

SOUTH SHORE SKIMMER



SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

VOL. 8, NO. 8

APRIL 1978

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 1978
8:15 P.M., FREEPORT LIBRARY

Our guest speaker will be Paul Jeheber, former Supervisor of the Entomology Unit at West Point, who has traveled extensively through North America photographing birds. He is an active member of the Explorer's Club and the New York State Bird Club. He has his own observation tower on White Horse Mountain for the purpose of observing hawk migration. Don't miss this colorful and exciting slide show! See you there!

JUNE DINNER MEETING-JUNE 12

Our June Dinner Meeting will be held on Monday, June 12, at the Arbor Inn in Rockville Centre. During the cocktail hour, hot and cold hors d'oeuvres will be served. The main course is a roast beef dinner. The cost is \$10.00 per person. Please mail your check to: Mr. Elliott Kutner
461 Dunster Court
West Hempstead, N.Y. 11552

Remember, June 12, 7:00 P.M., Arbor Inn.

Our guest speaker at the June Dinner Meeting will be Bill Robinson. Mr. Robinson graduated from the State University of New York with a B.S. and Master's in Biology. He taught Biology at Ulster Community College and does research regarding birds of prey. He has successfully bred three different varieties in captivity and developed a special trap to capture hawks alive and unharmed which appeared in Wildlife Management Magazine. He has written articles and photographed hawks in Europe and the U.S. and has appeared on television with his trained birds. He was the sole photographer on the Coronet film entitled, "Birds That Hunt" and was named by New York State to the first N.Y.S. Falconry Board and is now president

of the Falconry Club. He is also director of the New Palz Peregrine Foundation which is responsible for breeding the peregrine in the Hudson Valley.

Mr. Robinson will show a color film and have some surprises!! Please join us for this very, very special evening.

ENVIRONMENTAL FESTIVAL - APRIL 30TH: Audubon's Environmental Festival will be held Sunday, April 30, between the hours of 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. This event will take place at the Rockville Centre Recreation Building, 111 N. Oceanside Rd., Rockville Centre. Those of you who will be displaying should be there no later than 9:00 a.m. for setting up. Exhibits will explore the L.I. environment as a unique place for man and wildlife cohabitation. Included will be natural history and wildlife displays, exhibits concerning innovative technology in waste recycling and energy resources, SSAS's exceptional environmental education pilot program, photographs, and the Arts and Crafts Show. Films and guest speakers will be presented in the adjoining auditorium. A new Audubon film, "Wild America, Who Needs It?", as well as presentations by Al Lemke, Mike Smiles, and SSAS President Elliott Kutner will be featured. For more information, call LY 3-4554 or IV 1-5050. We hope you will join us for this exciting event.

SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON'S 1978 PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

South Shore Audubon is sponsoring this photographic competition for members and their friends. A total of 6 photos may be entered in the following categories: 1) Man and His Environment 2) The Natural Habitat. Entries may be either black & white or color enlargements of any size up to 11 by 14". The deadline has been pushed back one week. All photos must be received by April 18 and may be submitted by mail to South Shore Audubon Photo Contest, 19 Broadway, Lynbrook, N.Y. 11563. Entries may also be brought in person to the April 11 Audubon meeting at the Freeport Library. For more information call LY 3-4554 or IV 1-5050. All entries will be displayed at the April 30 Environmental Festival & Art Show. Winning photos will be announced at this event.



The 1972 Water Pollution Control Act was amended in 1977 to make what are being termed mid-course corrections. One of the major reasons for revamping the Act was a need to continue funds for sewage treatment plant construction. Until now, municipalities have been lagging far behind industry in meeting water treatment deadlines. The new amendments will extend the federal grant program through 1982 with close to 25 billion dollars available. It was also felt that the old Act's authorization criteria for construction programs failed to take an adequate look at the problem of preventing depletion of scarce water resources. The 1972 Act also failed to consider recycle potential valuable byproducts, and to plan for future growth. Section 201 of the Act has been amended to forbid grants unless innovative and alternative treatment methods, such as water reuse, land disposal and energy resource recovery, have been evaluated. States are also being urged to play a larger role in managing construction grants and as an incentive a larger percentage of the grants will be available for management programs.

The concept of best available technology has also been maintained in the new amendments and is now aimed squarely at toxic pollutants as the most serious target for industrial control. To aid this area, the Environmental Protection Agency is working hard to implement a section of the 1972 Act which requires the agency to establish effluent guidelines and pre-treatment standards for toxic pollutants. New amendments to the Act call upon the Environmental Protection Agency to define and include in discharge permits best management procedures to control the runoff of toxic and hazardous materials which may be caused by poor industrial cleanup procedures. The 1977 amendments also ask industries which discharge into municipal systems to use the best available technology in preventing the contamination of municipal produced sludge with toxic pollutants. This is important in our area where the feasibility of stopping ocean sludge dumping by 1981 rides heavily on being able to dump non-contaminated sludge on land based sites.

The Department of Environmental Protection will begin monitoring the air over Northern New Jersey to test for the presence of nine cancer causing substances (benzene, carbon tetrachloride, chloroform, dichlorobenzene,

nitrobenzene, perchloroethylene, trichloroethane, trichloroethylene, and vinyl chloride monomer). The survey will include a collection of approximately 300 air samples collected at different hours and under a variety of weather conditions. This survey will supplement a more general investigation of air pollution over Central New Jersey conducted by the EPA in 1976. In that study, EPA detected more than 200 volatile organic compounds, most of which are considered toxic. Seven of these were known or suspected carcinogens.

The following items were taken from the Feb. 1978 NYS Environmental Newsletter:

The Long Island Lighting Company has been using two electric cars on meter routes, and has found them to be so efficient that the utility is purchasing a whole fleet of electric vehicles. These vehicles will be comprised of vans and trucks as well as cars. Monitoring of the two cars have shown them to average 2.7¢ a mile in operating costs compared to 3.6¢ a mile for gasoline powered autos. The cars are capable of traveling about 50 miles on an overnight charge with vans expected to go 80 plus miles at speeds up to 55 miles an hour. Maintenance costs are also lower since the vehicles have far fewer moving parts.

The House of Representatives has passed a bill providing 90 million dollars over the next three years to purchase trail corridors. The bill's fate now rests with the Senate which will probably pass some version of the bill. The major question at the Senate level is just how much funding will be appropriated. This bill would certainly aid in preserving the extensive Appalachian and Pacific Crest trail systems.

Paul Butkerei, Conservation

PUBLIC HEARING: The N.Y.S. Assembly Committee on Environmental Conservation, Assembly Subcommittee on Wildlife will hold a public hearing on the State fish and wildlife management policy on Thursday, April 6, at 10:00 a.m. at the Executive Legislative Building, Legislative Board Room, Suffolk County Center, Veterans Memorial Highway, Hauppauge, N.Y. This will focus on hunting, fishing, trapping and wildlife management policies.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!!

- | | | |
|-------------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Michael Ajroard | Paul Hunt Jr. | Amy Rosen |
| Janet Blattmacher | F.C. Carp | Barbara Rotondi |
| Frank Kirby | George Klopfer | Mrs. D.K. Rupp |
| E. Byrnes | Shella Kreuel | M. Schoenfeld |
| Jack Coons | Agnes Kuhl | P. Schramm |
| M. Farrel | William McShea | Camille Smith |
| Dr. J.R. Ferber | Selma&Sol Nelson | Mrs. J.Switlala |
| Mrs. J.L. Fisher | Suzanne Nolan | C. Tobias |
| Mrs. H. Haines | Joan O'Hara | Michael Wick |
| Scott Handschin | Siguard Ohlsen | Douglas Winkler |
| J. Holmgren | Dale Orens | Dale Yarmosh |
| J. Zuckerman | F. Gallucci | S. & M. Brenner |

The Wood Lily on Eastern Long Island

The wood lily, Lilium philadelphicum, the gist of this short paper, is common on Long Island. However, I am listing it only for Eastern Long Island, from Riverhead to Montauk Point, where, in my many years of botanizing, I have found the wood lily extremely local in distribution. I have recorded it only twice in the range quoted. First, three plants growing close together on a roadside in Southold in 1912. Although searching every season, it was ten years later in 1922, before I saw the wood lily the second time. This was on the Western part of Montauk in a moist depression of about one acre in extent, where there was a colony of about fifty wood lilies in bloom, associated with my first record of the horse balm, Collinsonia canadensis. By this time I had covered all of the Island east of Riverhead without seeing the wood lily a third time.

Twenty years later in 1942, I visited this second wood lily colony again to check on a number of other plants there. During the twenty intervening years, the wood lilies had increased materially in number. Meantime, the depression had become part of a cattle run and bars had to be removed from the old rail fence to proceed with a car into the narrow rough cart-way en route to Reed Pond and beyond. Once inside, concealed from the highway, it was a magnificent sight with a hundred or more wood lilies in full bloom on plants averaging three feet high with heavy tops of flowers. Large clusters of the pearly everlasting, Anaphalis margaritacea, fragrant thistle, Cirsium odoratum, were scattered through the wood lilies with the swamp thistle, Cirsium muticum, and the more local and rare Canada hawkweed, Hieracium canadense, more scattered. One sturdy plant of Steironema hybridum (lanceolatum), which I had seen but once before, was growing in a wet spot. The common species in this genus is S. ciliatum, locally abundant near Greenport and rare elsewhere on the East End of the Island. Five of the seven or eight species of ladies' tresses listed for L.I. were noted, including Spiranthes praecox and beckii. Other orchids noted were the ragged-fringed orchid, Blephariglottis (Habenaria) lacera and the small green orchid, Habenaria clavellata. My visit was too early for orchids, as many unidentifiable (immature) orchids were noted.

This is only a partial list of the many plants in that rich plant area. However, the willow-herb should be mentioned as they were so common there, including the very narrow-leaved Epilobium lineare.

Roy Latham
Orient, New York



Our Monarch Butterfly

Many people believe that all butterflies live but a few days. They also think that they remain quite close to where they hatched from their chrysalises. This is true for many species, but there are others, like the monarch, that live for weeks or months and fly some hundreds or thousands of miles.

Our monarch or milkweed butterfly (Danaus plexippus) is the best known of our migrating butterflies although on Long Island, New York and elsewhere, other butterflies such as the painted lady (Pyrautes cardui) and cloudless sulphur (Catopsilia eubule) also migrate.

There are at least two distinct populations of monarch butterflies in North America, one living west of the Rocky Mountains and the other east of the mountain range and western deserts, after their spring migration northward from separate wintering quarters.

In North America today, the monarch butterfly is found during the summer months throughout the U.S., certain sections of Canada, and Alaska. Originally it was a tropical butterfly, but has moved northward in search of milkweed as its population increased.

The only food plant of the caterpillar of Danaus plexippus is milkweed (Asclepias syriaca). At one time milkweed was very common on LI, but is gradually becoming scarce as fields containing the plants are being converted into building sites.

The monarchs like other members of the scaly winged insects, known as Lepidoptera (from Greek language), pass through four growth stages known as complete metamorphosis. These stages are egg, caterpillar, pupa, and adult.

We would say that the growth cycle of the monarch begins with the laying of 400 or more eggs (on the underside of the leaves of milkweed plants) by a fertile female. The jade green bullet shaped micro eggs are deposited singly or in groups. These eggs hatch in 3 - 12 days depending on the temperature in the area where the eggs are laid. In the L.I. region they usually hatch within 5 days. On hatching, the 3/16" or less long caterpillars eat the remains of their egg shells.

Our Monarch Butterfly cont'd.

They soon begin to feed on the milkweed leaves. During the caterpillar stages, which is two weeks or longer, each caterpillar eats many thousands times its weight in leaves. A six pound human baby that grew at the same rate would weigh 8 tons in 2 weeks.

A fully grown caterpillar passes through 4 instars or molts - it sheds its skin or skeleton made of chitin 4 times. When fully grown, it is about 2 inches long and is distinguished by bands of white, black and yellow, and a pair of black threadlike horns on both the anterior and posterior sections.

When the caterpillar is finally through eating, it weaves a small silk button fastening its posterior section to a milkweed leaf or some other support. After much twisting and squirming, the skeleton is molted for the last time, forming a one inch long robin egg blue chrysalis resplendent with gold dots - this is the pupa stage. Many nature lovers consider the monarch chrysalis to be the most beautiful of all the butterfly chrysalises.

In about 2 weeks, the outline of the butterfly that will soon hatch can be seen through the transparent chrysalis. Next a crack appears at the bottom of the chrysalis and the butterfly emerges completing the metamorphic cycle. Change in metamorphosis is due to the production of hormones by glands in the caterpillar and pupa.

The caterpillars of most species of butterflies and moths do not have a very good chance of growing up. They are eaten by birds and other predators. Parasites lay eggs on their skins. Later the larva of the parasites eat the pupa. However, the adult monarch and its caterpillars are left almost completely alone by predators, probably because they had a bad taste, which could be due to the fact that they feed on milkweed which contains a bitter milky juice or latex.

The viceroy (Basilarchia archippus) adult butterfly, although it doesn't have a bad taste, is also left alone by its enemies because it resembles the monarch. The viceroy butterfly is smaller than the monarch. The monarch having a wing span of about 4 " while the viceroy has a wing span of less than 3".

For many years I raised the eggs or caterpillars of the monarch butterfly, found on milkweed, to adulthood. I raised them in gallon jars. As long as the jars are kept clean and the caterpillars have plenty of milkweed leaves to eat, they are relatively easy to rear. During the summers 1970-72, I

didn't find a single egg or caterpillar although I looked for them on milkweed from L.I. to Maine. As mentioned, in many areas road and building construction have destroyed the food plant of the caterpillars. Spraying could also have helped to decrease their numbers.

However, during the summer and early fall of 1973, the monarch butterfly was seen in much larger numbers than in the three previous years. During July, in New Hampshire, I netted 52 adults which I banded. I saw many more in my travels.

I also took 18 caterpillars, from milkweed plants, which I raised to adulthood. For the first time since I started raising monarchs, I was able to photograph the actual visual transformation of a monarch caterpillar into its chrysalis. Although the pupating caterpillar squirms and contorts for many minutes or for a few hours while hanging suspended from its silken button, the molting of its skin, once begun, is completed in a matter of seconds.

The trees along the L.I. beaches in September 1973 were crowded with monarchs preparing to migrate southward. All indications are that the monarch butterfly is making a comeback in our area. I certainly hope that this will prove to be true because it is popular among most entomologists and many lay people.

Gardner Gregory
The Gregory Museum

(The conclusion of this article will be printed in our May edition.)

SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SCHOLARSHIPS

This year SSAS is offering two adult scholarships and two youth scholarships for the Audubon Workshop in Maine. This workshop is scheduled for the last two weeks in July. If anyone would like to be considered for a scholarship, please write explaining how this experience could help you further spread the ecological theme. Deadline: May 1, 1978.

Please write to: Mr. Elliott Kutner
461 Dunster Court
West Hempstead, N.Y. 11552

AUDUBON WILDLIFE SERIES: Bernard Nathanson, "Okavango" and "Arribada" (two short films) - Tuesday, April 18, 1978 at 8:15 P.M., Hempstead Town Pavillion, Town Hall Plaza. For tickets write to the Town of Hempstead, Dept. of Parks and Recreation, Recreational Office, 50 Clinton St., Hempstead N.Y. 11550. Be sure to enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope with your request.

RACCOON SURVEY: SSAS member and a frequent contributor to the Skimmer, Stan Ziminski, is preparing to do a survey on the raccoon on the South Shore. If any of you have any information relating to raccoons in our area, please call Stan Ziminski at LI 1-3286. Thank you.

BIRD RESCUE



Bird rescue slumped this month. That may be bad (no calls for rescue) or good (no stuck birds).

A man in Long Beach called a veterinary about a bird in his fireplace chimney. His vet gave him a number to call and, of course that was A & A Veterinary. They gave him my number and I got the call.

The man in Long Beach didn't use his fire place and the damper was closed. I opened it and the bird tried to fly up the chimney and then it fell behind the damper. I tried to reach it without success. The damper was held together with a cotter pin so I borrowed a pair of pliers and with the pliers came an enchanting four year old who wanted to help. I took out the cotter pin, pulled out the damper and the bird tried to get up the chimney again. This time when it fell it landed in the fireplace and skittered across the room and ended up with its beak in a corner.

This conduct fascinates me. I've seen all kinds of birds do it - from ducks down to sparrows in size.

It was easy to grab the bird. It was a starling! If you don't share my disgust and annoyance with this bird, please understand that it is a European bird that was brought to this country. It kills our native birds to get nesting holes and has virtually driven the eastern bluebird, our state bird, out of New York State.

I took the starling out, released it, and watched while it flew to a nearby tree.

Asa Starkweather

One of our members, Bob Warring, sent this to us from his Ornithology class at Virginia Tech. I hope you enjoy it as much as I did. Ed.

Up From The Egg;
The Confessions of
a Nuthatch Avoider

Bird Watchers top my honors list,
I aimed to be one but I missed
Since I'm both myopic and astigmatic
My aim turned out to be erratic,
And I, bespectacled and binocular,
Exposed myself to comment jocular.
We don't need too much birdlore, do we,
To tell a Flamingo from a Towhee,
Yet I cannot, and never will,
Unless the silly birds stand still.
And there's no enlightenment so obscure,
as ornithological literature.
Is yon stange creature a common chickadee,

Or a migrant Alouette from Picardy?
You rush to consult your nature guide,
And inspect the gallery inside,
But a bird in the open never looks,
Like its picture in the birdie books-
Or if it once did, it has changed its plumage
And plunges you back into ignorant gloomage,
That is why I sit here growing old by inches,
Watching the clock instead of finches,
But sometimes I visualize in my gin,
The Audubon that I audubin-

By Ogden Nash

BIRD FEEDER SURVEY COUNT-APRIL 1978

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. NOTE: Because many of these sightings have not been verified by a second party, we cannot attest to their total accuracy. This Bird Feeder Survey is solely for the enjoyment of our members and to encourage bird watching in our area.

- MOURNING DOVE _____
- DOWNY WOODPECKER _____
- BLUE JAY _____
- BLACK-CAPPED CHICKADEE _____
- TUFTED TITMOUSE _____
- WHITE-BREADED 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 _____
- SLATE-COLORED JUNCO _____
- TREE SPARROW _____
- SONG SPARROW _____
- FOX SPARROW _____
- PURPLE FINCH _____
- YELLOW-SHAFTED FLICKER _____
- PINE SISKIN _____
- ROBIN _____
- RED-BREADED NUTHATCH _____
- NAME _____

Dear Friends: I only received a few March surveys so I could not print the results this month. I did have one special sighting-Bernice Taplitz of Island Park had a Snow Bunting!

May News Deadline-April 15th

NEXT MEETING-----TUESDAY, APRIL 11, 1978, FREEPORT LIBRARY, 8:15 P.M.

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

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

APRIL 16 Tobay J.F.K. Sanctuary
23 West End #2, N.E. corner
30 West End #2, N.W. corner

MAY 7 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
14 Muttontown Nature Preserve- Take Rte. 25A
east to Muttontown La., make right turn
to parking area or Rte. 106 north to 25A,
left on 25A to Muttontown La. left to
pkg.
21 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
28 West End #2, N.E. corner

June 4 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
11 Canoe Trip - Call Francis Cooper for
information - 485-8173.

OFFICERS

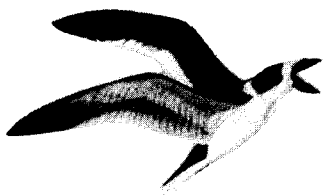
E. Kutner-President-IV6-7667
461 Dunster Ct.W. Hempstead 11552
P. Butkerei-V.P.-MA 3-2114
268 Wallace St. Freeport 11520
T. Stoltz-Membership-LY 3-4554
19 Broadway, Lynbrook 11563
P. Davis-Editor-822-6189
7 Myers Ave., Hicksville 11801

BINOCULAR SAVINGS: 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 Joan Butkerei (LY 3-4554) or Asa Starkweather (LY 9-5824).

DON'T MISS THE ENVIRONMENTAL FESTIVAL APRIL 30

ROCKVILLE CENTRE RECREATION BUILDING-11 A.M.-5 P.M.

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



FIRST CLASS MAIL