

SOUTH SHORE SKIMMER



SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

VOL. 6, NO. 7

MARCH 1976



MEETING: TUES., MARCH 9TH, FREEPORT LIBRARY, 8:15 P.M.

PROGRAM: "Dangers of Oil Pollution to the Marine Environment"

SPEAKER: Mr. George Wilde, President of the Marine Environmental Council of L.I.



Mr. George Wilde, President of the Marine Environmental Council of L.I., will be speaking on the "Dangers of Oil Pollution to the Marine Environment." He will be presenting a slide series detailing the Santa Barbara oil spill of several years ago. This is the most timely program with the continued threat of offshore oil drilling off Long Island. Please attend this meeting to become better informed about this immediate threat to our beaches. Remember, Tues., March 9th, Freeport Library, 8:15 P.M.

COMING ELECTIONS

Two directors and all officers are up for election this year. If any SAS member would be interested in serving on the Board of Directors or getting involved with one of the committees, please contact one of the people on the Nominating Committee: Al Lemke, Dorothy Lovering, Asa Starkweather, Mike Smiles, or Pat Davis. We really need your help so please think about volunteering for one of the many worthwhile and interesting jobs available.

NEW AMENDMENT

Your Board of Directors has approved a new amendment to the By-Laws of the South Shore Audubon Society which will enlarge the size of the Board. This new amendment will make Chairpersons of all standing committees (Field Trip, Conservation, Membership, Publications, Program) voting members of the Board. Thus, the last sentence of Article 3, Section 1 of the By-Laws would now read, "The Board shall include the elected officers, six (6) directors, and the chairpersons of the standing committees." (Underlined part is new.) All amendments approved by the Board must also be approved by the general membership at a regular meeting after prior announcement in this bulletin. This proposed amendment will be brought up at the March meeting.

CONSERVATION NEWS

In 1970 the Clean Air Act set the stage for much of the progress in air pollution control which has been achieved over the past few years. Yet today it is apparent that certain goals such as vehicle pollution levels will not be met on time and that the energy shortage has added new complications. Congress is in the act of drafting amendments which will give more time to overcome technical problems, set new pollution standards and revise the plans for an ultimate goal of negligible air pollution. It might be beneficial to write our representatives to remind them of the dangers inherent in our wastes and to weigh their effect on millions of people when establishing new standards and the time allotted industry to reach these goals. An amendment to the act which will prevent the deterioration of clean air in places like national parks, monuments, and wilderness areas should also be included. Many such areas in the far west are already being threatened by existing power plants, and future plans call for greater numbers of coal powered plants. Soot and sulfur fumes from such plants will seriously jeopardize the air around the Grand Canyon, Zion, and Bryce National Parks. The fact that some air pollution exists in these areas already is frightening and certainly no further deterioration can be permitted.

Over the past few years the American people have become more and more aware of the fact that our highly industrialized society produces many substances which are harmful to both our environment and ourselves. Yet the House and Senate Commerce Committees have argued for five years on how a toxic substances bill should be written, while the public continues to be shocked at such continuous events as the dumping of PCBs into the Hudson River. Over the years the Senate has pushed for a strong bill calling for careful testing and monitoring of toxic chemicals by the EPA, while the House (influenced by the industrial lobby) has always sought a much weaker version. The result has been no bill ever getting past the committee level. This year the House Commerce Committee has been working on HR 10318 which is acceptable to environmentalists and which can still be strengthened by amendment. Likewise the bill can be weakened by amendment; two issues in particular have been called offensive by the industrial lobby.

1. The bill calls for a 90-day notification to EPA prior to marketing of a chemical and certain minimal information about the chemical must be provided at that time. Also, if the chemical is one which the EPA believes may cause unreasonable risk to health and environment the manufacturer must submit data that will offset the belief that a risk exists.
2. The bill gives the administrator of EPA flexibility in deciding which law under his authority would be most effective in solving a particular problem. EPA says it needs full authority to use the testing, reporting, and regulating provisions of this bill to effectively protect the public.

HR 10318 must contain these measures when it leaves committee for the House floor and there it should be expanded upon if there is any hope of making it match up with Senate bill S 776. S 776, a stronger bill has already left committee and is now awaiting action by the full Senate.

If you feel that five years is too long to wait for protection from a toxic substance, write your representatives and tell them to take a strong stand on getting the bill through this year. Letters to Congress. Norman F. Lent, who sits on the House Commerce Committee, may help this bill through committee. He has not been very partial to it in the past.

Paul Butkerei, Conservation

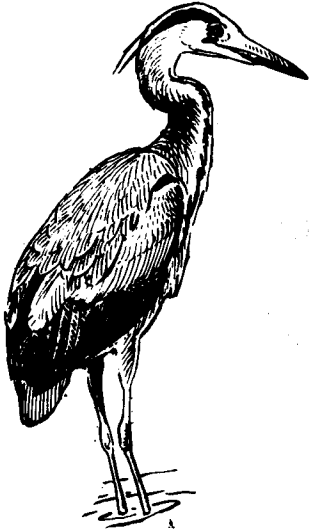
SKIMMER SHORTS



This month we have another enjoyable story by a frequent contributor to our newsletter, Mr. Stanley Ziminski. Also, on the following page Mrs. Rebecca Halpern writes an informative article about her bird trip to Great Britain. I know you'll enjoy reading them both.-Ed.

"Stalking the Great Blue Heron"

Each year I drive past a little stream at least a hundred times. And each time I look to see if anything is there. Usually there's nothing but the water, the reeds, the bushes and the trees which change colors with the seasons. Some nights, in the springtime, I would stop to see if I could hear the Spring Peepers calling in the swamplands a few hundred feet away.



One day a few weeks ago, this all changed. As I was driving by, I glanced at the stream and saw this huge bird standing in the water! I stopped, backed up and looked. Although I had never seen one before, I was sure it was a Great Blue Heron! I rushed home, grabbed my camera, and rushed back. It was still there! I watched for awhile and then decided to try to get a photograph but it flew away.

Since then I have made several more attempts to photograph this wary bird. But so far it has all been in vain. Or has it? I find that by staying in my car my "bird watching" is more fruitful. From this position, I heard a strange call; one that I had never heard before. Then I saw the bird dive into the water. I later identified it as an Eastern Kingfisher. This was another "first" for me.

In the immediate area, there were also several Black Crowned Night Herons; one mature, the others immature. While watching one of these, I spotted another bird walking along one of the banks. At first glance, I thought it was a Woodcock. But when it went wading in the water, continually sticking its unusually long bill into the muddy bank, I knew it had to be a Wilson's Snipe! Another first!

While watching the Great Blue Heron walk stiltedly, yet gracefully, in the water searching for fish, I could hear a crow "cawing" and a woodpecker tapping in the distance. A Chickadee went in search of food among the reeds.

Although I was unsuccessful in my photography, it was a beautiful day.

Stanley W. Ziminski



"SUMMER IN GREAT BRITAIN"



If you are beginning to think about your vacation plans for this summer, consider Great Britain for bird-watching. Last summer we spent a month that way and came back ecstatic and most anxious to share our experience with everyone.

We corresponded with Sinclair Dunnett of Caledonian Wildlife Services, Inverness, Scotland, whose ad we found in the "Audubon." We told him that we had a month to spend, when we wanted it, and that we wished to see three different areas of Great Britain. He contacted Derek Tutt of Barn Owl Tours of Kent and David Hunt of the Isles of Scilly...and came up with an itinerary which included a week in the Isles of Scilly, a week in Wales and two weeks in Inverness. Mr. Tutt will run trips to various other good birding areas in England, too.

In Scilly, Mr. Hunt takes you out in large boats to see the shore and pelagic birds as well as the seals. You visit other islands, some sparsely inhabited, others not at all. You trudge over moors, visit tropical gardens and never see another American.

From there we went to Wales with Derek Tutt, a most knowledgeable bird expert, who takes you about in his mini-bus with a small group. The area we visited is famous for its great birds of prey, especially the rare kite. You will find Mr. Tutt solicitous and conscientious of your welfare and comfort at all times.

The final lap of our trip was to Inverness. Everything you have ever heard about the highlands is true. We had two weeks there and visited a different area each day and never were surfeited with the lonely grandeur of the land. Sinclair Dunnett has an interesting background of work with chimps in Africa and is just as knowledgeable about the local wildlife. Some of the birds seen here were curlews, herons, dunlins, cormorants, shags, stonechats, plovers, red-shanks, lapwings, oystercatchers, sand martins, gray wagtails, widgeons, eiders, hooded crows, chaffinches, green finches, mergansers, dippers, cuckoos, water ouzels, pipits and many more.

If you go to Great Britain you will need a copy of "Birds of Great Britain", sturdy warm clothes, rain gear, good hiking boots. You should be a good walker, in good condition but will do no mountain climbing. Bring lots of film and, of course, your binoculars.

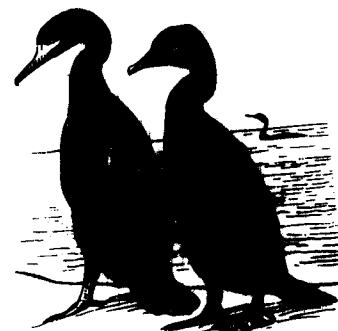
The vital addresses are as follows:

Caledonian Wildlife Services
Sinclair Dunnett
2 Kingsmills Gardens
Inverness, Scotland IV23LU

Barn Owl Travel Ltd.
Derek Tutt
27 Seaview Road
Gillingham, Kent ME7 4NL

Isles of Scilly Wildlife Services
David Hunt
Pednbrose, St. Mary's, Isles of Scilly, Cornwall

Rebecca Halpern



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.

- MAR. 7 - Tobay, J.F.K. Sanctuary
- 14 - Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- 21 - West End #2, N.W. corner
- 28 - Zach's Bay Pkg. Field #4, N.E. corner

Elliot Kutner, Birding

OFFSHORE OIL

DRILLING:

It's unnecessary

It's unsafe

And it's COMING HERE SOON

REMEMBER:
MARCH 9TH

GEORGE WILDE

"DANGERS OF
OIL POLLUTION"



APR. NEWS DEADLINE MAR. 10

NEXT MEETING--
TUES. MAR. 9
8:15 P.M.
FREEPORT LIBRARY

---COMING EVENTS---

TUES. MAR. 9 Regular Meeting
Dangers of Oil Pollution
Freeport Library, 8:15 P.M.

SUN. MAR. 14 "Organic Gardening"
Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary, 1:30 P.M.

TUES. MAR. 30 Audubon Film Series
"The Vanishing Eden" - S. Kling
Hempstead Town Pavillion, 8:15 P.M.

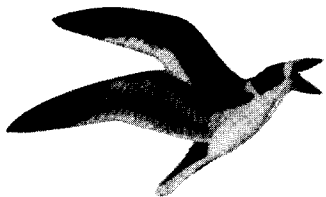
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