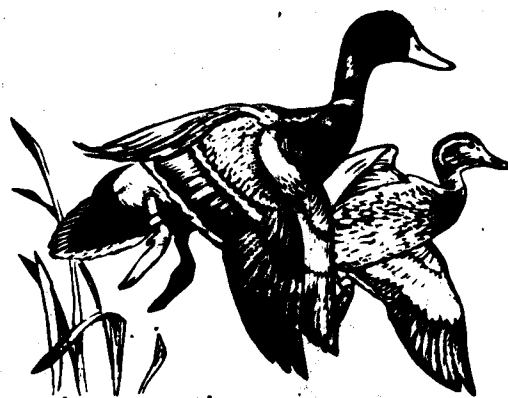


SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

Newsletter



VOLUME 5, No. 6

FEBRUARY 1975

- NEXT MEETING -

Again, in February, our meeting (on the 11th) will bring us one of our own members. This time, it will be Elliott Kutner, and his film will be Tundra Dwellers - Southward Bound. In other words, the various birds seen during the migration season; and if the Editor hears correctly, there are many birds not usually seen; and a big treat is again in store.

The Board Meeting will be on the 4th of February.

COMING EVENTS

WILDLIFE FILM - the next and last film at the Town Hall in Hempstead will be April 10th. The title will be Sea Ice and Fire and is a pictorial account of sea, glacial ice and volcanic fire. The author and narrator will be Olin Sewall Pettingill.

AND FROM TAC - The next Atlantic Coalition lecture on sludge, ocean dumping and marine resources will be held on Thursday, February 20th, at 8:00 PM at Hofstra University, School of Law, Room 238. The speaker will be Commissioner Robert Low of the New York City Environmental Protection Administration describing the city's plans and problems. Please try to come - at least, show we care.

ART AND CRAFT SHOW - Nothing specific yet, but it will be held in May, at the same church, Calvary Temple, Assembly of God, 625 Joy Blvd. Baldwin.

VOLUNTEERS IN PARKS: - Fire Island National Seashore has a program called "Volunteers in Parks", authorized by the National Park Service. Volunteers can be recruited, trained for and in aid of interpretative functions, or other visitor services or activities. Generally, the volunteers will serve as history and natural science interpreters, arts and crafts demonstrators, recreational skills demonstrators and also in conservation projects. The program is open to everyone. If interested, write: FIRE ISLAND NATIONAL SEASHORE, Box #229, Patchogue, New York #11772 - ATTN: VIP Program.

For further information there will be folders available at our meeting.

- PRESIDENT'S PAGE -

A membership campaign is now being conducted by your local chapter in conjunction with a national effort on the part of the National Audubon Society. Through a special grant, National Audubon is offering cash prizes to those chapters that show the largest numerical or the largest percent increase from a period Jan. 1 '75 through June 30 '75. The goal is to double the membership, which simply means that if each member gets just one new member the goal would be reached.

As an incentive to join your local chapter, all the Long Island chapters are participating in a special membership drive involving the give-away of Guy Coheleach prints. Below is a table indicating the print to be given away with the corresponding membership level.

New individual member (\$15.)	- Choice of one cat head or one Imperial Eagle head
New family member (\$18.)	- Choice of two cat heads or one cathead and one Imperial Eagle
New sustaining member (\$30.)	- Choice of 4 catheads or Imperial Eagle and Short-eared Owl
New supporting member (\$50.)	- Entire cathead portfolio (6 heads) or Golden Eagle and Short-eared Owl

Renewals of existing members will not qualify for a Coheleach print. However, so present members also have a fair chance at receiving prints, the following give-away will apply.

If an existing member brings in two new members, that member has a choice of one cathead or the Imperial Eagle head.

If an existing member brings in five new members, he or she will have the choice of the entire cat head portfolio, or the Golden Eagle and Short-eared Owl prints.

This offer is in effect immediately until the end of MARCH. Mr. Guy Coheleach will be present at the March meeting to sign prints. Signing by the artist generally increases the value of the print. Mr. Coheleach will also show a movie at this meeting. For those who attended the last Annual Dinner in June, the movie will be a different one. To receive your print, you must join through your local chapter and you must pick up your print at a meeting. No prints will be mailed. Prints will be available at the February, March, and April meetings. However, Mr. Coheleach will be present only at the March meeting. Individuals who pick up their prints in February may of course bring them to the March meeting to be signed. Unfortunately, if you join after the March meeting, you will not be able to get them signed. Another added danger in waiting is that prints are subject to availability. The print you want might not be available later in March. So, get your friends, relatives, enemies, and anyone else down to the February meeting, join the Audubon Society and pick up your print.

For further information concerning this campaign call either Mike Smiles (293-7225) or Dorothy Lovering (485-9821).

Mike Smiles, President

- LEGISLATION - CONSERVATION -

PUBLIC HEARING: - The Interior Department will hold public hearings on its plan to increase the sale of off-shore oil drilling rights over the next few years. The hearings closest to L.I. will be in Trenton, New Jersey, on February 11, 12 and 13. I have notified the Bureau of Land Management that I wish to make a statement on behalf of South Shore Audubon. I will keep you posted as information becomes available. If any of you can attend this hearing with me, please call me at 822-6189. It is VERY IMPORTANT that we let our government know how we feel about off-shore oil drilling so please make a special effort to make this trip with me.

STRIP MINING: - Strip mining legislation similar to a bill pocket-vetoed by President Ford will be introduced shortly after Congress convenes on January 14, according to Rep. Morris K. Udall, Democrat of Arizona. He also said he thought Congress would override a second veto of the strip mine bill and that "we can get a good strong but balanced and reasonable strip mining bill".

SLUDGE: - The Atlantic Coalition held a public meeting on Sludge Problems December 12 which I attended. Mr. Anthony Taormina, Director of Marine and Coastal Resources for the N. Y. State Department of Environmental Conservation, was the guest speaker for the first series of discussions. Mr. Taormina feels that sewer sludge can be a valuable resource for recycling on land. He also feels that the life support systems cannot continue to function unless the residues of death and metabolism are properly decomposed and recycled. Mr. Taormina defined sludge as anything flushed off the streets and down toilets. On pavements, car discharge is flushed down pipes when it rains as is industrial waste which ends up in sewage treatment plants. It is then hauled out to sea and dumped. Chemicals, fecal material, metals - sludge. Mr. Taormina defined pollution as a "resource in the wrong place". We have been dumping sludge into the ocean for 40 years. The ocean can handle some pure fecal material because it decomposes, but industrial waste, pavement runoff mixed with fecal material, does not decompose. Therefore, the sludge accumulates. Scientists, divers and boatmen of the Atlantic Coalition have been researching sludge deposits off Atlantic Beach, Long Beach and Lido Beach while other Coalition members have been exploring the alternatives to our present ocean dumping practices. If you would like more information on this very serious problem, write or call the Nassau County Environmental Council, 10 Columbus Circle, New York, New York #10019 - Tel. 212-582-0381.

WHALES: - We can be cautiously optimistic concerning the killing of whales by Russia and Japan because they did not file objections to the International Whaling Commission's whaling quotas by the October 1 deadline. Consequently, they may intend to comply. These two nations account for about 85% of the whales still being taken and their cooperation is essential if the whale is to be saved.

SOLAR ENERGY: - Connecticut has been awarded a Federal grant of over \$130,000 to cover the cost of designing a solar energy installation to heat and provide hot water for 20 out of 40 units in a \$1,000,000 project for the elderly. This will be the first public housing project in the country to utilize energy from the sun for heating.

LET ME KNOW IF YOU CAN ATTEND THE OFF-SHORE OIL DRILLING HEARINGS IN FEBRUARY. - 822-6189.

Pat Davis, Chairman, Conservation

- ONE KILOGRAM ROBINS, PLEASE -

Through the mass murder of songbirds in Italy to ecological catastrophe.

The following is excerpted from "Die Zeit" dated December 6, 1974. The article, sent to me by my parents-in-law in Hamburg, Germany, is from the most reliable newspaper in that city.

"Some winter along the Congo, others in Karstadt (a large department store). They were caught in Italy on their southward migration and re-exported to Germany, where they are sold. A linnet in a large warehouse - only one example of innumerable pet handlers - costs \$7.00. The redpoll costs the same. For a hawfinch one must pay \$12.00.

"It is becoming known that mass killings and captures are leading to radical reductions of entire avian species.

"As the hunting season in Italy (the longest in Europe) opened August 25th the migratory birds were just girding for their flight. Awaiting them were 1.8 million licensed hunters and at least 400 thousand trappers.

"The birds are also sold for food. One kilogram (2.2 lbs.) of robins costs about \$5.00. Even ADAC (a major German travel agency) recommends in its brochure "Eating in Italy" grilled thrushes and larks. Since these birds often do not exceed 1/5 ounce in weight, at least two dozen are required for one meal.

"Those that escaped the nylon nets, rockfalls, slingshots and various traps, must, on their spring return flight, pass the same test again. The Turin (Italy) newspaper La Stampa estimates that by then 150 million birds will have been shot or trapped. Knowledgeable people north of the Alps are convinced the yearly loss will be closer to 250 million.

"Worst off of all are the birds that are 'prepared' to lure their fellows. Not out of the barbaric past, but from an instruction book by Amadeo Giacomini, dated 1969, come these directions: 'When the young finches are grown, the final art is to blind them. This is accomplished by keeping the bird in a dark place and then holding against the enlarged pupils a hot iron blade which promptly dries out the eye'. The blinded birds are placed in cages hung from trees and bushes. Their tortured search-and-plaint song draws whole flocks of birds which are lured en masse into cunningly camouflaged traps to their destruction.

"It has been estimated that at least 14 species have been reduced 50%. Research in England has shown that since 1968 the whitethroat (warbler) has been reduced 88% and the red-backed shrike 91%."

The article goes on to describe the ecological vicious cycle we are familiar with - the sharp rise in insects, more use of pesticides which in turn kill more birds, thus more insects, ad infinitum.

As one of your Directors I contacted National Audubon and sent a copy of the article (they will get a translation). They will keep me posted as to what they are doing and what the local chapters can do. We must exert all pressure we can to end this brutal, ecologically catastrophic practice.

Al Lemke

"WRING-OFF" FURRIERS & TRAPPERS" -

The trapping of wildlife is defended by the trappers and the fur industry on several spurious grounds. Obviously, their sole interest in killing animals is money, and their self-glorification arguments are easy to rebut.

First, the myth that trapping saves wildlife from a slow death of disease like mange and rabies. This nonsense is dispelled by a scientific tribunal, the National Academy of Sciences. Their booklet entitled "Control of Rabies," states: "Persistent trapping or poisoning campaigns as a means to rabies control should be abolished. There is no evidence that these costly and politically attractive programs reduce either wildlife reservoirs or rabies incidence."

Second, the trapper claims a right to "take" wildlife because he has paid for the privilege. In fact, trapping and hunting license fees pay the salaries of State Fish and Game Commission. Thus we see a total commitment in word and deed by the Government bureaucrats to their own self-interest which is wedded to that of the trappers and hunters.

Third, -the incredible statement that animals do not suffer in the jaws of leg-hold traps is dispelled by the trappers' own term "wring-off," to describe the single leg found in the trap after the victim has chewed off to escape pain and confinement.

It is incontrovertible that wild animals belong to all the people, not just the killers. The time has come to end the war on wildlife. We must replace Fish and Game Commissions by animal protection agencies. The public at large must also be convinced not to subsidize an industry that exists solely by stealing the very skins off our fellow creatures. By refusing to purchase products made from the skins of wildlife, we will dry up this activity that is as outdated as thumb-screws and the rack.

Mike Smiles

Clip and Post ↓ ↓

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY

SOUTH SHORE CHAPTER

Membership Campaign

JANUARY 1, 1975

JUNE 30, 1975

Are you interested in protecting your environment?--- Would you like to more about birds?--- Go on bird walks?--- Nature walks?--- If so, ---

JOIN US, FREE WILDLIFE PRINTS by **GUY CONELEACH**, to be autographed by him. at our March meeting (March 11th), given to each new member who joins within the first three month period; but autographed only in March.

Members who secure new members will also receive prints.

JOIN NOW.

CALL: Dorothy Lovering - 485-9826

!CLIP THE ABOVE AND POST IN A PUBLIC PLACE. ✓ ✓

-- FROM THE BIRDING FRONT --

Bird Walks for February, March, April, May:

All walks start at 10:00 A.M. unless otherwise stated, and there is no walk if it rains, snows, or the temperature is 25 degrees or below.

- February 2 - Jamaica Bay
9 - Pelham Bay - Meet at 9:00 A.M. on the through side of the Toll Booth at Throgg's Neck Bridge.
16 - Tobay, J. F. Kennedy Sanctuary
23 - West End, Parking Field #2, N.W. Corner
- March 2 - Jamaica Bay
9 - Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. Corner
16 - Tobay, J.F. Kennedy Sanctuary
23 - West End Parking Field #2, N.E. Corner
30 - West End Parking Field #2, N.W. Corner
- April 6 - Zach's Bay, Parking Field #4, N.E. Corner
13 - Jamaica Bay
20 - Tobay, J.F. Kennedy Sanctuary
27 - Tobay, J.F. Kennedy Sanctuary
- May 4 - West End, Parking Field #2, N.W. Corner
11 - Jamaica Bay

NOTE: I would like to plan a Pelagic Trip in June. Please call me if you are interested. Telephone: IV.6-7667.

Elliott Kutner
Chairman, Birding

TACKAPAUSHA WELCOMES SPECIMENS:

Tackapausha, our County Museum in Seaford, would welcome any specimens of birds, especially, and small animals, such as mice, if these are found in our yards or elsewhere. Of course, specimens in good condition; and unusual birds are especially welcome, and preferred. But, any specimens may be useful. Specimens should be wrapped in foil and put in a plastic bag, and put in the freezer until they can be taken to the museum. They can be taken directly to the Museum; or, if in doubt, 'phone first - Dr. Robert G. Wolk, Curator, Tackapausha Museum - 516-292-4266.

FROM OUR FELLOW MEMBERS:-

Morris Beldon of Syosset writes and sends a colored picture of a "White-headed sparrow" which is frequenting his patio along with all the other sparrows. He says this is described by Roger Tory Peterson in his Bird Guide as a sub-species, rather than an albino streak. Unfortunately, snapshots (and this was a colored enlargement) cannot be reproduced in our Newsletter, but it might be interesting to know that the picture is now with Dr. Wolk at the Museum for study.

And From Westbury:

"Dear Fellow Members: - Maybe you will enjoy this story of my thoughts and impressions of winter happenings in my garden.

For the past 3 years, I have had a female oriole visit my garden. Today, December 23, as I write, I saw the first male Baltimore Oriole. He was feeding on the seed cake and enjoying every bit of it as if to say "Where did this delicious food come from?" And the Red Breasted Nuthatch has just joined him.

On December 26, I spotted what looked like a white Cowbird. He had the walk, flight, looks and mannerisms of a Cowbird, except for the very pale tan head and chest, with normal black legs of a Cowbird.

Every winter I make a supply of suet cakes mixed with cornmeal and peanut butter. The Purple Finch, Pine Siskins, Gold Finch, etc. feast on it. The Chickadees have not discovered the cakes yet. They are content feeding on the bags of fresh suet and picking seeds out of pine cones from the spruce and pine trees surrounding the garden..

Squirrels and Blue Jays are begging for peanuts as usual. The Song Sparrows twitter to themselves, giving a small imitation of their spring song, anticipating that hopeful event. White Throats and Fox Sparrows are shuffling and picking among the dry leaves on the ground. The Mockingbird sitting on the tip of the highest tree, gossiping with everyone. The Starlings waddling around like clowns at a circus, or fighting each other for a scrap of food. Various birds are sitting around the rim of the heated bird bath drinking. It looks like they are bowing to each other at a square dance. A Robin makes an unexpected visit to enjoy the bird bath.

An old galvanized bucket sits on the back terrace, filled with beach stones and rain water. This seems to be a special treat for all the birds. It is constantly being used and I have to keep the water replenished.

The Downy Woodpecker makes his daily appearance, inspecting the tree trunks and pecking at the bags of suet. The Cardinal, flitting in and out of trees, flashing his brilliant red color to brighten the dreariest day. The Mourning Doves gracefully stroll across the lawn, then fly up with that odd whirring sound of wings as two Squirrels chase each other across the garden and up and down trees.

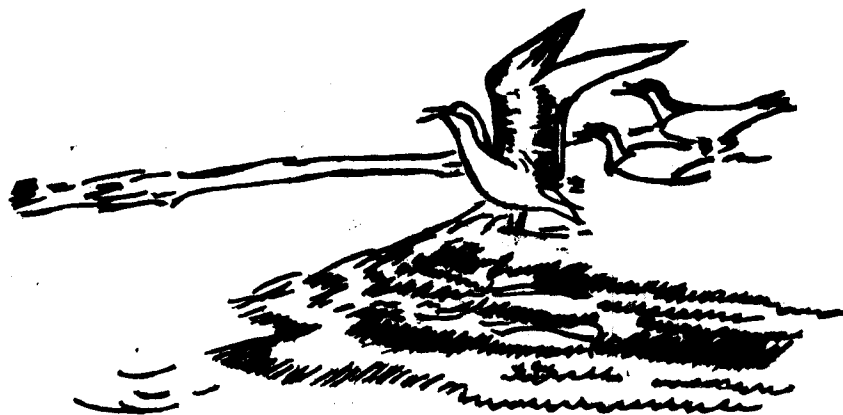
Afternoons are reserved for the birds' daily gossip sessions conducted in the various trees and bushes. On rainy days, it starts early in the morning and continues all day. At times the sound is deafening as their debates become heated.

My special reward comes when I spot a special bird that is not seen too often, or a flock of Evening Grosbeaks feeding on sunflower seeds. Winter time in my garden has as much activity as the rest of the year and there is a continuous panorama of bird life that I never tire of."

Grace Fazio, Westbury

TELEPHONE NUMBERS FOR INJURED BIRDS:

Bird Hospital, Huntington, Mrs. Sallie Ruppert - Tel. HA. 7-2639
Mrs. Arlene Thomas, Hollis, Queens - Tel. 212-HO. 8-2330
A. & A. Veterinary Hospital, Franklin Square - Tel. GE. 7-2222



-- NEXT MEETING --
-- Tuesday, February 11 --
-- Freeport Library --
-- 8:15 P.M. --

-- SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY --

Officers - Committee Chairmen, 1974-75

Michael Smiles, President	- 1279 Melville Rd., Farmingdale, N.Y.#11735 Tel. 293-7225
Elliott Kutner, Vice-President	- 461 Dunster Court, West Hempstead, N.Y.11552 Tel. 293-7225
Patricia Davis, Conservation	- 7 Myers Ave., Hicksville, N.Y. #11801 Tel. 822-6189
Dorothy Lovering, Membership	- 45 Oakmont Ave., Hempstead, N.Y. #11550 Tel. 485-9826
Miriam E. Raynor, Editor	- 127 Morris Ave., Rockville Centre, N.Y.#11570 Tel. Ro.4-6204

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