

SOUTH SHORE SKIMMER



SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

VOL. 8, NO. 7

MARCH 1978

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, MARCH 14, 1978
8:15 P.M., FREEPORT LIBRARY

Our guest speaker will be SSAS member, Linda Schlotterhausen, who recently visited the Pribilof Islands in the Bering Sea west of Alaska. She will present a color slide show on the Birds and Seals of the Pribilof Islands on Tuesday, March 14. This will be a very exciting and informative program, so don't miss it! See you there!

PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

The next meeting of the Photography Club will be held on Sunday, March 12, at Milburn Pond on Merrick Road in Baldwin. The club will meet at 10:00 a.m. Rain date - March 19. If you have any questions please call Al Lemke, 731-3639.

ANNOUNCING SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON'S 1978 PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

The categories for the SSAS Photographic Competition are:

1. Man and His Environment
2. The Natural Habitat

All members and their friends are eligible to submit three entries in one of each category. Entries must be either color or black and white enlargements up to 11 x 14 inches. All must be received by April 11 and may be submitted at the April Audubon meeting at the Freeport Library or mailed to: South Shore Audubon Photographic Competition, 19 Broadway, Lynbrook, N.Y. 11563. All entries will be displayed at the April 30th Environmental Fair. Winning photographs will be announced at this event.



South Shore Audubon's Environmental Fair will be held on Sunday, April 30, at the Rockville Centre Recreation Center. Exhibits will explore the Long Island environment as a unique place for man and wildlife cohabitation and will include natural history displays, film presentations, exhibits concerning innovative technology in waste recycling, energy resources, etc., and our Environmental Art Show. Also, a special photography contest is being sponsored and will be on display for the Fair. For further information, call LY 3-4554 or IV 1-5050.

AUDUBON WILDLIFE SERIES: Bernard Nathanson, "Okavango" and "Arribada" (two short films) - Tuesday, April 18, 1978 at 8:15 p.m., Hempstead Town Pavillion, Town Hall Plaza. For tickets write to the Town of Hempstead, Dept. of Parks and Recreation, Recreational Office, 50 Clinton St., Hempstead, N.Y. 11550. Be sure to enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope with your request.

SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SCHOLARSHIPS

This year SSAS is offering two adult scholarships and two youth scholarships for the Audubon Workshop in Maine. This workshop is scheduled for the last two weeks in July. If anyone would like to be considered for a scholarship, please write explaining how this experience could help you further spread the ecological theme.

Deadline: May 1, 1978 Please write to:

Mr. Elliott Kutner
461 Dunster Court
West Hempstead, New York 11552

SSAS has car insignia decals and cloth patches showing a Skimmer in flight on sale at all the meetings and birdwalks. Patches are \$2.00 and decals are 50¢.

CONSERVATION NEWS

Alaska

Bill H.R.39 has finished mark-up in the House Subcommittee on General Oversight and Alaska Lands and will now be worked on by the full Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs. At present, the bill is only slightly modified from that sought by environmental groups and represents a concerted effort to meet State and Developmental concerns, without overly jeopardizing the environmental integrity of Alaska's wilderness. Mark-up of the bill will now start before the whole committee and although none of our local congressmen are on the committee, letters to them may aid in maintaining a strong bill through this period. There are several points which should be stressed.

1. Wilderness must not be compromised. Since H.R.39 was first proposed almost 1/2 of the total wilderness area has been dropped. Most of these areas are necessary if we are to achieve a concept of protecting entire ecosystems.

2. Strengthen the mineral process. At present, H.R.39 allows for 77% of Alaska's lands to be explored and developed for mineral resources. Needed are stronger guidelines for wilderness protection and better governmental controls in deciding if mineral extraction is truly necessary for the public interest. A requirement necessitating a review of mineral needs by both houses appears most desirable.

3. Oppose State selection of land within proposed park and wilderness units. The State of Alaska has already been promised 104 million acres and their changing of selections to areas inside the government's proposed areas can only be interpreted as a move to disrupt the formulation of a land use system.

4. Protection of Southeastern Alaskan Wilderness. Both President Carter's Administration and H.R.39 are seeking to place areas of Alaska's forests into a Forest Service Wilderness. Two areas, Tongass and Chugach Forests are already under lobbying efforts by the timber industry to be deleted from the bill.

5. State and developmental concerns are continually trying to cripple H.R.39 by attempting to establish a "5th" system of land management in Alaska. In this system, wilderness acreage would be placed into a holding classification where continued mineral exploration and exploitation would be allowed.

Additional information and last minute facts on the Alaska issue can be obtained from the Alaska Coalition, 620 C St., S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003. Letters should be sent to your congressman, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515.

Energy Tidbits

The Pacific Gas & Electric Company is studying the feasibility of building a 30,000 to 45,000 kilowatt power plant to be fired by wood scraps at a lumber mill at Oroville, California. At Clayton, New Mexico, a federally funded 200 kilowatt windpowered turbine went into service, becoming the first windpowered generator in the country to supply electricity to a commercial utility on a regular basis.

Paul Butkereiit, Conservation

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

In between the January and February blizzards, Elliott Kutner, President of South Shore Audubon, dug his car out and traveled to the Giblyn School in Freeport to present his excellent film, "Backyard Birds", to the third and fourth grade students. During the showing of the film there was absolute silence except for the oohs and ahs when each beautiful bird appeared on the screen.

After the film presentation and lecture, Mr. Kutner distributed various types of bird nests to the teachers for the children to observe and handle.

Following the program many children wrote letters to Mr. Kutner. Here is an example of one of them:

Dear Mr. Kutner,

Thank you for the film you gave us. You seem to be a wonderful person with joyment and sense. I liked the brilliant colors of the birds. And how they kept the babies warm and gave them food to eat. And I liked how your wife and you treated them like a baby. I liked the red and white bird that was the female bird. Thank you for the blue-jay that we saw. And thank you for how you treated us. You treated us like your children. Thank you. You are very wonderful.

Sincerely,

Jacquetta Drones

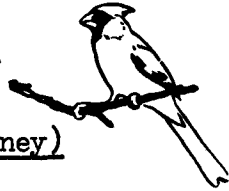
This program generated many activities on birds and ecology such as bird feeders, bird masks, reports and beautiful art work. We hope to bring some of these to the Ecological exhibit on April 30th at the Rockville Centre Recreation Center.



Elaine Butkereiit
Gloria Cohen
Education Committee

The following is a brief article on the history of the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT SANCTUARY



A Bit of Recent History
(or Why We Need Bird Seed Money)

We L.I. Auduboners are lucky to have in our midst a bird sanctuary which is not only steeped in things historical but is also pioneering in the development of new educational features. New programs now being given in the schools and to visitors spread the Audubon message and stimulate an eagerness to learn more about the world of nature and man's role in it. (And I am glad to see they are rich in entertainment value as well.)

We Chose Education

When members of four L.I. Audubon chapters first got together under the leadership of Bill Reeves (Huntington Audubon), the first T.R. Sanctuary Chairman, to chart the future for the Sanctuary, we chose one of the more ambitious of seven alternatives considered. Rather than find a retired fireman who, for no pay, would be willing to live on the premises, lock the gate, and keep vandalism to a minimum, we chose instead to try to locate a teacher who would prepare and conduct education programs for Audubon members and the public. We realized that a much greater annual "Education" budget would be required even if volunteers could be recruited to help improve and maintain the grounds, greet visitors, and assist in other ways. We counted on financial support from Auduboners, T.R. Association members, and the community, and we were not disappointed.

Director Selected

With Mike Smiles from South Shore Audubon as our new president, one of the first and greatest things done was choosing Alan Ruppert from among the applicants responding to our nationwide ads. That "Warden Selection Committee", chaired by the Jack Hornungs from Moraine Audubon, deserves our everlasting thanks. Both Alan and his wife, Estelle, gave up their "lucrative" teaching jobs in the public schools to devote full time to this new career. From the first childrens' classes with Tom Stock and the Teachers' Summer Workshop, ably conducted by Lyman Langdon Audubon leader Bess Baehler, the Sanctuary programs have grown in number, quality and variety, and have spread through the

seasons and the community.

Programs Cost Money

Although we try to charge the participants enough to meet the direct costs of each class, there are additional indirect expenses associated with maintaining the buildings and grounds and the Resident-Director and his family as part of an active National Audubon Society Sanctuary and Nature Center.

These education program indirect expenses are what makes us so dependent upon and so grateful for the support of Audubon members, both through their individual memberships in the T.R.S. and through their most generous donation of Bird Seed Savings Day Sale proceeds. Without this financial help, we could not provide what National Audubon's Sanctuaries Director called: "One of the outstanding outdoor education programs in the country."

Richard Houghton, President

T.R. SANCTUARY SUNDAY FAMILY NATURE PROGRAMS

March 12 Marsh and Beach Investigations - Meet at Old Orchard-Sagamore Hill

April 9 Annual T.R. Bird Walk at Sagamore Hill - Meet at Old Orchard-Sagamore Hill

May 14 Spring Discovery Walk

All Activities - 1:30 to 3:00.

BIRD RESCUE

Who can forget Monday, February 6? It snowed and drifted and was still drifting Tuesday morning. Call: There is a seagull (sic) with a broken wing by the fountain in Malverne. I said I would try to get up there later. My car wasn't dug out and I really couldn't get very enthusiastic. If this sounds hard-hearted, let me explain.

A bird with a broken wing goes into shock. This is a state of no pain and lowering functions which leads fairly quickly to death. The chances of my getting to that Herring Gull in time were poor.

So I continued shoveling at a leisurely pace so I wouldn't go into shock myself. The phone rang again. The Malverne Police Department had a gull in a box with a broken wing. I asked them to give it some water. (In case of shock, keep victim warm and force fluids.)

When the car was free, I went to the P.D. The gull was sitting passively in a small open box, still in shock. I covered the box with a blanket and took it home. I transferred it to a bigger box and gave it water and cut up bread soaked in water (hamburger or dog or cat food would be better).

Wednesday morning it was perky and make a slight biting gesture toward me. The shock was gone. I tied up the box and off we went to A & A Veterinarian. These nice people will accept injured birds.

(Continued on next page)

Call: The lady had a brant with a broken wing. It was walking around the backyard. (no shock). Bless her, she said she would take it to A & A Veterinary.

Call: The man had a brant with a broken leg. He will take it to A & A. I am delighted. When people can cope, it not only saves me trips but it expands the network of those who can rescue birds.

Asa Starkweather

BIRD FEEDER SURVEY COUNT - FEBRUARY 1978

MOURNING DOVE	146
DOWNY WOODPECKER	14
BLUE JAY	84
BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE	30
TUFTED TITMOUSE	6
WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH	10
MOCKINGBIRD	12
STARLING	199
HOUSE SPARROW	417
RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD	6
HAIRY WOODPECKER	3
COMMON GRACKLE	3
BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD	4
CARDINAL	73
EVENING GROSBEAK	14
WHITE-THROATED SPARROW	112
HOUSE FINCH	262
AMERICAN GOLDFINCH	50
SLATE-COLORED JUNCO	97
TREE SPARROW	7
SONG SPARROW	24
FOX SPARROW	18
PURPLE FINCH	37
YELLOW-SHAFTED FLICKER	1
PINE SISKIN	76
ROBIN	4
RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH	9
SPARROW HAWK	1
COMMON REDPOLL	40
FISH CROW	1
COMMON CROW	2
AMERICAN WIDGEON	3

Some exciting sightings: Christian Cooper-Woodcock, Tom Bade-Snowy Owl, G. Hasert-2 Baltimore Orioles, and at the Oceanside Nature Study Area they sighted a Meadowlark near their feeder plus 2 Swamp Sparrows.

BINOCULAR SAVINGS: SSAS is offering an outstanding opportunity to purchase Bushnell and Bausch & Lomb binoculars, scopes and tripods at a savings of 30 to 50%. These special prices are available when we order in groups of 12. If you wish further information, please call Joan Butkerei (LY 3-4554) or Asa Starkweather (LY 9-5824)



Please keep a log of the following birds at your feeders-by the month. The Skimmer deadline is the 15th of each month. Send your computations to our editor, Pat Davis, 7 Myers Ave., Hicksville, N.Y. 11801. NOTE: Because many of these sightings have not been verified by a second party, we cannot attest to their total accuracy. This Bird Feeder Survey is solely for the enjoyment of our members and to encourage bird watching in our area.

MOURNING DOVE	---
DOWNY WOODPECKER	---
BLUE JAY	---
BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE	---
TUFTED TITMOUSE	---
WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH	---
MOCKINGBIRD	---
STARLING	---
HOUSE SPARROW	---
RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD	---
HAIRY WOODPECKER	---
COMMON GRACKLE	---
BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD	---
CARDINAL	---
EVENING GROSBEAK	---
WHITE-THROATED SPARROW	---
HOUSE FINCH	---
AMERICAN GOLDFINCH	---
SLATE-COLORED JUNCO	---
TREE SPARROW	---
SONG SPARROW	---
FOX SPARROW	---
PURPLE FINCH	---
YELLOW-SHAFTED FLICKER	---
PINE SISKIN	---
ROBIN	---
RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH	---

A note from one of our expert birders, Asa Starkweather: Sometimes there can be an error in identification but it never pays to be pedantic. I have a female Green Kingfisher in Buxton Woods, Hatteras Island, Confirmed. It is "rare in Southeast Arizona and Rio Grande Valley." I have Thick-billed Murre, 18 of them, in a lake in Wyoming, confirmed, way out of range. I have White Pelicans (2) nesting in Surf City, N.J., confirmed. What's this western bird doing in an island off the New Jersey coast? Proper identification is necessary. Look twice and try to get that confirmation. You may have something unusual.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Emmanuel Dym	Mr. & Mrs. C. Funk	Kelly O'Keefe
Mary Allin	Jerome Ginsberg	Emil Polak
Joan Bachner	Kevin Hughes	John Purcell
Gail Bialostok	Garry Hullstrung	Adam Roberts
Susan Brtalik	Samuel Joffe	Joe Roman
J. Busch	Le Jolly	Mark Rusell
Ruya Carton	Louis Kislik	Deborah Russo
Paul Farley	Florence Marshal	A. Schevch
Alex Fein	John McCann Jr.	Jane Speigel
Jeff Ferguson	The Mertens	R. Treubig
Kevin Fisher	V. Monington	Donna Zarton

RACCOONS II

In the September 1975 issue of the South Shore Skimmer, I wrote about a raccoon who had made its home in my fireplace flue. She lived there for four years. In the spring of 1975, she had one baby that was born in the flue. Later in the year we could hear the baby calling whenever the mother would leave to do her nightly foraging. Eventually the baby made its debut on the roof. Thereafter, we would usually see the two of them on the chimney, or the roof, just as it was beginning to get dark. When darkness finally settled in, they would leave by way of the Hemlock next to the house. It was in this tree that I had tied an aluminum dish to some branches; this was filled, nightly with food for them.



In the fall the mother must have taken the baby, which was really no longer a baby, down to the nearby woods. There she probably taught her offspring things it should know other than how to raid garbage pails.

Last winter the flue was vacant. I feared she had died away from home or possibly had been killed by a car. We didn't use the fireplace that winter, as we hoped she might return. The longevity of a raccoon is ten to twelve years; the average life span is much less. I know that she had been living in the neighborhood for two years before she moved into our house. So, she was at least six years old when she left us at that time.

The raccoon was quite common on Long Island long before the white man moved here. As its natural habitat on the Island was gradually destroyed, the raccoon adapted itself to the changes. Today the raccoon living in the populated suburbs feeds mostly on garbage and dens in attics, garages and chimneys. Even though the Island is being covered more each year with housing developments, shopping centers and highways, the raccoon still survives. In fact, it seems to be increasing in numbers. Nationwide, the raccoon population reached its all time peak in the 1960's. I imagine it still maintains its high level today. Roy Latham (personal communication) wrote, "As long ago as I can remember, 1888 to 1929, there was not a record on the raccoon in Orient....The very next year, 1930, there were many reports of coons in Orient. They were coming down the chimneys into the rooms and chewing up papers, books and pictures. They came into the old

house where I kept an insect collection mounted on pins and ate the bugs and moths off the pins."

November seems to be the month they settle down in their dens for the winter. It was this past November that we noticed our dog was sniffing at the fireplace. As we didn't hear anything, I decided to go up on the roof and take a look down the chimney. As I pointed the flashlight into the chimney, I looked down; there was this beautiful masked face looking up at me. I figured that the baby had returned. Again we started putting out food nightly in the tree. Quite often, thereafter, we would see her sitting on top of the chimney. Then one night we were surprised to see two of them. Possibly she had attracted a mate. If so, mating should take place in February. About 63 days later, she should become a mother. Her litter could number from one to seven. Quite often, it is four.

"Raccoon" is thought to have come from the Algonquin word "Arakun." This translates to, "He who scratches with his hands." The scientific name for raccoon is Procyon lotor. Lotor means washer. A common misconception is that the raccoon always washes its food. This is not true. I remember late one night, in early spring, I had gone out to check whether the Spring Peepers were calling. As I stood on top of a culvert, at the roadside, I noticed a figure coming out of the shadows. It was a raccoon walking in the brook searching for food; probably small fish. It didn't notice me and I stood quite still and watched. It would stop and feel around in the water with its sensitive "hands." The action was such that if it had brought up a piece of food, out of the water, I might have been deceived into thinking that it had been washing it. The raccoons which have fed from my tree have all done so without the benefit of water.

During the cold nights this winter, it would be nice to have a fire burning in the fireplace. But, I think it is even nicer to know that there is a raccoon sleeping in my flue protected from the cold winter days. They will always be welcome.

Stan Ziminski



APR. NEWS DEADLINE - MAR.15

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

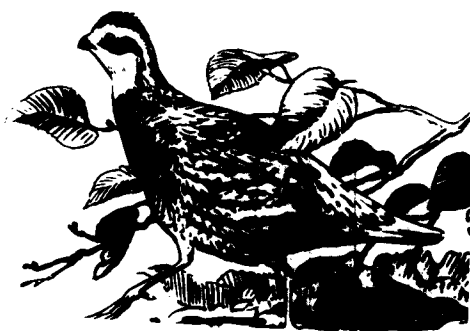
FIELD TRIPS: Starting Time - 9:30 a.m.

No walk if it rains, snows, or temperature is 25 degrees or below.

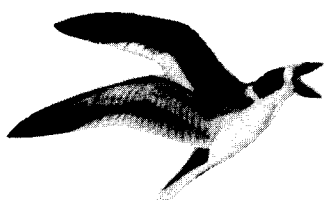
- JAN. 1 - NO WALK
8 - Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
15 - Zach's Bay, Pkg. Fld. #4, N.E. corner
22 - West End #2, N.W. corner
29 - West End #2, N.E. corner
- FEB. 5 - Pelham Bay-Meet at 9:00 at Toll Booth throg's Neck Bridge
12 - Tobay J.F.K. Sanctuary
19 - Cedar Beach - Parking Lot
26 - Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- MAR. 5 - Zach's Bay, Pkg. Fld. #4, N.E. corner
12 - Tobay J.F.K. Sanctuary
19 - Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
26 - West End #2, N.W. corner
- APR. 2 - West End #2, N.E. corner
9 - Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

OFFICERS

E. Kutner-President-IV6-7667
461 Dunster Ct.W. Hempstead 11552
P. Butkereiit-V.P.-MA 3-2114
268 Wallace St. Freeport 11520
T. Stoltz-Membership-LY 3-4554
19 Broadway, Lynbrook 11563
P. Davis-Editor-822-6189
7 Myers Ave., Hicksville 11801



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



FIRST CLASS MAIL