

SOUTH SHORE SKIMMER



VOL. 13, NO. 7

SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

MARCH 1983

Africa Belongs to the Lions

June and Harry Aland spent their vacation last July in Kenya. They are enthusiastic about this beautiful country with its amazing variety of terrain and its many exotic birds and animals. Their slides show most of the big game animals and more birds than they can name, including the lovely crowned crane and the rare saddlebill stork, as well as pink clouds of flamingoes.

They visited seven game parks and reserves, among them Amboseli Park, Mount Kenya and Shaba Reserve. The latter is the locale of Joy Adamson's last book, Queen of Shaba.

Are you interested in the Great Rift Valley, a vertical bog on Mount Kenya, Mount Kilimanjaro in the first rays of the morning sun? Join us on March 8 and see all these sights and more.

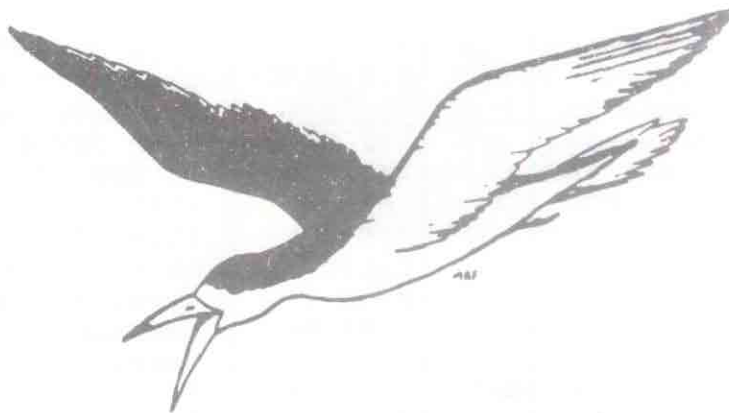
Meeting

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



Photo: June & Harry Aland

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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Tom Torma

SKEKSIS GO BONKERS?

Last month I compared members of the Reagan Administration to the evil characters in the movie The Dark Crystal. They were called Skeksis and they abused their land and wasted their resources. In the month since I wrote that article, strange things have been happening in Washington.

Secretary of the Interior James Watt labeled environmentalists "Nazis." This is curious since, in the past, he has called environmentalists "Communists." Perhaps the then upcoming TV series Winds of War had an effect on him. Or, perhaps he just doesn't know the difference between the two!

The head of the U.S. Forest Service John Cromwell has ordered yet another review of roadless areas awaiting possible wilderness designation. He claims this is necessary because of a court decision calling the original review inadequate. Unfortunately, during the new review, road construction will be permitted. Any areas with roads will no longer be eligible for wilderness designation. These areas will then be open for lumbering. Mr. Cromwell was an attorney representing lumber interests before he got his present job in Washington.

The Reagan Administration has also eased control over 170 million acres of Federal Rangeland to allow increased grazing on these lands. At the same time, the Bureau of Land Management no longer seeks a blanket claim to water on these public lands. Conservationists claim that these two steps will lead to over-grazing. The current head of the Bureau is Robert F. Burford, a Colorado cattle rancher who often clashed with Bureau of Land Management officials before taking office. There are charges that he grazed cattle on land that he had not leased.

This administration is not without its intrigues. The head of the Environmental Protection Agency Anne Gorsuch Burford announced the resignation of

Rita Lavelle as head of the toxic waste cleanup operation. It turned out that Ms. Lavelle did not resign. She was then fired and an armed guard placed at her office. Ms. Lavelle had attempted to get an EPA employee illegally fired for blowing the whistle on favorable decisions made on behalf of toxic chemical dumpers. She then perjured herself while testifying before Congress. She also wrote a memo complaining that EPA attorneys were too hard on toxic waste dumpers. Ms. Lavelle had become an embarrassment to the administration and was, therefore, expendable. Before joining the Reagan Administration Ms. Lavelle worked for the Aerojet-General Corporation as its Public Relations Officer. Aerojet-General was named as one of the dumpers at the Springfellow Acid Pits, one of the worst toxic dump sites in the country.

Ironically, Ms. Lavelle's office is the location of the documents that Mrs. Gorsuch (now Burford) has refused to turn over to Congress. The appearance of shredders in a neighboring office and the uncontrolled use of these shredders has caused concern for the documents' safety. This whole series of incidents has been labeled "sewer gate."

Have the Skeksis really gone bonkers? I hardly think so. Why is this happening? I think the answer lies in recent polls. President Reagan had only a 38% approval rating in one recent poll. The odds are he won't be re-elected. With this in mind, his administration has only two years to complete programs to aid special economic interests. Simply put, the foxes are about to be kicked out of the hen house and they are getting all they can while the getting is good.

Another explanation might be that Reagan, wanting re-election, feels he must move his policies to the center of the political spectrum. This will lose him support on his right, so he will use Watt, Gorsuch-Burford and company, who are popular with conservatives and special interests, to cover his flank. In other words, he will make the environment his sacrificial lamb.

SEAL HUNT

A recent communication from the International Fund for Animal Welfare brings some good news and some bad news regarding the efforts to end the sickening massacre of baby harp and hooded seals every spring off the east coast of Canada.

The good news is that the ten member nations of the European Economic Community have agreed to a combination of voluntary and legal bans on the import of skins and products from young harp and hooded seals into their respective countries.

The bad news is that there are some Canadian politicians hard at work trying to cultivate new markets for the products of the annual slaughter. The most likely potential customers are Japan, Hong Kong and the U.S.S.R.

Listed below are the addresses of representatives from these countries. Please, please, as soon as possible, write to these representatives. Tell them how you and so many others feel about the killing of the seal pups. Ask them to support bans by their own countries on the products of the Canadian seal hunt. Get other concerned individuals to write too.

Remember, the outcry against the hunt, despite overwhelming odds, succeeded in getting ten other governments to respond. Let's not quit now! Write today to:

His Excellency
Yoshio Okawara
Ambassador of Japan
2520 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20008

His Excellency
Anatoly Dobrynin
Ambassador of the U.S.S.R.
1125-16th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20036

His Excellency
Sir Edward Youde
Governor of Hong Kong
c/o British Embassy
3100 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20008



Return
a Gift to
Wildlife

Remember to return a gift to wildlife on your 1982 New York State tax return.

Contributions of any whole dollar amount can be entered on line 18 of the long form and line 12 of the short form. Money will go directly into

the Conservation Fund, earmarked for fish and wildlife management. These contributions will be deducted from tax refunds or added to tax payments for 1982, and are deductible on the 1983 return.

Art for Nature Lovers

For nature lovers who also like to draw and paint the Hofstra University Department of Continuing Education is offering courses this spring at two lovely Long Island settings.

"Art at the Arboretum," at Planting Fields Arboretum in Oyster Bay runs for four sessions beginning April 12 (Tuesdays 10:30 A.M.-12:30 P.M.) \$40.

"Drawing at Old Westbury" at Old Westbury Gardens begins May 10 and continues for 8 sessions. (Tuesdays 10:30 A.M.-12:30 P.M.) \$75.

The artist will have the opportunity to capture the changes in nature as the season evolves from spring into early summer. An added attraction of the Westbury course is that it will be held at a time when the gardens are closed to other visitors -- a bonus for the bashful painters among us.

Both courses are open to all levels of art experience. For further information, call 560-5993.

Re-cycling Hints

Break used styrofoam cups or meat trays into pieces and process in the blender for 60 seconds - Use in place of perlite for potting plants.

ROZ STEIN

*If you have any ideas for re-cycling everyday materials, get in touch with Roz: 2644 Central Ave., Baldwin, N.Y. 11510 - phone 223-0608

BIRD WALKS

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

Starting time - 9:30 A.M.

- MAR. 6 Tobay, J.F.K. Sanctuary
- 13 Hempstead Lake State Park
(Penninsula Blvd. Pkg. lot)
- 20 West End #2, N.E. corner
- 27 Zach's Bay, Pkg, Fld. #4, N.E.
- APR. 3 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- 10 Hempstead Lake State Park
(Penninsula Blvd. Pkg. lot)
- 17 West End #2, N.E. corner
- 24 Zach's Bay, Pkg. Fld #4, N.E.
- MAY 1 Tobay, J.F.K. Sanctuary
- 8 Hempstead Lake State Park
(Penninsula Blvd. Pkg. lot)
- 15 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- 22 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- 29 West End #2, N.E. corner

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

OFFICERS

- T. Torna-President 223-7947
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282 Greenway Rd. Lido Beach 11561



For 30% to 50% savings on Bushnell and Bausch and Lomb binoculars and scopes, see us at meetings and birdwalks or call: Barbara Tancredi 775-1790 (11 A.M.-1 P.M.)
Bill Herzog 791-7886 (7 P.M.-9 P.M.)
Asa Starkweather 599-5824

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