

SOUTH SHORE SKIMMER



SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

VOL. 9, NO. 6

FEBRUARY 1979

MEETING: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13TH
FREEPORT LIBRARY
8:15 P.M.

"Audience Participation Night"

All members and their friends are invited to show 5 to 10 slides during the program. All subjects relevant to nature are welcome. Please label your slides and place a mark on them indicating how they are to be placed in the projector (usually printed side forward and upside down).

This is South Shore Audubon's 4th annual program of this nature. Come and join us for a truly special evening!!

Many thanks to Dr. George Loweth, our guest speaker in January, due to the illness of Alex McKay. Dr. Loweth's "Other Side of the Road" program, with many beautiful color pictures of animals seen on Long Island, was excellent. Thank you from all of us for a very enjoyable evening!

BASIC ACCLIMATIZATION WORKSHOP

APRIL 27-29

A special workshop for all those who love the out-of-doors and would like to share their feelings and understandings with others.

Write: Ms. Laurie Farber, Coord.

Box 464

Hicksville, N.Y. 11801

or call (516) 931-3662, (516) 997-8700, ext. 264.

CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS

This year SSAS is offering three adult scholarships for Audubon Workshops: (1) one two-week workshop in Maine and (2) two one-week workshops in Connecticut. All are scheduled for July. If you are interested in being considered for a scholarship, please write explaining how this experience could help and aid you in helping others to spread the ecological theme. Final decisions will be made in April.

The ninth annual Audubon Institute of Desert Ecology will be held May 3-6, 1979 at the Boyce Thompson Southwestern Arboretum west of Superior, Arizona. The Institute involves sixty participants in field studies of the Sonoran Desert. Under the leadership of 6 professional staff members, participants explore and study the interrelationships of earth and life forms. Registration is \$150 for campers and \$160 for dormitory registrants. University credit at the undergraduate or graduate level is available for an additional fee. The Institute is open to all adults 18 and over who need not be members of the Audubon Society to attend. For registration or brochure, write Audubon Institute of Desert Ecology, 1642 N. Westridge Ave., Tucson, Arizona 85705.

Audubon Wildlife Film/Lecture Series

Wednesday, March 7, 1979

Alan J. King, "Song of the Prairie"

Shows are held at the Town Hall Pavilion, Hempstead at 8:15 P.M. For free tickets (limit of two) send a stamped self-addressed envelope to: Audubon Wildlife Film/Lecture Series, 200 North Franklin St., Hempstead, N.Y. 11550.



Coastal Management Hearings
Planned for Spring

by Brian E. Doyle, Specialist
Brockport

Public hearings on New York's Coastal Management Plan (CMP) originally scheduled for last November will take place in March or April this year.

Prepared by the Coastal Management Unit of the Department of State, the plan was first presented to the public at a series of state-wide meetings last summer. Due to extensive input by the public at these meetings, certain sections of the plan were revised, causing the federal Office of Coastal Zone Management to request an additional three months to review the program. Although this means a delay in the public hearings, it is anticipated that the revised plan will be submitted to the state legislature for action this session.

Public reaction to the CMP has been varied. Those in upstate New York, living along Lakes Erie and Ontario and the Niagara and St. Lawrence Rivers, feel the CMP should address the problems of shoreline erosion, flooding and lake level regulation in more detail. They are also concerned with protection of vineyard and orchards and the expansion of the tourist industry.

Along the Hudson River, power facilities siting requirements, water quality and preservation of aesthetic quality, are topics of discussion. In New York City, the major issues include rehabilitation of the waterfront, expansion of park facilities and the economic impacts of Outer Continental Shelf activities. On Long Island, comments center around the preservation of water quality for the shellfish industry, dredging and dredge spoil disposal and shoreline protection.

According to many commentators, the CMP is considered an important first step in controlling future unplanned development in the coastal zone. The public has also been credited with encouraging the state to proceed toward its implementation. Those with an interest in fishing and boating access see CMP as a valuable tool because it identifies areas where coastal access needs to be improved.

In general, local government officials have been supportive of the Coastal Management Program in spite of their concern that approval of the plan could mean a significant loss of home rule power. Since the CMP is structured primarily around existing state programs, this consequence seems unlikely. But until the final plan and its alternatives are fully explained, town, city and county officials remain apprehensive.

This spring's public hearings are semi-legal proceedings required by federal regulations established by the Office of Coastal Management. The public is to be notified of the hearings no less than 30 days in advance. At the time of notification, all materials pertinent to the hearings including documents, studies, and other data, must be available for public review in the locale where hearings are conducted. Presently, the hearings are scheduled in: New York City, Mineola, Riverhead, Fredonia, Lockport, Buffalo, Rochester, Lyons, Oswego, Watertown, Kingston, Ogdensburg, Albany, Poughkeepsie, White Plains and Mamaroneck.

Although a verbatim transcript of the hearings need not be prepared, a comprehensive summary must be available to the public within 45 days after the hearings. This means that if you are unable to attend a particular hearing, you can request a written summary from the Coastal Management Unit. It also means you can submit your comments in writing for the public record if you cannot attend the hearings.

The public hearings are your final opportunity to provide input to New York's Coastal Management Program. After four years of ups and downs, dozens of studies, and

(continued on page 3)

hundreds of meetings by citizens advisory committees, the final plan is now ready. If you have something to add, change or delete, you must act now. For more information on the hearings, write the Coastal Management Unit Department of State, 162 Washington Avenue, Albany, New York 12231 or call (518) 474-8834.

(Article submitted by P. Butkerei)

50-Year Old Flamingo

According to the German language paper, the New York Staakzeitung and Herold of Sept. 17/18, 1978, the Zoo in Bremerhaven, a city in northern Germany, has a flamingo who has been there since the Zoo opened 50 years ago. He was in adult plumage then and the years seem to have left no traces on him. Other birds mentioned in the story are a stork who died at the Berlin Zoo, aged 30, in 1963, ten-year old titmice, eleven-year old ducks, twelve-year old starlings and twenty-four year old gulls. Those of us who went on the August boat trip might be especially interested in an oystercatcher observed breeding in 1961 on the bird island of Mellum. He had been banded in 1927 and was consequently at least 34.

Marianne Weinstock

Gardiner Gregory sent us another Bird Feeder Survey from Castine, Maine which I would like to share with you.

Pine Grosbeaks

Evening Grosbeaks -flocks every day-counted 24 males and females in one day.

Black-capped Chickadee- a dozen or so every day - now eating out of my hand - they sure like peanut butter.

Canada Jay (Whiskey Jack, Camp Robber, Moose-bird, Meat Hawk, Carrion Bird, etc.) flocks feeding on stale bread crumbs purchased at a local bakery.

Blue Jay - 6-12 every day.

Artic Three-toed Woodpecker - occasionally one at our suet feeder.

To many "Whiskey Jack" is about as undersirable a citizen of birdland as his noisy cousin, the Blue Jay. However, I find him more friendly and interesting. He sure gives me a hard time when I am stalking deer and moose with my camera. Also, he has stolen part of my lunch on several occasions. The chickadee is still one of my favorite birds as it is so friendly.

At present, we have seven feeders on our patio and a heated water trough. It is exciting to look out on the patio and see my feathered friends.

This afternoon Anne and I watched for some time two seals frolicking near the shore.

Because of the price of sunflower seeds, we raised an 80' row of sunflowers in our vegetable garden. The birds harvested these plants for us.

Gardiner Gregory

FOR NON-MEMBERS

Applications for joint Audubon Membership, please check type desired.

- Individual \$18/year
- Senior Citizen Individual \$13.50/year
- Senior Citizen Family \$15/year

- Family \$21/year
- Student \$13.50/year

Chapter: South Shore Audubon Society

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



Membership entitles you to receive six issues of Audubon Magazine, published by the National Audubon Society, and ten issues of the South Shore Skimmer which lists all our local activities. Make checks payable to the National Audubon Society and mail to South Shore Audubon Society, Box 31, Freeport11520.

Birding and Shelling/Shelling and Birding
on Long Island



Shell collecting and birding are an ideal combination for Long Islanders. Excellent conditions for both these pursuits often exist at the same spot and they can be enjoyed on a single outing in the field. Ocean beaches, bayside edges, ponds and forests all are the habitat of mollusks as well as of birds.

One minor complication of combining birding and shelling is the need for alternately looking up and down! A likely compromise is to concentrate on marine mollusks and water birds. This enables one to spend many hours collecting shells as well as seeing shore birds, ducks, flights of cormorants and an occasional skimmer or osprey. A field trip to Bird Island in Moriches Bay, for example, can yield good birds and many hard-to-find species of local shells.

A birder at a shoreline will inevitably see shells. Almost everyone knows the surf clam (Spisula solidissima), whose large single valves are frequently taken home for ash trays. Some recognize moon shells (Polinices heros and P. duplicatus), scallops (Argopecten irradians), whelks (Busycon carica and B. canaliculatum), and a few gourmets notice soft-shell clams - steamers - (Mya arenaria). Many, many more species than these can be found on Long Island's shores and it becomes a challenge to try to find the rarer ones among the more abundant and common species. There is greater excitement in observing one marbled godwit than in seeing a group of mallards, and so it is more fun to collect a **single fragile bubble shell** (Haminoea solitaria) than a dozen quahogs (Mercenaria mercenaria).

When you're next at the water's edge collect some of each of the dead shells that you see - even single valves - and take them home. Especially search out those that look unfamiliar. Shells on Long Island range from quite large to microscopic, so look in the high tide line for the tiny ones.

The next step is to obtain SHELLS FROM CAPE COD TO CAPE MAY by Jacobson and Emerson (Dover Publications, N.Y., \$2.50), a compact, inexpensive book available in paperback. This is a MUST! Look through the simple and accurate line drawings and match up your shell with the picture. Identify it, read about it, and learn its Latin name. Keep a data slip noting the date and place of collection and Latin name with each of your shells. You have just started your collection of (and possible addiction to) shells.

To learn more about mollusks and local collecting areas, get to know others who are interested. The Long Island Shell Club is a group of knowledgeable, enthusiastic and helpful people. They meet once a month on Wednesday night in Hicksville, and also have field trips. For information, contact Alyse Feinstein, 3 Chester Avenue, Massapequa, N.Y. 11758 (516 541-3620) Happy Birding AND Shelling!

Cherita Stark

Cherita Stark and her husband, Ernie, are members of National Audubon, the Queens County Bird Club, the Long Island Shell Club and the New York Shell Club. She looks mostly down at shells and he mostly out and up at waterfowl.

Here are a few "daffy definitions" of birds sent in by Kathy MacPherson.

- Greater Yellow Legs - Marilyn Monroe with jaundice.
- Chukar - What you do with an auto that is a lemon.
- Bunting - What Thurman Munson does if his arm is sore.
- Verdin - What the jury sends in.
- Spectacled Eider - Senior citizen with glasses.

BIRD FEEDER SURVEY 

Because Miriam Raynor has received so few bird feeder surveys, we are temporarily suspending publication of the Bird Feeder Survey until we receive more information from our members. As we received such good feedback last year, please let me know your feelings and ideas as to why we are having such a poor return this year - perhaps poor birding????

Pat Davis

Las Islas Encantadas
The Galapagos Islands

6. Fernandina and James - Ground Pounders
and Dive Bombers

After our morning on Isabela we crossed the narrow strait to Fernandina (Nargorough). One of the larger islands (though much smaller than its neighbor), Fernandina is the home of one of the strangest birds in the world, the flightless cormorant. Although the largest of the cormorants - almost three feet long - it has only rudimentary wings and is quite incapable of flight. Like the penguin, it obtains its food underwater, but unlike the penguin, its body is propelled not by the wings but only by the feet, which are webbed between all four toes. The wings are thus completely useless. The keel of the breastbone, to which the wing muscles are attached, and which is well developed in most birds, is completely lacking in the flightless cormorant.

A large part of Fernandina is composed of a large lava flow, and since this was one of the few completely sunny days we spent in the Galapagos, it became quite warm. We thus saw several flightless cormorants standing on the lava drying their wings, or sitting on their rudimentary nests on the lava, "panting" with open beaks and rapidly vibrating throat pouches.

While watching the cormorants, a Galapagos hawk flew low overhead carrying a young marine iguana in its talons and landed in a nearby dead tree. We had the extreme good fortune to see several of these uncommon birds on various islands.

Fernandina also boasts a large stand of brachycereus cactus, a densely packed mass of plants resembling narrow barrel cacti, about a foot high, and seemingly growing right out of the lava with virtually no soil in evidence. It is the first plant to colonize a lava flow.

A long hike over the seemingly endless lava completed our day, and we returned to our ship with good appetites.

After a hearty, well-prepared dinner we watched the nightly slide show and lecture giving us a brief foretaste of what we were to see the following day. Worn out by our exertions, everyone was in bed by nine o'clock.

That night we circled the northern end of Isabela Island, crossing and recrossing the equator in the process, to the island of James (San Salvador or Santiago).

We spent most of the morning on the long beach watching blue-footed boobies and pelicans diving for fish. From a height of about fifty feet they dove straight down, folding their wings shortly before hitting the water, and disappeared with a small splash. Hordes of noddy terns hovered low over the water, and when a pelican surfaced immediately mobbed it, frequently sitting on its head or back to catch the small fish the pelican ejects from its pouch together with the large amounts of water it picks up in its pouch while feeding.

A pair of oystercatchers paraded along the shore, as tame as all the other wildlife on these amazing islands.

In the mangroves bordering the beach we saw our first vermilion flycatchers, one of the few colorful land birds of the Galapagos. Also present, as on all the islands, were yellow warblers. Though the same species as ours, the male has a bright rusty-orange cap, which we have not observed in our local bird. It is considered a distinct race, aureola.

The afternoon on James was to hold still different adventures.

Al Lemke

WATERFOWL RESCUE TEAM

The Waterfowl Rescue Team meeting I mentioned at the January meeting has now been changed to a "Leadership Training Workshop." If you are interested in becoming a team leader for the South Shore, please contact me at 922-3200. This workshop will be held on Saturday, February 10, from 9:00-3:00 PM at the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary in Oyster Bay.

Pat Davis

MARCH NEWS DEADLINE FEB. 15

NEXT MEETING-----TUESDAY, FEB. 13TH, 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.

- FEB. 11 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- 18 Zach's Bay, Pkg.Fld.#4, N.E. corner
- 25 Short Beach West End #2, N.E. corner

- MAR. 4 West End #2, N.W. corner
- 11 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- 18 Zach's Bay Pkg.Fld.#4, N.E. corner
- 25 Tobay, J.F.K. Sanctuary

- APR. 1 West End #2, N.W. corner
- 8 Short Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
- 22 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- 29 Zach's Bay Pkg.Fld.#4, N.E. corner

- MAY 6 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

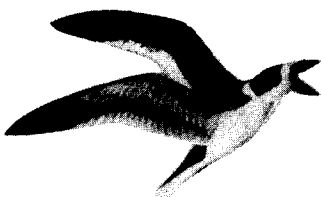
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BINOCULAR SAVINGS are available thru

Barbara Tancredi evenings 7-9	887-2491
the club. Save 30 to 50% on Bushnell	Bill Herzog evenings 7 to 9
and Bausch and Lomb binoculars and	Asa Starkweather
scopes. See us at meetings and	Joan Butkerei
birdwalks or call the committee members listed.	593-4554

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P.O. BOX 31
FREEPORT, N.Y. 11520



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