

SOUTH SHORE SKIMMER



SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

VOL. 8, NO. 4

DECEMBER 1977

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 1977
8:15 P.M., FREEPORT LIBRARY

Our Guest Speaker Will Be:
Mr. Richard C. Rhindress, Northeast Regional Representative, National Audubon Society

Mr. Rhindress will present the slide program, "Alaska - Wildlands for Tomorrow", which features outstanding photographs of Alaska's abundant and diverse wildlife. In addition to describing the wildlife and scenic resources, the program explains the critical land use decision which is presently rushing our 49th State into the 20th Century.

Mr. Rhindress, a hydrogeologist, works with the 47 local Audubon chapters and environmental policy makers at the state and federal levels. Most recently he has been involved in efforts to help the chapters expand their educational outreach to schools and their communities.

Remember the date, Tuesday, December 13th!

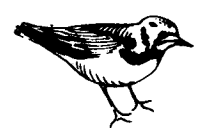
Just a Reminder for your January calendar: The next Audubon Wildlife Film will be "The Living Ocean" presented by Doris Boyd on January 31, 1978 at the Hempstead Town Pavillion at 8:15 P.M. For tickets, write the Town of Hempstead, Department of Parks and Recreation, Recreational Office, 50 Clinton Street, Hempstead, N.Y. 11550. Please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

BINOCULAR SAVINGS: SSAS is offering an outstanding opportunity to purchase Bushnell and Baush & 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).

CONSERVATION NEWS

The battle over the use of Alaska's pristine land is starting to heat up. Significant protective legislation is a must! A bill to protect Alaska wilderness, drafted by John Sieberling, of the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee Subcommittee on General Oversight and Alaskan Lands, was chosen over a weaker bill drafted by Don Young. This is certainly a step in the right direction. National Audubon strongly supports John Sieberling's bill. Representative Sieberling's bill has its opponents, however, among them Representative Lloyd Meeds of Washington, who is attempting to offer a draft of a much weaker bill to the Subcommittee. Letters of support of the Sieberling bill should be addressed to both Chairman John Sieberling, House of Representatives, Washington D.C. 20515 and to your local congressman. If you are interested in the Alaskan issue don't miss the December 13 meeting at the Freeport Library. National Audubon's Northeast Regional Representative, Richard Rhindress, will give a special presentation on this subject. See you then.

Secretary of the Interior Cecil Andrus needs support in helping to postpone the leasing of oil rights on the Continental Shelf until important environmental safeguards in the form of legislation is passed. Congressional pressure, in the form of letters to your congressman, is also needed to move the stalled Outer Continental Shelf Bill out of the Rules Committee and onto the House floor for a vote. The major reason why the bill was killed in committee was the heavy lobbying by the big oil companies. Hon. Cecil D. Andrus, Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.



Paul Butkerei
Conservation

NEXT BIRD SEED SALE - JANUARY 21 - SEE PAGE 2

BIRD SEED SALE - JANUARY 21

South Shore Audubon's bird seed sale November 5 was a huge success - over 31,200 pounds of seed was sold. I would like to personally thank those members who helped in the seed distribution and who worked so hard to make it such a success. Our second and final sale this season will be held on Saturday, January 21, at a location to be disclosed in our January newsletter. If you wish to preorder, please mail the enclosed order form to me no later than January 11. My address is: Paul T. Butkerei, 268 Wallace Street, Freeport, N.Y. 11520. For information please call MA 3-2114 or LY 3-4554. Thank you.

QUANTITY	DESCRIPTION	PRICE PER BAG	TOTAL
	50 lb. bag SUNFLOWER	\$11.55	
	25 lb. bag SUNFLOWER	6.00	
	25 lb. bag Wild Bird Seed	3.75	
	50 lb. bag Wild Bird Seed	7.35	
	20 lb. bag BSSD SPECIAL Wild Bird Seed mix ^{113 SW}	5.55	
	40 lb. BSSD Special Wild Bird Seed mix ^{113 SW}	10.95	
	20 lb. BSSD Special Sunflower large seeds	7.35	
	40 lb. BSSD Special Sunflower large seeds	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	
	10 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



BIRD WALKS

October 23 - Jamaica Bay

- Birds Seen: Blue Jay
R. Dove
Crow
Dunlin
Sanderling
R. Turnstone
B.B. Plover
Herring Gull
R.B. Gull
Myrtle Warbler
Grackle
S.C. Junco
Robin
House Finch
Mockingbird
Brant
Gadwall

- Ruddy Duck
Pintail
Bufflehead
Com. Egret
Horned Grebe
R.C. Kinglet
Gr. Yellowlegs
L. Yellowlegs
Snowy Egret
Kingfisher
G.C. Kinglet
Song Sparrow
Flicker
Black Duck
Mallard
G.W. Teal
Coot

October 30 - Zach's Bay

- Birds Seen: Sparrow Hawk
Redpoll
Mockingbird
Herring Gull
G.B.B. Gull
House Finch
Dunlin
B.B. Plover
Sanderling
R.B. Gull
L. Gull
Marsh Hawk
Robin

- Kingfisher
B.C. Night Heron
Black Duck
Pintail
Tufted Titmouse
Com. Egret
Gr. Blue Heron
Sharp-Sh. Hawk
Myrtle Warbler
Palm Warbler
Snowy Egret
Flicker

Seaweeds - Multitalented Marine Wonders

By Carole Louise Neidich, Curator
Tackapausha Museum
Nassau County Department of
Parks and Recreation
Washington Avenue
Seaford, New York 11783

Beachcombing provides many Long Islanders with a recreational pursuit that not only provides exercise and clean air but also insights into life in the marine environment. As one walks along the "strand", it is hard not to notice the abundance of "seaweeds", the catch-all name for marine plants, left on the beach during the outgoing tide.

What we call "seaweeds" are actually large or macro forms of green, red and brown algae. Most live in the intertidal zone or in shallow coastal areas. Algae have no roots, stems or leaves. Such a simple type of plant body is called a thallus. Advanced types of algae have a thallus composed of three parts: holdfast, stipe and blade. Although these structures are similar in form to structures of terrestrial plants, they perform different functions in algae.

Because algae live attached to rocks or other hard substrates, a specialized organ, a holdfast, helps to anchor the plants securely. Although they resemble roots, the holdfasts are not used for obtaining nutrient material.

Above the holdfast, the thallus may be a simple plant form such as the filamentous green alga. Cladophora, which accumulates in large cottony masses in Great South Bay during late summer or it may be highly complex, like Ceramium, a red alga. In Ceramium, the stipe is a small structure, but in the kelps, especially Laminaria, the stipe has evolved into an elongated stem-like structure. Stipes provide flexibility for algae especially those attached to rocky cliffs and areas exposed to surf. They enable the plant to "give" and prevent waves from tearing plants away from the rocks.

The large "leafy" portion of the algal plant is the blade. Although the entire plant can undergo photosynthesis, the blade is the location of most food-making activity.

Some blades possess the remarkable adaptation of forming air bladders or pneumatocysts which assist in floating the plant toward the surface and thus aiding in photosynthesis. They also provide a container for reproductive structures, as in Fucus, the rockweeds growing along the edges of salt marshes and on the rock jetties and groins. Various gases have been identified in the air bladders including

nitrogen, oxygen, carbon dioxide and carbon monoxide. It is not known where the gases come from or what functions they serve besides helping the plants to float.

Because many algae have complex life histories and reproductive structures, they must be identified from their vegetative structures. Over 125 species of macro-algae have been found in our area, which indicates the diversity of marine species in our locality.

Collecting algae can be a rich and rewarding experience, not only as a scientific exercise, but if properly prepared, a specimen also can be a creative work of art.

The largest and most complete collection of Long Island specimens available locally is housed at the Tackapausha Museum in Seaford. This museum, operated by the Nassau County Department of Recreation and Parks has over 9000 herbarium specimens of over 100 species. Many of the specimens were collected by the late Ed Morgan, curator at the "old" Tackapausha Museum from the late 1940's to the early 1960's. Morgan was a pioneer in the study of Long Island's algae and along with Ben Bouck, first discovered Codium, a Japanese alga which presumably spread to the United States on shipments of seed oysters from Japan.

Seaweeds provide food and oxygen for many marine animals. On the west coast, kelp is harvested for use in fertilizers, cattle fodder and the manufacture of many foods including ice cream and soup.

Algae have had a constant influence on our lives which should not be ignored. Neither should one ignore these brightly-colored and intricately beautiful plants growing along our shores.

Bibliography on Marine Ecology and Seaweeds

- Coker, R.E. 1962. This Great and Wide Sea. Harper Torchbooks, Harper and Row, New York. 325 pp.
- Dawson, E. Yale. 1966. Marine Botany. Holt, Rinehart and Winston, Inc. N.Y. 371 pp.
- Dawson, E. Yale. 1956. How to Know the Seaweeds. Wm. C. Brown Co., Dubuque, Iowa. 197 pp.
- Hay, John and Peter Farb. 1966. The Atlantic Shore. Harper and Row, New York. 246 pp.
- Petry, Loren C. 1968. A Beachcomber's Botany. Chatham Conservation Foundation, Inc., Chatham, Massachusetts. 158 pp.
- Taylor, William Randolph. 1957. Marine Algae of the Northeastern Coast of North America. Univ. of Michigan Press, Ann Arbor. 509 pp.



BIRD FEEDER SURVEY

OCT.-NOV. COUNT

Table with 2 columns: Bird species and count. Includes Mourning Dove (126), Downy Woodpecker (9), Blue Jay (84), Black-capped Chickadee (12), Tufted Titmouse (7), White-breasted Nuthatch (9), Mockingbird (14), Starling (108), House Sparrow (425), Red-winged Blackbird (63), Hairy Woodpecker (1), Common Grackle (78), Brown-headed Cowbird (8), Cardinal (31), Evening Grosbeak (1), White-throated Sparrow (33), House Finch (86), American Goldfinch (7), Towhee (3), Slate-colored Junco (18), Song Sparrow (8), Fox Sparrow (1), Purple Finch (3), Brown Thrasher (1), Robin (11), Black and White Warbler (1), Black-throated Blue Warbler (1), White-crowned Sparrow (5), Woodthrush (2), Yellow-billed Sapsucker (1), Boat-tailed Grackle (4), and Raccoons (2).

Dear Folks:

As you can see by our LARGE count this month, we have many more birds passing through on their way south. Many more of you sent in your count this time. Thanks to all and keep it up. I need your next count by December 15. If you are coming to the Dec. meeting, please bring it with you and give it to me then.

Pat Davis, Editor

BIRD FEEDER SURVEY

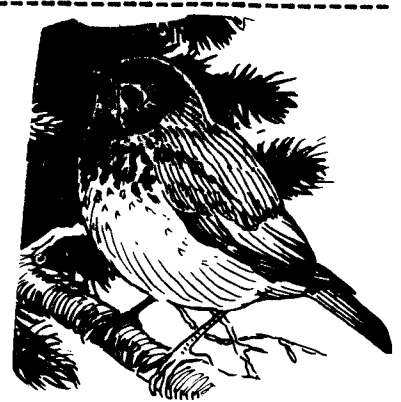
DECEMBER

Please keep a log of the following birds at your feeders - by the month. The Skimmer deadline is the 15th of each month. Send your computations to our editor, Pat Davis, 7 Myers Avenue, Hicksville, N.Y. 11801.

Table with 2 columns: Bird species and a blank line for counting. Includes Mourning Dove, Downy Woodpecker, Blue Jay, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Mockingbird, Starling, House Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Hairy 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, Yellow-shafted Flicker, Brown Thrasher, Redstart, Pine Warbler, Robin, Black and White Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Catbird, and White-crowned Sparrow.

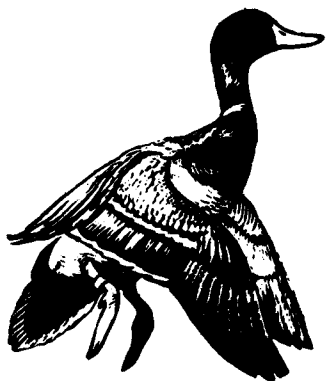
H A P P Y

H O L I D A Y S



Birds of Another Color

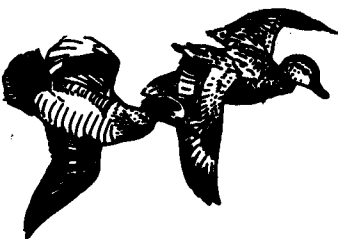
Like most novice birders, I used to think that all the pretty birds flew south when winter came; that is, with a few exceptions such as the Cardinal and the Blue Jay. But by walking around a local pond, I came upon a whole new world of color arrangements. I found that the ducks were just as beautifully painted by Mother Nature as the song birds.



The most common duck in the world is the Mallard. It is so common on Long Island that you may not appreciate its beauty, but take another look. Its glossy green head and neck are separated from its chestnut-brown chest by a narrow white ring around the neck. The body is grayish with black under tail coverts and white tail.



Another large and pretty duck with simple arrangement of three colors (if you consider black and white colors) is the Canvasback. Its reddish head and neck, black chest and white body make this bird easy to identify. The sloping forehead blends with its long bill.



One of the small ducks is the Green-Winged Teal. It has a reddish head with a glossy green patch from the front of the eye to the back of the head. The body is grayish with an iridescent green patch on the wing. The under tail coverts are buffy yellow. Instead of a quack, the voice of this duck is a short whistle.



The most beautiful duck that I've seen so far is the Hooded Merganser. (I have yet to see a Wood Duck in its wild state.) This is another small duck. Its most outstanding feature is the black-crested head and black neck with a white fan-shaped patch from in back of the eye to the back of the head. It has a

white breast with two black bars in front of the wing. The flanks are brownish.

It seems as though Mother Nature saw fit to cover most of the male birds with more colorful feathers than the females. Therefore, they are the male ducks that I have described.

I urge all of you who have not done so to go out and see these birds for yourselves. The thrill and excitement of seeing a new bird and identifying it is an experience I cannot find words to fully express.

Stan Ziminski

SPRING FESTIVAL

South Shore Audubon is preparing for a unique Spring Festival. The theme of the event will be concerned with L.I.'s unique environment. Collectors of items pertaining to L.I.'s natural history, as well as photographers, artists, and designers should consider this event as a unique forum for their work. All persons interested in joining us with displays relevant to the area's wildlife, plant-life, or the area's unique and varied habitat areas should call Joan Butkerei at LY 3-4554 or Carol Ann Tymann at IV 1-5050.

There will be a Christmas Craft Show at the Gregory Museum, co-sponsored by the Town of Oyster Bay, on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 11 and 12 at the American Legion Hall, 24 Nicholai St., Hicksville. The Gregory Museum endeavors to bring the skills and talents of artists, craftsmen, and gem and mineral hobbyists together to give them an opportunity to exhibit and sell their creations.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| M. Alwich | T. Bade |
| G. Berlan | C. Demarco |
| R. G. Brouillet | J. Greenfield |
| V. Bubelk | R. Hassler |
| E. K. Emslie | Mrs. V. Hochstadt |
| J. Ferrente | W. Jacobsen |
| L. Joseph | J. Kruszewski |
| S. Letwack | J. Levering |
| D. M. Lisi | E. Libby |
| M. Rae | M. A. Lucas |
| Mrs. J. Neumann | E. Moss |
| P. Orlando | C. Moussas |
| J. Schneider | J. Murphy |
| T. Werther | Mr. & Mrs. R. Peters |
| C. & H. Andrews | L. Riportella |
| H. & A. Fox | G. Thompson |
| B. & B. Taplitz | R. Brookner |
| V. Farmer | |

JAN. NEWS DEADLINE DEC. 15

NEXT MEETING ---- TUES., DEC. 13, 8:15 P.M., FREEPORT LIBRARY

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

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

- DEC. 11 - Pelham Bay-Meet at 9:00 at Toll Booth Throg's Neck Bridge
- 18 - Tobay, J.F.K. Sanctuary
- 25 - NO WALK
- JAN. 1 - NO WALK
- 8 - Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- 15 - Zach's Bay, Pkg. Fld. #4, N.E. corner
- 22 - West End #2, N.W. corner
- 29 - West End #2, N.E. corner
- FEB. 5 - Pelham Bay-Meet at 9:00 at Toll Booth throg's Neck Bridge
- 12 - Tobay J.F.K. Sanctuary
- 19 - Cedar Beach - Parking Lot
- 26 - Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- MAR. 5 - Zach's Bay, Pkg. Fld. #4, N.E. corner
- 12 - Tobay J.F.K. Sanctuary
- 19 - Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- 26 - West End #2, N.W. corner
- APR. 2 - West End #2, N.E. corner
- 9 - Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

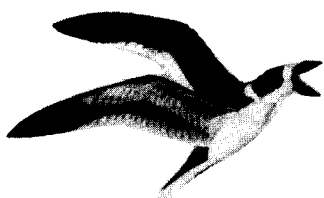
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BIRD SEED SALE - JANUARY 21

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FIRST CLASS MAIL