

SOUTH SHORE KIMMER



SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

VOL. 8, NO. 9

MAY 1978

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, MAY 9, 1978
8:15 P.M., FREEPORT LIBRARY

Our guest speaker will be Dr. Allan Carb, D.V.M., who will present a slide show on the "Birds and Animals of Central Africa." Don't miss this colorful and exciting program. 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

Our guest speaker at the June Dinner Meeting will be Mr. 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.

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

CANOE TRIP ON THE NISSEQUOGUE RIVER-JUNE 18, 1978

Please note that the date of the canoe trip is changed from June 11 to June 18. The change provides us with better tides, permitting navigation of most of the river.

DETAILS OF TRIP

TIME: Meet at Nassau Coliseum, Hempstead Turnpike entrance at 7:00 A.M. on June 18th.

TRANSPORTATION: We will have to form a car pool at the Coliseum, since only a limited number of cars are permitted in the Smithtown Park where we will put in our canoes.

EQUIPMENT: Canoe, paddles, life jackets, are provided. Bring lunch, binoculars, waterproof cushion, mosquito repellent, towel and swimming suit if you want to swim after the trip.

LENGTH OF TRIP: Approximately 8:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M. Swimming is permitted at the beach where we will end our trip, if you really want to make a day of it.

RESERVATIONS: Preference will be given to those who wish to go on the trip in the following order of priority:

1. those who have not gone on any of our past canoe trips,
2. those on the waiting list from last year who did not have the opportunity of going on the Carmens River trip,
3. those who have been on prior trips.

There is room for 45 persons, with 3 people in a canoe. COST: \$8.00 per person.

WHO TO CONTACT: Francis Cooper, 481-8359, M - F after 5 P.M.

(continued on page 2)

NISSEQUOGUE RIVER CANOE TRIP CONT'D.

You must call to make a reservation. After calling, your reservation will be confirmed upon receipt of your check. All reservations must be confirmed at least two weeks prior to the date of trip or they will be cancelled.

My mailing address is: Mr. Francis Cooper
95 Green Avenue
Hempstead, N.Y.
11550

The Nissequogue is an easy river to canoe. If you plan to make an entire day of it, bring a LARGE lunch. Also pray for good weather and lots of birds! (In case of rain, the trip will be held on a subsequent date.)

Francis Cooper

CONSERVATION NEWS



The interest in solar energy seems to have lost momentum in Washington and an effort to get the ball rolling again has started in Congress. Seventy-one senators and representatives sent a letter to President Carter urging him to support this important program. The letter charges the government with doing less than it could to stimulate the use of solar power and the development of new technologies. At the same time a package of bills was introduced that call for more funds for research, development and demonstration programs for solar power and other renewable resources. Also being called for are more incentives for energy conservation.

The cause of concern was the President's budget proposal of \$400 million for solar energy while a General Accounting Office study indicates that \$550 million is needed this year just to fund programs already authorized by the Administration. A second problem is a jurisdictional fight over which committees should have authority over the appropriations of the newly formed Department of Energy. The financial cutbacks and the uncertainties of committee jurisdiction are serious roadblocks in the national goal of having 2.5 million homes using solar energy by 1985.

The package of bills also contains an amendment to the Small Business Act concerning loans to encourage use and development of solar technologies. A particularly

important bill in the package, H.R. 11510 and S. 2734, would set up a solar energy bank with a \$5 billion revolving fund for long-term, low-interest loans to purchase and install solar energy systems in commercial and residential buildings.

The Nassau-Suffolk Planning Board, which is running the 208 Study for Long Island Waste Water Management is finding rain water runoff its biggest challenge. The following article sheds some light on the problem and is taken from the January 208 Study Newsletter.

Rain may be relatively pure as it falls from the sky, but by the time it flows over lawns, driveways, parking lots, streets and highways into gutters and storm drains and into sumps, streams and bays, it can be absolutely foul. Loaded with harmful pollutants, runoff poses a major threat to water quality. Its management is a major challenge for the scientists and planners of the Nassau-Suffolk 208 Study.

Runoff is classified as a "non-point" source because of its diffuse nature and because the pollutants originate in numerous unconfined areas.

If you were to analyze a sample of runoff, especially the initial flow, you'd find a veritable cocktail of chemical and biological impurities- bacteria from animal waste, fertilizers and pesticides from lawns, lead from gasoline, plus organic matter, grit and litter. Analysis of runoff in some larger urban centers have revealed that the pollutant loadings are must greater than the effluent from municipal sewage treatment plans which provide secondary treatment.

If the runoff is channeled into a sump, those impurities which are not filtered out by the soil are carried downward into the groundwater aquifers. Where storm drains empty directly into streams or bays, the contaminants can reek havoc on the aquatic environment. Runoff has been a principal cause of the demise of shellfishing in the South Shore bays over the past 30 years.

Maintaining and restoring the quality of Long Island's groundwater, streams, bays and lakes will necessitate the control of runoff. The Nassau-Suffolk 208 Plan will identify and recommend those management approaches which will most effectively accomplish this.

On Saturday, May 6, 1978 there will be a clean-up of the dune area of Silver Point. The clean-up program is open to any one wishing to participate and will commence at 11:00 A.M. Over the past winter the area suffered severe damage from high tides and strong winds and is in need of human aid. Since it is a nesting site for piping plover and least terns it is deserving of our attention. If you plan to help, Silver Point is located at the far eastern end

of Atlantic Beach and is presently the site of two private cabana clubs although the land is owned by Nassau County. We can either meet you there or I will be leaving for Silver Point from Milburn Pond, Freeport, next to the Freeport High School at 10:00 A.M. Please wear suitable clothing and bring gloves if possible. If you have a rake or shovel, label it with your name and bring it along. In case of rain, the clean-up will be the following Saturday at the same time.

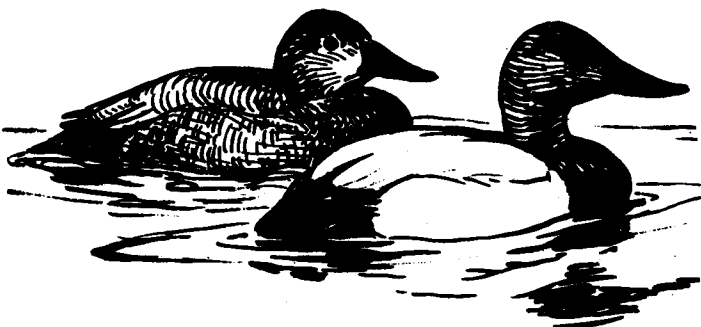
Paul Butkereiit
Conservation

*****!

BIRD FEEDER SURVEY COUNT-MARCH AND APRIL 1978

Mourning Dove	200
Downy Woodpecker	5
Blue Jay	84
Black-capped Chickadee	8
Tufted Titmouse	4
White-breasted Nuthatch	3
Mockingbird	14
Starling	115
House Sparrow	407
Red-winged Blackbird	71
Hairy Woodpecker	1
Common Grackle	46
Br. Headed Cowbird	1
Cardinal	55
Evening Grosbeak	4
White-throated Sparrow	25
House Finch	97
American Goldfinch	9
Slate-colored Junco	68
Tree Sparrow	103
Song Sparrow	116
Fox Sparrow	102
Purple Finch	18
Yellow-shafted Flicker	2
Robin	8
Red-breasted Nuthatch	4
Redpoll	2
Crow	1
Pine Siskin	15
Swamp Sparrow	*2
Meadowlark	*6
Raccoon	1

(*Oceanside Marine Study Area Bird Feeder List)



BIRD FEEDER SURVEY COUNT-MAY 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 Ave., 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-BREASTED NUTHATCH	_____
MOCKINGBIRD	_____
STARLING	_____
ROBIN	_____
HOUSE SPARROW	_____
RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD	_____
HAIRY WOODPECKER	_____
COMMON GRACKLE	_____
BR. HEADED COWBIRD	_____
CARDINAL	_____
EVENING GROSBEAK	_____
WHITE-THROATED SPARROW	_____
HOUSE FINCH	_____
AMERICAN GOLDFINCH	_____
SL. COLORED JUNCO	_____
TREE SPARROW	_____
SONG SPARROW	_____
FOX SPARROW	_____
PURPLE FINCH	_____
YELLOW-SHAFTED FLICKER	_____
RED-BREASTED NUTHATCH	_____
NAME	_____

PUBLIC HEARING RESCHEDULED: 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, May 11, from 1:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. at the Executive Legislative Building, Legislative Board Room, Suffolk County Center, Veterans Memorial Highway, Hauppauge, N.Y. This was originally scheduled for April 6 but was postponed due to the delay in passing the local assistance budget this year. The hearing will focus on hunting, fishing, trapping and wildlife management policies and on the creation of a Commission of Fish and Wildlife independent of the Dept. of Environmental Conservation(A.9959). National Audubon is opposed to this legislation. If at all possible, please try to attend this most important hearing-Thursday, May 11, 1:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.

Our Monarch Butterfly
Part II



The upper wings of the monarch butterfly are bright orange or reddish, with the borders and veins black. It has two rows of white spots on the outer borders and two rows of pale spots of moderately large size across the apex of the forewings. The undersides of the lower wings are beige or light tan, resembling the color of dead leaves.

The monarch male adult is easy to distinguish from the female in that on the first median nervule of the hind wings, there is a black scent-pouch. The scent from this pouch, many think, is used to entice a female monarch into mating with him. The reverse is true in the case of the silk spinning caterpillars of moths belonging to the species known as Saturnidae. The female of this family emits a scent which attracts the male. The male picks up this scent with his antennae and follows it to the "calling" female. The different females of this family of moths have their own particular scent and mating time.

The monarch is polygoneutic-it has a number of broods each year although few, if any, monarchs live beyond nine months.

In the fall of the year the monarchs, still living, prepare for their migration to warmer climates to hibernate during the winter months. Usually they are individualistic fliers. However, some observers have reported large bands flying southward containing tens of thousands of butterflies. On their way south, fertile females will lay their eggs when they reach states near the Mason-Dixon Line. They then continue their way southward. The eastern population head for wintering places in Florida, Texas and Mexico, etc. while the western population winter in California and southward.

Of all the monarchs marked by institutions and interested persons, none has ever been recaptured at the same place the next year. A monarch has a life expectancy of nine months. It is always a new generation of monarchs that makes the migratory trip. As this new generation has never seen the wintering grounds of its species, how does it return inerrantly to these grounds - some butterflies even returning to the same trees from which their ancestors left the preceding spring? Certainly they do not do it by memory, but probably by some built-in biological instinct or some system of navigation

The monarch has been found in such far

away places as England, western Europe, the Azores and across the Pacific as far as Hawaii, Australia and Java. Gravid (pregnant) females borne by ships or planes have aided in their spread.

Monarchs have been observed in flight 500 miles at sea - possibly blown off course by a strong wind. In many of these foreign places the species cannot be perpetuated because of the lack of milkweed. The caterpillars' only food plant, milkweed, does not grow wild in Europe.

To my knowledge, the longest flight on record of a migrating monarch is 1,870 miles from Toronto, Ontario, Canada, to the town of Catorce in San Luis Potosi, Mexico. Most of the monarchs tagged by interested people are never recovered.

The monarch cruises at about 10 miles an hour and may reach speeds up to 30 miles an hour.

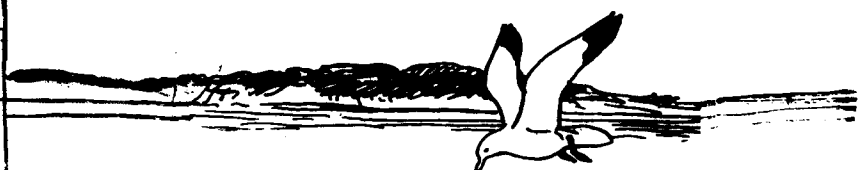
The community most famous of the many wintering places for the monarch butterflies is Pacific Grove, California. It calls itself "Butterfly Town", U.S.A. Years ago the town passed Ordinance #352 which makes it illegal "to molest or interfere with in any way the peaceful occupancy of the Monarch Butterflies on their annual visit to the city...."

In Pacific Grove, as many as 10,000 monarchs may rest on a single eucalyptus or pine tree. The twigs actually bend under their weight - 100 butterflies weigh hardly one ounce. During the cooler part of the day, the butterflies rest with their wings closed. They look like dead leaves on the trees on which they are resting. When the day warms up, they open their wings and flutter off in search of nectar from flowers and water.

The monarchs usually arrive at Pacific Grove sometime in October, not in groups, but singly. There they will remain until March when the bands begin to break up and the butterflies start northward in search of milkweed. Here and there the fertile female stops to lay her eggs. The butterflies reach West Virginia about April and Canada at the end of May or early June. Usually the males arrive first. The return migration southward starts in early or late autumn after about three generations in the middle states, two in the northern states, and after a single generation in Canada.

Gardner Gregory
The Gregory Museum

A radio program entitled "All Things Considered" on National Public Radio WNYC-FM between 5-6:30 P.M. has in depth news coverage with frequent conservation and bird stories.



The Oceanside Marine Study Area



Oceanside Marine Nature Study Area Bird List
March 1978

The Oceanside Marine Study Area, maintained and operated by the Town of Hempstead Conservation and Waterways Department, was dedicated on Earth Day in 1970. It has become a familiar haunt for birds and botanists. Also, thousands of students have toured the 52 acres of salt marsh learning about the marine environment. (The Hempstead Estuary total 17,000 acres.)

Visual aids are strategically placed where visitors can move comfortably and safely while learning about the various plant and animal associations comprising the marsh and the biological and physical processes by which it operates.

The area is divided into 6 sections concentrating on various aspects of marsh wildlife. The trail starts with the SALTMARSH ECOSYSTEM covering marsh vegetation, food chains, nutrient exchanges and other ecological relationships. There is a SHORE-BIRDS site illustrating the various types of migratory wading birds, plovers and sandpipers. The trail then leads to LIFE IN THE TIDAL SHALLOWS, showing common seaweed, phytoplankton and marine worms of the area. An earthen walkway leads to the WATERFOWL section located at the beginning of a two-acre tidal pond. At the opposite end of the pond, overlooking Middle Bay, is the BAY COMMUNITY. There are mollusks, forage fish, crustacea and other marine life.

The return trip is through the SAND DUNE COMMUNITY where the basic processes of dune formation is demonstrated along with the plants that invade this type of land formation. Seed and berry-producing shrubs attract a large variety of birds. The trail then leads to the Interpretive Center which has exhibits pertaining to the salt marsh ecosystem.

The walk takes about an hour and is free. The Study Area is open Tues.-Fri. 9:00 A.M. to 5 P.M. Sat.-7:00 A.M.-5:00 P.M. The early Saturday opening is so that you may see as many birds as possible. On June 28, the Study Area will be open until 6:00 P.M. Persons under 14 years of age must be accompanied by an adult. If you wish any further information, you may call the Marine Study Area at (516) 766-1580.

The Study Area Staff, Laurence A. Kelly and William Overton have sent the following lists of birds seen at the Study Area. As you can see, it quite a large list! I hope you all will visit this excellent Marine Nature Study Area soon.

Black duck	150
Mallard duck	40
Brant	1,000
Wigeon	6
Common crow	6
Herring gull	100's
Black-backed gull	3
Cardinal	2 pr.
Song sparrow	12
Tree sparrow	2
Mourning dove	6
English sparrow	40
Black-capped chickadee	1
House finch	7
Red-breasted nuthatch	1
Mockingbird	2
Starling	30
Short-eared owl	1
Marsh hawk	1
Greater scaup	12
Kingfisher	1
Greater yellowlegs	1
Dunlin	60
Bufflehead	8
Pintail	22
Red-breasted merganser	5
Meadowlark	7
Canada goose	9
Redwing blackbird	6
Great blue heron	7
American kestrel	1
Blue jay	1
Bonaparte's gull	1
Killdeer	4
Red crossbills	9
Purple grackle	3
Robin	1
Savannah sparrow	3
Fish crow	6
American egret	2

The Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary will have a Spring Discovery Walk - a Mother's Day Special on Sunday, May 14, from 1:30 P.M. to 3:00 P.M.

A special exhibit on "Animal Communication-Gulls" is at the Tackapausha Museum in Seaford from April through June. This exhibit will provide some fascinating insights into the behavior of Long Island gulls.

RACCOON SURVEY: SSAS member and a frequent contributor to the Skimmer, Stan Ziminski, is preparing 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.

NEXT MEETING---TUESDAY, MAY 9, 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.

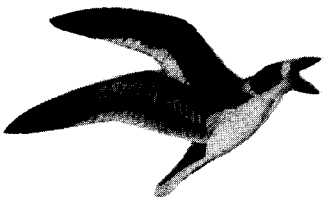
- APRIL 16 Tobay J.F.K. Sanctuary
23 West End #2, N.E. corner
30 West End #2, N.W. corner
- MAY 7 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
14 Muttontown Nature Preserve- Take Rte. 25A
east to Muttontown La., make right turn
to parking area or Rte. 106 north to 25A,
left on 25A to Muttontown La. left to
pkg.
21 Jamaica 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

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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 Butkereiit (LY 3-4554) or Asa Starkweather (LY 9-5824).

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



FIRST CLASS MAIL