

# SOUTH SHORE SKIMMER



VOL. 14, NO. 6

SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY FEBRUARY-MARCH 1984

## Meeting

FREEPORT MEMORIAL LIBRARY  
8:15 P.M.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14

### MEMBERSHIP PARTICIPATION

You are invited to present part of the program at this month's meeting. Once again, we will be having our annual membership participation night, one of our most popular and entertaining events.

In past years, members have shown slides taken on all seven continents - from mountain tops to ocean depths. We always have an outstanding array of flower, bird and animal pictures.

Please come and bring 5-10 of your favorite slides to share with us.

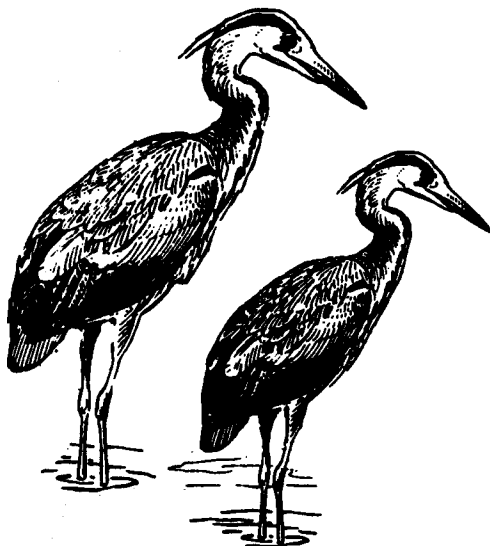
TUESDAY, MARCH 13

### Poisonous Plants on Long Island

Dr. Orland J. Blanchard, Jr. will be our featured speaker. He will present a slide program on poisonous wild and domestic plants. Dr. Blanchard's program is highly informative and includes many beautiful slides.

Dr. Blanchard is a graduate of Clark University. He received his Ph.D. from Cornell University. He is presently Assistant Professor, Department of Biology and Assistant Dean, College of Arts and Sciences at Long Island University, C.W. Post Center.

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We have combined the February and March issues of the Skimmer as part of an attempt to stay within our budget. The next issue will appear in April.

## PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Are you in need of a program for an organization, school, scout troupe, etc? The South Shore Audubon Society has slide shows and films available. Most of these programs are free. Some ask for donations and a few involve a small charge. Some of these programs are offered directly by our chapter and others are arranged, through the chapter, with outside speakers.

Among the films available are; "America's Wilderness, Who Needs It," "A Time for Survival" and "Last Stronghold of Eagles." Some of the slide shows are; "Birds of Prey" and "Predation."

If you would like to arrange a program through the chapter, call me at home, evenings, at 223-7947. We will do our best to plan an entertaining and informative program for you.



Tom Torma

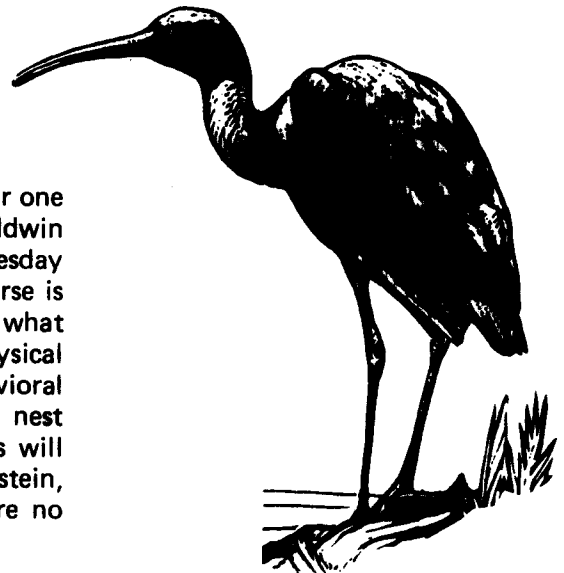
The Northeast Regional Conference of the National Audubon Society will be held this year on June 15, 16 and 17 at Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine, near the coast.

The focus of the conference will be on the great variety of natural resources in the state of Maine "from Spuds to Puffins," and many experts will be on hand to make presentations and lead workshops. Dr. Russell Peterson, President of National Audubon, will be the keynote speaker. Among the activities offered are a Puffin trip and a Whale trip. You can even attend a real Maine lobster bake. The details will appear in the April Skimmer or you can call Tom Torma for registration information. Information can also be obtained from:

Jean Case, Conference Coordinator  
Northeast Regional Office  
National Audubon Society  
RR 1, Box 171  
Sharon, Connecticut 06069

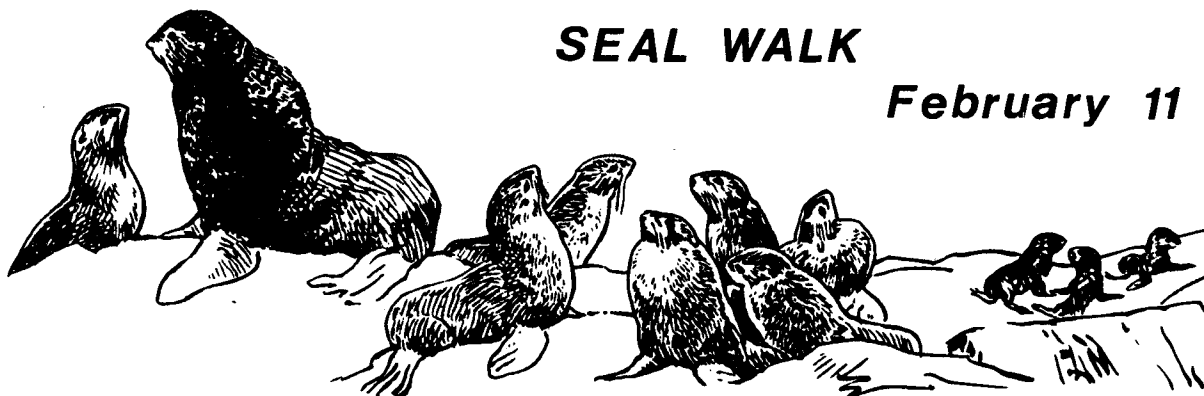
### BIRD STUDY COURSE

The South Shore Audubon Society is sponsoring a series of four one hour programs entitled "Introduction to the Birds" at the Baldwin Public Library, Grand Avenue and Prospect Street, on Wednesday evenings, March 7, 14, 21, and 28, 1984 at 8:00 PM. This course is designed for those who wish to have a better understanding of what differentiates birds from other classes of animals. Both physical characteristics (evolution, morphology, and anatomy) and behavioral characteristics (ability to fly, courtship, feeding behavior, nest construction) as well as aids to the identification of the birds will be discussed. The programs will be conducted by Jerry Bernstein, Vice President of the South Shore Audubon Society. There are no charges for this course. For information, call 516 623-8255.



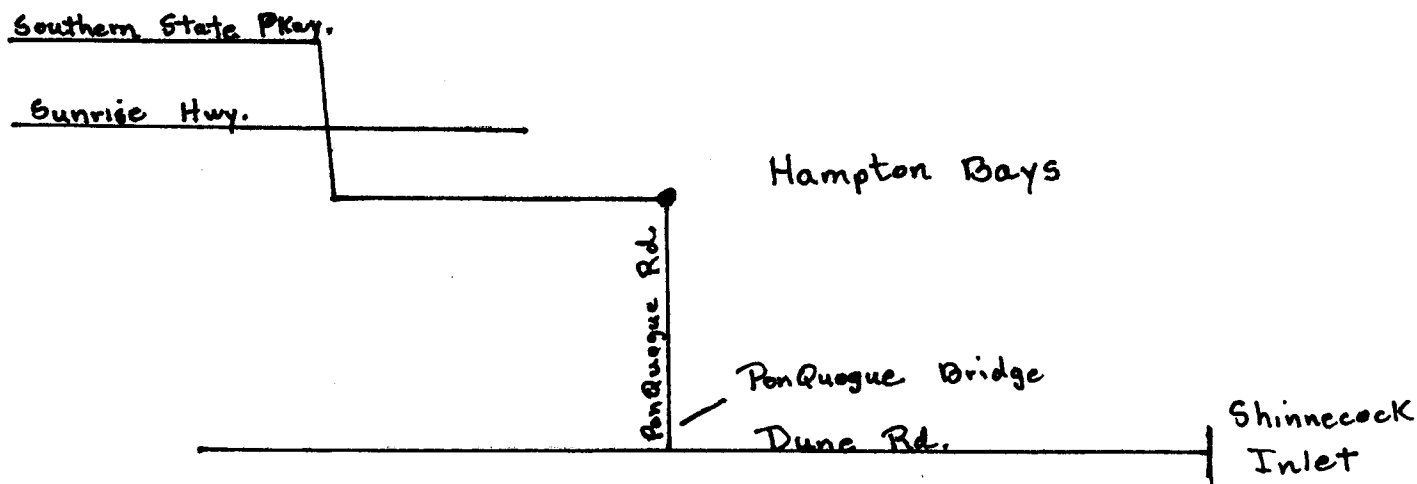
# SEAL WALK

February 11



Have you ever seen a seal in the wild? If not, you will have an opportunity on February 11. We will leave from the Baldwin Railroad Station at 6:30 A.M. and proceed by car to Shinnecock Inlet. There we will meet a representative of the Okeanos Foundation and look for Harbor Seals. There will also be many birds to see in this area.

After we leave Shinnecock, we will go to Montauk for some bird watching. For further information, call Tom Torma, evenings, at 223-7947.



## CALENDAR

- March 13 General meeting. Dr. Orland Blanchard - "Poisonous Plants of Long Island."  
April 10 Mr. Sidney Bahrt - "Galapagos Islands."  
May 8 Mr. John Tsavaris - "Whales"  
June 12 Annual Dinner, Oceanside Country Club. Mr. Paul Jeheber - "Alaska" movie.

### WILDLIFE FILM/LECTURE SERIES

A truly informative and provocative presentation of our earth and its wildlife as narrated by world acclaimed naturalists. All presentations begin at 8:15 p.m.

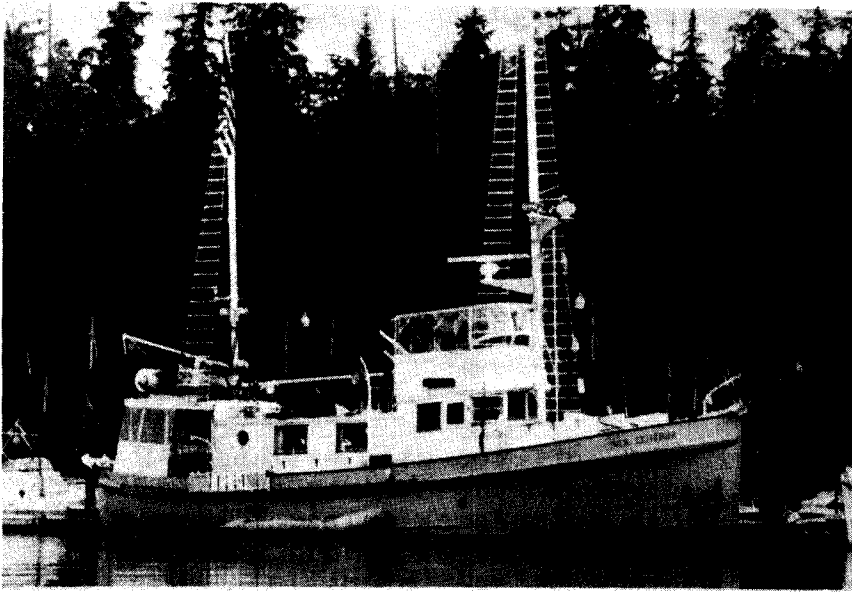
Nathan L.H. Bennett Pavilion, Town Hall Plaza, Main St., Hempstead

Fee: \$1 per ticket in advance, \$1.50 per ticket at showtime.

Program: Thursday, Feb. 23—Allen J. King - "Romance of the West"

Wednesday, March 28—Fran William Hall - "New Zealand...Kiwi Country"

Tickets: Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope, specifying the date of performance, amount of tickets desired, along with a check made out to the Town of Hempstead, covering the cost of tickets to: Wildlife Series, Town of Hempstead Dept. of Parks and Recreation, 200 N. Franklin St., Hempstead, N.Y. 11550.



# ALASKA

by Joan Butkerei

The postcard arrived. It pictured a superb and elegant 60 foot boat called the "Sea Comber." Her ports of call were the tiny fishing villages, Indian communities, historical sites and hot springs of Southeast Alaska. We quickly discarded the flashy brochures of the large

cruise ships that plow through the Inside Passage of these Alaskan waters, and chose to join the crew and guests of this boat. Our cruise began in Sitka, Alaska and, for 8 days, investigated the waters and shore of Chichagof Island, including Icy Straits, the passageway from the Pacific just south of Glacier Bay National Park.

The half hour flight from Juneau to Sitka showed us a view of teal green waters dotted with numerous emerald islands. We could see the grey bodies of whales and smaller porpoises just outside Sitka as the plane approached landing. Guarded by Mt. Edgecombe, a conical volcano, Sitka retains the beauty and mystery of many cultures. Here the Tlingit Indians harassed the Russians for dominance over their capital of Russian Alaska. Perched on the edge of the Pacific and surrounded by the Tsongas National Forest, the very small city of Sitka is kept bustling by the importance of the sea and forest.

The Sea Comber, outfitted with the best and most modern safety equipment, had all the charm, luxury and seaworthiness of older, well-crafted boats. Lots of mahogany and brass showed off the best of a shipwright's talents. Equipped with 3 Zodiacs, we could investigate any part of the shoreline.

Our first destination was St. Lazarius Bird Sanctuary. On this small rocky island Bald Eagle, common murre, Tufted Puffin and Pigeon Guillemot nest. The birds were easily seen from the boat, and the waters were teeming with fishing birds and Sea Lions. Our captain, Bob White, with his family as crew, was eager to modify the itinerary in order to accommodate the individual and collective interests of the group. As the boat cruised north we were to see Pelagic Cormorants, Rhinoceros Auklet, Cassin's Auklet, Marbled Murrelet, Ancient Parakeet Auklet and Kittlitz's Murrelet.

We also investigated the nearly abandoned Chichagof Gold Mine. One of our fellow passengers had been born there when it was a community of 200. Now it is occupied by a geologist, camp cook and 2 Roumanian miners, and there is talk of resuming mining operations. Alaskan Brown Bear roam through the stream beds and berry patches of this area. Skimming along the shoreline in the Zodiac provided us with a safe vantage point to look for foraging bears. Sitka deer were numerous. At the mine we were able to view a wild mink that had been injured and nursed back to health by the camp cook.



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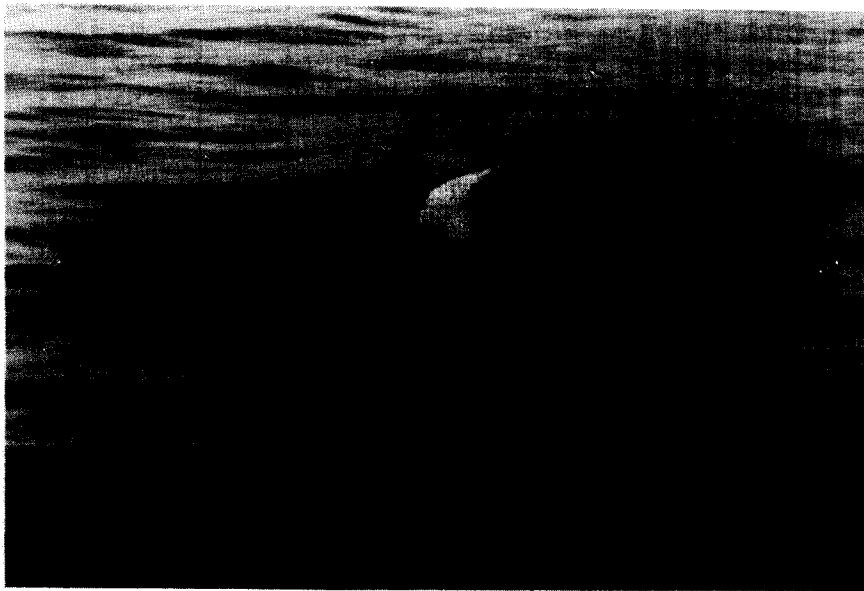
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As our trip progressed, we encountered several Humpback Whales, and porpoises gracefully followed our wake. The kelp beds are home to the sea otter. A constant wildlife watch provided us with wonderful glimpses of these unique mammals. We hiked along a salmon stream thick with migrating and spawning humpback salmon. Under the maze of spawning salmon, Dolly Vardon trout were feasting on the eggs. The shoreline provided us with views of Black-bellied Plover, Greater Yellow Legs, Lesser Yellow Legs, Surfbird, Black Turnstone and Western Sandpiper. We saw Arctic Loons, Common Loons, Red-necked Loons and Harlequin Ducks. Northwestern Crows and Bald Eagles were always there when the boat was near the shore.

After an exciting sea plane tour of Glacier Bay National Park, our boat headed south through the Lynn Canal. There we had a lively encounter with a Killer Whale, who breached and rolled as we headed away from his territory.



Our trip ended back in Sitka with an interesting tour of museums and a unique visit with an Eskimo artisan. Originally from King Island in the Bering Sea, his wife was studying at a college in Sitka. He shared a glimpse of his heritage and the importance of animals in his life and art.

Alaska's natural beauty and animal life should be carefully safeguarded as a treasure too dear to be allowed to disappear.



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Alaska's natural beauty and animal life should be carefully safeguarded as a treasure too dear to be allowed to disappear.





# Return a Gift to Wildlife

by Asa Starkweather

The checkoff on your State Income Tax in 1983 was an outstanding success! Three hundred and fifty thousand persons contributed more than \$1,700,000. This is \$1 million more than any one of the 20 other states with this program has achieved.

The money is in the Conservation Fund of the Department for Environmental Conservation and can only be used for fish and wildlife. It can be used only when the Legislature appropriates it. Last year, with nobody knowing how much would be collected, \$800,000 was appropriated. This is how it is to be spent:

## Species Management

Restore and maintain Endangered Species Program .....	\$147,000
Agricultural Crop Damage Manual.....	24,000
(to balance crop damage and wildlife preservation)	
Assistance to Marine Mammal/Sea Turtle Stranding.....	5,000
Training for wildlife rehabilitators.....	7,000

## Information and Education

Poster series on fish and wildlife for schools, museums, camps.....	45,000
Fish and Wildlife Events Brochure.....	15,000
(where to go for hawk migration, salmon spawning or whale watching)	
Completion of Breeding Bird Atlas.....	7,000
Update Film Lending Library.....	20,000
Public service announcements for television.....	10,000
(winter bird feeding, deer, dogs and leaving birds and young wildlife alone in spring)	
Landowners relations and assistance.....	30,000
(improve fish and wildlife on private land)	

## Environmental Protection

Biological survey of streams and lakes.....	75,000
Habitat Data Bank.....	20,000
Contaminants analysis in fish and wildlife.....	60,000

## Environmental Management

Addition to Basha Kill Wildlife Management Area.....	50,000
(This will buy 35½ acres, settle a lawsuit and protect the entrance to Surprise Caves, a confirmed wintering area for the endangered Indiana bat.)	
Improved habitat management of state wildlife areas...	20,000

## Public Use

Nature trails, parking lots, observation towers.....	50,000
Staff for a New York City office.....	110,000
(NYC not only supports a substantial fish and wildlife resource, but is the center for world traffic in fish and wildlife products.)	



Promotion of "Return a Gift to Wildlife"..... 100,000  
(Although the first year contributions were substantial, less than 5% of the eligible taxpayers participated.)

As you can see, this has stimulated wildlife programs throughout the state. It has more than made up for the loss of federal funding. Make your checkoff for wildlife on your state tax return this year!

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## AUDUBON CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS

Two scholarships to Audubon camps are being offered this year. The deadline for application letters is April 1. Winners will be announced at the April general meeting. Send letters to:

South Shore Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 31  
Freeport, N.Y. 11520

### Peter Kutner Scholarship

A scholarship for one week at the Greenwich Audubon Camp is being donated by the Kutner family in their son's name.

The following are requirements for the scholarship:

1. The winner should be a teacher, counselor or a student preparing for a child-oriented career. The Kutner family wants the winner to use the material and the spirit of the Audubon experience directly in lessons or programs for students at any level.
2. The winner will be chosen by a committee made up of the President, Vice-president and one other person selected by the President.
3. The winner will be required to read two pieces written by Peter Kutner. These pieces will give the winner some insight into Peter's character.
4. The winner will be expected to honor the request that in his or her first presentation, he or she will introduce the program with the words, "This is part of Peter's work."
5. The choice of a winner will be made from letters written by the contestants. Letters should contain autobiographical information and include reasons for going to camp based on future use of the experience. An interview may be required by the selection committee.

The South Shore Audubon Society considers it a privilege to be able to offer the Peter Kutner Scholarship.

### South Shore Audubon Scholarship

South Shore Audubon is offering a scholarship to an Audubon camp. The following rules apply:

1. The winner should be someone who will take advantage of an Audubon experience in pursuit of a career or avocation.
2. The winner will be chosen by a committee made up of the President, Vice-president and one other person chosen by the President.
3. The winner will be chosen from letters written by contestants. Letters should be autobiographical and include reasons for going to camp based on future use of the experience. An interview may be required.
4. The winner will be expected either to present a program to the South Shore Audubon Society or to write an article for the South Shore Skimmer based on his or her experiences at camp.

# BIRD WALKS

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

Starting time - 9:30 A.M.

- Feb. 5 Zach's Bay, Pkg. Fld. #4
- 12 Hempstead Lake State Park (Penninsula Blvd. Pkg.Lot)
- 19 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- 26 Tobay, J.F.K. Sanctuary
  
- Mar. 4 West End #2, N.E. corner
- 11 Zach's Bay, Pkg. Fld. #4 N.E.
- 18 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- 25 Hempstead Lake State Park (Penninsula Blvd. Pkg.Lot)
  
- Apr. 1 Tobay, J.F.K. Sanctuary
- 8 West End #2, N.E. corner
- 15 Zach's Bay, Pkg. Fld. #4 N.E.
- 22 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- 29 Hempstead Lake State Park (Penninsula Blvd. Pkg.Lot)
  
- May 6 West End #2, N.E. corner

# 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 Ed. Lido Beach 11561

76-1029



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

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

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

May 13 J BWR      Aug 19 J BWR  
      20 WE#2 NE      26 Hempstead PK,  
      27 J BWR      Sept 9 West End #2 NE,  
 June 3 Hempstead PK      16 TOBAY JFK Sanct.  
      10 J BWR      23 Hemp Lake St Park

