

SOUTH SHORE SKIMMER



SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

VOL. 8, NO. 2

OCTOBER 1977

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 1977
8:15 P.M., FREEPORT LIBRARY

Our Guest Speaker Will Be:
 Mr. Al Lemke, Past President of SSAS

"South Africa Revisited"

As you know, last year Mr. Lemke wrote a series of articles for the Skimmer on South Africa. These are the color slides of his trip. Don't miss it!

FUTURE MEETINGS:

Our November meeting will be held on the 3rd Tuesday, November 15, as Election Day is on November 8. Our Guest Speakers will be Alan and Estelle Ruppert of the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary with a colorful slide show entitled "T.R. Revisited" plus live surprises!

Our December meeting will be held on Tuesday, December 13. Our Guest Speaker will be Mr. Richard Rhindress, Audubon's Northeast Reg. Director, who will present an Audubon film featuring Alaska.

REMEMBER, AUDUBON MEETINGS OCTOBER 11
 NOVEMBER 15
 DECEMBER 13

The Photography Club will hold its first meeting on Sunday, October 9, at 10:30 A.M. SSAS members Al Lemke and Bruce Phillips will meet all those interested in learning the correct techniques involved in photographing nature subjects at the Oceanside Marine Study Area at the foot of Slice Drive. All are welcome!



BIRD WALKS 1977

Our first birdwalk of the year was held on Sunday, August 28. Attendance-42 people. Birds Sighted at Jamaica Bay:

Ibis	Black Back Gull
Tree Swallow	Semi-Palmated Plover
Mourning Dove	Cormorants
Snowy Egrets	Common Gallinule
Amer. Egrets	Ruddy Turnstone
Yellow Leg	Common Tern
Bl. Duck/Mallard	Laughing Gull
Black Skimmer	Killdeer
Herring Gull	Canada Goose
Snow Goose	Green Heron
Dowicher	Gt. Crested Flycatcher

Sunday, September 11. Attendance-45 people. Birds Sighted at West End II:

Whimbrel	Gr. Bl. Backed Gull
Ruby-Throated	Snowy Egret
Hummingbird	Ring-Billed Gull
Barn Swallow	Least Sandpiper
Sparrow Hawk	Mourning Dove
Herring Gull	Sharp Shinned Hawk
Marsh Hawk	Killdeer
Laughing Gull	Osprey
Purple Sandpipers	Tree Swallow
Sanderlings	Black Bellied Plover
Brant	Ruddy Turnstone

Sunday, September 18. Attendance-55 people. Birds Sighted at Short Beach & West End II:

Black Bel. Plover	Mockingbird
House Finch	Yellow-Shfted. Flicker
Ruddy Turnstone	Sanderlings
Skimmers-Immature	Semi-Palmated Sandpiper
Tree Swallow	Sharp-Shinned Hawk
Snowy Egret	Laughing Gulls
Kingfisher	Green Heron
Marsh Hawk	

Elliott Kutner
 Birding Chairman

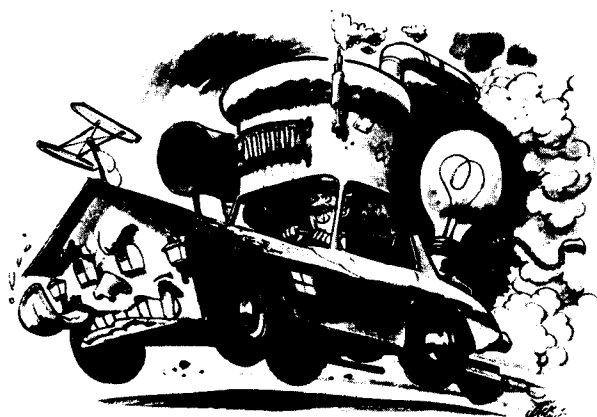
CONSERVATION NEWS

The Environmental Protection Agency's Region II Office is keeping careful watch on potentially harmful residues of the chemical ploybrominated biphenyl (PBB). Traces of this substance have been found in human hair, fish, plants, soil and water in areas surrounding two New Jersey chemical plants and one plant in Staten Island. The chemical, which is extremely durable in nature, has been out of production at these plants from between 6 mos. and 3 years. Unfortunately, it is easily transported by wind and water movements. The harmful effects of PBBs first came to light in 1974 when the chemical was accidentally mixed with cattle feed in Michigan. This accident caused the death of thousands of dairy livestock, as well as contamination of people who injected the chemical in cow's milk. The Mount Sinai Medical School, which has been studying the effects of PBB's on these people warns that the substance can cause a breakdown in the body's natural ability to fight infection and causes adverse effects in kidney and liver tissues. In addition, it is highly probable that the chemical has carcinogenic properties. It is not surprising that the EPA and the N.J. Department of Health are anxious to determine the extent of contamination. They are quick to point out however, that unlike the Michigan incident, in this area the chemical was never injected by animals directly.

It is interesting to note that although the companies are no longer producing PBB's, they are manufacturing a similar compound (deca bromo diphenyl oxide) which is used for the same purpose. This substance, by its chemical configuration, is suspected of having toxic properties and is presently designated for further evaluation and toxicity testing under authority of the Toxic Substances Control Act of 1977.

Paul Buterkeit
Conservation Chairman

DON'T BE FUELISH.



ON THE BOOKSHELF

James Herriot, author of "All Things Great and Small", says of

ZOO VET

by David Taylor (Lippincott) "a uniquely different and enchanting animal book." Roger Caras comments that the author shares with us a delightful lifetime of adventure.

I thought it was a marvelously readable and absorbing story. It's about an English veterinarian surgeon who does not treat small animals but who numbers among his zoo patients, "Cuddles" the killer whale, Jo-Jo, the gorilla and Mary, the elephant with a toothache.

Dr. Taylor has traveled all over the world, to Pakistan, China, Europe and the United States. Every chapter narrates incredible events about zebras, giraffes, camels, alligators and dolphins.

I could quote a dozen amusing anecdotes- he writes with vigor, humor and sensitivity- but I won't - read it yourself.

Ruth Grossman

BINOCULAR SAVINGS

As last year, SSAS is offering an outstanding opportunity to purchase Bushnell and Bausch & Lomb binoculars, scopes and tripods at a savings of 30 to 50%. These special prices are available when we order in groups of 12. If you wish further information, please call Asa Starkweather (LY 9-5824) or Joan Butkerei (LY 3-4554).

GOOD NEWS

Since 1973, the peregrine falcon restoration project at the Cornell Laboratory has produced 234 young falcons at its facilities and 133 of these have been released into the wild in 12 states. Although no released birds have as yet formed pairs, Tom Cade, Professor of Ornithology at Cornell and Program Dir., Peregrine Fund, feels it is only a matter of time before they start nesting in the East!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!

The following is a list of new SSAS members. Hope to meet you at our meetings!

- Casan Castelli
- Mrs. S. Ciezowski
- Deborah Cohen
- Jonathon Goldrick
- Ms. Beatrice Hackenberg
- Ms. Judy Hopping
- Mrs. M. Lazarow
- Samuel Pearlman Phd.
- Roo Studio
- S. Russo
- Marc Sherman
- Jeanne Sica
- Jeffrey L. Werblin
- Miss Kathleen Treacy



AT THE THEODORE ROOSEVELT SANCTUARY

A most ambitious and outstanding summer of Ecology and Ornithology workshops at the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary has just drawn to an end. Eleven one-week workshops ranging from active ecology "safaries" for children to sophisticated ornithology programs for adults were well received and over-subscribed. It was exciting to see so many people supporting and participating in the summer programs.

The workshops featured an excellent slate of professional ecologists and ornithologists who assisted in many aspects of teaching and preparation. Top on the list was Heidi Lichterman, former director of the Setauket-Smithtown Environmental Centers, who was one of the outstanding instructors in the children's programs. Volunteers from various Audubon Chapters assisted in the Ornithology workshops. The Sanctuary was very fortunate to have the services of Rose Miller and Lois Lindberg at the Muttontown Preserve, Frank Reilly at Connetquot, Joe Bull at the Bronx Zoo, Barbara Spencer at Northline Island, Leroy Wilcox at Speonk, Bill Kolodnicki at JFK Sanctuary and the Sand City Tern Colony, Tim O'Connor at the Sanctuary and Sally Ruppert who acted as resource person for the workshops.

With such a successful summer and the coming of an exciting and busy fall, it is evident that the Sanctuary is not only a haven for song birds, but a center for the

sharing of new creative ideas and techniques in the pursuit of a complete program that increases the environmental awareness and appreciation of all aged groups.

Alan Ruppert, Director

EDUCATION REPORT

South Shore Audubon's very successful environmental education pilot program at the Columbus Avenue School in Freeport was culminated with an Ecology Show on June 22, 1977. Children in the school had the opportunity of seeing the performance during the school day and well over 500 parents attended the evening performance.

Many aspects of ecology were presented in skits, poems, songs and dances. The entire presentation was written by members of the school's ecology committee with student-faculty input.

The success of this pilot program has resulted in an expansion to the other elementary schools in the district. We are looking forward to another successful year teaching our future citizens to preserve our world.

Elaine Butkerei
Education Chairperson

The AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILM SERIES will present on Tuesday, October 25, 1977 Richard Kern's Florida Cypress Sanctuary: Fish-Eating Creek." All films are shown at the Hempstead Town Pavillion, Town Hall Plaza, at 8:15 P.M. Write to the Town of Hempstead, Department of Parks and Recreation, Recreational Office, 50 Clinton Street, Hempstead, NY 11550 for tickets. Please enclose a self-addressed envelope.

SSAS has car insignia decals and cloth patches showing a Skimmer in flight on sale at all the meetings and birdwalks. Patches are \$2.00 and decals are 50¢.

BIRD FEEDER SURVEY

Please keep a log of the following birds at your feeders - by the month. The Skimmer deadline is printed on the back of the Bulletin. Please send your computations to our editor, Pat Davis, 7 Myers Ave., Hicksville, N.Y. 11801.

P.S. I've only received 5 replies from the Sept. newsletter so please send in your count. This will give us some idea of how many different types of birds we have in our area. Thank you.Ed.

- 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 _____
- WHITE-THROATED SPARROW _____
- HOUSE FINCH _____
- AMERICAN GOLDFINCH _____
- TOWHEE _____
- SLATE-COLORED JUNCO _____
- TREE SPARROW _____
- SONG SPARROW _____
- FOX SPARROW _____
- PURPLE FINCH _____

OUR BIRD FRIENDS

Birds are the best friends that we have in our gardens. An average house wren feeds 500 spiders and caterpillars to its young during a summer afternoon. A swallow can devour 1000 leafhoppers in 12 hours. A pair of flickers consider 5000 ants a mere snack. An active baltimore oriole consumes 17 hairy caterpillars a minute. A brown thrasher often eats over 6000 insects in one day.

For 17 years Griggsville, Illinois spent \$600 annually on poison sprays to rid their fair-grounds of flies and mosquitoes. Now purple martins do the job for them. The town of 1200 people built "apartment" houses for 4,500 martins. If each bird kills its quota of 2000 mosquitoes a day, a total of nine million bugs have been eliminated - this is a lot of bugs in anybody's town.

Salt Lake City in Utah has a statue of a sea gull commemorating the saving of their crops from locusts by the arrival of sea gulls who ate the locusts.

Animals tend to have, or develop, those senses which are necessary for them to survive. Birds have excellent eyesight and a wide angle of vision which is vital for a flying animal. Night birds, like the owl, also have large lenses in their eyes to better enable them to gather and concentrate dim light.

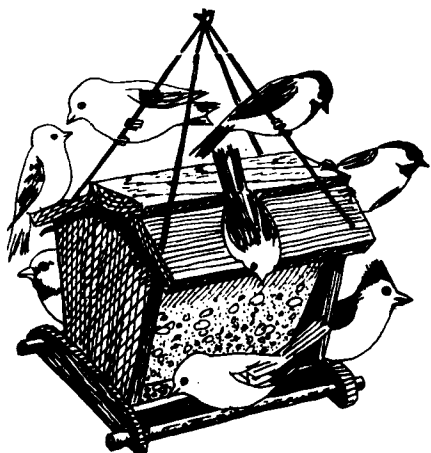
The sense of hearing is excellent in birds as is their sense of balance. Many birds also have a good sense of taste, they can select their proper food instantly.

The sense of smell is almost entirely missing in birds. Apparently the sense of smell is not important to their survival.

The habits of birds are inherited abilities we call instincts. They are born knowing almost everything needed to exist in their environment.

To one who appreciates nature the warble of a bluebird, the flash of a hummingbird's ruby-red throat in the sunlight, or the sight of a robin splashing in a bird bath, are major highlights in a day's observation of nature's gifts to mankind.

(Above is an excerpt of an article by Gardiner E. Gregory, Director, The Gregory Museum)



B I R D S E E D S A V I N G S D A Y

The fall bird seed sale this year will be held on November 5th at the Rockville Centre Recreation Center, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Once again, all profits derived from the sale will be donated to the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary in Oyster Bay. Seed may be preordered to insure that the seed you want is set aside for you. This aids us in determining the total amount of seed needed. To preorder, please fill out the form below and enclose your check made payable to the SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY. Send both items to Mr. Paul T. Butkerei, 268 Wallace St., Freeport, N.Y. 11520. All preorders must be received by October 25th. An extra amount of seed will be available for purchasing on the day of the sale. As an extra bonus, bird feeders and discount priced binoculars will be available for purchase on the day of the sale. The Rockville Centre Recreation Center is located on Oceanside Rd., about 1/8 mile north of Sunrise Hwy. A large Merit gas station marks the junction of the two roads. Any persons willing to help with the sale, or needing additional information concerning the event may call MA 3-2114 evenings, or LY 3-4554 weekdays.

QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION	PRICE PER BAG	TOTAL
	50 lb. bag SUNFLOWER	\$11.00	
	25 lb. bag SUNFLOWER	5.85	
	25 lb. bag Wild Bird Seed	3.55	
	50 lb. bag Wild Bird Seed	7.00	
	20 lb. bag BSSD SPECIAL Wild Bird Seed	5.55	
	40 lb. BSSD Special Wild Bird Seed	10.95	
	20 lb. BSSD Special Sunflower	7.35	
	40 lb. BSSD Special Sunflower	14.00	
	10 lb. bag Thistle		
	5 lb. bag Thistle		
	25 lb. bag Cracked Corn	2.65	
	50 lb. bag Cracked Corn	5.25	
	Maine Manna Seed/Suet Cakes	2.75	
	5 lb. BSSD Peanut Hearts	5.90	
	10 lb. BSSD Sunflower Hearts	5.90	

Please find my check for \$ _____ enclosed

Name: _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Telephone Nr. _____ Member? _____ yes _____ no

NOVEMBER NEWS DEADLINE OCTOBER 15

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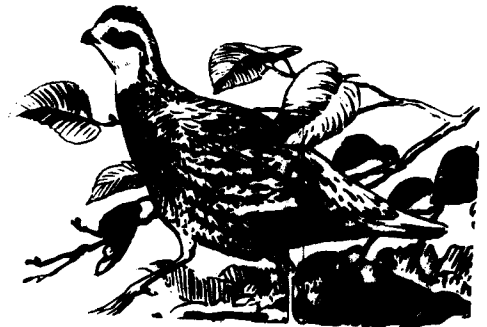
FIELD TRIPS: Starting time - 9:30 a.m.

No walk if it rains, snows, or temperature is 25 degrees or below.

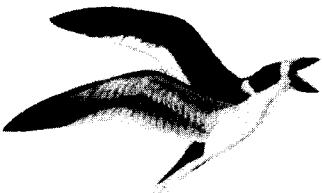
- AUG. 28 - Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- SEPT. 4 - NO BIRDWALK
11 - West End, #2, N.W. corner
25 - Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- OCT. 2 - West End #2, N.E. corner
9 - Short Beach
16 - West End #2, N.W. corner
23 - Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
30 - Zach's Bay, Pkg.Fld.#4, N.E. corner
- NOV. 6 - Tobay, J.F.K. Sanctuary
13 - West End #2, N.E. corner
20 - Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
27 - Zach's Bay, Pkg.Fld.#4, N.E. corner
- DEC. 4 - West End #2, N.E. corner
11 - Pelham Bay - Meet at 9:00 at Toll
Booth Throg's Neck Bridge

OFFICERS

E. Kutner-President-IV6-7667
461 Dunster Ct.W. Hempstead 11552
P. Butkereiit-V.P.-MA 3-2114
268 Wallace St. Freeport 11520
T. Stoltz-Membership-LY 3-4554
19 Broadway, Lynbrook 11563
P. Davis-Editor-822-6189
7 Myers Ave., Hicksville 11801



SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 31
FREEPORT, N.Y. 11520



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