

SOUTH SHORE SKIMMER



SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

VOL. 13, NO. 2

OCTOBER 1982

Meeting

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12

8:15 P.M.

FREEPORT MEMORIAL LIBRARY

Guest Speaker: Al Lemke



South Shore Audubon member Al Lemke will present a program on Florida. Al's programs are always very interesting and informative and his pictures are beautiful. Please plan to join us.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, November 9. Marshall Case, Northeast Regional Vice-President, on the care of injured wildlife.



NATURE PROGRAM

The Long Beach School District's Environmental Center in Lido Beach will be the site of a morning of nature programs on Saturday, October 16 beginning at 9:30 A.M.

Activities will include bird walks led by South Shore Audubon members. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn about the ecology and natural history of the barrier island. Center director and SSAS member Addi Quinn has a wealth of fascinating facts about the island!

WE NEED YOU!

The South Shore Audubon Society sponsors many activities for our members and for the local communities. We would like to do more. In order to accomplish our goals, we need volunteers to help us.

We need members to coordinate conservation issues. If you are concerned about a particular environmental issue and would like to work actively on that problem, your help is needed. Some important current issues are clean air, clean water, toxic wastes, wildlife protection, etc.

We hope to have several trips this year. In the past we have gone on canoe and whale watching trips. Just last month we spent a beautiful weekend in Connecticut. We need help planning such activities.

Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary and the Long Beach School District's Environmental Center also need volunteers. Or, you could write a story for our newsletter about a place you've been or a nature-oriented activity in which you've participated.

This is an election year. I strongly urge you to support candidates with positive environmental records. Let them know your feelings on environ-

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WEST CORNWALL OR BUST!

It seemed a longer trip than we expected, but it was well worth it. At the end there was a genuine covered bridge, circa 1837, and lovely old homes, most of which were architectural gems of the last century.

Our weekend at Trinity Camp and Conference Center in West Cornwall, Connecticut, started off with - would you believe - no one home! We arrived earlier than most and encountered no one; we tentatively opened doors and asked, "Anyone home?" No one was. Coming back later, we found some others had opened the right door and found where we were to stay - a lovely old country home - simply but well furnished, nice rooms, the bath down the hall, but no problem.

A bird walk at 6:30 A.M.! Well, some of us took part, led by our enthusiastic President Tom Torma. We walked along the banks of the Housatonic; Not so many birds, but we did find a number of fly fisherman out looking for trout. Then, a great breakfast and off to Sharon Center and Bald Mountain to find hawks.

A surprising fact was told us by a staff member at Sharon. The air in this territory now is clearer and much less polluted than it was a century ago! It seems the area around Sharon was a thriving producer of iron at that time. The forest was clearcut to provide charcoal to work the iron. This left the mountains bare and the air blackened with pollution. We usually think of pollution as a recent occurrence. Fortunately, the second growth forest was successful and the area is today green and healthful.

Bald Mountain is reached via a long and rocky dirt road. We were lucky - the good-hearted Joanne drove us. A climb (some thought straight up) to the top was rewarded with a 360 degree view of probably several states with a variety of mountains rolling out before us. But, where were the hawks? Even with a decoy owl perched on a bare tree, we weren't getting anywhere! Persistence finally paid off and we saw perhaps a dozen broadwinged hawks and an osprey taking advantage of the thermals at that height. Later we learned several hawks attacked the decoy owl in a frenzy. We missed it, but one can't have everything.

That evening there was much discussion about otters. We were told they were visible near the Sharon Center only at dawn or dusk. This meant a second getting up at dawn or the risk of not eating dinner, neither of which seemed palatable. To otter or not was the question. In the end a few brave souls woke at dawn and saw three otters at Bogg Pond near Sharon. These river otters are larger than beaver and seemingly rarer, too.

Sunday morning capped the weekend activities with a visit to the Miles Wildlife Preserve, a reserach center. After an introduction by the Audubon staff, Tom led us in a mile walk around the lake where he showed us two kinds of salamander - the red-backed and the red-dotted, both of which were most happy to escape to their under-log homes again.

We thank Ilse Landon for arranging this wonderful trip. It was a weekend that provided renewal for us all.

EMILIE PETERSEN

**Rare Bird Sightings
(212) 832-6523**

BIRD WALK REPORTS

Our inaugural birdwalk of the 1982-1983 season took place on September 12 at the West End of Jones Beach. Almost 60 people showed up to enjoy not only a beautiful day weatherwise but to see a great variety of migratory birds including an osprey, sharp-shinned hawk, merlin, great crested fly-catcher, redstart, cape may warbler, black and white warbler, yellow warbler, redstart, common yellowthroat warbler, scarlet tanager, oriole, phoebe, yellowlegs, laughing gull, killdeer, flicker, snowy egret, ruby throated hummingbird and many others. All in all a super birding day.

September 19, saw an intrepid band of 40 members and guests enjoy a walk through Tobay Beach. Birds sighted included an Osprey with a fish in its talons, merlin, sharp-shinned hawk, marsh hawk, coopers hawk, Louisiana heron, black crowned night heron, snowy egret, oriole, black throated blue warbler, yellow rumped warbler (myrtle), northern water thrush, swamp sparrow, white throated sparrow, dowitchers, yellowleg sandpiper, kingfisher, veery, catbird, towhee, black and white warbler, redstart and many others. Another glorious day.

For all of those who have not taken advantage of our Sunday morning birdwalks, there are still many good birding days ahead. Please come and join us.

Jerry Bernstein

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and conservation issues.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those who add to the enjoyment of our meetings by bringing cake.

If you are interested in helping us have a better organization, please call me or see me at a meeting or bird walk.

TOM TORMA



NEW MEMBERS

The following new members joined us in July and August:

- BALDWIN: Stanley Imberman
- BELLE HARBOR: Lorraine Vitale
- CEDARHURST: Mrs. DeCourcy Hard
- EAST MEADOW: Ms. T. Alexinas, Jane Badanes, Stanley Sorrentino
- FLORAL PARK: Cynthia & Paul Broderick, Rosemarie Findler
- GARDEN CITY: Mr. R.E. Heine
- HEMPSTEAD: Valerie Quartararo, Jacqueline Tolson
- HICKSVILLE: Ed Levy, James Moore
- LEVITTOWN: Thomas Alfieri
- LONG BEACH: Charles D'Agostino, Jr., Bob Hemsted
- MASSAPEQUA PARK: P. & R. Fitzgerald, John Saxton, Mrs. George Wunsch
- OCEANSIDE: Gloria Geraci, Hilda Marcello, Mrs. Sophie Spokoine
- ROCKVILLE CENTRE: James Hannan, Mrs. P.R. Heyward, Meyer Millman
- VALLEY STREAM: Anthony Chirico, Elizabeth Packevich, Peter Restivo, Carla Wagenstein
- WOODMERE: G.H. Warren

We welcome all of you and hope you will attend our monthly meeting - the second Tuesday of each month. Also, do join us on our Sunday morning bird walks (listed on last page of newsletter). HOPE TO SEE YOU SOON!!

DORIS PIRODSKY

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Addi Quinn needs donations for the Environmental Center in Lido Beach. Especially needed right now are:

- free standing folding screens
- fabric scraps (felt & burlap)
- carpet squares (for sitting)
- nature pictures
- old nature magazines
- volunteers

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SSAS member Marge Fischer will have her bird carvings on exhibit through October at the Oceanside Public Library.

BIRD WALKS

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

Starting time - 9:30 A.M.

- OCT. 10 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
 17 Zach's Bay, Pkg. Fld. #4
 24 Tobay, J.F.K. Sanctuary
 31 Pelham Bay-meet at Throg's
 Neck Bridge toll plaza-
 9:00 A.M.
- NOV. 7 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
 14 West End #2, N.E. corner
 21 Tobay, J.F.K. Sanctuary

OFFICERS

T. Torma-President 223-7947
921 Van Buren St. Baldwin 11510
J. Bernstein-Vice-Pres. MA3-8255
1958 Lowell Ln. Merrick 11566
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 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

If you can bring a cake to the meeting please call Rose Ermidis at 785-6028

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