

SOUTH SHORE SKIMMER



MEETING



WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5
FREEPORT MEMORIAL LIBRARY
8:15 P.M.

GUEST SPEAKER: Prof. Frank Reiser
"Spiders of Long Island"

Frank Reiser, Professor of Field and Marine Biology at Nassau Community College, will present a slide show of familiar species of Long Island spiders and discuss how to identify, collect and raise them.

The slides will show web building, food gathering and close-up high magnification examination of the arachnid's anatomy.

Please be sure to join us for this very informative program.

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Bird Seed Savings

The bird seed sale is this Sunday, November 2, 9:30 A.M.-4 P.M. at Tackapausha Museum, Washington Avenue, Seaford. All proceeds from the sale of the seed and the bird feeders, which will also be available, go to the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary.

SSAS members will be on hand with binoculars and field guides for the convenience of anyone interested in purchasing these items.

HORIZONS II

Volunteers are needed to help spread the word of South Shore Audubon's environmental fair, Horizons II. We would like to display fair posters in as many highly visible locations as possible. Some suggested spots are your local supermarkets and library bulletin boards. To obtain posters call Len Gordon at 223-1365.

Horizons II will be held on Sunday, November 16, 1980, 1-5 P.M. at Adelphi University's Ruth S. Harley University Center in Garden City.

Please contact Pat Davis at 822-6189 if you would like to display your arts or crafts or if you can help with the displays and programs. See page 5 for fair program.

WEST END TERNS

Thomas Torma

In the September issue I wrote about the declining Tern colony at West End Beach. I also wrote a letter to the Long Island State Park Commission and received a reply from Michael Asheroff, Deputy General Manager, part of which is reproduced below:

"Over the years, we have taken steps designed to ensure the safety and security of the terns. The speed limit in that area has been set at 35 mph; regulations against dogs have been enforced and pedestrians have been advised to stay out of the area where terns generally nest.

Several meetings have also been held with a variety of public interest groups and with a representative of the Department of Environmental Conservation. As a result of these meetings, we have been fortunate in preserving the tern colony and eliminating conditions which have been detrimental to it in the past.

Since I share your concern for the continued viability of this valued wildlife preserve, I am forwarding your letter to Mr. Joseph Lescinski, Superintendent of Jones Beach State Park, who has represented the Long Island State Park and Recreation Commission at these meetings, and I am asking him to contact you directly regarding your concerns and suggestions."

I recently had a phone conversation with Mr. Lescinski. He said that the last he heard the tern colony was doing well. There was no road kill of terns this year because of steps taken by the Park Commission two years ago, including widening the grass strip along the highway to keep the birds off the road. At the suggestion of the DEC, the commission also increased the vegetation on the center island of the highway in the hope of forcing the birds to nest in the nearby work dock area.

He did not know about the rats in the West End area, but he did say he would send men to survey the situation and to set out traps. The dogs from the Coast Guard station are no longer running free, a good sign.

Mr. Lescinski and Mr. Kremer, a bird bander in the colony, seem to disagree on the health of the colony. I will continue to seek expert opinions on the situation at the nesting area. I will look into the possibility of having research done so that we can deal with hard facts.

In the meantime, we must try to inform and educate the public about this great resource. We are making up display boards to be placed in the West End area. We need photographs of Least Terns, Short Eared Owls, Piping Plover or any other birds that can be seen in the area.



Mr. Lescinski said he would consider allowing us to put up an exhibit if he could see it first. We will also be making up pamphlets about the birds of West End Beach. Hopefully, they will be distributed in the area. If you have any slides or photographs we can use or any ideas that might help, please contact me.

I am not sure how much good we can do for the birds and the environment at West End Beach, but I do feel we must try to do something!



Education Committee Course

The Education Committee is currently presenting an in-service training course for teachers in Nassau County through the Board of Cooperative Educational Services.

The course, entitled "Conservation and Preservation of Our Community," is being held on Tuesdays from 4-6 P.M. at the Barnum Woods School, Kalda Lane, East Meadow.

The concept of environmental education is being presented to teachers so they, in turn, can present it to their students.

Elaine Butkerei, Gloria Cohen, Richard Bullenkamp, Elliot Kutner, Bill Kolodnicki and Asa Starkweather are the members contributing to the course.

Any interested member can attend.

AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILM/LECTURE SERIES

In cooperation with the South Shore Audubon Society, the Town of Hempstead will continue its informative Audubon Wildlife Film/Lecture Series.

December 16 — Charles Hotchkiss "Wilderness Trails"
January 28 — Frank Heimans "What Have You Done To My Country"
All Performances will be at 8:15 pm. in the Town Hall Pavilion, Hempstead.
Admission - free - but tickets are necessary.

For tickets, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope, specifying date, program and number of tickets desired to:

Audubon Lecture Series
Hempstead Recreation Division
200 N. Franklin Street
Hempstead, NY 11550



BIRD RESCUE by Asa Starkweather

In August I received a call from a lady in West Hempstead who said there was a big white bird sitting on the fence in back of her house. She had been trying to get help for the past 24 hours, to no avail. Unfortunately, this is the way it goes because the last place people call is the Audubon number, after they've called the police and fire departments, who aren't any help. I went over and found a common egret hanging head down from the top rail of a cyclone fence. I picked him up, rested his body in a box, detached his feet from the fence, covered him up and he said, "glunk." I got someone to ride with me to A & A Veterinary Hospital because I didn't want a bird as big as that flapping around the car. The next day I got a call from the veterinary. The bird didn't survive. He's now mounted and a very handsome addition to my bird collection.

I also got a call from John Donahue in Malverne. He had a most unusual bird. He said it had a 40" wing apread and something must be wrong with its mouth because its lower bill was much longer than its upper bill. I said, "For goodness sakes, you have a skimmer. Where on earth did you find it?" He had found it in the middle of the village with a fish hook and sinker caught in its nostril. As John was trying to work the hook out, the bird jerked its head away and out it came. He brought the bird to me and, as he was in good shape, we decided to release him rather than put him through the trauma of going to the vet. I was on my way to Bay Park, traveling down Ocean Avenue, when I came to the Pearl Street bridge where we used to take our kids fishing. This is a direct connection to the bay, so I stopped, took the skimmer out of the box, took him to the rail and let him go. He took off, dipped down to the water, took a drink and off he went. A very successful rescue!



It is very interesting that both of these birds, which are shore birds, showed up in populated areas far from the water when they were sick. But I don't know why.

Scents and Nonsense

Porcupines have prickly spines
 Most useful in defense,
 While skunks use smell foes to repel
 With overwhelming scents.
 Some butterflies have bogus "eyes"
 That make them look quite vicious,
 And other forms sport would-be horns
 To scare the superstitious.
 By tasting bad, some moths can gad
 Right by insectivores.
 The snake avoids battle by using his rattle
 To frighten carnivores.
 So taste and touch, and others such,
 Like sight and sound and smell
 Are utilized - when brutalized -
 Inordinately well
 By creatures all, both large and small,
 With God-given perfection.
 For they'll be killed unless they're skilled
 In the art of self-protection.
 For if they left themselves defenseless
 T'would surely be completely senseless.

West Coast for the Birds

Asa Starkweather

We regretfully left Al and Laura and headed north on U.S. 5. Al had provided maps and a bird guide to Southern California. The first item in the book was "Condor Country."

"The northern end of the condor range is Mount Piños in the Pine Mountains. There they may be seen in the summer."

We decided to skip Los Angeles which appeared before us as a solid yellow smog, and turned northeast to Santa Ana. "Santa Ana," said Glad, "That's where Tom and Jane Clark lived. Stop! I'm going to look in a phone book."

Thirty minutes later we were talking to Jane, a childhood friend of Gladys. The last time we had seen them, she had just married Tom and he was interning in New York Hospital. Forty years later, Tom had retired from medicine and was playing golf. Jane and Gladys never stopped talking. They had been in grammar school together. Tom and I finally got them to bed.

On our way again toward Mt. Piños, the roads now were mountainous in a way we easterners don't know. California mountains go right down to the sea. The only straight roads are in deserts and the great agricultural valleys where sprays and irrigation ditches are a way of life.

We arrived in Los Padres National Forest and set up camp at McGill Campground at about 7800 feet. Then up an unbelievably rocky and rutted dirt road to the top of Mt. Piños where there is a paved parking lot! A sign with a condor painted on it says you may see condors here. It was 12:30 in the afternoon. Green-tailed towees were all over the place. Western bluebirds were in the low trees. On the rocky, grassy slope down from the parking lot I saw a Townsend's Solitaire.

The afternoon wore on. A young man, a college student, showed up. He was a condor enthusiast and had seen sixteen of them. He was interesting company. Gladys was reading in the car.

At ten minutes to five, two condors sailed about 100 feet over our heads. "Condors!" we yelled. That got Gladys out of the car and she saw them too.

Back at Mc Gill Campground I saw a pigmy nuthatch in the tall, rough-barked pine trees which we did not identify until later. They were our first Redwoods!

I went for a walk and saw three or four brown towees. They became a very common bird. After dark we heard a Long-eared Owl with its "hoots, whistles and shrieks," followed by the deep hoots of a Great Horned Owl.



BINOCULAR SAVINGS

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:

Bill Herzog 7 P.M. - 9 P.M.
791-7886

Barbara Tancredi 11 A.M. - 1 P.M.
775-1790

Asa Starkweather
599-5824

Joan Butkerei
593-4554



If you can bring cake, cookies, etc. to a meeting, please get in touch with one of the following members:

Roz Stein 223-0608
Miriam Raynor 364-6204
Ruth Grossman Fr 8-8809



RARE BIRD SIGHTINGS
(212) 832-6523



South Shore Audubon Society Freeport, New York

SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

HORIZONS II

CELEBRATES THE YEAR OF THE COAST

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1980

1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.

ADELPHI UNIVERSITY
RUTH S. HARLEY UNIV. CENTER
GARDEN CITY, NEW YORK



1:00-2:00 P.M.

Gary Simpson and Ken Buddington
Nab Construction Corporation

Resource Recovery Technology-
Its Place In Our Energy Future

Asa Starkweather
Birds of Long Island

2:00-3:00 P.M.

Jack Pangburn

Learn How to Take Professional-Looking
Wildlife Pictures at our Photography
Workshop

Robert Farwell
Cold Spring Harbor Whaling Museum

The Future of the Whale: Is Extinction Inevitable?

3:00-4:00 P.M.

Elaine Butkereit and Gloria Cohen

Teaching Children the 3 E's (Ecology,
Energy, Environment)

Mike Smiles

The Beach: Now You See It, Now You Don't!

4:00-5:00 P.M.

Bill Robinson

Birds of Prey - A Special Raptor Program
Live Surprises

The Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary will present a special Children's Program.

There will also be a special display area with arts & crafts, taxidermy, rocks and minerals, and representatives from several environmental groups on Long Island.

ADMISSION: \$1.00 PER PERSON (CHILDREN UNDER 12 FREE)

FIELD TRIPS

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

- NOV. 2 Zach's Bay, Pkg. Fld.#4
 N.E. corner
 9 Tobay, J.F.K. Sanctuary
 16 West End #2, N.W. corner
 23 Pelham Bay-meet at Throg's
 Neck Bridge toll-9:00 A.M.
 30 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- DEC. 7 Zach's Bay, Pkg. Fld. #4
 N.E. corner
 14 West End #2, N.E. corner
 21 Tobay, J.F.K. Sanctuary
- JAN. 4 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
 11 Pelham Bay-meet at Throg's
 Neck Bridge toll-9:00 A.M.
 18 Zach's Bay, Pkg. Fld. #4
 N.E. corner
 25 Tobay, J.F.K. Sanctuary
- FEB. 2 West End #2, N.W. corner
 9 West End #2, N.E. corner

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HAPPY
THANKSGIVING!



DECEMBER NEWS DEADLINE
NOVEMBER 15

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



FIRST CLASS MAIL