

SOUTH SHORE SKIMMER



SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

VOL. 7, NO. 4

DECEMBER 1976

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14TH, FREEPORT LIBRARY, 8:15 P.M.

GUEST SPEAKER: Mr. Kevin Kearney, Citizen Expert
Citizen's Advisory Committee (Nassau-Suffolk)
208 Program

Mr. Kevin Kearney will speak on L.I. Waste Water Management and also relate some of his own environmental experiences on L.I. Mr. Kearney is an Environmental Studies graduate of Stonybrook University and is also Conservation Chairman of the Moraine Audubon Society.

208 Program

Section 208 of the Environmental Protection Act created Citizen's Advisory Committees in order to give each citizen an opportunity to express his views with regard to solving Long Island's environmental problems. The Citizen's Advisory Committee formulates programs and makes recommendations to the federal government who, in turn, can appropriate the money needed to implement these programs, thus solving local environmental problems in the community.

REMEMBER, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14TH, FREEPORT LIBRARY, 8:15 P.M.

H A P P Y

H O L I D A Y S



Why Birds ????

Prior to the start of our weekly birdwalks, I try to prepare some kind of sensational statement that might fire the imagination or capture the attention of newcomers to birding. The most sincere reason I can give to them and to all of you, is that I love these beautiful creatures and want to share them with you. For those who need something more, well for the newcomer with a scientific bent, the bird is a marvel of construction. It's body has lightened ----- organs eliminated, bones hollowed(with supporting struts for strength)--- adaptations made over millions of years to accommodate the environment of flight. The bird can see ten times better than we can. This super sight helps it in finding food and in its ability to escape danger. AND THOSE WINGS!!! We have longed to fly from the moment we were aware of ourselves and the world about us. The basic design and principles of flight were learned from watching the Pelican--- a unique beauty of warm waters.

For the newcomer becalmed in the monotony of his own days, there is the unrestrained joy to be found in the celebration of color in the World of Birds.


An appreciation of the life patterns of birds can help us assess our own quality of life. We can gain some incite into our problems --- Energy, water pollution, air pollutionand garbage disposal.

These are just a few of the facts about the birds and lessons to be learned from the birds. Of course, there is something new each time we go out --- that adds to the mystery and delight of Birding.

But the most sincere and forthright reason I can give to you is that I love these beautiful creatures of color and motion, and want to share it all with you.



Elliott R. Kutner


President

◁ CONSERVATION NEWS ▷

The population of ospreys along the Atlantic Seaboard is showing signs of a comeback. Hopefully this is evidence that DDT is slowly being diluted out of our environment. This persistent insecticide interfered with the osprey's ability to successfully reproduce, causing a 90 percent reduction in their population during the last 25 years. Now, with a national ban on DDT use, it is heartening to note that this year's field survey shows a reproduction rate which has not been achieved since the mid-1940's.

A half-million pounds of waste paper was collected during the past fiscal year at George Washington University, in a recycling program run by the university with student help. The income from the sale of recyclable paper, plus savings in trash collection and disposal costs has made the program a viable one: further information can be obtained from David Baruch, Assistant to the Director of Physical Plant, George Washington University, Washington, D.C. 20052. This information comes to Audubon along with a contribution of \$245.29, proceeds of the student Ecology Action group from the sale of recyclable newspapers.

BIRD SEED SAVINGS

A special thanks to all those members who participated in our first major fund raising effort. On November 6, we sold just under 16,000 lbs. of wild bird seed. Our final sale to benefit the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary will be held on January 22, 1977. In lieu of a separate mailing, we ask all members who wish to order seed to fill out the following form and mail to the address below. All checks should be made payable to the South Shore Audubon Society, and all orders should be placed before a January 13 deadline. Your response will guide us as to how much seed will be needed on January 22. The exact pick-up location will be given in our next newsletter. Thank you.

Paul Butkereiit
268 Wallace Street
Freeport, New York 11520

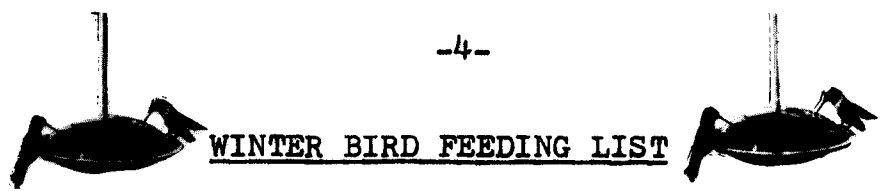


	Per-bag	Total\$
— Sunflower 25 pounds.....@	6.80	\$ _____
— 50 pounds.....@	13.30	\$ _____
— Wild bird seed 25 pounds.....@	3.92	\$ _____
— 50 pounds.....@	7.55	\$ _____
— Cracked Corn 25 pounds.....@	3.20	\$ _____
— 50 pounds.....@	5.80	\$ _____
— Thistle seed 5pound bag.....@	3.75	\$ _____
— Special Mix 20 pound bag.....@	5.65	\$ _____
— Maine Manna Seed Cakes.....@	2.75	\$ _____

Sub total.....\$ _____

Please find enclosed \$ _____

Name: _____ Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone _____



WINTER BIRD FEEDING LIST

Titmice, chickadees, nuthatches

Suet, cracked nuts, shelled and broken peanuts, sunflower seeds, bread crumbs

Mockingbirds, catbirds, thrashers, thrushes and robins

Cut apples and oranges, currants, raisins and bread crumbs

Blackbirds, cardinals, bluejays, towhees

Sunflower seeds, corn, shelled and broken peanuts, scratch feed

Starlings

Cut apples, currants, raisins, suet, scratch feed, table scraps

Juncos, finches, native sparrows

Scratch feed, millet, wheat screenings, wild bird seed, bread

Woodpeckers

Suet, cracked nuts, corn

Besides the above, birds like many other kinds of food, cooked meat, chopped hard-boiled eggs, fat, pork rinds, crackers, cornbread, broken dog biscuits, doughnuts, pastry, pumpkin and squash seeds and wheat.

Some birders are convinced that birds will eat almost anything if they are hungry enough. One birder reported that a pair of song sparrows fed their young corn, wheat, rye bread, cottage cheese, mashed potatoes, sausage, hominy and walnuts. A pair of thrashers fed their young the same diet plus canned salmon. Another birder found that catbirds liked bread and butter, and bluejays ate the skins of baked potatoes.

Since birds still need water in winter, glycerine added to water will delay freezing. You can also buy one of those automatic warmers that plugs in and heats the water electrically. *

Remember, our next Bird Seed Savings Day, January 22nd.

*Backyard Birds, Arline Thomas.

SKIMMER SHORTS - DID YOU KNOW?



The Tufted Titmouse has been known to gather lining for its nest by landing on top of a man's head or the back of a dog and pulling out a beakful!

A female Robin incubates 3 or 4 blue eggs for about 12 days and a hungry baby robin may eat the equivalent of 14 ft. of earthworms on its last day in the nest!

Cardinals were once caged as pets and after living in captivity for awhile, the bird often faded in color and its song became monotonous!

AT THE LIBRARY.....

As you know from your Christmas mailing from National Audubon, they have several excellent books on birding. However, at the library this past month, I found four more books I really enjoyed reading and would like to share with you.

Backyard Birds by Arline Thomas, Sterling Pub. Co., N.Y., N.Y. 1960 This small 40-page paperback (with color pictures) is an excellent to-the-point synopsis of how to attract birds to your backyard and your feeders.

How to Attract and Feed Birds by Walter E. Shultz, Bruce Pub. Co., N.Y., N.Y. 1970. This is a very detailed 200-page hardcover book (B & W pictures, large print) with step-by-step directions on how to build many different types of birdhouses and feeders. Also of interest is a chart showing the % of animal, insect and vegetable matter in each bird's diet. (All the different birds on L.I. are included on this chart.)

It's Fun to Have the Birds Around by Wendell Brown, Wendell Brown Co., 1963. This is a delightful, easy to read hardcover book relating true and amazing stories about the birds who visit the author's backyard feeders. Each story is a page or two and before you know it, you've read the whole book!

Attracting Birds to Your Garden by Sherry Gellner, Sunset Books, Lane Magazine and Book Co., Menlo Park, Calif., 1974. This large (8½" by 11") paperback (B & W pictures) has special features on hummingbirds and how to attract them, unwanted bird guests, plus an excellent section dealing with the habitats, diets, mating habits, and detailed description of each bird in our area (a full page for each bird).

Pat Davis

PORPOISES AND EAGLES



When the 1976 porpoise-killing quota was exceeded and the ban on further killing was set, the tuna boat operators not only won a 10-day stay but filed a \$300-million suit for compensation from the government! Another danger is there may be an attempt in the new Congress to amend the Marine Mammal Act to exempt the tuna industry. Will keep you posted.

Texas Governor Dolph Briscoe's request to get blanket permits for ranchers in his state to kill golden eagles has been rejected. He stated that the permits were needed to protect livestock from eagle predation. Texas Audubon chapters and others pointed out that golden eagles feed largely on rabbits and rodents, and rarely prey on lambs. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service rejected Briscoe's request.



COMING EVENTS

Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary
Sunday, December 12, 1:30 P.M.
"An Ecology Holiday Celebration"
This will be a family day, with singing, stringing cranberries and popcorn for the birds. Natural foods will be served.

Regular Monthly Meeting
Tues., December 14th,
Freeport Library, 8:15 P.M.
Mr. Kevin Kearney
L.I. Waste Water Management

REMEMBER THE NEXT BIRD SEED SAVINGS DAY - JANUARY 22ND

Elliott Kutner, President - IV 6-7667
461 Dunster Ct., W. Hempstead 11552
Paul Butkerei, V.P. Conservation - MA 3-2114
268 Wallace St., Freeport 11520
Teresa Stoltz, Membership - LY 3-4554
19 Broadway, Lynbrook 11563
Pat Davis, Editor - 822-6189
7 Myers Ave., Hicksville 11801

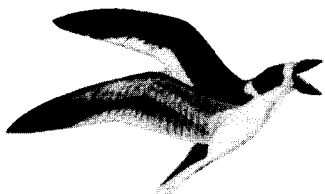
BIRD WALKS 1976-77

FIELD TRIPS: Starting time - 9:30 A.M.
No walk if it rains, snows, or temperature is 25 degrees or below.

- DEC. 5 - Pelham Bay-Meet at 9:00
Toll Booth at Throgs Neck Bridge - Owls
- 12 - Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- 19 - Short Beach Pkg. (J.B.)
- 26 - Tobay - J.F.K. Sanctuary
- JAN. 2 - Zach's Bay, Pkg. Fld. #4
- 9 - Pelham Bay - Meet at 9:00
Toll Booth at Throgs Neck Bridge - Owls

Elliott Kutner, Birding

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



FIRST CLASS MAIL