

SOUTH SHORE SKIMMER



VOLUME 18, No. 8 – SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

MAY 1988

ANNUAL DINNER TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 1988

South Shore Audubon's Annual Dinner will take place at the Oceanside Country Club, Waukena Avenue and Skillman Avenue, Oceanside on Tuesday, June 14, 1988. As usual, the June dinner is held in place of the regular general meeting.

This year's dinner speaker will be Mr. Emil Willimetz. The program will be a slide show and talk on the Amazon Region and the Rain Forest of South America. Mr. Willimetz lived and worked in South America as a documentary film maker and has conducted tours through the area for many years.

The evening will begin at 7:00 P.M. with a cocktail hour. Drinks are \$2.25 at the open bar. For dinner there is a choice of:

London Broil
Roast Chicken
Broiled Fish

The cost for the dinner is \$16.50 per person. To make a reservation, complete the form below and send it with a check made payable to South Shore Audubon Society to:

Alan Bromberg
3409 Fairway Road
Oceanside, New York 11572

Name
Address
.....
.....	Phone No.
Amount of Check	No. of People
No. of each dinner:	London Broil.....
	Chicken.....
	Fish.....

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING PROGRAMS

Lennox Gordon, Program Chairperson . . 223-1365

TUESDAY, May 10, 1988
FREEMPORT MEMORIAL LIBRARY
Merrick Road and Grove Street, Freeport, N.Y.

Subject: Bicycle Trip Across the United States
Speaker: Joseph Grupp

A slide and discussion program relating to the adventures of Mr. Grupp while traveling across the United States on a bicycle trip .

TUESDAY, JUNE 14, 1988, 7:00 P.M. ANNUAL DINNER OCEANSIDE COUNTRY CLUB

ELECTION OF OFFICERS 1988/1989

The election of officers of the South Shore Audubon Society for 1988/1989 will take place on Tuesday, May 10, at the General Meeting. The nominees are:

Joseph Grupp President
Joan Butkereiit. Vice President
Lennox Gordon..... Treasurer
Louise HalpinRecording Secretary
Ruth Grossman..... Corresponding Secretary
Art Charney Director for Term of 3 Years
Irving Singer Director for Term of 3 Years

WELCOME TO COW MEADOW PRESERVE AND PARK

Betsy Gulotta, President

On May 15 from 10:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M. you and your family are invited to share a unique educational and entertaining experience. South Shore Audubon Society and Nassau County are co-sponsoring a family environmental festival, "A Celebration of the Coastline", in conjunction with the opening of Cow Meadow Preserve, a 150 acre marine wetland section of Cow Meadow Park, at South Main Street in Freeport.

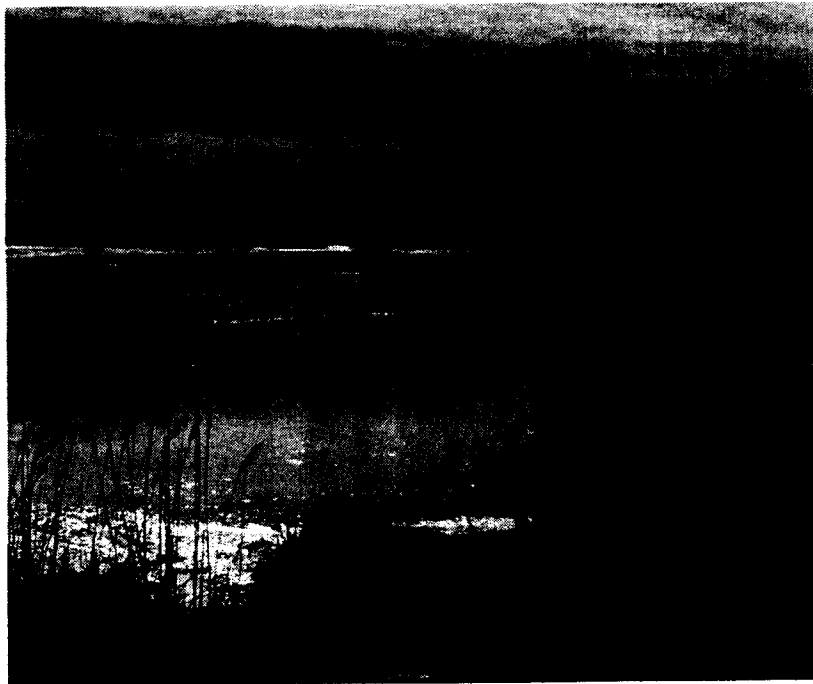
The Festival promises to be a full day of entertainment for all members of the family. From children's activities to slide programs and workshops for adults; from bird walks along the marsh in which you can actively participate, to art exhibits of nature's scenes which you can passively enjoy; from nature songs and puppet shows to nature crafts and scrumptious snacks, the Festival expounds its environmental themes.

Under the guidance of Nassau County's Greenspace Curator, Carole Neidich Reider, SSAS volunteers have been cleaning and preparing the new marine wetland preserve in Cow Meadow Park. We are constructing a self-guiding nature trail, com-

plete with a published trail guide, bird nest boxes, viewing tower, and an osprey nesting platform. At this writing, with two "clean-ups" down and one to go (April 16), Cow Meadow Preserve is shaping up into an attractive and informative outdoor nature educational facility.

The March 26 "clean-up" work day proved successful, in spite of the uncooperative weather. A dozen hearty souls, drenched from the continuous heavy downpour, succeeded in pulling out most of the litter and dead branches and brush, enough to fill a dump truck and two additional dumpsters. An attractive wooden fence has been installed across the entrance and exit trails, which will prevent vehicles from entering as well as dumping in the future.

SSAS wishes to acknowledge the hard work of the many volunteers who have worked on the Cow Meadow project. The success of both the festival and the new preserve is really due to their efforts. On May 15, we have the opportunity to thank them for their hard work by attending the Festival and enjoying a spectacular day of nature.



Cow Meadow Preserve, Freeport

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Cow Meadow Preserve, Freeport

FAMILY NATURE FESTIVAL SUNDAY MAY 15 10 A.M.-4 P.M.

COW MEADOW PARK AND PRESERVE
SOUTH MAIN STREET
FREEPORT, NEW YORK

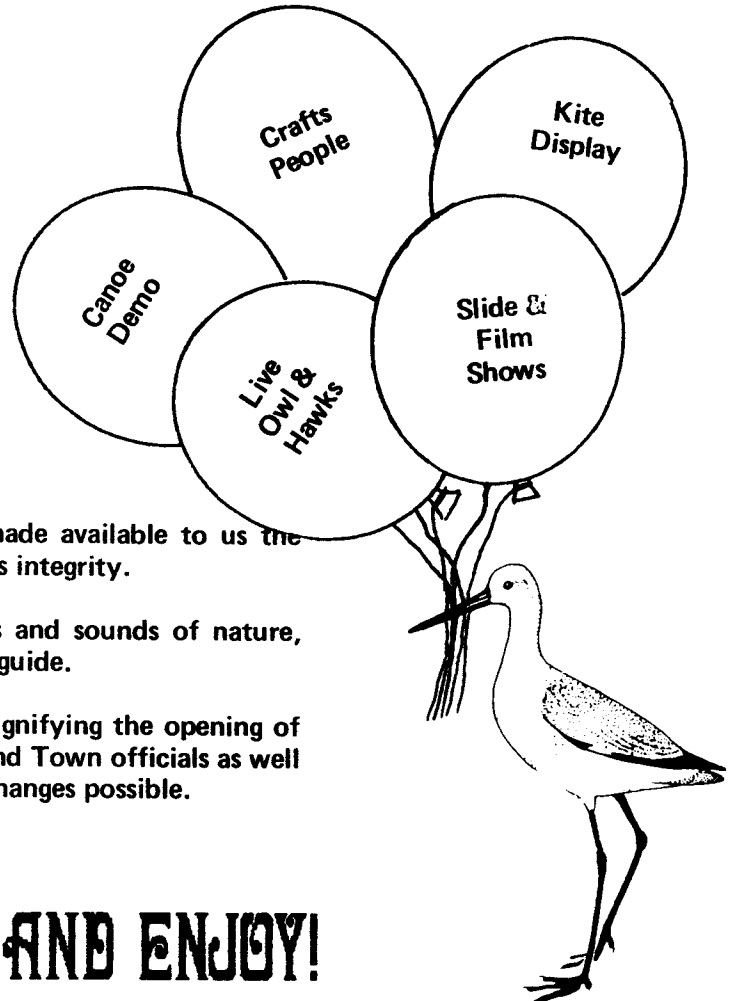
YOUR DAY WILL BE FUN, EXCITING, ENTERTAINING, AND EDUCATIONAL!

- Listen to the sounds of the "Rain Forest."
- Learn and ask questions at the educational tables. Some of the various topics include: LONG ISLAND'S GROUND WATER, CLEAN AIR, ORGANIC GARDENING, LONG ISLAND'S BEACHES AND SHELLS, and WHALES IN OUR WATERS
- Browse through beautiful nature artwork prepared by Long Island artists, including Arthur Singer, renowned wildlife artist.

AND DON'T MISS. . .

For KIDS we have:

- FACE PAINTING
 - BALLONS
 - PUPPET SHOWS
 - NATURE MUSIC
 - GAMES



With interpretive guides the County has made available to us the wonders of the wetlands while maintaining its integrity.

NATURE WALKS — Experience the sights and sounds of nature, enhanced by the expertise of your naturalist guide.

There will be a ribbon cutting ceremony signifying the opening of the restored preserve, attended by County and Town officials as well as many volunteers who helped make these changes possible.

COME AND ENJOY!

CONSERVATION REPORT

Joan Butkerei, Chairperson 516-623-0843

ALASKA'S OIL DILEMMA

The struggle over the protection or exploitation of Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is continuing. During this controversy the nearby Alaska Prudhoe Bay oilfield is often cited by the oil industry as being a model of environmentally sound development. A study of the industry's effect on the area shows a much greater negative impact. To summarize from the March/April issue of the Audubon Activist: There were 953 pollutant spills in 1985 and 1986. 250 contaminated pits, each holding up to 13 million gallons of used drilling muds and hazardous wastes threaten to pollute the tundra. Water pollution has been linked to the declining diversity and abundance of invertebrate species which are vital as food sources for North Slope birds. The oil and gas facilities at Prudhoe Bay discharge the equivalent amount of nitrogen oxides into the air as do all of the cars and factories in Washington, D.C. Hundreds of violations of state air quality regulations have been recorded. "Existing environmental laws and regulations, as currently implemented and enforced, fail to prevent significant environmental deterioration caused by oil and gas activities." These facts should be weighed heavily when a decision regarding the future of the last remaining non-exploited Arctic Wilderness is made.

For the past few months we have been asking for your help as the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee held hearings on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR). The Committee is now ready to roll up their sleeves and begin "marking up" current legislation. This is the final stage of the process in Committee, the stage where bills are weakened, strengthened, and passed on to the full house for consideration. It's a crucial stage for ANWR. WE NEED YOUR HELP AGAIN!

Congressman Don Young of Alaska has introduced legislation to open up virtually the entire coastal plain of the ANWR to large scale oil development (HR 1082). A "compromise" bill permitting smaller levels of oil drilling has also been introduced (HR 3601). Congressman Morris Udall and over 70 cosponsors have introduced a bill giving wilderness protection to the entire area, and thus make it off limits to any further drilling except in the case of a national emergency (HR 39).

National Audubon has told the Congress it believes that wilderness management/protection is the best

way to conserve the wildlife resources of ANWR, unless the additional scientific evidence confirms that petroleum extraction can be compatible with the Refuge's fragile ecosystem and wildlife values, and if our nation's energy needs can only be met by extracting oil presumed to be there. No such findings have been made.

Congressman Norman Lent is a member of the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee. This committee will take action on pro-development bills very soon. The National Audubon Society is strongly opposed to any oil development in this famous wildlife refuge. We urge you to write Congressman Lent and tell him of your strong opposition to any oil development of this national treasure.

CLEAN AIR ACT REAUTHORIZATION UPDATE Chiarro Nuzzo

In the Senate, the "Mitchell Clean Air Bill" still awaits floor action! This legislation includes provisions to: set new cleanup requirements and deadlines; combat urban smog through an ambitious car and truck emissions program; combat acid rain; control air pollution and disposal of ash from municipal incinerators; control air-borne toxic chemicals; and to establish a Chemical Hazards Investigations Board.

Since last update, Senator D'Amato has signed the "Burdick/Stafford Process Letter." The letter asks the Senate Majority and Minority Leaders to place the "Mitchell Bill" on the floor calendar for deliberation and voting. The letter, as of Feb. 19, has 44 signers, and clean air supporters hope it will move the legislation along.

Mark-up of acid rain legislation has finally concluded in the House at sub-committee level. A number of weakening amendments were, fortunately, voted down. Although the House version of acid rain legislation is weaker than the Senate version, the provisions for the amounts of emissions to be reduced at the time frames provided to reach these reduced levels were not further downgraded. However, one weakening amendment was passed. As the Bill first stood, even if states did not submit their acid rain control cleanup plans to EPA for approval, the states would still be mandated to start reductions. The proposed amendment removed this provision, thus taking much of the incentive and power out of the Bill. Congressman Norman Lent voted against all of the weakening amendments, except for this last one.

Subcommittee mark-up of smog legislation has yet to commence. This will be an especially tough battle for clean air supporters, so stay tuned!

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

Good news! The House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed the Endangered Species Act by a vote of 399-16. The bill is presently awaiting consideration by the Senate.

The bill reauthorizes the Endangered Species Act of 1973 and sets funding levels through 1992. An amendment strengthening the protection of endangered plants on Federal lands was passed on the Floor. It specifies that removing plants from Federal, state, or private lands, when the state law prohibit it, is a Federal violation — but only when a person removes such plants. The Endangered Species Act offers important legislative protection to some of our Nation's most precious natural resources. The Senate should be urged to bring this bill to a vote at the earliest opportunity. A little reminder to your Senators could help in a big way.

AUDUBON CAMP SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

The Scholarship Committee (Betsy Gulotta, Jim Remsen, and Joe Grupp, Chairperson) have selected three recipients to receive the Audubon Camp Scholarship. The recipients and the programs that they will attend are:

Lennox Gordon	Field Ornithology at Hog Island, Maine
Anne McIntyre	Introductory Field Ecology at Greenwich, Connecticut
Pera Garson	Introductory Field Ecology for Educators at Greenwich, Conn.

The three were selected from a field of ten qualified candidates. The Scholarship Committee is pleased to see so many qualified applicants and regrets that it only had the means to award three scholarships.

ATTENTION ARTISTS AND CRAFT ARTISANS

South Shore Audubon members and their friends are invited to display and/or sell their works at the May 15th Nature Festival at Cow Meadow Park. If you are interested, please call Joan Butkereiit at 623-0843 or 593-4554. We are looking for work that is nature oriented.

BIRD RESCUERS NEED HELP

The Wertz family, Gayle, Dick, and Craig, are volunteer wildlife rehabilitators who do tremendous work with orphaned and injured birds and do numerous bird rescues. It cost money, lots of it. They pay for it themselves. Gayle Wertz wrote us the following letter:

"Dear Fellow Birders,

Our family rescues and rehabilitates injured and orphaned wildlife. Each spring we are overwhelmed with baby birds both garden variety and waterfowl.

We desperately need your help with baby birds this year! It is totally impossible to care for 40-50 baby birds at one time, in our home, with all the other animal work we do 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Our facilities are limited and time is spread way too thin. Several veterinarians work with us, at no charge for surgery or examinations. We are charged for medicines. We are in dire need of bird cages, fish tanks, food, and possibly some reliable help.

If you can utilize your time, in the true "Audubon Spirit" to save and raise baby birds for release back into the wild, please call 516-798-4215. These innocent babies cannot make it without your help and love. I promise you that the experience and time you devote will be most rewarding.

Sincerely,
Gayle Wertz
44 Highwater Avenue
Massapequa, N.Y. 11758"

Many of you have the desire to get involved in animal care and conservation. Why don't you start in Massapequa with the Wertz family? Call them, see what they are doing, what their needs are and how you might fit in.



BIRDS IN POETRY

Poets have celebrated birds more often than any other of God's creatures. This is natural enough. Birds are known for their songs — and so are poets. Birds are winged symbols of flight and freedom — and poets, speaking for most men and women, have always sought liberty and have longed to leave the everyday world to soar into unlimited space. The following poems bring together birds of many a feather. South Shore Audubon is honored that one of its members, Maxwell Corydon Wheat, Jr., is keeping up this tradition.

GANNETS

*Spring comes to me the March morning
I sight Gannets off the Hampton beaches
destined for the Bonaventure and Cape St. Mary's
Skins of fifteen and twenty
spun out of a "sou'wester tearing the spume
off crashing heights of waves these birds barely ascend
All day they proceed
robed in immaculate white
the sleeves of their wings dyed ebony*

NORTHERN HARRIER for Marilyn England

*The wildlife biologist
pushes through poison ivy
that brushes her long dark hair
She has bushwacked here before
wrists, ankles blotched red
jeans, gray jacket stained*

*She reaches her hands through the tangle
Brings out the brood's sole survivor
tufts of down protruding through the brown*

*Time for one more weighing
One more for measuring
One more for checking of the band*

*She fastens to one leg
the red jess
the emblem she will watch for
hunting the marsh for her hawk*

FIESTA

*comes with the warblers
waves of warblers
moving up the continents*

*Yellows, Bay-breasted
Black-throated Greens and Blues
Myrtles and Magnolias
flourishing wing-tail skirts of white and yellow*

*Redstarts flashing flamenco fans of orange and red
Chestnut-sideds with headdresses of the sun*

*Then, Blackburnians
flown from orange flames of Aztec fires
The Prothonotary emblazened with Inca Gold*

BIRD SPECIES NAME CHANGES

For members with venerable field guides, the following list gives the old and new names of bird species whose names have recently been changed by the American Ornithologists' Union.

Old Name	New Name
Sparrow Hawk	American Kestrel
Bobwhite	Northern Bobwhite
Masked Bobwhite	Northern Bobwhite
Hungarian Partridge	Gray Partridge
Harlequin Quail	Montezuma Quail
Ground Dove	Common Ground Dove
Gilded Flicker	Northern Flicker
Yellow-shafted Flicker	Northern Flicker
Red-shafted Flicker	Northern Flicker
Western form of Yellowbellied	Red-naped Sapsucker
Sapsucker ("Nuchalls")	(Now a separate species)
Arctic three-toed Woodpecker	Blackbacked Woodpecker
American Three-toed	Three-toed Woodpecker
Woodpecker	
Mexican Jay	Gray-breasted Jay
Canada Jay	Gray Jay
Florida Jay	Scrub Jay
White-necked Raven	Chihuahuan Raven
Black-crested Titmouse	Tufted Titmouse
Brown-capped Chickadee	Boreal Chickadee
Black-eared Bushtit	Bushtit
Brown-throated Wren	House Wren
Long-billed Marsh Wren	Marsh Wren
Robin	American Robin
Myrtle Warbler	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Audubon's Warbler	Yellow Rumped Warbler
Towhee	Rufous-sided Towhee
Red-eyed Towhee	Rufous-sided Towhee
Spotted Towhee	Rufous-sided Towhee
Ipswich Sparrow	Savannah Sparrow
Grey-headed Junco	Dark-eyed Junco
Oregon Junco	Dark-eyed Junco
Slate-colored Junco	Dark-eyed Junco
White-winged Junco	Dark-eyed Junco
Tree Sparrow	American Tree Sparrow
Meadowlark	Eastern Meadowlark
Red-wing	Red-winged Blackbird
Bicolored Blackbird	Red-winged Blackbird
Cowbird	Brown-headed Cowbird
Red-eyed Cowbird	Bronzed Cowbird
Cardinal	Northern Cardinal
Redpoll	Common Redpoll
Goldfinch	American Goldfinch
Grey-crowned Rosy Finch	Rosy Finch
Black Rosy Finch	Rosy Finch
Hepburn's Rosy Finch	Rosy Finch
Brown-capped Rosy Finch	Rosy Finch

AUDUBON TELEVISION SPECIALS

The next Audubon Special to air on national television is "Messages From The Birds" narrated by Martin Sheen. This program is about birds as indicators of environmental degradation and has a special focus on shore birds. It premieres on Super-Station TBS on June 6, 1988, at 10:00 P.M. and is repeated on June 9 at 12:05 A.M., June 11 at 4:00 P.M. and June 27 at 11:05 P.M. (all times EST).

The PBS summer season of Audubon Specials starts on Sunday, June 26, at 8:00 P.M. and runs weekly (every Sunday) for eight weeks until August 14. Four of these eight shows have never been seen on PBS. Here is the schedule:

- June 26 Grizzly And The Man: Uneasy Truce
- July 3 On The Edge Of Extinction: Panthers And Cheetahs
- July 10 Wood Stork: Barometer Of The Everglades
- July 17 Whales!
- July 24 Messages From The Birds
- July 31 Galapagos: My Fragile World
- August 7 Common Ground: Farming And Wildlife
- August 14 Ducks Under Seige



BIRD OF THE MONTH

BROWN CREEPER

Cercia americana

This inconspicuous tiny (5½") brown woodpecker like bird is most often detected by its soft, lispings call as it works its way up a tree trunk using its thin slightly curved bill to probe crevices for small insects. Unlike the nuthatch it only moves up a tree trunk, having reached the top, it will fly down to the base of another tree and repeat its ascent. Six to seven white eggs, lightly speckled with brown are laid in a cuplike nest of bark shreds, feathers, sticks, and moss usually placed against a tree trunk behind a peeling slab of bark.

BIRDING TRIP TO BRIGANTINE WILDLIFE PRESERVE SATURDAY, MAY 7

Come and experience an unforgettable day of birding at this 20,197-acre south Jersey coastal refuge. There is always something to see — large concentrations of shore and wading birds, warblers in their spring migrations. Little blue and great blue herons, snowy and great egrets, tricolored and yellow-crowned night herons, peregrine falcons just to name a few that can be seen from the dikes. And if this isn't enough — dinner at the Smithville Inn.

Cost for this, including bus fare and dinner, \$37.00 per person. The bus will leave from the Merrick Road Golf Club, Merrick Road and Clubhouse Road (adjacent to Holiday Park Shopping Center, Exit 9 Eastbound of the Meadowbrook Parkway) Merrick, N.Y. at 7:00 A.M. Bring your own picnic lunch and drinks.

Make checks payable to SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY and mail to:

Mrs. Evelyn Blume
313 Smith Street
Merrick, N.Y. 11566
516-378-7122 (After 6:00 P.M.)

REGISTER EARLY AS ACCOMMODATIONS
ARE LIMITED TO 44

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
1988 NORTHEAST/MID-ATLANTIC REGION
CONFERENCE

The forthcoming conference for the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic Region will be held at East Stroudsburg University, East Stroudsburg, Pa. on June 17-19, 1988. Complete registration forms will be mailed shortly. It is estimated the total costs will be less than \$100.00.

Walter Pomeroy, Mid-Atlantic Regional Vice President is conference coordinator. This is due to the fact that the Northeast Region does not have an office, as it was closed last June. At present an ad hoc committee, consisting of Audubon Staff personnel and certain chapter members are looking after things until a new Northeast Region Office can be opened.

MEMBERSHIP

Marion Yavarkovsky, Chairperson 379-2090

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We welcome our newest members. You have joined a wonderful organization with a very active chapter. Join us at our monthly meetings, weekly bird walks, and other special events.

- Baldwin Judy Cassella, Ms. Trudi Elarde, Ami Gissen, Joyce Kweiscinski, Ms. Patricia Wilbur, Birgit Jones
- Bellmore Lia Daber, Mr & Mrs. Julius Draber Jonathan King, Miss Anne McGuinness, Thomas Schwab
- Bethpage Ms. Marie Caperna, Patricia Patrick
- Cedarhurst Mr. M. Sasso
- E. Meadow Mrs. Barbara Lupski, Mr. & Mrs. G.P. Nineslinger
- Elmont Mr. & Mrs. Walter Kelly
- Floral Park Arthur Gianatiempo
- Franklin Sq Edward Mannato, Cheryl McMahan
- Freeport Lawrence Kaufman, Marge Voss
- Garden City Charles Morrongiello, Ms. Ellen Emery, John Karassos
- Glen Oaks Thomas Boylan
- Hempstead Christiane Byrd, Howard Eisenberg, Barbara & Thomas Landy, Valerie McGovern
- Hicksville Henry Chupka, Mary Dipasquale, Henry Koch
- Lawrence Dr. D. Giddings
- Levittown R.W.Skillman, Steven Zembroski
- Long Beach Lorraine Bruder, Dr. David Shear
- Lynbrook Anita & Sal Carullo, Betty Knap
- Malverne Mary Sylvia
- Massapequa Rob Carillo, Ms Lois Garrett, William Goodenough, Maria Mucaria, A. Toroni
- Massapequa Pk Dr. Dominic Antonio, Ms. Mildred Aries
- Merrick Barbaro Vazquez
- Oceanside Ms. Barbara Cronin, Anton Heinlein, Charles McNamara
- Old Bethpage Connie Falzone
- Plainview Ms. Ruth Linn
- Rockville Ctr Richard Baldwin, B.J.Dillinger, B. Monchik
- Seaford A.Brooks, E. Unger
- Valley Stream A. Ferrara, Brian Pupke, Thomas Szachacz
- W. Hempstead Ms. Rita Taratko
- Wantagh Mark Moraska
- Woodmere Mrs. Estelle Levy



EDITOR'S NOTE

AUDUBON OFFERS SERIOUS FUN

There are outstanding people and talents throughout the South Shore Audubon Society, and it is our ability to tie these strengths together that makes us such an effective conservation organization. We are a key component of the National Audubon Society. This local chapter gives you the opportunity to meet with others and to share your interest in wildlife and your concern about the environment. Can you devote an hour a month to the Audubon Cause? An hour a week? Or some part of every day? South Shore Audubon is flexible and welcomes any level of involvement. Would you like to help arrange field trips? Write for the newsletter? Survey local wetlands? Analyze conservation legislation? Lobby local elected officials to further the environmental cause? Participate in the Birdathon? Or tired of the same people always doing the same thing when you feel that you can offer new creative ideas and programs?

South Shore Audubon will appreciate whatever time, interests, or skills you have to offer. Your contribution will be amplified by the entire National Audubon Society. And, while you are helping to protect wildlife, you will enjoy the high-spirited camaraderie that characterizes the South Shore Audubon Society.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT SANCTUARY MAY NATURE PROGRAMS

South Shore Audubon is one of three Long Island Audubon chapters that have teamed up to support and manage the Sanctuary. For information relating to these and other programs, call 516-922-3200.

Sunday, May 1, **Animal of the Month – Kestrel**, 1:30–2:00 P.M., T.R. Sanctuary.

Join in an informal session featuring one of the sanctuary's resident birds, the Kestrel.

Sunday, May 15, **Beach Program**, 1:30–3:30 P.M., Sagamore Hill.

A chance to explore one of our local beaches and learn about its marine life. Dress to get wet. Bring a hat, insect repellent, and shoes that can get wet.

SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON BIRDATHON

Few people think of birdwatching as a competitive activity, much less a way of making money. But on May 14 –15, 1988, the South Shore Audubon Society will take part in the world's largest competitive bird-watching event, the 1988 Audubon Birdathon, organized by the National Audubon Society. South Shore Audubon members will use their birdwatching skills to raise money for South Shore Audubon's local programs here in Nassau County as well as national environmental research, education and action programs.

South Shore Auduboner's, who will meet at the areas listed below, will join birders across the country, scanning the skies and bushes in a one-day marathon attempt to identify as many bird species as possible.

Individuals and Audubon chapters are competing for prizes based on the most species seen and the greatest amount of money raised. National Audubon is awarding prizes such as binoculars, outdoor equipment, and cameras, donated by companies including Minolta, Nikon, Polaroid, Timberland, Swarovski, and ZEISS. In addition, our chapter will award prizes to the South Shore Audubon Birdathoner who recruits the largest number of sponsors and the Birdathoner who collects the largest amount of money in pledges. Prizes will be awarded at the June 14, annual dinner.

South Shore Birdathons will be held between sunrise May 14 and sunrise May 15 at the following locations:

- Team 1. Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. Leader: Elliot Kutner (486-7667). Start time: 8:00 A.M. (This team will move from one location to another throughout the count period.)
- Team 2. West End, Parking Field No. 2, N.E. Corner, Jones Beach. Leader: Paul Butkerei (623-0843). Start Time: 8:00 A.M.
- Team 3. Twin Lakes Preserve, Wantagh. Leader: Tom Torma (223-7947). (This group will leave from the Forest Lake School parking lot at sunrise and again at 9:00 A.M. Birdathoners may join the group at either time).
- Team 4. Muttontown Preserve. Leader: James Remsen (764-5168). (This group will leave when the preserve opens and again at 9:30 A.M., from the parking lot).

We would like each member to be an active Birdathoner, a sponsor in his/her own right, and a recruiter of additional sponsors from both **within** and **without** the South Shore Audubon Society.

Sponsors will be expected to pledge the amount of their choice (suggestions 25 cents, \$1.00, or other amount) per species identified by the Birdathoner and his/her team.

Birdathoners will be responsible for notifying sponsors after the Birdathon, collecting their checks (made payable to the South Shore Audubon Society), and forwarding two (2) copies of their sponsor pledge forms to the Birdathon Chairpersons by May 31, 1988.

Additional Sponsor pledge forms and information will be available at meetings, birdwalks, or by calling either of the following:

Arthur Atlas: 1542 Berkeley Avenue, Baldwin, N.Y. 11510
516-223-2327 (Evenings)
or
James Remsen, Jr., 3264 Park Avenue, Oceanside, N.Y. 11572
516-764-5168 (Afternoons)

AUDUBON BIRDATHON

SPONSOR PLEDGE (SIGN-UP) SHEET

Birdathoner's Name
(Please Print)

Chapter

SPONSOR'S NAME/ADDRESS/PHONE AMOUNT PLEDGED
..... PER SPECIES

1. MY OWN PLEDGE

2

3

4

5

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

DESCRIPTION OF TIDAL FLATS

Tidal flats, also called clam and worm flats, are found in quiet bays, in back of barrier beaches and in salt ponds. At low tide the sand and mud flats lie exposed to sun and weather. Many of the animals remain under the surface during low tide. To the experienced eye the mysterious markings in the sand are unmistakable tables of the sea-life below.

Many of the holes are formed by worms of the **Polychaete** group. These are the segmented worms which feed actively at high tide, sticking their heads out of the holes. The **Ornate Worm** has a head that is a mass of tentacles that resembles the ancient Greek Medusa with their hair of snakes. These tentacles grope for food in all directions and bits of food are passed to the cavity (*mouth*) in the center.

Coils of sand and mud castings are created from the elimination of waste. A worm's gut constantly processes food-stuff from the grains of sand and sediment which it sucks in. The indigestible sand grains pass out of the animal's anal opening to the surface forming castings or mounds. For this reason, it is common that many of the marine worms live in a verticle U-shaped position. The **Lug Worm** is an example of this with its head region coming to the surface to feed and the posteria a few inches away at the surface to release waste material. Worms living in tubes expel waste by a finning action of the worm's bristles (*parapodia*) in an upward motion. The **Lug Worm** has bright red bristles and there is a third opening for egg laying. In late Spring the large ballon-like clear jelly egg sacs, filled with thousands of eggs, can be seen strewn over the surface of the flats.

The most abundant polychaete worm is the **Clam** or **Sand Worm**, a favorite bait for many fishermen. It grows to a length of ten to sixteen inches. The males are bluish green with red-orange side swimming paddles (*parapodia*). Females are more green. Both sexes have a shimmering indescendent dorsal side and are graceful swimmers and active diggers. They can inflict a nasty, painful bite.

Great colonies of straw size sand grain chimneys are evidence of the **Bamboo Worm**. It resembles a bamboo stick when pulled from its sand tube. Its size is from three to five inches long, and the color varies from red to green.

If you see some shell and seaweed fragments waving in a shallow pool of water, it is the parchment tube of the **Decorator Worm**. These worms form their tubes by tossing bits of debris onto their bodies. The material sticks to a gluelike mucus secretion. Inside the tube, a few inches from the entrance, the worm sits out the low tide; the slightest vibration sends the worm retreating down the tube a foot or more.

The **Trumpet** or **Ice Cream Worm** lives upside down in a symmetrical cone tube made from sand grains cemented in place with a fluid secretion. A black smudge on the sandy mud flat, about the size of a dime is the waste product of the worm. Without the cone, the worm looks fat and pudgy in shape, pink in color, two to four inches long, and on its head it has a mustache of golden bristles.

Tiny volcanic shaped mounds that dot the tidal flats are clues to the home of the **Ornate Worm**. The body color is red and the tentacles on the head are a flaming orange with red cirri that act as gills.

Another common worm of the flats is the smooth, unsegmented **Sipunculoid Worm** which is brownish white to tan. It leaves tiny holes, a little larger than a pin head, on the sand surface and lives from eight to ten inches down. During high tide it sticks its flower-like proboscis from the hole to feed. When first removed it falls limp, but within seconds becomes so rigid that it will remain as straight as a stick when held in the middle of its body. When the worm is rigid, and its skin is punctured, the hydrostatic pressure within forces out its blood and internal parts with great pressure. They do not bite.

Some areas of the tidal flat are packed with depressions the size of a nickle. It might seem that clams were here, but digging will bring up a white transparent wormlike animal. You may have a **Glass Sea Cucumber** which looks like a worm. The **Glass Cucumber** is distinguished from a worm by the bushy tentacles at one end and the characteristic five rows of tube feet along the sides. The five-rayed symmetry is characteristic of all **Echinodermata**.

The many shallow pools of water left on a tidal flat by retreating water, are good places to look for marine life. Fuzzy, pink shells move about, homes for the **Hermit Crabs**, both the **Long-Clawed Hermit Crab** and the **Broad-Clawed Hermit Crab**. The shells once contained live snails. When taken over by the **Hermit Crabs** they often become covered with a reddish "fur" which is a colony of hydroid animals, commonly called **Snail Fur**. With a hand lens you can see that this "fur" is a mat of single, flowerlike polyps.

Many round holes, close together, about finger size in diameter and flush with the surface will squirt water when foot pressure is applied. These are formed by the **Soft-Shelled Clam**. A larger, wedge-shaped hole with slight sloping sides is probable made by the **Razor Clam**, fastest digger of the tidal flats. A large meaty foot extended outward from the lower end of the **Razor Clam** is the efficient spade. The razor is shaped like its name, long and thin, six to eight inches long and 1 inch wide.

Just below the surface of the sand or mud you may find a delicate and fragile, yellowish brown bivalve. It is covered with a brown epidermis which extends like an "awning" beyond the edge of the shell; thus the name **Awning Clam**. It sometime swims about and is about one inch in length. This is one of the most primitive of the bivalves. Two lobes of the mantle are fused below with an opening for use as an imperfect siphon. The hinge is without teeth, and the foot is long and slender.

Large plants do not take hold on the flats because of the constant movement of the sand and mud. Population density of life on the flats is great. Measurements taken on tidal flats indicate that the number of benthic animals range from 7,000 to 355,000 per square meter with the **Gem Clam** and **Soft-Shell Clam** found in great numbers.

JWB

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 Elliot Kutner, Birding Chairperson 486-7667

All walks start at 9:30 A.M.
 No walks if it rains, snows, or temperature
 is 25° F or below.

- May 1 Hempstead Lake State Park (Penninsular
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- 8 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- 15 Cow Meadow Park, Freeport
- 22 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- 29 No Walk
- June 5 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- 12 Twin Lakes Preserve, Wantagh (Forest
 Lake School Parking Lot, Mill Road)

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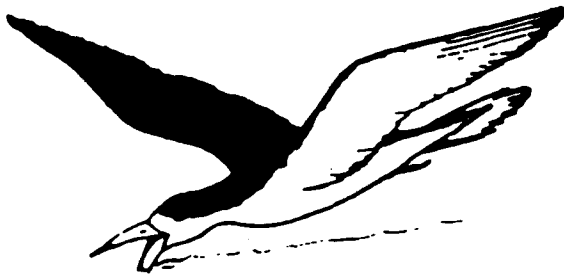
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