occurring in Asia and India. We had hoped the delegates would discuss the shortcomings of pesticides, the problems of dependence on American-style energy-intensive monoculture methods and use of chemical fertilizers, and the interrelationship of food and populations. All of us should write our elected officials to voice our concern regarding this urgent and tragic problem. Write President Ford, the White House, Washington, D.C. #20500; and your representatives in Congress - c/o House (or Senate) Office Building, Washington, D.C. #20515 (#20510).

Local elections will be reviewed in February.

Pat. Davis
Chairman, Conservation

NEWS FROM TAC: The Atlantic Coalition is holding a series of public meetings, to bring the problems of sludge into public discussion. These programs will feature experts in all phases of the problem. If you can attend any or all of these meetings, it would be most important. There is no need to participate, but will help to show that we are actively interested in a speedy and positive solution to the problem of sludge off our shores.

The first meeting was held December 12th, too late for this Newsletter, at the Hofstra Law School. Anthony S. Taormina, Director of Marine & Coastal Resources for the N.Y.S. Department of Environmental Conservation, was the speaker.

Also, if you will help out by joining to add much needed financial help, call Al. or Fritzie Lemke at PE.5-1110 for a brochure and application.

We will try to keep you informed of future meetings in time for you to plan to attend.

PUBLICATION: National Audubon Society, Western Regional Office, has recently published a 52-page "Guide to the Care of Injured Wildlife" in the Western Region. Although written for the Western Region, it would also be a useful addition to bookshelves in any of National Audubon's eight other regions. To order, send \$1.00 donation to cover third class mailing to the National Audubon Society, Western Regional Office, 555 Audubon Place, Sacramento, California #95825.



- PHOTOGRAPHS WANTED -

Richard Roberts, one of South Shore's founders and husband of our former treasurer, Audrey, is writing and publishing a book on Vivariums. For those of you who may not know, a vivarium is an indoor reproduction of a natural habitat; similar to but more extensive than a terrarium; and perhaps the land counterpart of an aquarium. For use in this book, Mr. Roberts needs photographs of natural habitat, including animals, especially; and, if anyone has a vivarium or knows someone who does, pictures of it would be more than welcome. All photographs will be returned and credit given in the book to the photographer. Small remuneration may be possible.

Many of our members must have appropriate photographs; and, if you are willing to have these considered for inclusion in this book, telephone the Roberts at RO.6-7274; or, if no answer (frequently no one is home) write and/or mail the photographs to RICHARD ROBERTS, 78 Jackson Ave., Rockville Centre, N.Y. #11570.

-- FROM THE BIRDING FRONT --

Bird Walks for January, February, March:

As always, all walks start at 10:00 A.M. unless otherwise stated, and there is no walk if it rains, snows, or the temperature is 25 deg. or below.

- January 5 - Jamaica Bay
12 - Zach's Bay, Parking Field #4, N.E. Corner
19 - Cedar Beach
26 - Short Beach, Parking Field #2, West End, N.E. Corner

- February 2 - Jamaica Bay
9 - Pelham Bay - Meet at 9:00 A.M. on the through side of the Toll Booth at Throgg's Neck Bridge.
16 - Tobay, J.F. Kennedy Sanctuary
23 - West End, Parking Field #2, N.W. Corner

- March 2 - Jamaica Bay
9 - Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. Corner

Elliott Kutner
Chairman, Birding



Yellow-billed
Cuckoo



Interesting?

The Kingfisher lives in a hole in the ground! Their nest starts out as a grapefruit-sized hole in the bank of a pond or stream, extends underground in a tunnel that may reach six feet or more, ending in a room where the female lays from five to fourteen eggs. The young do not see daylight until they are about four weeks old, then the parents bring them out to teach them to fly and fish.

Both picture and article from Marge Fischer.



NOTES from a Trip to the Orient -
Ruth Grossman -

When I was in the British Crown Colony of Hong Kong last September, I was looking for the book, "Birds of the Orient" in Swindon's Book Store. I never found it - maybe there isn't such a book, but I did discover The Hong Kong Bird Report, put out by the Hong Kong Bird Watching Society. The following article, found in this report, amused me and I thought my fellow members of South Shore might like to share it.

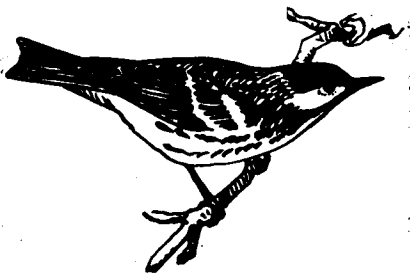
"You Can't Be Too Careful", by E.D.W. -

"At about 2:30 on the morning of 13 February, I heard from my bedroom (which is over the garage in Government House ground and facing north-east) a loud two-note call 'Whoo-hoo'. It was so clear and sonorous that at first I thought it must be man-made, or more likely Boy-made. When the two notes were repeated at intervals over the next two hours, the culprit took shape as a bird and the bird as a possible owl. Some snoring and Barn Owl imitations near the end of the performance added to the owl theory.

The only owl I had heard in the urban area, or anywhere else in Hong Kong was the Collared Scops, whose mournful "peep" every few seconds made it an unlikely candidate for such a musical performance. A visit to the library next morning and a browse through the books on birds of Hong Kong, Malaya, Burma, and Borneo suggested a Brown Hawk-Owl which was very exciting.

The following night, I was wakened from a light sleep by the two-note call, this time at about 4:30. I dressed hurriedly and went into the garden, which, of course, I should have done the night before. Alas, the bird made no sound from the moment I started dressing, and after waiting for half an hour I gave up the vigil. From the bedroom, The call sounded very close and yet hard to get a bearing on. It seemed to originate in Government House garden or just across the road in the Botanical Gardens, certainly no so far off as the cages. But read on.

A few days later, I heard a dweller in the 'Albany' relating last year's story of the Argus Pheasant in the Botanical Gardens and how its nightly calling had created some brisk correspondence in the press. At that time I was out of the Colony. A subsequent conversation with Dr. K.C. Searle confirmed that the disturber of my sleep was no owl but a love-sick Argus Pheasant, and I heard it many times later that spring, and it has been again in the correspondence column. Which only goes to show that you can't be too careful."



PLEASE NOTE

- ANNOUNCEMENT RE NEWSLETTER -

PLEASE NOTE

We have been having complaints from many of our members about not receiving the Newsletter; also, some have been receiving two or more copies. This has been discussed with the printer and so far we are not sure where the problem is. We want you to get the Newsletter regularly and without problem. So, if you have any problems, please continue to let the Membership Chairman know.

Miriam E. Raynor, Editor
Dorothy Lovering, Membership Chairman
45 Oakmont Ave., Hempstead, #11550

AND, also re the Newsletter, we have had at least one suggestion for a new and specific masthead for South Shore. This from Bruce Phillips of Massapequa. He had three suggestions; first, choose a symbol, local bird or animal without too much color (Herring Gull, Black Backed Duck, etc.) This would then be the center for a masthead to be designed later. second, have suggestions open to competition from members, as would be the masthead design later. third, this bird or animal symbol would be specific for South Shore and could be used later to make up other insignia, if wanted.

We also had submission of one masthead from Michael Buthe.

One suggestion does not make for a membership decision. How about more?

AND, last but not least - We will be looking for a new Editor for our Newsletter at the end of this year. Your present Editor has been doing this for 5 years and is wanting a change of pace. Do we have anyone willing to take on this job? It is an interesting and rewarding job. Call Mike Smiles or the Editor and let us know your willingness.

Art and Craft Show: A little more on this. It will be in the same place, Calvary Temple, Baldwin, at approximately the same time - namely, sometime in May. The Fischer's are hoping to make this a bigger show this year, so it is not too early to start thinking about your entries.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS FOR INJURED BIRDS:-

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

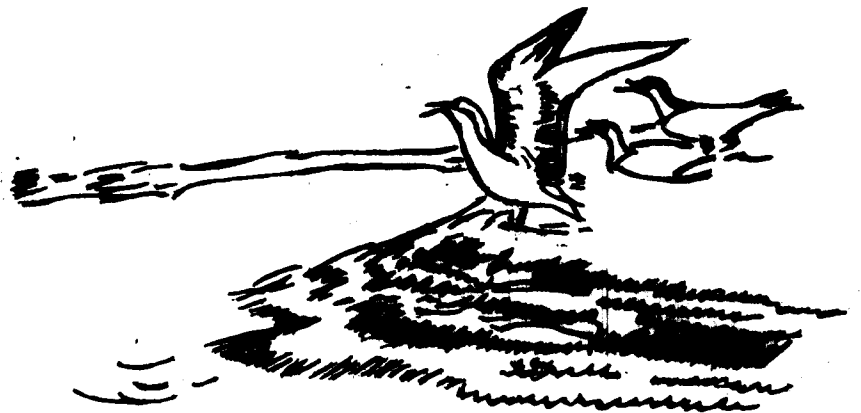
Mrs. Arlene Thomas, Author of "Bird Ambulance" - Tel. 212 - HO. 8-2330.

Bird Hospital - Huntington - Mrs. Sallie Ruppert - Tel. HA. 7-2630.

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL

-- NEXT MEETING --
-- Tuesday, January 14 --
-- Freeport Library --
-- 8:15 P.M. --



-- SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY --

Officers - Committee Chairmen, 1974-75

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Jack Fischer, Treasurer	- 204 Forest St., Oceanside, N.Y. #11572 Tel. RO.4-6529
Laura Friedman, Recording Secretary	- 3275 Oceanside Rd., Oceanside, N.Y. #11572 Tel. RO.4-6529
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