

SOUTH SHORE SKIMMER



SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

VOL. 7, NO. 5

JANUARY 1977

NEXT MEETING:

TUESDAY, JANUARY 11TH
8:15 P.M., FREEPORT LIBRARY

GUEST SPEAKER:

Ms. Hortie Block, World Traveler

SUBJECT:

"Birds and Animals Around the World"



Ms. Hortie Block has traveled extensively through many diverse and exciting countries photographing birds and wildlife. Her excellent color slides are a special treat! Please, don't miss our next meeting ----
TUESDAY, JANUARY 11TH, 8:15 P.M., FREEPORT LIBRARY ---- See you there!

BIRD SEED SAVINGS DAY - JANUARY 22ND

Our second Bird Seed Sale will be held on January 22nd at the Tackapausha Museum parking lot between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. The museum is located on Washington Avenue in Seaford, just north of Merrick Road and 1/4 mile south of Sunrise Highway. Washington Avenue runs N-S and crosses both these roads. Please remember that January 13 is the last day for pre-ordering, but there will be extra seed available on the day of the sale. If you would like to help with the sale, please call MA 3-2114 week-ends, or LY 3-4554 Tuesday-Friday. The sale held this past Nov. 6 netted \$600 for the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary. We are hoping for an even greater response in January to add much needed dollars to the Sanctuary's budget. Thank you.

Paul Butkereit



PRESIDENT'S PAGE

This is the time of year we give ourselves up to our deepest feelings and longings. There is a fellowship amongst us unique in our personal relationships, and it is all so good! What is so sad is that we qualify our ideas with ----" this time of year" and " unique". How much better--- if we could extend these special feelings throughout the days of each year, incorporating them into our daily activities, instead of relegating the best of us to a special season. It is implicit in our membership in this society that we care. Let us rededicate ourselves to caring--- caring about each other and this world full of wonderful things placed in our trust to use----- wisely!

Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah, Happy ,Healthy New Year
to each and every one of you!





Elliott R. Kutner
Elliott R. Kutner

We are starting a Feeder Survey of Birds. Please keep a log of the numbers of the following birds at your feeders - by the month. The Skimmer Bulletin deadline is printed on the back of your bulletin. Please send your computations to our editor, Pat Davis, 7 Myers Avenue, Hicksville, N.Y. 11801.

MOURNING DOVE _____
 DOWNY WOODPECKER _____
 BLUE JAY _____
 BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE _____
 TUFTED TITMOUSE _____
 WHITE-BREASTED NUTHATCH _____
 MOCKINGBIRD _____
 STARLING _____
 HOUSE SPARROW _____
 RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD _____
 HAIKY WOODPECKER _____

COMMON GRACKLE _____
 BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD _____
 CARDINAL _____
 EVENING GROSBEAK _____
 HOUSE FINCH _____
 AM. GOLDFINCH _____
 TOWHEE _____
 SLATE-COLORED JUNCO _____
 TREE SPARROW _____
 WHITE-THROAT SPARROW _____
 SONG SPARROW _____
 FOX SPARROW _____

 CONSERVATION NEWS 

Adirondack Park, three times larger than Yellowstone and equal in size to the State of Vermont, is the largest and possibly the most beautiful park east of the Mississippi. This graphically varied six-million acre expanse is presently managed by the Adirondack Park Agency, an independent, non-partisan agency within the State Executive Department. The Agency is intrusted to oversee the use of lands which are 38% state owned and 62% privately owned. The private sector is devoted principally to forestry, agriculture and open space recreation. Created in 1971, the Park Agency was given two chores: first, to prepare a plan for the management of state lands in cooperation with the Department of Environmental Conservation, and secondly, to plan for the regulation of development of non-state owned lands. In answer to the first directive, the Agency categorized the state owned tracts into areas designated either wilderness, primitive, intensive use or wild forest, also outlined was the extent to which each of these areas could be utilized. In the private sector, the Agency is aiding local governments to establish land use policies through zoning. The plan here is to preserve as much as possible the natural resources and open space character of the park, while providing ample opportunity for necessary development.

The Park Agency, which has never been well liked by developers or wholly understood by local residents, has in the past few months come under severe pressure. Major developers would like to see a lessening in regulations on land use policies, or if possible the dismantling of the Park Agency. This new tide of Agency resentment may be linked to the upcoming Olympic Games in Lake Placid. Whatever the reason, the developers, with the prediction of increased revenue, have gained the ears of many State Representatives and a change in park management policies may be forthcoming. A second major problem confronting the Agency is a lack of funds. Due to the states' fiscal crisis, previously allotted funds for programs in zoning management have either been cut or drastically reduced. If these programs fail, the Agency will lose any trust it may now have with local residents. Word is needed in Albany that the Park Agency is doing the job it was established for, that of managing a resource that belongs to every New Yorker. If you have any strong views on how the park should be handled let your State Representative and the Governor know. Additional information can be obtained by writing to Adirondack Park Agency, Box 19, Ray Brook, New York 12977.

The New York Academy of Sciences will be holding two meetings in January concerned with the environment. On January 12, the topic will be "Oxygen in the Treatment of Sewage: Pressure-Recycling Oxidation Sewage Treatment," and on the 19th, "Environmental Misconceptions in Pollution Control Systems." Both meetings start at 8:00 PM in the Academy building at 2 East 63 Street, N.Y., N.Y. There may be a charge for non-members but you are allowed to attend.

Paul Butkerei, Conservation

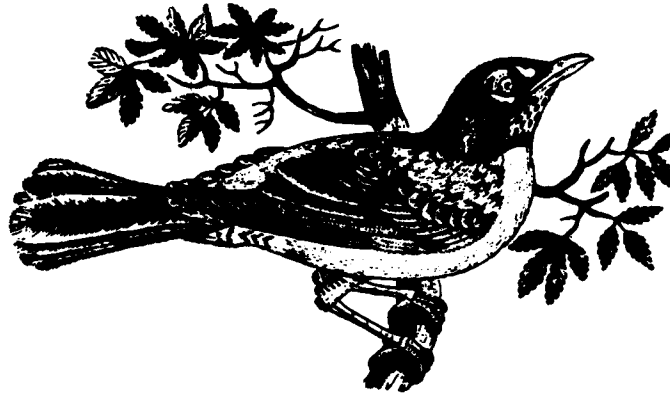


AT THE THEODORE ROOSEVELT SANCTUARY:

On December 12, Alan and Estelle Ruppert hosted a Christmas Family Celebration which my 4 year-old son is still talking about! As we made pine cone treats for the birds (pine cones covered with corn meal, peanut butter, raisins, bird seeds and nuts), some of the children dressed up as the different birds we see in winter and the other children took turns guessing each one's identity. Alan and Estelle then explained the eating habits of each bird.

After stringing popcorn and cranberries, we placed all our bird goodies on the Christmas tree outside with Santa Claus leading the way. Homemade cookies and cider was served after the tree decorating. We all had a wonderful time! Thank you, Alan and Estelle (and Santa Claus) for such a nice day!

Pat Davis

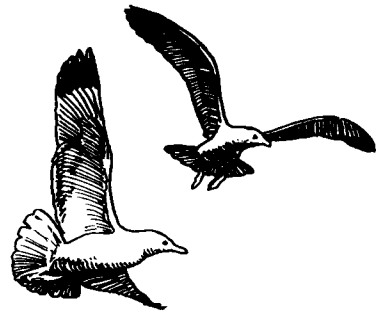


WHOLESALE BINOCULARS

South Shore Audubon has the unique opportunity of offering its members a chance to purchase the best in binoculars and wildlife viewing equipment. All items will be purchased through a connection with Bushnell, and will enable us to realize savings of 30 to 50%. To acquire this special discount the orders must be placed in groups of twelve. Even at these tremendously reduced prices, the chapter will earn a small profit on each sale. The proceeds will be added to our Sanctuary Fund. We will feature a wide variety of binoculars, scopes, tripods and accessories. Bushnell's popular and inexpensive Sportview 7x35 and 8x40 insta-focus and center focus, as well as the top of the line Banner Broadfield, Featherweight, and Custom glasses will be available. Any members who are interested in further information should contact Joan Butkerei, LY 3-4554 or Asa Starkweather, LY 9-5824.

IMPORTANT: Mrs. Fran File, Great South Bay Audubon, called me re our article on putting glycerine in birdbaths to keep the water from freezing. The article from which I quoted was dated 1960. Mrs. File reported that in 1965 Cornell University released a report which stated that too much glycerine in the water is extremely harmful to the weatherproofing of the bird's feathers if they bathe in it. As the size of each birdbath is different, it would be impossible to say how much is too much. Therefore, PLEASE DO NOT USE GLYCERINE TO DEFREEZE YOUR BIRDBATH WATER! Electric warmers are much safer. Thanks, Fran, for this most important info.-Ed.

SKIMMER SHORTS



A Few Notes on Finding Rare Gulls on Long Island

The primary fact one should know in the pursuit of rare gulls is that most gulls are regulated in their feeding habits by tidal movements. Of course, with the introduction of man's sewage pipes and garbage dumps, this premise is nonfunctional, but apart from these two feeding habitats, which incidentally are highly important to the local success of gull populations, gulls maintain their basic population survival to the exploitation of tidal ecological niches.

These tidal ecological niches can be broken down into two basic zones: exposed tidal flats and surge tides. The various species of gulls locally present can also be separated into two basically recognizable feeding patterns which utilize the aforementioned zones.

Exposed tidal flats are the favorite feeding habitat of the Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Great Black-backed Gull. They feed on various marine organisms left exposed on beaches and flats at low tide. Here is where you will have your best chance to find their rare relatives such as the Mew Gull, Thayer's Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Glaucous Gull, and Iceland Gull.

Tidal movements are the most desired feeding habitat of surface feeding gulls such as the Laughing Gull and Bonaparte's Gull. These agile gulls can be readily seen feeding on incoming tides at the inlets of Long Island, picking marine organisms off the surface of the water. Here is where you can expect to find their rarer relatives: Franklin's Gull, Black-headed Gull, Little Gull.

With the exception of Franklin's Gull, which is most often present in the fall and Black-headed Gull which can be found all year, all of the rare gulls noted above should be looked for in the winter, the prime time for rare gulls on Long Island.

As in most things biological, there are no absolutes in the above cited points. Gulls which feed basically on tidal flats will feed also off the top of water surface and surface feeding gulls will also feed on exposed beaches and flats. Their primary feeding habits on Long Island in the fall and winter seasons are described.

Anthony J. Lauro



BIRD WALKS 1977

Field Trips: Starting time - 9:30 a.m.
No walk if it rains, snows, or temperature is 25 degrees or below.

- JAN. 2 - Zach's Bay, Pkg. Fld. #4
9 - Pelham Bay - Meet at 9:00
Toll Booth at Throgs Neck
Bridge - Owls
16 - West End #2, N.W. corner
23 - Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
30 - Short Beach, (Pkg. by Coast
Guard Station)
- FEB. 6 - West End #2, N.W. corner
13 - Tobay - J.F.K. Sanctuary
20 - West End #2, N.E. corner
27 - Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

- MAR. 6 - Zachs Bay, Pkg. Fld. #4
N.E. corner
13 - West End #2, N.W. corner
20 - Jamaica Bay Wildlife Ref.
27 - Tobay - J.F.K. Sanctuary

- APR. 3 - West End #2, N.W. corner
10 - Zach's Bay, Pkg. Fld.#4
N.E. corner
17 - Jamaica Bay Wildlife Ref.
24 - West End #2, N.W. corner

Elliott Kutner, Birding

COMING EVENTS:

Audubon Wildlife Film Series, Feb. 2
Walter Berlet, "West Side Story: Mexico
to Alaska"

Regular Meeting: Tues., Jan. 11
Hortie Block, "Birds and Animals Around
the World"

REMEMBER, BIRD SEED SAVINGS DAY, JAN. 22

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