

SOUTH SHORE SKIMMER



SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

VOL. 6, NO. 9

MAY 1976

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, MAY 11, 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 Long Island



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 a most timely program with the continued threat of offshore oil drilling off Long Island. Mr. Wilde was to be our guest speaker at the March meeting but it was cancelled due to inclement weather. Remember, Tues., May 11, Freeport Library, 8:15 P.M.

A BICENTENNIAL CELEBRATION: On May 15, a Bicentennial Celebration will be held at Jones Beach in the Main Meeting Room (which is to your right after you go past the cafeteria). It starts at 9:00 A.M. and ends at 6:00 P.M. There will be movies and slides on birds shown by SAS members Al Lemke, Bruce Phillips and Elliot Kutner. Also, a special film on the osprey of Gardiner's Island will be shown. A 1/4 model of a moon landing ship and many airplane and glider exhibits are planned. So, please mark the date on your calendar, Sat., May 15, 9:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M., Jones Beach.

JUNE DINNER MEETING REMINDER

As we announced in last month's newsletter, our June Dinner Meeting will be held at Carl Hoppl's Valley Stream Park Inn, 130 W. Merrick Rd., Valley Stream. The date is TUES., JUNE 8. The price is \$8.75. The dinner includes: fruit cup, soup, salad, top sirloin of beef, baked potato, string beans and parfait. The bar will open at 7:00 P.M. and dinner will be served at 8:00 P.M. Please mail your check to: Alvin Friedman, 3275 Oceanside Rd., Oceanside, N.Y. 11572. No tickets will be issued. Alvin will keep a list of those who have sent in their checks. Why not send in yours today?! (More info. on dinner on Pres. Page)



PRESIDENT'S PAGE

At the April meeting, the upcoming Northeast Regional Bicentennial Conference was mentioned. Several members have asked for more details concerning this program. At this time details of the program are not completely firmed up, but I can tell you that it will be held at Williams College in Williamstown, Massachusetts on the weekend of July 16-18. These conferences are usually excellent and I hope many of you will reserve that weekend and plan to attend. As more details of the program's schedule, such as children's and family workshops, prices, field trips, etc. become available, I will pass them on either in our next newsletter or at our monthly meeting.

The Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary is planning a very extensive education summer program for teachers and children. Two workshops for teachers will be offered: June 28 - July 2 and August 23 - 27. Five workshops for young people will also be offered:



Bicentennial Ecology Workshop	-	July 6 - 9
Ecology Workshop for 3rd-6th graders	-	July 12 - 16
	and	July 19 - 23
Ecology Workshop for 1st and 2nd graders	-	July 26 - 30
	and	Aug. 2 - 6

For a brochure please call the Sanctuary at WA 2-3200 or write T.R. Sanctuary, P.O. Box 5, Oyster Bay, New York 11771.

I am pleased to announce that our June Dinner Speaker will be Mr. Roger Caras, an outstanding naturalist, author and broadcast personality, who appears weekly on A.M. America and daily on CBS Radio with his show, pets, and wildlife. The subject of Mr. Caras' talk will be "Animals of the Bible Live Again." I hope you will all plan to attend our dinner meeting on June 8th and hear Mr. Caras. As explained elsewhere in the newsletter, please send your checks to Alvin Friedman in advance so that we can plan arrangements more efficiently.

A sad note: A memorial to young Guy Coleach Jr. is being made by South Shore Audubon in the form of a contribution to the New York Institute for Child Development as per the family's request. If anyone would like to add to our contribution, please send your check to our treasurer, Jack Fischer, 204 Forest St., Oceanside, N.Y. 11572. Any contributions will go 100% to the N.Y. Inst. for Child Development and will not be used for any administrative purposes.

Mike Smiles, President

SCHOLARSHIP WINNER

The Scholarship Committee of the South Shore Audubon Society is happy to announce that the winner of the Maine Audubon Workshop Scholarship is Miss Jane Reiser from Elmont, New York. CONGRATULATIONS and BEST WISHES!!!

"SKIMMER SHORTS"



Spring is Here

To many, the first day of spring has arrived when they see their first Robin of the year. To others it may be when the crocus start blooming.

For me spring arrived a few Saturdays ago when I was working in my backyard moving some pieces of slate. After moving several pieces, I picked up one and found hiding beneath it two Red-backed Salamanders! Both were mature; the larger one being about four inches long. As its name implies, it has a red stripe on the back that goes its full length. As I had not seen any in my yard for several years, I had assumed that they had died off. I was duly surprised and pleased when I lifted another piece and found three more! As the salamander belongs to the Class Amphibia, it does require moisture. When not found in a damp area, it can be found hiding under rotting logs, rocks or pieces of junk where the moisture is retained. The Red-backed Salamander is quite common in certain areas of Long Island.

That evening as I drove past my favorite stream, I slowed down and listened. In the distance, I heard a Spring Peeper calling. This was the beginning. Although this is a small frog, measuring about an inch, it has a very big voice. In another week or two, the area will be filled with the chorus of many Peepers.

So this day for me was the first day of spring. The frogs and the salamanders were, coincidentally, confirming the official arrival of spring; the date was March 20, 1976.

Stanley W. Ziminski

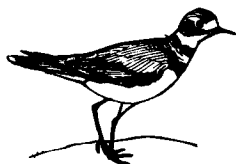


Birdwalk - March 21

The forecast was not promising; but Miriam Raynor and I joined Elliot Kutner and a small doughty group at the West End parking lot. The freshening wind turned us away from the ocean, and we headed toward the Coast Guard Station and Short Beach. We spotted a flock of red-winged blackbirds, a few killdeer and horned larks, and enough rabbit pellets to assure us that the rabbit is not ready for the endangered species list. For the bone collectors in the group, we found a perfect rabbit skeleton, part of a rat (mostly tail), and some unidentifiable bird remains.

As we reached Short Beach, the sun sparkled briefly off the water as we watched a scaup flash its white sides on the waves. Then a darkening squall line to the west turned us back. Suddenly the fog rolled in not on "little cat feet" as in the Sandburg poem, but like a howling tiger. Within minutes landmarks were blotted out, gale force winds buffeted us as we fought our way back to the parking lot. The stinging sand sandblasted our faces, forcing sharp gritty particles into our eyes and mouths. That was the closest I ever want to be to a sandstorm.

Who says birders don't have more fun?



Marge Fischer



CONSERVATION NEWS

The New York Metropolitan area's unemployment picture has given rise to a flurry of potential activity on how to stimulate the local economy. Unfortunately, one proposal being put forward by the Triboro Bridge and Tunnel Authority (TBTA) is the building of the Rye Oyster Bay Bridge. The once dead issue is again being pushed by several state representatives and trade unions. Of course, it must be acknowledged that the building of such a bridge would create many jobs and stimulate land development. The question remains whether this would outweigh the environmental impact of such a bridge on the Island's already strained environment. Another aspect is the long term economic impact on the City of New York which could stand to lose many small industries as they relocate outside the city. Large scale land development would further burden the public. Precious farm land would be lost, public services would have to be provided and our counties ever decreasing water reserves would be further diminished causing exorbitant expense for all in obtaining pure water. Increased industrial development would also add to our solid and sewer waste problems, hindering our progress towards improving the environment.

The TBTA responds to the public they serve which is comprised of automobiles, buses, industries and trucking companies. Alternatives which offer the same job opportunities as the bridge do exist and should be seriously considered by the unions and our representatives. A rail tunnel across New York Harbor would stimulate great economic activity placing New York in a central position. Today most of the freight moving up and down the East Coast must pass through Albany. This tunnel has been contemplated in the past and even today is considered the best project by many government agencies. The state should not rush into building a bridge when better environmental and equal economic alternatives exist.

On the ground floor of Hofstra University Library is a small exhibit on the changes which have occurred on L.I. The displays are composed of topographical maps and comparisons of past aerial photographs with ones taken in the 1970's. You might even see the potato patch where your house now stands. The exhibit takes only a few minutes to view while showing how changes have occurred and why problems with the environment have evolved.

Paul Butkereiit, Conservation

CHICKS & DUCKS AT EASTER

I have often wondered why store owners are still allowed to sell small chicks and baby Pekin ducks at Eastertime. In many cases, the animal is brought home as a pet for a small child and dies from ill treatment or just too much "loving and hugging". And what happens when these chicks and ducks get older? A chicken farm? A nearby pond? Pekin ducks cannot fly and are completely dependent on us for food and survival. If the pond is not frequented by people it will starve. Even though Easter has come and gone, I called an organization known as "Funds for Animals" (founded by author Cleveland Amory). A gentleman from National Audubon recommended this group since they are concerned with the protection of domestic animals. "Funds for Animals" said a bill banning the sale of chicks and ducks at Easter had come before the Legislature this past year and was narrowly defeated. They are very optimistic that next year it will pass. Hopefully, this is the last year baby ducks and chicks will be sold at Eastertime.

Pat Davis

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.

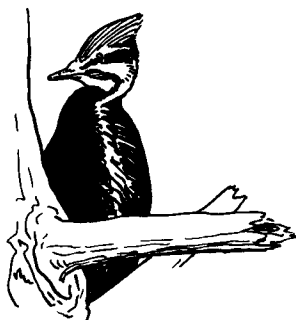
- MAY 2 - Tobay - J.F.K. Sanctuary
- 9 - Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- 16 - West End #2, N.E. corner
- 23 - Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- 30 - West End #2, N.E. corner

- JUN. 6 - ALL DAY CANOE TRIP ON NISSEQUOGE RIVER - BRING LUNCH - FIRST RESERVATIONS HONORED - ROOM FOR 30 ONLY - Charge - \$5.00 per person - call Frank Cooper 485-8173
- 13 - West End #2, N.E. corner - LAST WALK OF SEASON!

Elliot Kutner, Birding

Since our last Skimmer, we are happy to add thirty-four new members to our rolls. We would like to welcome the following new members:

- Agresti, Miriam
- Aleshin, Lydia
- DeCarlo, Nancy
- Drewitz, Mrs. Henry
- Feldman, Dr. Joseph
- Hartloy, Capt. K.R.
- Haberle, Glenn
- Harvey, Mr. & Mrs. Stefan
- Horowitz, Mitchell
- King, Nancy
- Klein, Dr. Daniel
- Luke, Mrs. Myron H.
- Mageean, Rita C.
- Martin, R.W.
- Mollo, Mrs. Piedad
- Mosca, Mrs. John'
- Nieronberg, Joel



- Nelson, Dean J.
- Pascale, Janine
- Popkin, Dr. George L.
- Rodau, Susan
- Silver, Hope
- Selbst, Janet
- Smith, Mrs. E. Kenneth
- Smith, Mrs. Stephen
- Thompson, G.
- Weber, Joseph
- Allen, Mr. & Mrs. Jack
- Bang, Henry
- Entler, William
- O'Rourke, Robert
- Perlmutter, James
- Probst, Linnea S.
- Zuckerman, David

(A list of new members will be printed in all future newsletters as space permits.-Ed.)

AT THE THEODORE ROOSEVELT SANCTUARY

On Sun., Apr. 11, I attended a demonstration by ornithologist Sallie Ruppert on the proper care of injured wild birds. So many people attended this interesting and enjoyable program there were hardly enough seats! Mrs. Ruppert showed color slides of the birds she has treated at her bird hospital and aviary. Because of man's encroachment on the bird's natural habitat (birds fly through windows and into buildings, are hit by cars, pawed by cats, etc.), Mrs. Ruppert feels it is our responsibility to treat these injured birds and, hopefully, send them back into the wild where they belong. Another point stressed: If you find a baby bird, leave it where it is. The mother is nearly always close by and has the situation under control. Mrs. Ruppert also detailed the diet and care needed by injured birds. Space does not permit me to say anything more except that I haven't spent such an informative and worthwhile afternoon in a long time.

Pat Davis

JUNE NEWS DEADLINE MAY 10

-----NEXT MEETING-----

TUESDAY, MAY 11
8:15 P.M.
FREEPORT LIBRARY

-----COMING EVENTS-----

SUN. MAY 9 "Wildflowers & Ferns"
Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary, 1:30 P.M.

TUES. MAY 11 Regular Meeting
"Dangers of Oil Pollution"
Freeport Library, 8:15 P.M.

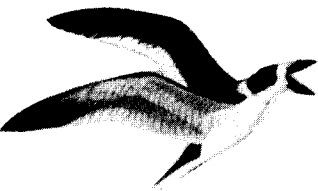
SAT. MAY 15 Bicentennial Celebration
Jones Beach, 9:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M.

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