

SOUTH SHORE SKIMMER



SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

VOL. 6, NO. 4

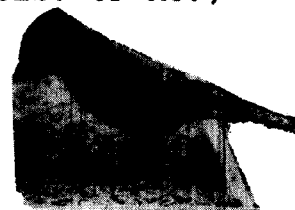
DECEMBER 1975

MEETING: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16TH (3RD TUES. OF MO.)

TIME: 8:15 P.M.

PLACE: Freeport Library

PROGRAM: "Birds, Bugs, and Flowers"



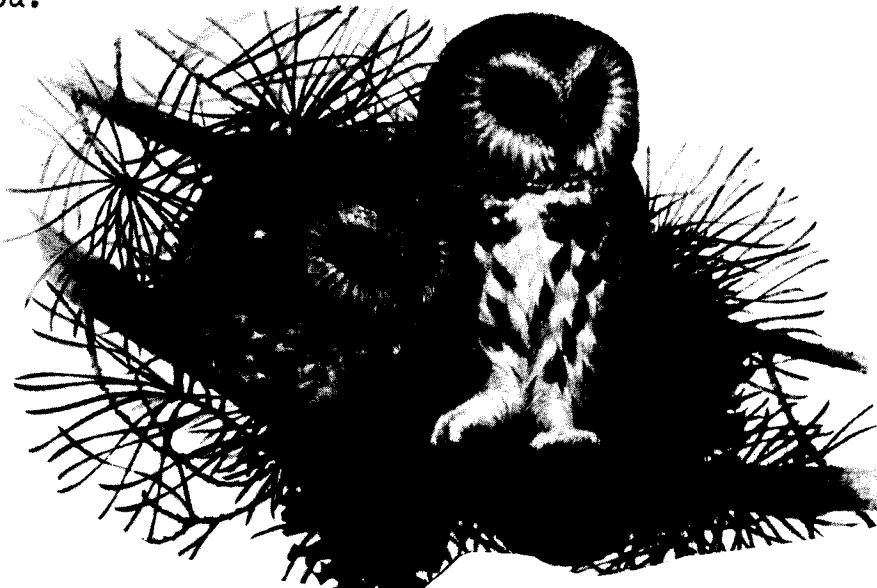
SAS member, Mr. Adrian Dignan, will present an entertaining and enjoyable color slide show on the birds, bugs, and flowers of L.I. So, if you would like to know more about the "nature habitat" in your backyard, please mark your calendar -- TUESDAY, DECEMBER 16TH, 8:15 P.M., FREEPORT LIBRARY. See you there!

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION NIGHT

We are looking forward to having an Audience Participation Night at our February meeting. Members are requested to show five to ten of their favorite slides. These slides should have some nature theme - anything from general sciences to close-ups of birds, plants, rocks, etc. These slides may be sequential shots on one subject or completely unrelated to each other. We are asking that you give these slides to our Program Chairperson, Clara Thrush, ahead of time, preferably at our December or January meetings. In this way, the slides will be in the slide tray ready to go on the night of the program. Please let's make Audience Participation Night a success. It depends on you!



HAPPY
HOLIDAYS



► PRESIDENT'S PAGE ◄

The National Audubon Society is conducting a new membership drive with the cooperation of the more than 350 Audubon Chapters throughout the country. Most Auduboners are probably familiar with the authoritative work written by Edgar M. Reilly, Jr. and edited by Dr. Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr., AUDUBON ILLUSTRATED HANDBOOK OF AMERICAN BIRDS. This complete single volume guide to all the birds of North America containing over 500 pages with 410 photos and 100 drawings is offered, normally, by the Society's Service Department at a special price of \$12.95. The original list price was \$25. This book will, for this membership drive, be sent free to any Chapter member who enrolls three or more new members—gift memberships are eligible. This offer will be maintained for as long as the supply of books lasts. Although supplies are limited, there should be enough books for a campaign of several months duration.

To keep the membership campaign as simple as possible, the following ground rules have been established:

1. The offer begins immediately. Give some gift memberships for the holidays, and receive a gift yourself.
2. All applications must be forwarded to the Chapter Membership Chairperson, Mrs. Dorothy Lovering (address on back cover), in groups of three or more with remittance checks enclosed.
3. The name and address of the individual to receive the book must also be included.
4. All categories of membership including gift memberships will count as one unit.
5. In all matters relating to this campaign, decisions of the Director of Membership of the National Audubon Society will be final.

I hope many of you will take advantage of this offer to receive this interesting and informative book. Also, remember the major financial input for the chapter is the dues split arrangement with National. Therefore, any new members you obtain for our chapter is like a donation to the local chapter to help us continue our educational and environmental efforts.

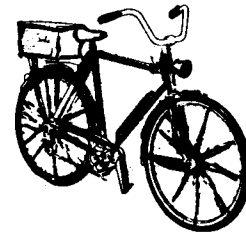


Mike Smiles, President

SCHOLARSHIP OFFER

The South Shore Audubon Society is offering a full tuition scholarship to the Audubon Workshop in Maine. The workshop is held on Hog Island, about one-half mile off the Maine coast. The workshop is for a two-week period beginning Sunday, July 11, and ending Friday, July 23, 1976. This scholarship is open to members and non-members of Audubon; the only requirement being an interest in the outdoors. The minimum age is 18 at the time of the workshop. If you would like to be considered for this scholarship or receive a brochure, please write: Scholarship Committee, South Shore Audubon Society, P.O. Box 31, Freeport, N.Y. 11520. In your letter please explain how this workshop experience would help you spread the environmental cause. The recipient of this scholarship will be chosen sometime in March.

CONSERVATION NEWS



SST UPDATE

Political figures William Ruckelshaus and Charles Goodell have been hired by the British and French governments in their continuing battle over the future of the SST in this country. Ruckelshaus, as former director of the Environmental Protection Agency, is utilizing his knowledge of the politics of environmental law to advise the British on the best ways to have the Concorde approved. Former U.S. Senator Goodell is advising and representing Air France. Ruckelshaus may also serve as council for the Concorde if the issue reaches the courts. The SST's cost to the environment cannot be overemphasized. Considering the importance of the issue to L.I. and the strong opposition to the Concorde by so many of its residents, it might be beneficial to advise Ruckelshaus and Goodell through letters to their law firms of your feelings on the subject.

S 2510

Senator Mike Gravel (Alaska) has proposed a bill which asks for the Federal Power Commission to reach a decision by June 30, 1976 on the routing of a natural gas pipeline from Prudhoe Bay. The bill would exempt the decision from judicial review, making it impossible to challenge the decision under the National Environmental Policy Act. Challenges then would only be made as to the constitutionality of the exemption and would have to be filed within 60 days of the bill's enactment. The bill is presently awaiting hearings and is before the Senate Commerce Committee.

SYNTHETIC FUELS

The Senate is attempting to add 6 billion dollars to the House version of the Energy Research and Development Administration Appropriations Bill. The money would be in the form of loan guarantees to aid private industry in developing synthetic fuels. On top of this sum, President Ford is asking for an additional 5 billion in price supports and construction grants which would give synthetic fuels a top priority over efforts to make renewable energy resources available. The majority of the funds would be used in financing oil shale and coal gasification and liquification plants which are estimated to cost about one billion each. Strong opposition to the loan guarantee provision is being waged by environmentalists. They are striving to have a new provision drawn up while they attack the existing legislation on several fronts:

1. The provision was never debated at public hearings.
2. Scientists have argued that the net energy gained from synthetic fuels will never offset initial energy input.
3. Large environmental costs would insue from increased air pollution and the fact that large amounts of water would be diverted from agricultural projects.
4. It is felt that many energy conservation programs are being overlooked that would save energy as well as tax dollars.

MISCELLANEOUS

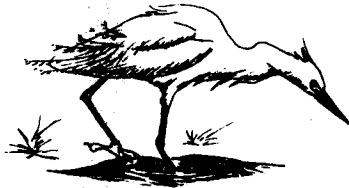
A \$168,750 grant from the EPA will be used to furnish 14 unemployed Nassau residents with jobs as environmental technicians. The persons are to be selected from high unemployment areas such as Long Beach and Hempstead.

CONSERVATION NEWS CONT'D

Any hope for a strip-mine bill this year was killed by a 21-20 vote in the House Interior Committee. The Committee voted down a motion by Rep. John Melcher to attach the previously vetoed bill to other pieces of legislation.

Residents in Inwood have won an unprecedented victory by showing that a local textile processing plant was in violation of the state's environmental law. The Town House Finishing Co. was fined \$500 for spreading offensive fumes into the atmosphere. The firm has placed the fault on machinery misuse but has agreed to install smoke-control equipment by April.

A recent joint study by the Policy Analysis Group at Brookhaven Labs, and the Institute for Urban Science Research at Stonybrook has called for the curbing of urban sprawl as a major way to conserve energy. They estimate a 15 to 25% saving in energy by the year 2000 if the guidelines set by the Nassau-Suffolk Regional Planning Boards' comprehensive plan is followed. Energy resources and agricultural land are rapidly dwindling and now is the time to seek out alternatives to our present living practices.



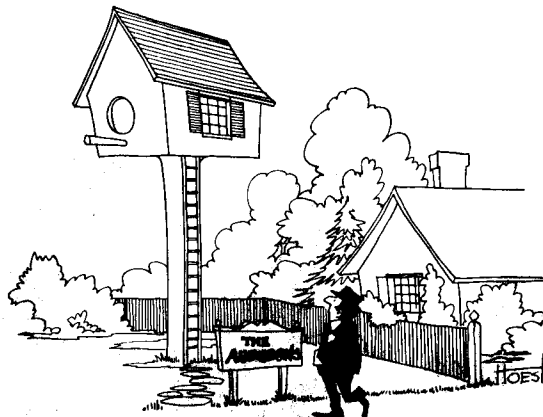
Paul Butkereit, Conservation

BIRD WALKS 1975-1976

FIELD TRIPS: The starting time for all bird walks is 9:30 A.M. There is no walk if it rains, snows, or the temperature is 25 degrees or below.

- DEC. 7 -Pelham Bay - Meet at Throg's Neck Toll Plaza at 9:00 A.M.
- 14 -West End Parking Field #2, N.E. corner.
- 21 -Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner.
- 28 -Tobay, J.F.K. Sanctuary.

- JAN. 4 -Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- 11 -West End #2, N.W. corner.
- 18 -Parking Field #4, N.E. corner.
- 25 -Pelham Bay - Meet at Throg's Neck Toll Plaza at 9:00 A.M.



The following is another enjoyable article written by SAS member Stanley Ziminski. You may recall Mr. Ziminski's entertaining story about a family of raccoons ("We Had a Baby at Our House") in our Sept. issue.

"My First Seahorse"

While walking along the shore of Jones Beach one balmy October day, my attention was attracted by a small object in the sands ahead. As I got close to it, I could see that it was a seahorse that had been washed ashore! In all my years, this was the first time I had ever seen one outside of a pet shop or aquarium. It was lying on its side with its tail slowly waving about in the air.

I picked it up and looked at it. I was quite sure it was going to die. So, I decided to take it home.

When you read, "It has a head like that of a horse, an external skeleton like that of an insect, a prehensile tail like that of a monkey, eyes that can move independently like those of a chameleon and a pouch for carrying its young like a kangaroo", you would exclaim, "What an ugly creature that must be!" But the more I looked at it, the prettier it became. I had a feeling of sorrow that it was going to die. After showing it to my wife, I decided to see if it would make a comeback.

I found a small pool, about ankle deep, on the shore that was being fed by the waves. After placing the seahorse in it, I waited. About five minutes later, I noticed the pectoral fins moving! Then the dorsal fin! It started to swim around!

Although I knew its movement wasn't 100% normal, I decided that it just might have a chance of surviving. I took it out into the ocean and set it free. I stood there waiting to see if it would be washed up on the shore again. It wasn't. What a beautiful day it was.

Stanley W. Ziminski



NOV. NEWS DEADLINE DEC. 10

--NEXT MEETING--
TUES., DECEMBER 16TH
8:15 P.M.
FREEPORT LIBRARY

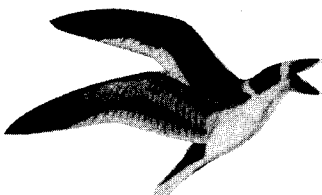


--SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY--

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Elliott Kutner, Vice-President	- 461 Dunster Ct., W. Hempstead, N.Y. 11552 - Tel. IV 6-7667
Paul Butkerei, Conservation	- 268 Wallace St., Freeport, N.Y. 11520 - Tel. MA 3-2114
Dorothy Lovering, Membership	- 45 Oakmont Ave., Hempstead, N.Y. 11550 - Tel. 485-9826
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FIRST CLASS MAIL