

SOUTH SHORE SKIMMER



SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

VOL. 9, NO. 1

SEPTEMBER 1978

Dear Friends,

I hope you all had a wonderful summer and are ready to begin another active and enjoyable year in South Shore Audubon. Again, I am asking you to send me your articles, stories, and artwork so that we can make the "Skimmer" more entertaining and informative each and every month. I look forward to meeting you at our first meeting, September 12th.

Pat Davis, Editor

MEETING: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1978
8:15 P.M., FREEPORT LIBRARY

GUEST

SPEAKER: Professor Julian Kane
Director of Water Studies
for Environmental Technology Seminar, Teacher of Hydrology at Hofstra University and an Academic Member of the Citizens Advisory Committee for Nassau-Suffolk 208 Study

Professor Kane will speak on the completed 208 Plan for Wastewater Management on Long Island. The talk will include insights into what problems the plan does or does not address and will outline what work lies ahead for the implementation of such a plan. The topic of public participation on the planning of a major public works project will also be reviewed.

Don't miss this important and informative meeting!!

Huntington Audubon Hosts A

NATURE AWARENESS DAY

SATURDAY, SEPT. 9TH

The Huntington Audubon Society is having a Nature Awareness Day on Saturday, Sept. 9, 9:00 to 5:00, rain or shine, centered at the Nature Conservancy, Upland Farms, Lawrence Hill Road, Cold Spring Harbor. Cost: \$2.00 adults, \$1.00 children. 5 to 11, under 5 free.

There will be a program on the care and feeding of sick and injured birds with some permanently disabled hawks and owls available for closeup observation. Special activities and field trips for youngsters are planned. There will be a wild flower walk, a shore ecology trip, a walk for birding (of course), and many other events, talks and exhibits including continuous films. Natural foods will be available or you can bring a picnic lunch. Our own Elliott Kutner will be a guest speaker on "Warbler Migration."

This event will give us a deeper understanding of Long Island's unique habitats, flora and fauna, while having fun outdoors and sharing our feelings and knowledge with each other.

Mark the date on your calendar, Saturday, September 9, Uplands Farms. Don't miss this special event!!



Blackpoll
Warbler

The following editorial was taken from the July 1978 issue of "New York State Environment." Mr. Cross is a technical editor with the Department of Environmental Conservation. Letters to our state representatives may aid in preserving this vital piece of legislation.

Editorial

Wetlands Attack

New York's Freshwater Wetlands Act is facing a challenge which, if successful, could be the death knell for thousands of valuable wetlands across the state.

Some critics of the three-year-old statute claim it's too restrictive and should be either drastically changed or completely abolished.

We don't agree.

The Freshwater Wetlands Act, created by the State Legislature in 1975, was designed to protect and preserve New York's 50,000 wetlands, which serve as breeding, feeding, and nesting habitat for a great variety of wildlife, wildfowl, and shorebirds.

Besides performing these important ecological functions, wetlands also provide flood, storm, and erosion control, protection for subsurface water, and open space for scientific study and aesthetic appreciation.

Obviously, they play a vital role in man's environment and must be protected from developmental pressures which invariably lead to destruction.

The trouble is, not everyone agrees.

The law's harshest critics say it takes away a citizen's right to do what he wants with his own property. Those critics say the law should be repealed.

They are wrong, in our opinion, and, in fact, we believe that the law must be strictly enforced so that our wetlands can continue to perform their valuable functions.

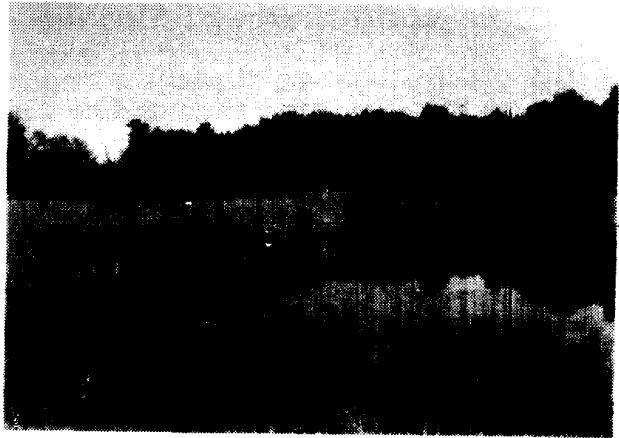
But one measure, already approved by the state Senate, would severely limit implementation of the law, invite crippling court challenges, and increase costs of the program to the state's citizens. It would also significantly delay the on-going statewide wetlands inventory.

Other proposals would simply do away with the law, serving as an invitation for developers to drain, fill, and build on top of the marsh or swamp.

We oppose all of these misguided efforts.

The Freshwater Wetlands Act is here for everyone's benefit — not just for a handful of environmentalists who want to save these important natural assets.

The rights of citizens were taken into account when the statute was drafted, and those rights are real and spelled out clearly in the law.



Included in that bill of rights is the right of a landowner to an on-site inspection of his property, if the department classified it as a wetlands during an aerial survey.

But a landowner's rights don't end there. Even if the department confirms its initial findings that a wetlands does exist, the landowner can still appeal those findings with the board of appeals. This independent panel, created to make sure everyone is treated fairly, will review each case objectively, and has the power to overturn the department decision. All the landowner has to do is file an appeal with the board and the review will begin.

Procedures are informal and a person does not need a lawyer to appeal.

So the rights — and not just the responsibilities — of our citizens are provided in the law. A close reading of the statute should allay fears that it's a restrictive governmental mandate designed to take away citizen's rights.

It won't, however, eliminate opposition from persons who simply want the law repealed to further their own economic interests. We must be wary of those who would abolish one of the most progressive pieces of environmental legislation this state has ever seen.

Robert F. Cross

TREASURER'S REPORT - YEAR ENDED 6/30/78

ASSETS

Cash - Checking Account	\$1,739.90	
Savings Bank	4,068.24	\$5,808.14
Inventory - Binoculars		662.52
" - Decals		185.20
" - Patches		179.22
Advances - Canoe Trip		120.00
" - Boat Trip		100.00

TOTAL ASSETS \$7,055.08

LIABILITIES

TOTAL LIABILITIES -0-

NET WORTH \$7,055.08

INCOME AND EXPENSES

Income

National Audubon	\$6,600.25
Profits - Binoculars	1,277.33
" - Decals	8.40
" - Patches	5.20
Interest-Savings Account	173.99
Donations	15.00
Profit - Cameras	12.50

TOTAL INCOME \$8,092.67

Expenses

Newsletter	\$3,844.10
Contributions	800.00
Meetings	215.00
Postage & Stationery	42.65
P. O. Box	65.00
Membership	32.56
Audubon Camps	860.00
Speakers	100.00
Gifts	99.25
Education	299.38
Art Show	143.27
Insurance	215.00
Loss-Dinner	60.50

TOTAL EXPENSES \$6,776.71

NET INCOME \$1,315.96

This is the first part in a seven-part series on the Galapagos Islands by one of the most knowledgeable birders in SSAS, Al Lemke.

Las Islas Encantadas

The Galapagos Islands

1. Quito - Baltra - Bartholome

Quito, the capital and second largest city of Ecuador, sits on a 9,300 foot plateau in the heart of the Andes. Thus, although situated almost directly on the equator, daytime temperatures are pleasant and the nights cold. In this bustling, modern city, surrounded by snow-clad peaks soaring to over 19,000 feet, we spent one evening and night preparatory to our flight to the Galapagos.

Early the next morning we took off for our eagerly awaited destination, and, after a brief stopover in the steaming port city of Guayaquil, we arrived without incident at Baltra, a small, flat low island with an airstrip to accommodate the twice weekly flights to the islands. Baltra was occupied for a number of years by American military forces, who, to break the monotony, whiled away the time taking potshots at iguanas and other wildlife, which is now almost non-existent.

We were promptly whisked in a rather rickety bus a short distance to the yacht Isabela, which was to be our home for the next week. Although the sleeping quarters were rather cramped, the boat, 106 feet long with a 19-foot beam and 6-foot draft, provided all the necessities - bunks, toilets, showers, surprisingly excellent food and, most important of all, a well-stocked bar.

After being assigned our quarters, we departed for our first stop, the small island of Bartolome. This island also does not have too much wildlife except for lava lizards and hordes of Sally Lightfoot crabs, brilliant red with blue markings around their faces.

Bartolomé is touted as a prime example of the Galapagos geology, although some of the islands we saw later struck us as being better in this respect. They are all volcanic in origin and are still very young, ranging in age from 500 thousand to 4 million years, the easternmost island generally being the oldest. Although astride the equator, the Galapagos are washed by the cold Humboldt current, making for temperatures generally on the cool side. After sundown, a sweater or jacket is required. But the cold waters carry vast amounts of plankton to feed the teeming fish which in turn, provide food for the hordes of birds, sea lions, fur seals and dolphins for which the islands are famous.

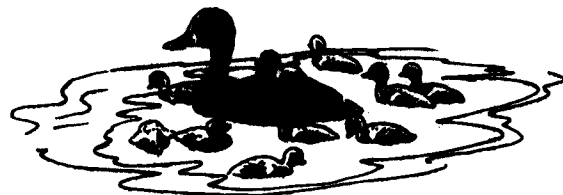
On the trip to Bartholomé some two dozen bottle-nosed dolphins cavorted alongside the Isabela, providing a delightful foretaste of the fabulous wildlife adventures to follow.

That evening we set sail (although without sails) for the island of Tower, where we could see at first hand the fantastic wildlife that make the Galapagos truly Las Islas Encantadas, The Enchanted Islands.

Al Lemke

ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING LOBBY CONVENTION

The 8th Annual Environmental Planning Lobby Convention will be held this year on Saturday and Sunday, October 14 and 15, in Saratoga Springs at the Holiday Inn. Gubernatorial candidates have been invited to address general sessions. There will be panel discussions and workshops on a wide variety of environmental topics, with some time left to enjoy the historic City of Saratoga and the Adirondack fall foliage. Registration fee for the weekend is \$10. For information and reservations, call EPL at (518) 462-5526.



Return of the Peregrine

Because of the contaminant DDT, the Peregrine Falcon was completely exterminated as a breeding bird in the eastern U.S. DDT caused the Peregrine to produce eggs with shells so thin they could not be incubated without breaking.

Since the DDT ban, many predatory birds have recovered. The Osprey, Cooper's Hawk, and even the Bald Eagle are beginning to reproduce without the previous disastrous results. Unfortunately, because of the DDT damage, the Peregrine has not returned.

x

Through a program of breeding in captivity and then releasing the young birds at a proper age, the Peregrine will be reestablished in the wild. The New Paltz Peregrine Falcon Foundation was specifically established to accomplish this goal.

Guy Coheleach, the renowned artist, generously donated 500 of his "White Tiger" prints, valued at \$25,000, to help finance construction of a specially designed peregrine breeding facility in 1977. Dr. Heinz Meng, Professor of Biology at the State University at New Paltz, has provided his expertise and technology at successfully breeding the Peregrine in captivity.

When my husband and I visited Bill Robinson (our excellent June dinner meeting speaker) in July, he contacted Heinz Meng and we were able to see the New Paltz facility and its very special residents. Bill Robinson is on the Board of Directors of the New Paltz Peregrine Foundation.

Breeding chambers were built for each mating pair of Peregrines and black plastic was even placed over the windows to insure the birds' absolute privacy. Dr. Meng showed us a young Peregrine, Cindy, who was born at the facility a few weeks earlier. She was a fluffy white ball of feathers who followed Dr. Meng like a puppy.

Dr. Meng removes the first clutch of eggs and hatches them artificially. After the loss of the first clutch, the female will lay a second clutch which will be raised by the parent birds themselves.

I have only briefly outlined the outstanding work of the New Paltz Peregrine Falcon Foundation. If you would like to learn more about this fascinating subject, Dr. Heinz Meng's excellent book, Falcons Return, (William Morrow, Pub.) is an authoritative, informative and exciting account of his successful breeding of Peregrines in captivity. Dr. Meng has made a lifelong study of predatory birds and in 1964 began to mate peregrines. After seven years and many attempts, Dr. Meng succeeded in raising a number of Peregrines in captivity.

To allow the Peregrine Falcon to vanish from our environment would be a tragedy. If you would like to join the New Paltz Peregrine Falcon Foundation or desire further information, please write to:

The New Paltz Peregrine Foundation
10 Joalyn Road
New Paltz, New York

Pat Davis

At the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary:

The SSAS volunteers who donated their time at T.R. Sanctuary this summer did a great job!! Over 30 volunteers from the three participating Audubon societies typed, filed, greeted visitors, and answered phones along with many other chores. Volunteers are essential if the Sanctuary is to continue offering its many services and programs to the community. If you would like to volunteer this fall, please call me. Thanks again to all the SSAS members who worked so hard this summer to help the Sanctuary and its staff.

Pat Davis, 822-6189

HELP WANTED GIRL/GUY FRIDAY

The Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary is looking for a mature, responsible clerical worker who can type, set up a filing system, answer phones, greet visitors, and do general office work. 25 hrs. per week/\$75 per week. Contact the Director, Alan Ruppert, 922-3200.

OCT. NEWS DEADLINE SEPT. 15

NEXT MEETING----TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 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.

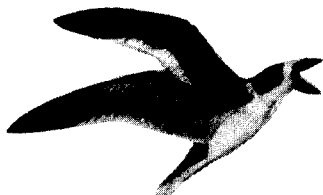
JUNE 4 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
18 Canoe Trip - Call Francis Cooper for
information - 485-8173
AUG. 20 Boat Trip - Great South Bay
27 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
SEPT.10 West End #2, N.W. corner
17 Tobay-J.F.K. Sanctuary
24 Short Beach, West End #2, N.E. corner
OCT. 1 Zach's Bay Pkg. Fld. #4
8 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
15 West End #2, N.W. corner
22 Tobay-J.F.K. Sanctuary
29 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
NOV. 5 Pelham Bay-Throg's Neck Bridge, right sid
toll booth at 9:00 A.M.

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E. Kutner-Birding-IV 6-7667
461 Dunster Ct.,W.Hempstead 11552

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).

SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY
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