

# SOUTH SHORE SKIMMER



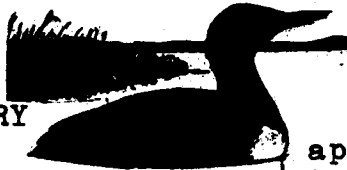
SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

VOL. 12, NO. 7

MARCH 1982

## Meeting

TUESDAY, MARCH 9  
FREEPORT MEMORIAL LIBRARY  
8:15 P.M.



Scott Sutcliffe, Director of the Long Island Nature Conservancy, will be our guest speaker. He will present a slide show and talk on loons.

This is a beautiful presentation, so please be sure to join us.

## LECTURE SERIES

The next lecture in the series sponsored by South Shore Audubon at Long Beach High School will be held on Thursday, March 25, at 8:00 P.M. This month's program will be about spring migration.

## NEW MEMBERS

According to Membership Chairman Doris Pirodsky, we have gained more new members (85) in recent months than any other chapter in the North East Region except New York City.

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to Elliot Kutner, our intrepid bird walk leader. Hurry back! Everyone misses you.



## SSAS Scholarships

South Shore Audubon is seeking applicants for full scholarships to the Audubon Ecology Camps/Workshops.

Applicants must be at least 18 years of age and in good physical health. There is no maximum age. If you are interested in applying, please send a letter explaining your interest and how you would use your experience to further the goals of the Audubon Society.

Camp sessions are one to two weeks in length and are held during the months of July and August. The camps are located in Connecticut and in Maine. Scholarships will include lodging, meals and all field studies. Please send your letters to:

SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY  
P.O. Box 31  
FREEPORT, NEW YORK 11520

DEADLINE: APRIL 1, 1982

## MINIATIONS 1982-83

PRESIDENT - Tom Torma

VICE-PRESIDENT - Jerry Bernstein

TREASURER - Lennox Gordon

REC. SECRETARY - Richard Bullenkamp

CORRES. SECRETARY - Ruth Grossman

DIRECTORS - Marilyn Cute,  
Annette Aranow

## E.P.A. CUTS

"The personnel and budget cuts and other policy changes that have been or are about to be made in the Federal Environmental Protection Agency, will have significant, adverse impact on the Long Island Environment. It is apparent that many Congressmen have not yet fully grasped the fact that these cuts will directly affect the public health and, in some instances, the livelihood of their constituents."

So began a report written by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation at the request of Congressman Thomas Downey. It goes on to cite some examples of EPA cuts:

\*Sixteen major federally funded construction grants programs costing approximately \$400 million may not be completed (for example, the Cedar Creek Plant Expansion).

\*Funds for a study to protect the Long Island Pine Barrens may not be made available.

\*An abandoned toxic waste storage yard in Farmingdale, with more than 1,000 barrels of waste, may not be cleaned up because of inadequate funding for the new federal "Superfund" program.

\*A suspected dump site in Islip, which may contain toxic waste from the Hooker Chemical Company, may not be cleaned up.

\*The EPA toxic waste laboratory in Edison, New Jersey, which serves Long Island and is one of the finest such labs in the nation, may be closed.

\*The EPA will not set a dioxin emission standard and could, thereby, further complicate the construction of the Multi-Town solid waste resource recovery plant and other Long Island plants currently in the planning stages.

The report goes on to say: "The federal responsibility in setting and enforcing uniform, national environmental protection standards in air and water is clear and can only be avoided at the expense of future generations. To cut EPA's budget in half, from \$1.4 billion to \$700 million, to cut EPA staff from 12,500 to less than 6,000, is sheer folly, not only in terms of increasing threats to public health but in fostering unfair industrial competition from states which would sacrifice public health for profit."

"If Congress does not immediately move to halt these impending EPA cuts there will be a 42% reduction in federal water quality programs, a 21% cut in air quality programs, a 38% cut in pollution abatement, a 75% cut in wastewater treatment plant construction, and a 34% cut in the toxic substance control program. Cuts of this magnitude will further strain state and local budgets at a time when their environmental budgets have already been stretched to the breaking point and challenge of toxin control has yet to be met. For instance, state, Nassau, Suffolk, and Long Island Towns environmental protection staff expenditures currently amount to approximately \$6 million annually, or about \$2 per year per Long Islander. It is unrealistic to expect the state or Long Island local governments to make up for federal environmental protection budget cuts, particularly to take on jobs that are clearly a matter of federal responsibility and well beyond the financial capacity of any other level of government."

The report concludes: " Environmental protection responsibilities cannot be simply superimposed by the federal government on state governments without the resources to properly assume those responsibilities.....New York State does not ask the federal government to do the job alone, but we expect that the traditional partnership - states working together with the federal government to protect our environment - will not be broken by a new administration."

Tom Torma

## Bottle Bill

The Nassau Bottle Bill Coalition, formed as a result of the meeting in January, will meet on Wednesday, March 10 at 8:00 P.M. at the Nineteenth Hole in the Salisbury Club at Eisenhower Park.

Anyone interested in working for the bill is urged to attend. Those interested in volunteering may also call Bill Andriette at 796-3227.

## Donations Needed

The Lido Beach Environmental Center needs donations of plants, cuttings, trees, furniture, shades, blinds and several other items.

If you would like to make a contribution, speak to Addi Quinn at the South Shore Audubon meeting or contact Alice Orens at 431-9537.

## Warblers

There will be a "Spring Warbler workshop" at the T.R. Sanctuary on Saturday, March 13, 2-4 P.M.

For further information call 922-3200.



(above) T.R. Sanctuary Director Bill Kolodnicki and kestrel speak to students at Long Beach's Magnolia School.

(left) Addi Quinn, Bill and Otus the screech owl.

## Clean Air

South Shore Audubon and the Long Beach League of Women Voters will co-sponsor a program on the Clean Air Act on Thursday, March 11, at 8:00 P.M. at Long Beach High School.

To get to the school take Meadowbrook Parkway south to the Loop Parkway to Lido Boulevard. Turn right onto Lido Blvd., and proceed about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles to Regent Drive (small brick firehouse on corner). Turn right onto Regent and follow around to Lagoon Drive West. Turn right onto Lagoon Drive West and follow to high school.

For further information, call Tom Torma at 223-7947.

## Slide Show

During the month of March we have available a National Audubon slide show on the Clean Air Act.

If you belong to an organization that would be interested in seeing this presentation, please call Tom Torma at 223-7947.



## Bottle Bill

The Nassau Bottle Bill Coalition, formed as a result of the meeting in January, will meet on Wednesday, March 10 at 8:00 P.M. at the Nineteenth Hole in the Salisbury Club at Eisenhower Park.

Anyone interested in working for the bill is urged to attend. Those interested in volunteering may also call Bill Andriette at 796-3227.

## Donations Needed

The Lido Beach Environmental Center needs donations of plants, cuttings, trees, furniture, shades, blinds and several other items.

If you would like to make a contribution, speak to Addi Quinn at the South Shore Audubon meeting or contact Alice Orens at 431-9537.

## Warblers

There will be a "Spring Warbler workshop at the T.R. Sanctuary on Saturday, March 13, 2-4 P.M.

For further information call 922-3200.



## Clean Air

South Shore Audubon and the Long Beach League of Women Voters will co-sponsor a program on the Clean Air Act on Thursday, March 11, at 8:00 P.M. at Long Beach High School.

To get to the school take Meadowbrook Parkway south to the Loop Parkway to Lido Boulevard. Turn right onto Lido Blvd., and proceed about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles to Regent Drive (small brick firehouse on corner). Turn right onto Regent and follow around to Lagoon Drive West. Turn right onto Lagoon Drive West and follow to high school.

For further information, call Tom Torma at 223-7947.

## Slide Show

During the month of March we have available a National Audubon slide show on the Clean Air Act.

If you belong to an organization that would be interested in seeing this presentation, please call Tom Torma at 223-7947.



(above) T.R. Sanctuary Director Bill Kolodnicki and kestrel speak to students at Long Beach's Magnolia School.

(left) Addi Quinn, Bill and Otus the screech owl.

# LONG ISLAND TERNS



By Carl Safina, Scully Audubon Sanctuary, Islip

Terns have always been among my favorite creatures, and I have spent considerable time studying them in their breeding colonies. Since the fish schools which they feed on are constantly moving, terns (and most fish-eating birds) do not defend a feeding territory as do most land birds. Rather, they breed near inlets or shoals where schools of fish are likely to be found and nest in colonies for efficient predator defense and information sharing (such as being able to see neighboring birds returning from a certain direction with fish).

Although I have seen eight tern species on Long Island (Common, Roseate, Least, Black, Gull-billed, Caspian, Royal and Forster's; in addition, Sooty terns were seen in 1979 during hurricane David), only the Common and Least terns are commonly found breeding. Roseate terns breed regularly at the Cedar Beach colony near Fire Island inlet and on Great Gull Island, but seldom breed elsewhere on Long Island. Black Skimmers (related to terns but in a different family) are found within a number of the colonies where Common terns breed, and on Long Island always breed in association with Common terns, probably because they benefit from the Commons' aggressiveness in nest defense.

Terns were once very abundant on Long Island, but, though still common, are much reduced from former numbers. The main reasons for their decline are habitat loss and disturbance related to coastal development, beach stabilization which produces changes in habitat, purposeful persecution such as plume hunting, eggging, and harassment, and inadvertent disturbance by beachgoers who keep terns off nests often without realizing that there are nests nearby.

Since 1977 I have worked extensively with terns and skimmers from May to September (they spend the colder months south of Long Island waters as far as the Amazon River drainage), centering most of my work at the colony which breeds along the road at Jones Beach's "West End II" and at the Cedar Beach Colony. The latter colony has increased due to the Town of Babylon's effective posting and protection program. Approximately 4,300 pairs of Common terns, 100 pairs of Roseates, and 150 pairs of Black Skimmers nested in 1981. One afternoon in July after most young were flying I saw 10,000 birds resting along a half mile of beach! The West End colony has decreased mainly due to vegetation changes. Steve Sanford of the Department of Environmental Conservation and I have planned a program to make the habitat more suitable, which should increase the tern population there. Without an active hand many colonies, such as the one at Sand City, which is protected by Huntington Audubon, would probably be destroyed by disturbance.

Breeding activities peak in June, and the West End colony is a good place for easy telescope observation of nests and chicks. Terns are aggressive nest defenders and will mob and repeatedly strike intruders. Entering the colonies can cause much damaging disturbance and should be avoided. Young birds fledge in July and are fed by their parents for several weeks, perhaps longer, as they learn the skills of fishing.

# WILDLIFE FESTIVAL

The Long Island Audubon Council will hold its Long Island Wildlife Festival at the Lido Beach Environmental Center on May 22, 1982.

Among the scheduled activities are programs on hawks and owls, the salt marsh, the Hempstead Plains, the pine barrens, life in the bay, terns, Long Island wildlife and sea shells. There will be special programs for children and environmental exhibits as well as a wildlife and nature art exhibit. Other programs are still in the planning stages.

## Photo Contest



In conjunction with the festival we are conducting a photography contest, the theme of which is Long Island Resources. Contest rules are:

1. The winner will receive \$25.00 in cash.
2. The contest will be open to everyone.
3. Photographs will be judged on interpretation of the theme and artistic quality.
4. All photographs must be 8" x 10" and mounted.
5. The South Shore Audubon Society reserves the right to keep any photograph submitted for the contest for a period of one year.
6. The photographs will be judged during the Long Island Wildlife Festival.
7. All photographs should be mailed to the South Shore Audubon Society, Box 31, Freeport, N.Y. 11520, or brought to a South Shore Audubon meeting or brought to the Wildlife Festival.



## Arts and Crafts

There is exhibit space available for artists and craftsmen. We are looking for wildlife and nature paintings and drawings, sculpture, wood carvings, photographs, rocks and minerals, etc.

South Shore Audubon will allow the sale of appropriate items at the festival. We will ask for 10% of each sale made. If you would like to exhibit or know someone who would, please contact Tom Torma at 223-7947 or write me at 921 Van Buren St., Baldwin, 11510



Tom Torma

## FIELD TRIPS

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

Starting time - 9:30 A.M.

- MAR.      7 West End #2, N.E. corner  
          14 Zach's Bay, Pkg. Fld. #4  
          21 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge  
          28 West End #2, N.E. corner
- APR.      4 Tobay, J.F.K. Sanctuary  
          11 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge  
          18 West End #2, N.E. corner  
          25 Zach's Bay, Pkg. Fld. #4
- MAY        2 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge  
          9 West End #2, N.E. corner

If you can bring a cake to the meeting,  
please call Roz Stein at 223-0608.  
Please remember to bring your cups.

## OFFICERS

P. Davis-President 822-6189  
7 Meyers Ave., Hicksville 11801  
T. Torma-Vice-Pres. 223-7947  
921 Van Buren St., Baldwin 11510  
E. Kutner-Birding IV 6-7667  
461 Dunster Ct., W. Hempstead 11552  
D. Pirodsky-Membership 378-1790  
225 E. Dean St., Freeport 11520  
A. Orens-Editor 431-9537  
282 Greenway Rd., Lido Beach 11561



### BINOCULAR SAVINGS

Joan Butkerei 593-4554  
Asa Starkweather 599-5824  
Bill Herzog 791-7886  
(7 P.M.-9 P.M.)  
Barbara Tancredi 775-1790  
(11 A.M.-1 P.M.)

APRIL NEWS DEADLINE  
MARCH 23

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

U. S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Permit No. 131  
NON-PROFIT  
Island Park, N.Y.

MR & MRS CHARLES KELLER  
179 SARATOGA BLVD  
ISLAND PK NY 11558

