

SOUTH SHORE SKIMMER



DECEMBER MEETING

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11
 FREEPORT MEMORIAL LIBRARY
 8:15 P.M.

Guest Speaker: Anton Manzoni
 "Wilderness of Birds Around Us"

Since the first meeting of the South Shore Audubon Society nine years ago, Tony Manzoni has been a steady participant at meetings and festivals.

Any spring birding group will likely encounter Tony and camera stalking birds in the Phragmites at Tobay or the garden at Jamaica Bay. He has captured on film over twenty species of warblers and almost every variety of bird that frequents the Long Island area.

Please join us for this fascinating meeting.

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PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR COFFEE CUP TO THE MEETING. WE ARE TRYING TO AVOID USING DISPOSABLE CUPS.

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BIRD SEED SALE

Rainy weather notwithstanding, the November Bird Seed Sale was a success. SSAS sold thirty thousand pounds of seed.

Our next sale will be held on Saturday, January 26, at Tackapausha. Further information will appear in the January Skimmer.

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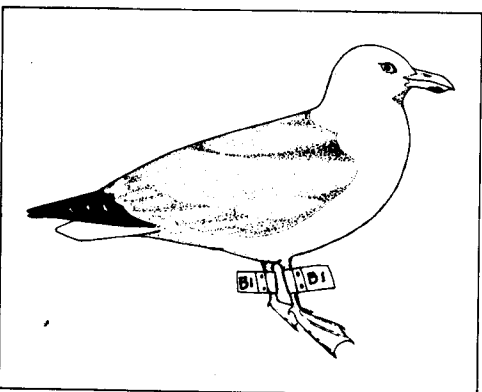
NATURE PRESENTATION

The Nassau County Museum of Fine Arts is featuring a new multi-media nature presentation on Sunday, December 9 and 16, at 3 P.M.

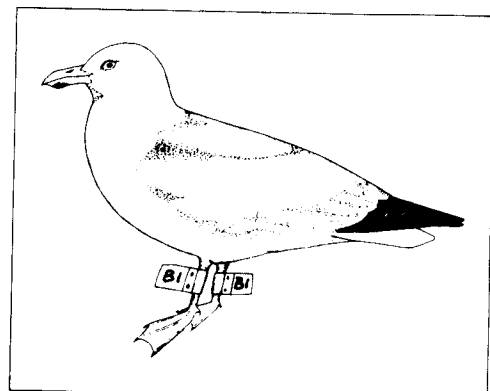
The program, presented by nature photographer Richard P. Meyer, is a combination of visual images and sound. The museum is located in Roslyn on the former Childs Frick Estate. Admission is free.

For information call 484-4070 or 484-9333.

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Great Lakes Herring Gulls have been marked with numbered and lettered green, orange, blue or pink leg ribbon - one on each leg. If you see any Herring Gulls so marked, please note number, letter and colour of each ribbon and date and place of sighting. Contact Dr. D. V. Chip Weseloh or Mr. Pierre Mineau, Canadian Wildlife Service, Box 5050, Burlington, Ontario, Canada, L7R 4A6. Tel. (416) 637-4264.



CONSERVATION

by Thomas Torma



On November 12, 1979, 1,700 plants and animals were dropped from consideration for protection under the Endangered Species Act. The reason for the loss of protection is an amendment made to the act last year. On November 10 of last year, President Carter signed an amendment to the Endangered Species Act requiring, among other things, that if a species had been proposed for protection and no action was taken for two years or more, the agency would have one year to protect it before it would be dropped.

Another amendment required the Interior Department to designate a "critical habitat" for each species proposed for the endangered list and to conduct an economic analysis of the measures needed to protect the species before placing it on the list. The Interior Department has yet to hire an economist to do the analyses or publish all the regulations necessary to carry out the changes in the law. Lack of staff and bureaucratic foot-dragging could cause many species to become extinct. Only thirty-seven species were added to the list this year. No new species have been proposed.

A Nuclear Indictment??

This past month the Three Mile Island Commission issued its report. Some of the News media played up the report as anti-nuclear. One newspaper had an editorial with the headline "The Nuclear Indictment." Was the report all that anti-nuclear? The report said the following: Our findings do not, standing alone, require the conclusion that nuclear power is inherently too dangerous to permit it to continue and expand as a form of power generation. Neither do they suggest that the nation should move forward aggressively to develop additional commercial nuclear power. They simply indicate that if the country wishes, for larger reasons, to confront the risks inherently associated with nuclear power, fundamental changes are necessary if these risks are to be kept within tolerable limits.

The above statement brings up two questions: (1) What are the changes that would be required to use nuclear power? (2) What is meant by tolerable limits?

Among the key recommendations brought up by the commission are the following: The Nuclear Regulatory Commission should be replaced by an executive branch agency with a single executive; A permanent oversight committee should be established to monitor the

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**AUDUBON WEST:
Ecology Workshop Tours
of the Western Education
Center**

**California in the Spring
April 15-29, 1980**

Led by the Center staff, participants will travel from the Pacific Ocean through Condor Country, across the Mojave Desert, up into the High Sierra and finally to the shores of San Francisco Bay. This workshop will emphasize the general ecology and bird life of the Golden State as reflected by the sanctuaries and facilities of the National Audubon Society.

**Southeast Arizona:
The Second Spring
July 16-26, 1980**

With cooling midsummer rains, Arizona begins its second, and more delightful, spring season. This workshop will focus on one of the most ecologically diverse areas of the United States. From Tucson's Desert Museum to the coniferous forest of the Chiricahua Mountains, we will encounter a remarkable diversity of birds and other life forms. Audubon's new Research Ranch will highlight our visit to the grassland habitat of Arizona.

**The Hawaiian Islands
September 2-15, 1980**

Our tour of this unique island-state will introduce us to volcanoes, rain forests, and other special habitats of this strikingly beautiful land. We will visit four islands in search of the many endemic birds, including those of utmost Audubon concern, the endangered species of Hawaii.

For further details and registration information on AUDUBON WEST tours, write directly to Audubon West, National Audubon Society, Western Education Center, 376 Greenwood Beach Road, Tiburon, CA 94920.



WEEKEND

OUR HIKE TO TUMBLING WATERS

Photos and text by Eleanor Glaser



(Above) On the hike to Tumbling Waters we had to negotiate steep, smooth spots with a bit of rope-climbing ... putting our fitness and adventuresome spirits to the test.



(Above) During one of our rest stops-and overlooks, Jim, our PEEC host, gives us some information about the mountain ranges and surrounding areas.



(Left) With a bed of leaves providing slippery footing, we would have had to resort to all fours without the switchback of logs that made our ascent possible.

AT PEEC



...by Ruth Grossman

About 39 South Shore Audubon Society members were at the Pocono Environmental Education Center for a birding and hiking weekend at the end of October. We arrived Friday night. Saturday was a glorious day. Sunday morning it rained. Not many birds, but we had lots of fun.

Supper was at 6 P.M. We ate cafeteria style. The food was plain but plentiful. The price was a bargain -- under \$40 for the weekend. We slept in bunks, but there was indoor plumbing-- quite an elegant bathroom. (I had wondered if I'd have to wander through the woods with a flashlight!)

A bird walk was scheduled for 7 A.M. We got up at 6 A.M. It was pitch dark and one of the gals misread her watch -- it was only 5 A.M.! Weird shadows on the ceiling in our bunk. We were six gals -- I started to giggle.

After breakfast a four-mile hike was announced, led by a twenty-two year old guide. The weather was beautiful. We started on the narrow trail up the mountain, down again - up again - down again. The leaves were wet and slippery with rocks hidden underneath. The foliage was very colorful, if only I'd had a chance to look at it. I was too busy watching my step!

Finally we reached the bottom again. There was an eight-foot rock to be scaled, with ropes to haul us up. I thought of Switzerland and crampons and rappelling, but, unless I wished to spend the day there, there was no choice. I did it and, incredibly, it was not too difficult! Cheers greeted each climber as we pushed up. Back for lunch, and, in the afternoon, there was a bus ride to several very beautiful waterfalls in the Delaware Water Gap area.

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...by E. & M. Petersen

An astonished male looked up as we two women walked into the cabin we all were apparently to share for the weekend. Oh well, he said, his wife at home wouldn't mind, but he thought his buddy's wife, also at home, might take umbrage or even a rolling pin! My sister and I selected beds from the myriad of bunks and beds often used by school kids. Happily, a reshuffling resulted in our cabin becoming a women's dorm and the men reveled in the privacy of their own cottage. This was our introduction to the Pocono Environmental Education Center at Dingman's Ferry, Pennsylvania.

A bird walk scheduled for 7 A.M. the next day left us wondering how six women would make it through the bathroom in time. Not to worry! My sister woke me at 6:15 and, shortly, the whole cabin came to life, but to hysterical laughter from two of the ladies -- "Just wait until they discover they've risen an hour earlier than necessary," I overheard. "Oh no," I said, "you're wrong, wrong, wrong. Tomorrow night is when the clocks are to be set back." More hysteria. Would you believe my sister's watch had been set an hour too early and we were up a 5:15?

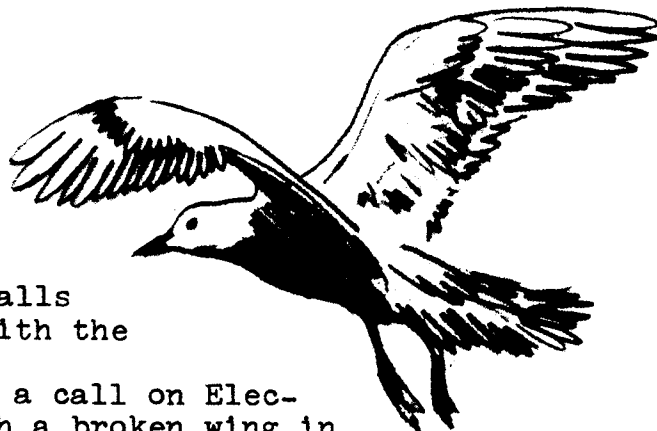
On to the birdwalk at 26 degrees. It had been 18 degrees during the night with frost half an inch thick. Wow -- and this was only October 27th!

Have you ever seen a bunch of adults of varying ages being pushed up a rocky cliff, pulling themselves up on a rope? Reverse rappelling? We sure felt like mountain climbers, especially with a thirty foot drop into a waterfall if we failed. Quite a sight--but, with the help of our young, ingenious, strong guide, we made it. We discovered, however, that you can't do it laughing -- it doesn't work. It was a beautiful hike along the fall-colored mountain ridges. "The Tumbling Waters Hike" they called it, and the trip was well-named -- there were so many spectacular waterfalls!

Nature, films, a bus tour through the lovely countryside and great food made our weekend thoroughly enjoyable. But, next time, let's save the Sunday rain for Monday. Many thanks to PEEC, its great staff and Eleanor Glaser and Rebecca Halpern for a fine time.

BIRD RESCUE

by Asa Starkweather



Thank you, all of you, who have called to be bird rescue people. Your names have been given to the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary where most of the calls are received. They will get in touch with the person nearest the call.

Before the Skimmer came out, I got a call on Election Day morning about a "sea gull" with a broken wing in East Rockaway. I went down and a group of children came running over and led me to the gull. I covered it, put it in a box and took it to the veterinary. But let me tell you about this gull. It had a white head with adult herring gull spots. It was white, but its bill was half black - like a second-year juvenile. It was no bigger than a pigeon! It must have been a dwarf! This is quite possible, of course. Albinos are fairly common in all living species. So is melanism, which is all black.

I got a call from North Bellmore about a bird in a chimney. This turned out to be a wood-burning stove with a six-inch iron stove pipe going straight up to the roof. I opened the stove and opened the damper and two house sparrows flew out. It was a male and a female. They were looking for a house. This looked like a house, but the floor was ten feet down!



Weekend at PEEC (cont.)

Saturday night we had a game session - Scrabble, Boggle and many others I'd never seen before. We had cookies and cider to finish off a lovely day. (Incidentally, I asked one or two people if they thought the hike was strenuous and they responded "not really!")

Our thanks to Rebecca Halpern and Eleanor Glaser for all the time and energy they put into arranging such a pleasant weekend.

Conservation (cont.)

performance of both the new federal agency and the private companies that design, construct and operate nuclear reactors; State and local emergency plans should be reviewed and approved by the federal government before a utility is granted an operating license for a new nuclear power plant; A variety of changes should be made in the hiring and training of personnel operating the reactors - this training should include

the instruments that help operators understand conditions inside the reactor and the availability of equipment to measure the accidental release of radiation.

As to the question of what is tolerable? .. The answer is dependent upon many factors. All forms of power generation have risks inherently associated with them. We must weigh these risks, one against the other, to make that decision. As the report says,..... the current and potential states of public safety in the presence of nuclear power have, we believe, implications that bear on the broad question of energy. But the ultimate resolution of the question involves the kind of economic, environmental and foreign policy considerations that can only be evaluated through the political process.

We, as good citizens, must be knowledgeable enough to make a decision and then inform our political leaders of our feelings. We must get involved in the decision-making process!

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

- DEC. 9 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
16 Zach's Bay Pkg.Fld. #4 N.E.
corner
- JAN. 6 West End #2, N.W. corner
13 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
20 Tobay, J.F.K. Sanctuary
27 Zach's Bay Pkg. Fld. #4 N.E.
corner
- FEB. 3 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
10 West End #2, N.E. corner

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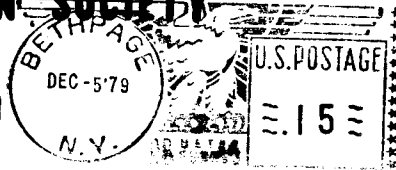
BINOCULAR SAVINGS are available through the club. Save 30%to 50%
on Bushnell and Bausch and Lomb binoculars and scopes. See us at
meetings and birdwalks or call the committee members listed:
Barbara Tancredi 11 A.M.-1 P.M. 775-1790
Bill Herzog 7 P.M.-9 P.M. 791-7886
Asa Starkweather 599-5824
Joan Butkerei 593-4554

JANUARY NEWS DEADLINE
DECEMBER 12



*Happy
Holidays!*

SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY
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~~MR & MRS CHARLES KELLER~~
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