

SOUTH SHORE SKIMMER



SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

VOL. 7, NO. 1

SEPTEMBER 1976

I AM JUST ONE OF THE MANY ADORABLE AND INTERESTING ANIMALS YOU WILL SEE IN AL LEMKE'S COLORFUL SLIDES OF AUSTRALIA AND

"AUSTRALIAN ANIMALS"

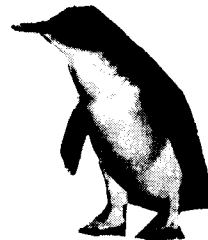


TUESDAY,
SEPTEMBER 14TH

8:15 P.M.
FREEPORT LIBRARY



FORMER S S A S PRESIDENT,
AL LEMKE



Dear Friends:

I hope you all have a wonderful summer and are ready to begin another active and enjoyable year in South Shore Audubon. Again, I am asking you to send me your articles, stories, and artwork so that we can make the "Skimmer" more entertaining and informative each and every month. I look forward to working with you in the coming year. See you on Sept. 14th.

Pat Davis, Editor

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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

In the life of every organization, there is a time of assessment and recognition. I feel that my first statement, as your president, is the appropriate vehicle for such an accounting.

Where did we start, where have we been, what is our future?

Alvin Friedman started South Shore Audubon with the strong support of his wife, Laurie. Because of his imagination and dedication, we have a viable instrument, pledged to educate and serve this community. Alvin has a very special faculty. He recognizes in people, their capacity and desire to serve. It was at his behest that I took the job of Field Trip Director in 1970. I have never regretted one Sunday in all of these years.

Our second president, Al Lemke, brought us many new firsts. Under his stewardship, we started a scholarship program for 12-14 year olds and one for adults. We ran our first Audubon Film Series for the South Shore community and instituted an "ARTS & CRAFTS in Nature Fair. Al Lemke is a thoughtful man. Our chapter looks to him to justify the propriety of our acts and programs.

Mike Smiles was our third president. In his administration, we developed our first budget. The budget gives us guidelines to intelligent spending of our funds. We have strong representation on the Board of Directors of the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary in the persons of Mike and Asa Starkweather. Our chapter is party to a suit against the federal Environmental Protection Agency concerning the management of waste water and its effect on our water table. Mike gave his personal support and sanction to my investigation of federal mishandling of lands at Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge. We were the prime movers in the formation of a Citizens Liason Committee that continues to meet with the National Park Service and acts as a watchdog over every government action pertaining to Jamaica Bay.

In May of this year, 1976, we were part of a Bicentennial Program at Jones Beach, entitled "Flight - Man and Birds". Al Lemke and Bruce Phillips presented a slide show of birds that are native to our area. Elliott Kutner gave a motion picture program of shore birds that use the area as their breeding grounds. We climaxed our participation with a bird walk that made Newsday Nature Column. On that walk, Elliott spotted and pointed out to the very generous group, a pair of Black Terns. We had people from England and Norway on that walk. It was videotaped and we will show it at one of our meetings.

All of these firsts are part of our regular programming. Our bird walks led by Elliott Kutner and now run in association with Paul Butkereiit, are known throughout the metropolitan area. We are the only organization to have a weekly walk through the winter at such accessible locations and times.

PAST IS PROLOGUE.

Thanks to the efforts of Al Friedman, Al Lemke and Mike Smiles, we have a solid foundation in membership and a strong, motivated Board. I cannot stress the critical import of your participation in all of our programs. If you are a dues-paying member, then start by attending our meetings. We meet every second Tuesday of the month. If you are a regular at our meetings, and have some idea that you consider constructive in the area of Environmental Protection, please step up and make me aware of your ideas, or speak to Paul Butkereiit. We promise to be as good as your support allows. There are many projects we want to bring to our community in the future. All of our programs need people who care. That qualifies every one of our members. You joined us because you care. Allow me to close by offering you my best efforts and asking each one of you for yours.

Elliott R. Kutner

"SKIMMER SHORTS"

Wildflowers and Spiders

It's amazing how you can go through an area, after a few weeks absence, and be surprised at the changes. In my case, I was walking through one of my favorite spots and the most notable changes were in the wildflowers. As I walking along the path, I saw the Sweet Goldenrod (*Solidago odora*) was beginning to bloom. Of course, the Queen-Annes-Lace was displaying its lacey top. This flower is also known as the Wild Carrot. Its root is similar, but smaller than the carrot and it is edible.

As I got nearer to the water and swamp area, I was pleasantly surprised by the sight of Swamp Rose Mallow (*Hibiscus palustris*). The flower is pink and quite large. They were towering above the other plants along the bank. While photographing these, I was once more surprised to see, within a few feet, a Broadleaf Arrowhead (*Sagittaria latifolia*). As this was the first time that I had ever seen one, it made my day. It was like seeing an Indigo Bunting or an Evening Grosbeak for the first time. The plant gets its name from its arrowhead shaped leaf. The flower is small with three white petals. The Indians and early settlers roasted its tubers.

The Spotted Touch-Me-Nots (*Impatiens capensis*) were in bloom. Their little orange blossoms were hanging like pendants. When their seed pods are ripe, they explode, scattering the seeds. At the edge of the swamp, in the dryer land, the Spotted Joe-Pye-Weed (*Eupatorium maculatum*) with its dull, purplish flower was almost ready to burst into full bloom.

Also within a few feet of the Mallow, I spied a spider hanging in the middle of its web. Looking a little closer, I saw that it was a Black and Yellow Argiope (*Argiope aurantia*). When I was a kid we used to call them Garden Spiders. It was always in the gardens that we used to see them. I hadn't seen one in years. Looking around, I counted ten more! The last was the largest; body length was about an inch long and quite stout with a leg span of about two and one half inches. (The following day I went back and counted fifteen. I am sure that there were probably more.)

The Argiope Spiders are known as the orb weavers or aerial web spinners. Their web is usually spread, in the air, between two plants. It may measure up to two feet across. Its purpose is to trap food. When an insect lands in the web, the vibration alerts the spider. The spider then quickly spins a blanket of silk around the entrapped victim. The spider usually rests in the middle of the web with its head down.

If I were to say that it was very pretty, I am sure that many people might disagree. But it was quite so with its black and yellow markings.

Stan Ziminski

GOOD NEWS:

At the Cincinnati Zoo a black and gold Bengal tigress has given birth to seven white tigers. At present, there are only 40 white tigers - Bengals and Siberians - known to exist.

The crow is now protected by law as a game bird which can only be hunted at specific seasons designated by the Dept. of Environmental Conservation.



A Wish for Our Members
(To the tune of "I Wish You Love")

I wish you bluebirds in the spring
A mockingbird who'll always sing,
Ospreys to soar, forevermore,
So wild and free.

I wish you warblers by the score,
A flock of egrets at the shore,
Goldfinches bright your souls delight
Perpetually.

The beauties of the avian world
In sight and sound for you unfurled,
To see and hear, to bring you cheer
Throughout the year.

And when December's cold winds howl
A soaring hawk, a snowy owl,
Snow buntings swarm, your hearts to warm
Eternally.

Al Lemke



AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILMS

Sponsored by South Shore Audubon Society

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29 --- CHARLES HOTCHKISS, "EXPLORING BIG BEND"

Big Bend National Park encompasses territory that was once ruined by ranchers who overgrazed the land. Demonstrating its remarkable ability to restore itself, nature is renewing the animal and plant life of the Chisos Mountains and the arid Chihuahuan Desert. Mr. Hotchkiss' film shows these areas plus the cacti, ferns, snakes, hummingbirds, bats, deer, and other species that inhabit Big Bend country.

Other films on the agenda for the coming months:

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11 --- NORMAN WAKEMAN, "PACIFIC SHORES"

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 1 --- ROBERT FULTZ, "ACADIAN REFLECTIONS"

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 2 --- WALTER BERLET, "WEST SIDE STORY: MEXICO TO ALASKA"

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23 --- HENRY PETERSON, "BAHAMAS: TOP TO BOTTOM"

(I will give you a capsule review of each film above before the showing date.-Ed.) These films are shown at the Hempstead Town Pavillion.

If you wish to order tickets, please write: Town of Hempstead
Dept. of Parks & Recreation
Recreation Dept.
50 Clinton Street
Hempstead, N.Y. 11550

The telephone number is 489-5000, ext. 323.

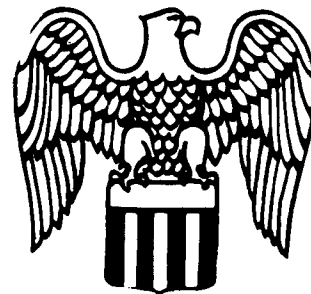
Dear Readers:

The following information was sent to me by Al Lemke from the League of Conservation Voters. Ed.

"The Presidential Candidates - A Report by the League of Conservation Voters"

The League of Conservation Voters has issued a detailed profile rating the candidates on various issues - nuclear energy, coal mining, synthetic fuels, off-shore oil drilling, energy strategy, rivers and water projects, public lands and parks, fish and wildlife, pesticides, land use planning, population, transportation, air pollution, water pollution, solid wastes, toxic substances. A report card grade was given in each category, from A to F. An overall rating was given each candidate, based on their statements and primarily records in office. Space prohibits the detailed analyses, but the final comments follow:

Ford	Hopeless
Church	Fair-Good
Humphrey	Fair
Jackson	Fair-Mixed
Udall	Outstanding
Brown	Good
Carter	Outstanding
Reagan	Bad
Wallace	Hopeless



Jimmy Carter's record as governor of Georgia, a state notoriously lax on environmental issues, comes as a very pleasant surprise. It is a record of very solid accomplishments in the face of heavy opposition.

The League also gave each representative a percentage rating based on his vote in Congress on twenty-one major conservation issues. A percentage of the "correct" vote to the issues the congressmen voted on is computed, and two points deducted for each absence during the vote. The Long Island delegation stacked up as follows:

Pike	76%
Downey	90
Ambro	90
Lent	43
Wydler	65
Wolff	86

Incidentally, the average percentage of the ten-man Georgia delegation was a scintillating 25.9% led by two zeroes and a 3%. This is the attitude Carter faced as governor.

Al Lemke

REMINDER: On Saturday, November 6 and February 12, South Shore Audubon will sponsor a "Bird Seed Savings Day" where we will be selling bird seed to benefit the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary. So, please wait to buy your winter supply of seed and give your financial support to the Sanctuary. More on this next month!



OCT. NEWS DEADLINE SEPT. 10

---NEXT MEETING---
TUES., SEPT. 14
8:15 P.M.
FREEPORT LIBRARY

---COMING EVENTS---

SUN., SEPT. 12 "Summers End Woodlands Walk"
Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary, 1:30 P.M.

TUES., SEPT. 14 Regular Meeting
"Australian Animals"
Freeport Library, 8:15 P.M.

WED., SEPT. 29 Audubon Film Series
"Exploring Big Bend"
Hempstead Town Pavillion, 8:15 P.M.

SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY
OFFICERS

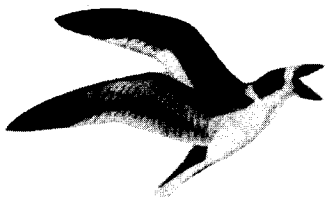
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BIRDING — FALL 1976

- Sept. 12—West End #2 N.W. corner
- Sept. 19—Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- Sept. 26—West End #2 N.E. corner
- Oct. 3—Short Beach Parking (Jones Beach)
- Oct. 10—Tobay — J.F. Kennedy Sct.
- Oct. 17—Jamaica Bay W. R.
- Oct. 24—West End #2 N.W. corner
- Oct. 31—Tobay — J. F. Kennedy Sct.
- Nov. 7—Jamaica Bay W. R.



FIRST CLASS MAIL