

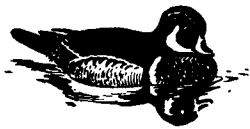
SOUTH SHORE SKIMMER



SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

VOL. 6, NO. 5

JANUARY 1976



NEXT MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 20TH



Mr. Richard Rhindress, Northeast Regional Representative, will present a program on Audubon: Past, Present, and Future. He will show the film, "It Began With Birds", which describes the history of the Audubon movement from when it first started to the present. Mr. Rhindress will also discuss the various programs of the National Audubon Society (many of which are probably unknown to you) and provide many educational materials and scientific research reports for your perusal. So, if you have ever wondered about how Audubon started and where your dues are going, this will be your opportunity.

REMEMBER, TUESDAY, JANUARY 20TH, 8:15 P.M., FREEPORT LIBRARY.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION NIGHT

Just a reminder from last month's newsletter - our February meeting will be an Audience Participation Night. Some of our members have volunteered their slides for this evening but we need several more. Members are requested to show five to ten of their favorite slides. These slides should have some nature theme - anything from general scenes 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 Chairman, Clara Thrush, (phone #796-6169) ahead of time, preferably at our January meeting. 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!



PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Many good environmental bills are stopped or watered down to become completely useless due to a massive lobbying effort by industry. Often environmental groups, like your Audubon Society, are virtually helpless in rescuing legislation. The reason is that many environmental groups are classified by the Internal Revenue Service as a tax deductible charity governed by Section 501(c) (3) of the IRS code. Section 501(c) (3) groups are prohibited from engaging in any "substantial" efforts to influence legislation.

Because the word "substantial" has never been defined by the IRS, the Congress or the courts, 501(c) (3) groups such as Audubon have been severely restricted - indeed almost totally silenced - concerning legislation which directly concerns our fields of expertise.

Corporations, on the other hand, may legally deduct all their lobbying costs as a business expense. Public interest groups, who have no financial motivation for their positions, remain silenced. The unfairness of such an arrangement is obvious. It is also obvious that the public suffers when only one point of view can be presented on an issue.

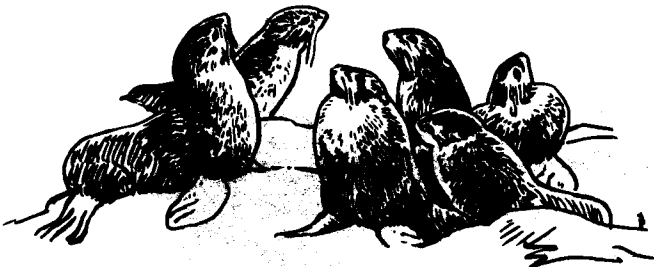
This year, however, a bi-partisan bill is finally moving through Congress. If passed, it will create at least some balance in the currently unequal equation. The bill is H.R. 8021. HR. 8021 would remove the vagueness of the present law by establishing clearly defined rules as to how much lobbying may be done by tax-deductible groups. While we could not engage in the unlimited lobbying that corporations can, we would, under H.R. 8021, at least be able to speak out on major legislative proposals.

Since it is clear that many crucial environmental issues will be affected by Congressional action in the next few years, passage of H.R. 8021 is of the utmost importance to America's environmental well-being. Groups such as the National Audubon Society, the National Wildlife Federation, the Wilderness Society and the Environmental Defense Fund are working hard to bring about passage of H.R. 8021. (Present law does allow us to lobby on behalf of legislation affecting our tax status.)

Urge all House members to work for passage of H.R. 8021 and to inform their colleagues on the House Ways and Means Committee that they support the bill as written. The Senate's version of H.R. 8021 does not yet have a number; therefore, please refer your Senators to H.R. 8021 and urge them to co-sponsor (i.e. sign their names) to a similar bill in the Senate.

Please write today. Your environment needs your help.

Mike Smiles, President



Dear Readers:

So many of you have sent me such interesting and enjoyable articles relating your experiences with birds, animals, and nature, that I feel we should have a special page set aside each month for these articles and items. "Skimmer Shorts" will be reserved for your experiences and observations dealing with nature subjects.

Below is an article sent to me by Marian Rifkin of Valley Stream. Ms. Rifkin relates a problem common to many of us - finding an injured bird - and not being able to locate the proper person to care for it.

One morning early this Indian summer, a small bird hit the picture window of my office while in flight and was found by a co-worker lying on the ground. We all went out to look at it. It was a black and white warbler badly injured. At first we thought it was a concussion and that he would soon recover and fly away. However, after a few hours we realized he needed attention.

Not having my list of Bird Hospitals, I contacted some of our members. One line was busy. Another had no answer. Finally, I contacted Marge Fisher and she gave me our list of names of phone numbers for injured birds. I contacted A & A Veterinary Hospital in Franklin Square as they were closest. They were very concerned and polite and advised me to bring the bird in for doctoring. One of the men in the office took it over at lunchtime. They told him to leave it so that the veterinarian could examine it. They also told him to call later to find out the bird's condition. I called them in the afternoon and was told the bird had a concussion and a broken wing. The vet had put his wing in a cast and he would be able to fly in approximately two weeks.

The whole office felt relieved and happy that our little friend would recover. I would like to commend the A & A Veterinary Hospital for their courteous treatment.

Marian Rifkin

FOR SICK OR INJURED WILD BIRDS:

A & A Veterinary Hospital, 414 Franklin Avenue,
Franklin Square - GE 7-7222 (Free Care)

Mrs. Sally Ruppert (Huntington Audubon Society)
427-2639



CONSERVATION NEWS

The controversy over the ability of nuclear power to solve our energy needs grows daily. The American Institute of Architects has released two pamphlets concerning available alternatives. The Institute suggests a practice of energy conservation as a better and more economically sound future than the building of new power plants. The architects believe that by retrofitting existing buildings and planning new buildings to be energy efficient, a 45% yearly saving in energy consumption could be achieved in the next 15 years. They show that the capital needed for both nuclear plants and energy conservation practices are roughly the same, yet a nuclear plant would tie up investments nearly twice as long and would not achieve the same level of fossil fuel savings. A second important factor is the limited environmental impact produced by practicing energy conservation as compared to the major impact incurred by nuclear fuel use.

The U.S. Dept. of Agriculture has decided to resume its battle against the Fire Ant. Just two months ago the Dept. had admitted defeat and halted its battle against the insect due to regulations on the use of mirex by the EPA. The Dept. of Agriculture is now willing to resume the fight even with the existing restrictions possibly hoping that EPA will lessen its restrictions or that Congress will shift the power to regulate the chemical from the EPA to the Dept. of Agriculture. This development of a shift in power against the EPA is a strong possibility. In the meantime, new evidence is emerging which shows mirex to be carcinogenic and harmful to non-target animal species.

The Columbia (S.C.) Audubon Society as part of its campaign to preserve the Congaree Swamp is selling an attractive 1976 calendar with black and white photos showing the beauty of the swamp and information about its environmental value. Money from calendar sales will help finance the campaign to save Congaree. \$2.50 from Columbia Audubon Society, Box 5923, Columbia, S. C. 29250.

Would you believe that mining rights can still be applied for on lands lying inside of six National Parks? Yet, at Crater Lake, Mt. McKinley, Clacier Bay, Organ Pipe Cactus, Coronado and Death Valley this is the case since they were left open to application of the 1872 Mining Law. Recent public outcries about mining now in progress in Death Valley have given rise to several bills which seek to solve the problem by either forbidding all mining activities or trying to find some workable solution with the companies involved. Below are three bills which you may wish to recommend to your Senator or Congressman.

HR 9937 - The Sieberling Bill - would end future mine leasing and would regulate existing rights through the Secretary of Interior.

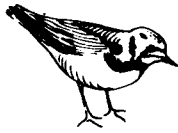
S 2371 - would impose a three-year moratorium on mining activities while the Sec. of Interior would submit to Congress information necessary for the acquisition of all existing valid claims.

HR 9953 - sponsored by Rep. Morris Udall would close all six areas to mining and call for the acquisition of all valid claims.

If you feel that mining is incompatible with the idea of a National Park System, please let your representatives know.



Paul Butkereiit, Conservation



BIRD WALKS 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.

- JAN. 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.
- FEB. 1 - Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner.
- 8 - Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- 15 - Tobay - J.F.K. Sanctuary
- 22 - West End #2, N.E. corner.
- 29 - Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner.
- MAR. 7 - Tobay - J.F.K. Sanctuary
- 14 - Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- 21 - West End #2, N.W. corner.
- 28 - Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner.

Elliot Kutner, Birding

LOGO FOR SAS DECAL

The South Shore Audubon Society is considering the development of its own personal logo for a decal patch. If anyone has any ideas and would like to help on the development of the logo - from original ideas, art work, to printing please contact Mrs. Margaret Keller, 179 Saratoga Blvd., Island Park 11558, phone #889-0340. She has volunteered to help chair a committee to look into this idea.

SCHOLARSHIP OFFER

Another reminder from last month's newsletter - 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 Sun., July 11, and ending Fri., 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.

-----clip out-----

COMING EVENTS



- SUNDAY, JANUARY 11 - THEODORE ROOSEVELT SANCTUARY - "Winter Shadows", Winter Nature Photography - Adrian Dignan, 1:30 P.M.
- TUESDAY, JANUARY 13 - AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILMS - "Kangaroos Can't Be Cornered" - Lionel Hudson - Town Hall Pavillion, Hempstead, N.Y. 8:15 P.M.
- TUESDAY, JANUARY 20 - REGULAR MEETING - "Audubon: Past, Present, and Future" - Richard Rhindress - Freeport Library - 8:15 P.M.

--NEXT MEETING--
TUES., JAN. 20TH
8:15 P.M.
FREEPORT LIBRARY

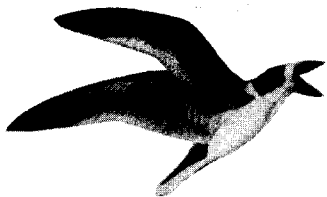


--SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY--

Officers - Committee Chairmen, 1975

Michael Smiles, President	- 1279 Melville Rd., Farmingdale, N.Y. 11735 - Tel. 293-7225
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
Patricia Davis, Editor	- 7 Myers Ave., Hicksville, N.Y. 11801 - Tel. 822-6189

SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 31
FREEPORT, N.Y. 11520



FIRST CLASS MAIL