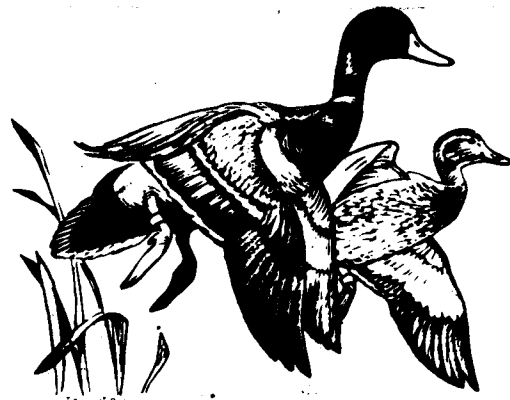


SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

Newsletter



VOLUME 5, No. 7

MARCH 1975

- NEXT MEETING -

Our next meeting will be March 11th. This will be our big meeting - Mr. Guy Coheleach will be our speaker and will also show one of his films of wildlife - not the same one that he showed at our dinner meeting in June. He will also be there to autograph the prints which people have won in our Membership Drive.

The Board meeting will be on March 4th.

COMING EVENTS

WILDLIFE FILM - The next and last film in the series at the Town Hall Auditorium 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.

ART AND CRAFT SHOW - Tentatively scheduled for May 18th at Calvary Temple, pending confirmation from the custodian. PLAN NOW. Call the Fischers with entries - RO. 4-6529.

FIELD TRIPS - planned by the Education Committee. All are on a Saturday. Call or write Linda Schlotterhausen - 516-561-0247 - Before 10 P.M. All at 10:00 A.M.

March 15th - A Walk Along A Barrier Beach - Jones Beach Parking Field #6.

April 26th - Plants of the Marsh. J.F.Kennedy Sanctuary - Tobay Beach.

May 17th - Woodland Plants of Long Island - Muttontown Preserve - Route 25A, near Route 107, Muttontown.

THEODORE ROOSEVELT SANCTUARY - Nature programs are still being presented on the second Sunday of every month - 1:30 P.M. - at the Sanctuary. Upcoming events are:

March 9th - Dirty Discoveries - Learn all about DIRT.

April 13th - Pests and Pesticides.

May 11th - Nature Photography.

On March 22nd, Saturday, at 10:00 A.M. the Resident Naturalist, Mr. Alan Ruppert, will be organizing committees for work with the Waterfowl Rescue Team in case of oil spills. This is a follow-up to a very successful initial meeting in January on demonstrating the cleaning and rescue methods of oiled waterfowl. If anyone is interested in helping in this very worthwhile project, please call the Sanctuary, 922-3200, for further details.

- PRESIDENT'S PAGE -

I would like to repeat my message of last month concerning the special membership drive South Shore Audubon is conducting. With the recent increase in dues and the economic situation of the country, South Shore Audubon has had a decrease in members during the past few months. This is a drastic change from the continuous growth we have experienced since the organization was first formed. Therefore, I feel it most necessary to emphasize the importance of this membership drive and hope that you, our members, will help to spread the word of this drive to as many people as possible. A good response to our membership campaign will help your chapter to grow and continue to offer services to its members and help protect the environment of not only Long Island but anywhere in the world help is needed. This takes money and our prime source of income is our dues share when an individual joins the National Audubon Society.

As many of you know by now, we are giving away Guy Coheleach prints for new members joining our chapter. Below is a brief synopsis of the rules for distribution of these prints:

NEW MEMBERS:

- 1. An individual membership (\$15.00) has a choice of one Cat Head or one Imperial Eagle Head.
- 2. A family membership (\$18.) has a choice of two Cat Heads or one Cat Head and one Imperial Eagle Head.
- 3. A sustaining membership (\$30.) has a choice of four Cat Heads or the Imperial Eagle Head and the Short-eared Owl.
- 4. A supporting membership (\$50. or more), has a choice of the Golden Eagle and the Short-eared Owl or the entire Cat Head portfolio (6 prints).

EXISTING MEMBERS:

- 1. If an existing member brings in two new members, he will receive the same as #1 above.
- 2. If he brings in five new members, he will receive the same as #4 above.

NOTE: These prints are all subject to availability. Substitutions may have to be made.

ELIGIBILITY:

- 1. All members solicited must be residents of Long Island, including Brooklyn and Queens.
- 2. All members solicited must be brand new. No renewals will be accepted.
- 3. New members MUST pick up their print (or prints) in person at the March or April meeting. Existing members can pick up their initialed prints at any time, but no later than the April meeting. NO PRINTS will be mailed or delivered to anyone - existing members or new members.
- 4. Cut off date is March 31st.

Membership applications will be available at our March meeting or by writing or calling me or our Membership Chairman, Dorothy Lovering (485-9826). If you are unable to come to the March meeting, you may mail your membership application to the above mentioned people before March 31. Prints will be available to be picked up at our April meeting.

Mr. Guy Coheleach will be at the March meeting to present a program as well as to sign prints. We all owe a debt of gratitude to him for his generous donation of time and prints. Let's show our appreciation by making this campaign a success. REMEMBER -- this special Guy Coheleach print giveaway ends March 31st -- there is only one month left!

Mike Smiles President

- LEGISLATION - CONSERVATION -

OFF-SHORE OIL DRILLING HEARINGS: As you know, these public hearings are being held in Trenton, N.J., from February 11th through the 14th. Along with several other members, I will make the trip on the 14th and make a brief statement. Over 200 people are expected to make statements, including the governors of New Jersey, Delaware, New Hampshire and Rhode Island. Under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Federal Government is required to hold these hearings before it leases additional acreage for offshore oil and natural gas rights. This information will be forwarded to the Bureau of Land Management who will produce the final environmental statement. After a Council of Environmental Quality review, it goes to Secretary Rogers C. B. Morton. I personally believe Secretary Morton has given the green light to the oil companies, but we can still put up a good fight anyway! If you are unable to attend the hearings, please keep writing to President Ford and Secretary Morton to voice your opposition to off-shore oil drilling in the Atlantic. State Assembly Minority leader, Perry Duryea, Jr., recently released a poll stating that 61% of the Montauk Republicans First District constituents favor oil drilling in the Atlantic. If this is the case, a great many people need to be educated!

"BOTTLE BILLS": A Presidential advisory commission recommended recently the passage of controversial Federal legislation mandating a refundable deposit on beer and soft drink containers as a key energy-saving measure. The energy saving would result from the re-use of the same container over and over again. Now a new bottle is made every time one is thrown away. The committee, Citizens Advisory Committee on Environmental Quality, called for Federal regulations because it would be less disruptive than State--by-State laws. Returnable bottles will also help solve the growing solid waste problem. Oregon, Vermont, and South Dakota are the only States with bottle laws at present. The so-called "bottle bills" have stirred controversy because of sharp opposition from the can, bottle, and beverage industries who argue that many jobs will be lost (and perhaps some profits?).

SUFFOLK COUNTY will conduct experiments to see how oil and water will mix and whether the mixture can cut 15% to 20% off fuel bills. The County has leased an ultrasonic fuel-reactor which homogenizes an oil and water mixture. The system injects particles of water into the fuel oil just before burning so that particles of oil cling to them. When the mixture is ignited, the water vaporizes and breaks the oil into a finer mist, which results in more efficient burning.

FALCONRY: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has been in the process of writing and revising Federal regulations for the practice of falconry. If it is not banned in a particular State, falconry will be legal in that State. The result of legalized falconry will be the permitting of an annual harvest of a wildlife resource at a time when there is no accurate data on the raptor population. Some serious and expert falconers are merely pet keepers unable to successfully train the birds and fearful of flying them. Please let Secretary Rogers C. B. Morton know how we feel on this problem. Write: The Hon. Rogers C. B. Morton, Interior Dept., Washington, D.C. #20240.

Pat Davis
Chairman, Conservation/Legislation

-- FROM THE BIRDING FRONT --

BIRD WALKS for 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.

- March - 2 - Jamaica
 - 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

Don't forget to let Elliott Kutner know if you are interested in a Pelagic Trip in June. IV.6-7667.

Elliott Kutner
Chairman, Birding

MORE LETTERS NEEDED:- This time from Defenders of Wildlife comes the information that the National Woolgrowers Association is launching a major campaign to persuade President Ford to cancel the Executive Order ban on the use of poisons for predator control on public lands which was instituted by President Nixon.

Another important matter now at stake is that the Department of the Interior has proposed injurious wildlife regulations which are basically sound and which would greatly reduce the trapping and importation of foreign birds and other wildlife to satisfy the U.S. pet trade. Pet dealers and others are now seeking to weaken these regulations. Therefore, it is urgent that you write separately on this to Secretary Morton. Express opposition to the weakening of the injurious wildlife regulations as published in the Federal Register of February 1974.

On the predator control, write to: President Gerald Ford
The White House
Washington, D.C. #20500

and to: The Hon. Rogers C.B. Morton
Secretary of the Interior
Washington, D.C. #20242

On the injurious wildlife regulations, write separately to: The Hon. Rogers C.B. Morton
Secretary of the Interior
Washington, D.C. #20242

Al Lemke has written on both of these as one of our Directors.

Birds Have A Right to Live Also

In last month's newsletter I described the mass slaughter of birds in Italy. Now the United States Army, in cooperation with the city of Paducah, Kentucky, not to be outdone by any other nation, has commenced its own campaign of mass extirpation.

Regrettably, many bird lovers approve, or at least do not disapprove, of this action. I have even heard comments by our own members to the effect that starlings are a nuisance, they crowd out our native birds, they are far too numerous, etc.

These arguments contain several fallacies. In the first place, not only starlings were murdered; there were also many grackles and redwings, indigenous American species.

It is also argued that these birds are so numerous that man couldn't possibly endanger them. The identical statement was made of the passenger pigeon.

The method of killing was quite brutal. To quote a report by the United Press International: "Sprayed birds benumbed by the cold dropped from their roosts and skittered along the ground. Later the birds huddled together for warmth and some hours later began dying by the thousands."

These birds congregate in such masses in this area because of the dense stands of pine that were planted by the Army. The thinning out of these groves would automatically thin out the blackbirds without resort to such hideous methods.

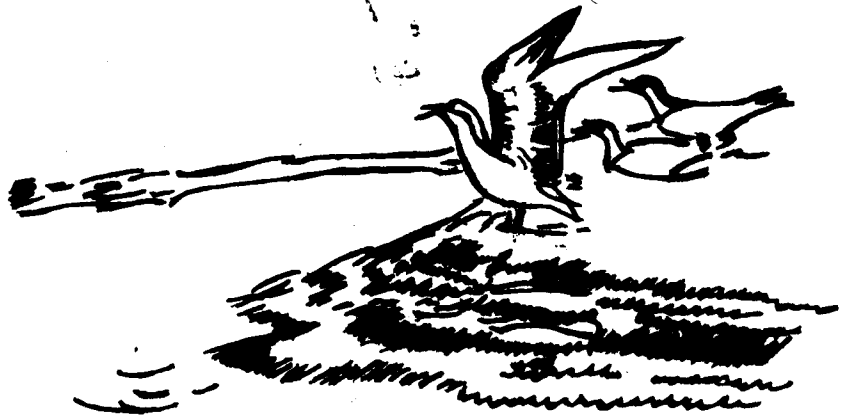
Man imported the starling into America. The bird had no choice in the matter. Is it just to subject them to slow mass death to atone for man's stupidity? There is no scientific evidence that the birds spread disease.

If we, as bird-lovers, permit massacres of birds we consider less than desirable we will have permitted the establishment of a precedent that can be cited by other groups desirous of slaughtering other species of birds or animals.

And lastly, who are we, or the United States Army, or the worthy leaders of Paducah, to decree which species of birds are fit to live? These birds may be a nuisance, but I believe they deserved a better fate than this.

Al Lemke

-- NEXT MEETING --
-- Tuesday, March 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 I.V. 6-7667
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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