

SOUTH SHORE SKIMMER



VOL. 17, NO. 3 - SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

NOVEMBER 1986

Meeting

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 18
FREEPORT MEMORIAL LIBRARY
8:15 P.M.



SEABIRDS IN THEIR OCEAN ENVIRONMENT

SPEAKER: Carl Safina, Director of Audubon's Scully Sanctuary

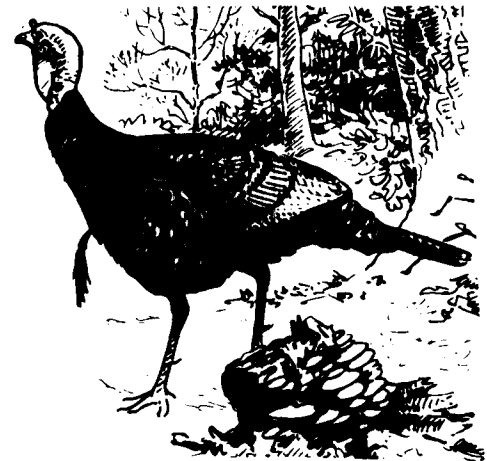
Although we think of seabirds as living near the shore and spending the bulk of their time in breeding colonies, in reality they are true marine animals and spend almost all of their lives at sea. Carl has been doing research on the ecology of seabirds in their ocean environment for five years and will share his discoveries about shearwaters, petrels and tern/bluefish competition.

NEXT MEETING: DECEMBER 9

GALAPAGOS: ISLANDS LOST IN TIME

SPEAKER: Rita Halbisen, Director of South Shore Nature Center
in East Islip

The annual Holiday Party for Wildlife will be held on December 13 at Tackapausha Museum, 1:00 - 4:00 P.M. Volunteers are needed to help the children make bird feeders, play games, and to serve refreshments. If you would like to help, please call Frieda Malament at 795-5842.



PRESIDENT'S PAGE

REPORT ON THE LONG ISLAND AUDUBON COUNCIL MEETING

On September 13, 1986 I attended the Long Island Audubon Council Meeting at Scully Sanctuary in Islip. This semi-annual meeting of all Long Island Chapters provides for communication among local chapters regarding their programs and involvement in local issues. It also provides for the dissemination of information from the national and state levels down to the chapters.

Each chapter seems to have its own personality based on the type of activities in which it becomes involved. Some chapters manage their own nature centers, others emphasize educational workshops, and some thrive on field trips. I was happy to report that our chapter benefits from a healthy well-rounded personality due to the many diversified activities which we offer and the dedicated volunteers which we have. We are particularly unique in being the first chapter to initiate a liason with Town government over the management of protected land, namely the Twin Lakes Preserve.

There are currently two state wildlife projects worthy of our attention. One involves a study of the common loon nesting habits in the Adirondack region, which has been in progress for several years. The study is now expanding to include winter habitats of loons, especially in the Long Island region. The other study concerns Kemp's Ridley Sea Turtle, a critically endangered species. Very little is known about this rare turtle which has only one present nesting area (in Mexico), but it may have been common to the Long Island Sound in the early 1900's.

For more information concerning how you can help in these important research projects, see the specific articles in this issue of the Skimmer.

BETSY GULOTTA

THEODORE ROOSEVELT SANCTUARY

The Theodore Roosevelt Bird Sanctuary of Oyster Bay was awarded a grant of \$15,000.00 from the Natural Heritage Trust through the Zoo, Botanical Garden and Aquarium Program. The money will be used to subsidize the Educational Programs of the Sanctuary which reach over 20,000 people across Long Island a year. The programs range from camping trips to Montauk and the Catskills for schools, to Hawk and Owl programs in schools from Brooklyn to Yonkers. Orin Lehman, Commissioner N.Y. State Parks and an officer of the trust, encouraged the Sanctuary to keep up the good work.

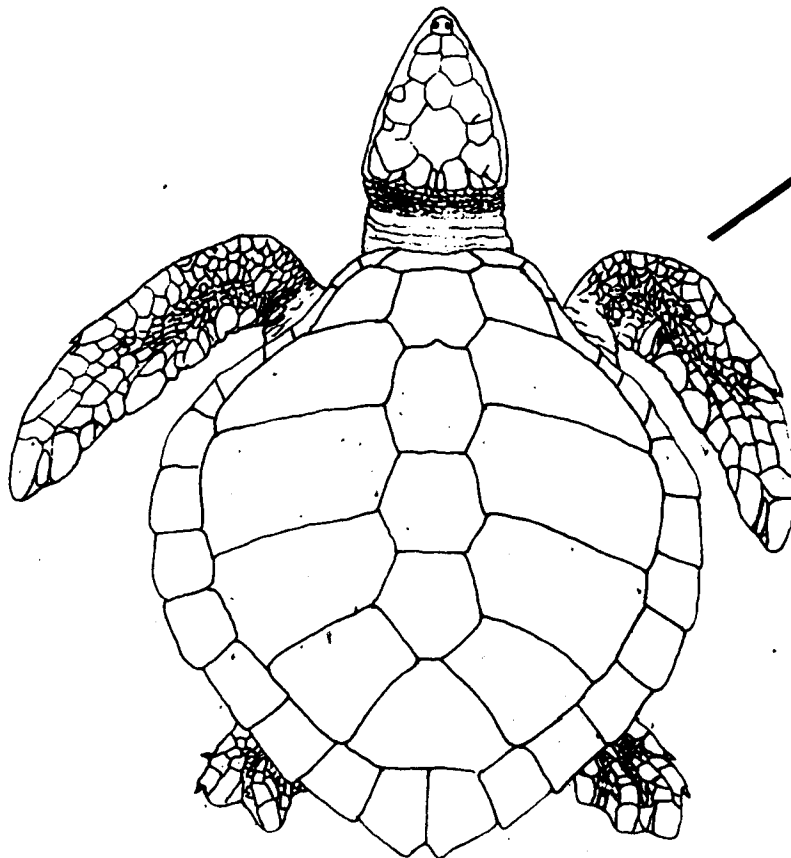
WANTED

SIGHTINGS OR STRANDINGS OF SEA TURTLES

ESPECIALLY

THE KEMP'S RIDLEY

THIS TURTLE IS IN DANGER OF
EXTINCTION



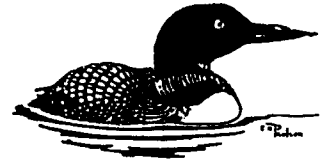
NOTE: SEA TURTLES
HAVE FLIPPERS,
& RANGE FROM
9 TO 60 INCHES
IN LENGTH

PLEASE CONTACT 24 HOUR HOTLINE 516-728-8013



WARNING: SEA TURTLES ARE PROTECTED
BY THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT, AND
UNAUTHORIZED REMOVAL OR HANDLING
IS PUNISHABLE UNDER THIS LAW.





Attention Long Island Audubon Chapters!

Introducing the
1987 Common Loon Winter Watch

- Where:** Long Island Sound and the south shore of Long Island. Any location from both onshore and offshore. More than one location can be visited.
- When:** The winter watch will take place on one day during the second week of January, February and March. The specific dates are January 11, February 15, and March 15. If for any reason, the loon watch can not be done on these days, an alternate date can be picked within one week of the target date. In March, the alternate date can be no later than March 21. (This is about the time when loons begin migrating through this area). The Loon Winter Watch is not to be done in inclement weather.
- Time:** The Loon Winter Watch can be conducted during any of the daylight hours, but there will be a maximum of (1) hour per location.
- Why:** Very little is known about wintering loons. Our goals are to try and locate major wintering grounds of the common loon so that we may identify critical loon habitats. We are also interested in determining the number of loons that winter around Long Island, and any specific behavior patterns.
- How To Join:** The Loon Winter Watch is part of the Audubon Wildlife Advisory Committee's New York Loon Conservation Project. This project involves the use of volunteer "Loon Rangers". During the breeding season, rangers located in upstate New York "adopt" specific lakes, primarily in the Adirondacks, and report back to Audubon on loon nesting activities, hand out loon natural history information sheets and post educational signs at boat access sites, campsites, etc. Now volunteer rangers are needed to scout the bays and inlets of Long Island or along the Connecticut coast during the winter. All those interested in participating in this unique and important winter wildlife survey should send \$5.00 to: Loons, Audubon Wildlife Advisory Committee 282 Delaware Ave., Delmar, New York, 12054. Participants will receive a certificate of participation, survey forms, natural history information on loons and a report summarizing results.

AS THE CROW FLIES

One of the loveliest places to spend an hour or two or the whole day is Connetquot River State Park. Take Southern State east to Sunrise Highway. On Sunrise continue east to the junction of Sunrise and Montauk Highway, Oakdale.

The park entrance is on the north side of Sunrise. Drive a short way east and then make your "U" turn and come back westbound on the north side of Sunrise Highway.

Bring your binoculars, camera and lunch. Also bring plenty of extra apples. At the south end of the park is a large lake abounding with waterfowl. Walk north along the road to the fish hatchery at the north end. Look for the wild turkey and deer along the roadside.

Have a pleasant lunch near the hatchery and feed the extra apples to the deer. They are very tame.

After lunch walk the north trail near the trout stream and look for heron. The park abounds with all forms of birds, mammals, reptiles and amphibians. If that's not enough, watch the trout swim by in the stream.

A day in the park will fill you with a new feeling for nature and its splendor. Don't forget, leave nothing but your footprints.

MALCOLM MARUM

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Since May of 1986, a group interested in the botanical heritage of Long Island has been holding monthly meetings. In September they voted to name themselves the "Long Island Botanical Society." Meetings will continue to be held on a regular basis and will consist of workshops, seminars, discussions and field trips.

Membership is open to anyone living in Kings, Queens, Nassau or Suffolk Counties who has a scientific and/or esthetic interest in preserving the natural plant associations of Long Island. Send inquiries to:

Vincent A. Puglisi
Biology Department
Nassau Community College
Garden City, N.Y. 11530

The Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary in Oyster Bay offers a variety of weekend programs for children and adults. This month's schedule includes an evening "Owl Prowl" on Friday, November 21.

There are programs every Saturday and Sunday afternoon as well as a Beginner's Bird Walk every Saturday morning.

For information call the Sanctuary at 922-3200.

WISE OLD OWL

To: Gil Leib of Malverne

The bird you photographed is definitely a Yellow-Crowned Night Heron. It is a medium sized heron, about 22-27". The adult is slate gray with a black head, white cheeks, yellowish crown and plumes, black bill and orange legs. In flight the feet extend beyond the tail.

To: Richard D. McGrath

The hummingbird you have often seen is the Ruby-Throated Hummingbird. It is still here in the Massapequa Preserve, Tackapausha and Jones Beach to mention a few places.

It is particularly attracted to tubular red flowers such as salvia and trumpet creeper, as well as petunia, jewel weed and thistle. Look for the flowers and you will soon see your hummingbird.

MALCOLM MARUM

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On November 1, the Cold Spring Harbor Fish Hatchery will present a program in its "Family Saturdays at the Hatchery" series at 11:00 A.M. Admission is \$1.50 per person, members free.

The Hatchery is open daily 10-5. Admission is \$1.25 for adults and .80 for senior citizens and children 5-12. Members free.

WILDLIFE RIP OFF

I often find it difficult to express my opinions on wildlife policy. Most discussions are reduced to pro-hunting/anti-hunting debates which resolve nothing and deflect from the important issues.

I hold no position on hunting - for or against. A hunting or fishing license provides a citizen a recreational opportunity and the privilege of harvesting our wildlife resources. The state, in turn, raises needed revenue for wildlife programs. The hunting or fishing license entitles a person to go out with a gun, bow, fishing rod, etc. and to catch game or to fish. That is all he has a right to!

Many citizens in this state enjoy wildlife. They feed birds, go bird watching, take photographs or just generally enjoy the natural environment and the creatures that inhabit it. They have an abiding interest in wildlife. To them the non-game species are as important as consumption species such as deer and pheasant. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has not been considering the concerns of these tax-paying citizens.

Last year 1,461,542 people purchased hunting and fishing licenses in New York State. While this is a large number, it is still a small part of the state's population. Almost 40% of our state wildlife budget comes from sources other than sporting licenses. Well over half of the total DEC budget comes from the general fund.

Our state has developed a wildlife rating system which lists species as endangered, threatened or of special concern. This listing helps the state determine which species deserve the most attention, with endangered being the most critical. While this rating system looks good on paper, in reality it is only eyewash when we examine how the state spends the money. Last year the state spent \$1,330,816 on endangered species and non-game programs combined. Meanwhile, it spent \$1,628,578 on ring neck pheasant, a non-native game bird that is released only for hunting. According to the DEC's own studies, 40% to 50% of these birds die before any hunter shoots them. The state spent \$1,296,850 on white tail deer, the most common large mammal in the state. Another \$4,067,306 was spent to raise and release trout, even though many scientists believe that releasing hand raised trout may be damaging the genetics of our native trout populations.

Our state is facing a multi-million dollar shortfall in the conservation fund. Due to poor planning, the state was also forced to cut \$300,000 from the Return a Gift to Wildlife budget. This meant deferring several projects and cutting some altogether. In fact, what the state seems to be doing is taking our donations and using them to deal with the conservation fund deficit. The DEC has hired permanent staff in areas that should be paid for by the conservation fund.

I urge all South Shore Audubon members to write Governor Cuomo as soon as possible. Ask him to investigate the management of the DEC. Also tell him we need a change in the Return a Gift to Wildlife Law. It should cover only non-game species. You should demand an investigation on all game species programs and fish propagation programs. Many of our present day stocking programs are carried out based on information generated in 1932!

You can write Governor Cuomo at:

State of New York
Executive Chamber
Albany, New York 12224

The New York State policy on wildlife seems to be to satisfy the hunter and fisherman. They seem to think they must provide game to keep them happy. The truth is that most of the hunters and fishermen I know are responsible people who love the outdoors. They, too, enjoy seeing an owl, a hawk or a bluebird and consider all wildlife, including species they don't hunt or catch, part of the total outdoor experience. I maintain that state police is misguided. The objective of the wildlife policy should be to maintain a healthy and diverse wildlife population.

TOM TORMA

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NEW MEMBERS

We want to welcome all new members to our Chapter. Come and join us at our meetings, bird walks and various activities throughout the year.

BALDWIN.....Mary A Byrnes
BELLMORE.....Mr Stephen H Alper, Mr Robert Mandeltort,
 James C Stein
EAST MEADOW.....Frank Indiuiglio, Jet Cheryl Ippolito
ELMONT.....J M Brewer, Mr R Malpica
FARMINGDALE.....F R Fischer, Jarvin H Mitnick DDS
FLORAL PARK.....Dr Jack Gailing, John Goodman, Richard G Laible,
 J Stinhauer, Ann S Mc Donald, Mrs Maureen Packert
FRANKLIN SQUARE....Adele B Blumenkamp, Florence Heller
FREEPORT.....A Kelly, Mr-Mrs Lester A Sobel, Mrs Max Spoth
GARDEN CITY.....William L Bohan
HEMPSTEAD.....Mr Cheste Arthur, Ms S Blankenhorn
HEWLETT.....Lawrence Country Day School
HICKSVILLE.....Mr John Conrad
LEVITOWN.....J Gill, Dorothy D Brien, Mrs Arline W Tagg
LONG BEACH.....S Hopkins, Mrs G C Zehden
LYNBROOK.....Mrs Olga Llewellyn
MALVERNE.....Ms Mary Blackwell, Miss Lucille Di Bello
MASSAPEQUA.....Mr Eugene Burg, Mr James Coburn,
 Mrs Frank Costanino, Herbert Gahn
MASSAPEQUA PARK....Donald J Kurth MD, P Mc Coeey
MERRICK.....Gary A Bono, Mr Jose Aviles
OCEANSIDE.....Mr Robert H Buttner
PLAINVIEW.....E Koziuk
ROCKVILLE CENTRE...Mrs Annmarie Breen, Kathleen C Mc Cue, A Teevan
 Joanne Giacone
VALLEY STREAM.....Mrs Janet D Cassidy, Tommy N Jum,
 Mr Robert M Stieglack, Ada Unfricht, Mrs Laura Wajs
WEST HEMPSTEAD.....Mrs Kristine Canale

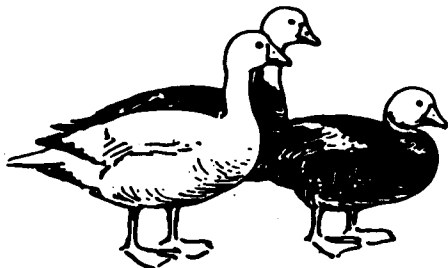
MARION YAVARKOVSKY

BIRD WALKS

OFFICERS

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

- Nov. 2 West End #2, N.E. Corner
9 Tobay - JFK Sanctuary
16 Zach's Bay, Pkg. Fld. #4
N.E. Corner
23 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
30 Pelham Bay - Meet at Throg's
Neck Bridge - Far side of
tolls at 9:00 A.M.
- Dec. 7 Cedar Beach
14 Hempstead Lake State Park
(Peninsula Blvd. Pkg. Lot)
21 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge



Betsy Gulotta, President..546-8841
Tom Torma, Vice Pres.....223-7947
Malcolm Marum, Treas.....752-0396
Nora Lorenzo, Rec.Sec.....868-4505
Ruth Grossman, Corr. Sec.....

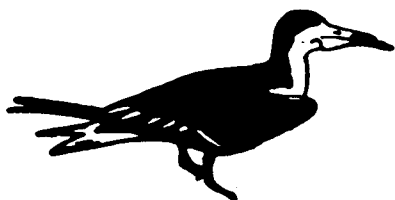
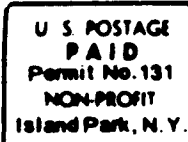
COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

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Marion Yavarkovsky, Membership
379-2090
Joan Butkerei, Conservation
623-0843
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Myrna Brier, Hospitality..764-7523

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ings and bird walks or call:

Barbara Tancredi (11 A.M. - 1 P.M.) ... 354-4524
Bill Herzog (7 P.M. - 9 P.M.) 791-7886

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



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