

# SOUTH SHORE SKIMMER



SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

VOL. 9, NO. 7

MARCH 1979

MEETING: TUESDAY, MARCH 13  
FREEPORT LIBRARY  
8:15 P.M.

GUEST  
SPEAKER: Pat Santora

"Wildflowers - Lure & Lore"

Pat Santora, a well-known L.I. naturalist and writer will present an exciting program of photos of our wildflower heritage and the legends surrounding them.

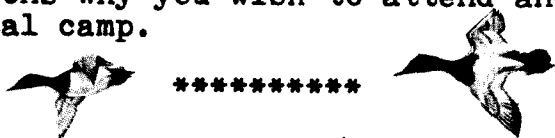
Ms. Santora is the editor of Huntington Audubon's "Killdeer"; a freelance writer to the New York Times and a former environmental writer for the L.I. Press. She has a long affiliation with the Baldwin Bird Club and is the editor of their publication "The L.I. Naturalist." Ms. Santora is a member of the Citizen's Advisory Committee (C.A.C.) on L.I. Rivers to the N.Y. State Dept. of Environmental Conservation and a member of the Citizen's Advisory Committee on Wastewater Management to the N.Y. State Regional Planning Board. Please join us for an exciting and informative evening!

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YOUTH SCHOLARSHIPS:

Once again the South Shore Audubon Society is offering two youth scholarships to the Rogers Environmental Center in Sherburne, N.Y. this summer. These will be one week sessions and all inter-

ested parties in their early teens should apply by sending a letter to the South Shore Audubon Society, P.O. Box 31, Freeport, N.Y. 11520. These letters should give the reasons why you wish to attend an environmental camp.



AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILM/LECTURE SERIES:

Wednesday, March 7, 1979, Alan J. King  
"Song of the Prairie"

Wednesday, May 2, 1979, Tom Pyas  
"Northwest Adventures and Adventures in Penn's Woods"

Shows are held at the Town Hall Pavilion at 8:15 P.M. For free tickets (limit of 2) send a stamped self-addressed envelope specifying date and number of tickets to Audubon Wildlife Film/Lecture Series, 200 North Franklin Street, Hempstead, N.Y. 11550.

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BIRD SEED DISCOUNT:

All Thistle Seed and Maine Manna Seed Suet Cakes not sold on Bird Seed Savings Day are available at a 15% discount. If you wish to purchase some seed or cakes, please call Joan Butkerei at LY 3-4554. Why not stock up for next year?

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FOR ECOLOGY SAKE:

We are requesting that our members bring their own coffee cups (we will supply the coffee, of course) to all meetings so that we will save on waste materials. Thank you.

CONSERVATION NEWS



Alaska

The House Alaska bill that failed last season has been re-designated H.R. 39 and was again introduced by Representative Morris K. Udall of Arizona, Chairman of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs. The bill to date has 133 cosponsors and is essentially the measure that passed by 277-31 last year in the House after extensive hearings. When Representative Udall scheduled hearings for his committee this year, he said his aim would be to "update" the committee's "information base" and that he hoped to get the bill moving without delay. The committee is hearing only witnesses it has invited to testify.

The Senate's Alaska bill, S. 222 was introduced by Senators John A. Durkin of New Hampshire, Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin, and William V. Roth, Jr. of Delaware. They have 18 cosponsors but need more. Last year the measure was blocked by a threatened filibuster by the Alaskan senators and never reached the Senate floor.

Water Projects



A bill to deauthorize 12 boondoggle water projects that would cost a total of \$2 billion if completed stands a chance in the Subcommittee on Water Resources of the House Committee on Public Works and Transportation early next month if conservationists act to lend support. The bill would eliminate 12 U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's pork barrel dams, locks, and canals, all of which are opposed by their local representatives on the grounds that they are no longer politically desirable or economically feasible. None are currently receiving funds, and all are inactive.

Introducing the bill as a belt-tightening measure will be Congressman Robert H. Mitchel of Illinois, a fiscally conservative Republican. By selecting relatively non-controversial projects, the 24 cosponsors hope to minimize opposition to the bill and to set a precedent that will encourage the Public Works Committee to deauthorize similarly wasteful projects next year.

The bill will face tough and hostile Subcommittee on Water Resources, whose chairman, Roy Roberts of Texas, is reported ready to let it die. Another 50 cosponsors are needed to prevent this from happening. National Audubon members are urged to write their congressmen immediately; House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515.

A Birdseed Tax?

Among the important wildlife measures that failed to pass in the last Congress was the Nongame Wildlife Conservation bill. It will be back again this season with National Audubon Society support. Basically the bill is the nongame counterpart of two laws, the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act and the Dingell-Johnson Fish Restoration and Management Act, which supports programs for game animals and fish. Those programs are funded by an excise tax on hunting and fishing equipment. Funds to implement the nongame program would come from an equally appropriate tax, a tax on birdseed, feeders, and birdhouses.

The nongame bill sailed through the Senate last year but foundered in the House after the United States Chamber of Commerce got the wildly misguided idea that a program to protect nongame wildlife and its habitat would mean condemnation of large areas of land for wildlife preserves and would bring land-use controls that would hamper development. The truth is that land condemnation by state fish and wildlife agencies has been the exception, not the rule. Usually such lands are acquired from willing sellers. And rather than adding to developers' problems, a program that provided data on wildlife and wildlife problems could help clear up the uncertainty that now often exits. Would-be developers could find out in advance what species or habitat in an area might require special consideration under existing environmental laws.

Paul Butkereiit  
Conservation

Las Islas Encantadas  
The Galapagos Islands

7. James - Lions of the Sea

The afternoon on James was spent observing a large colony of Galapagos sea lions. They are one of three distinct forms of California sea lions - the others are found in the Sea of Japan and, of course, the American west coast

The rookery included a number of pups, ranging in age from approximately two weeks to virtually full grown. Some were lying around patiently waiting for their mothers to return from fishing trips while others gleefully gamboled on the lava or in the many tidal pools of varying depths. They appeared completely oblivious to the presence of 13 gaping humans, but one young pup was attracted to a bright blue tote bag left on the ground by one of our group, and after careful investigation spent a blissful ten minutes nuzzling it.

A short time later a cow came ashore and promptly began calling for her pup. Three young pups were playing together on a flat stretch of lava, and one immediately began bleating in reply. Sea lions' voices have a considerable range, and mother and offspring identify each other by call, confirmed by scent when they meet. It was delightful to watch their joyous, nuzzling encounter, but woe betide any intruding pup who tries to horn in. One of the pup's playmates tried to feed from the mother but, when he persisted after a sharp warning growl, was gruffly picked up by the scruff of the neck, thrown a short distance and sharply bitten by the irate cow. His retreat showed more speed than we thought he was capable of.

Unlike some other seals, sea lions will feed only their own young. If a cow meets with an accident, her pup will starve. But since a cow can only adequately feed

one pup, this trait has an undoubted survival value.

Sea lions suckle their young until well advanced in the next pregnancy, and we saw several almost full-grown youngsters nursing. Eventually, before the birth of her next young, the mother turns snappish and rebuffs her pup. By then the young sea lion is well able to look after itself and generally has a place in a companionable group. In the case of a male, he may for a while pair up with an adult bull, swimming with him and hauling out by his side. In time he grows more and more solitary, and eventually becomes a challenger for a territory and a harem. He will probably lose his first few fights, but will finally find a spent bull he can conquer, and, in his turn, become an old tyrant and beachmaster.

The quiet of this peaceful scene was suddenly shattered by a series of ear-splitting roars coming from the water's edge. Rushing to the scene we discovered a young bull attempting to come ashore. He was promptly challenged by the beachmaster jealously guarding his harem. A short but furious fight ensued, with the two bulls savagely biting each other. The defender won this fight, and the interloper fled.

Nelson, who observed them for several months, writes that the established bulls are frequently overthrown, with the victorious challenger taking over the harem. It appears to be a matter of complete indifference to the females, and to an oestrous cow one bull is obviously as good as another.

Although most old bulls carry several scars, none of the injuries received in battle appear serious enough to prove mortal. The end usually comes peacefully, often with the spent old bull resting peacefully on a beach.

The bulls also assist, to some degree, in rearing their young. Their main function appears to be in keeping the swimming pups close to shore, as sharks will, and occasionally do, kill small sea lions who wander too far out to sea.

(continued on next page)

7. James - Lions of the Sea cont'd.

The hours flew by all too fast, and it was with sincere regret that we left these intelligent, enchanting mammals, although we consoled ourselves with the knowledge that more wildlife, and more sea lions, lay ahead.

Al Lemke

WATERFOWL RESCUE TEAM  
LEADERSHIP TRAINING WORKSHOP  
OIL SPILLS AND BIRDS

The Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary has been appointed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as the Center for the coordination of Oiled Bird Rehabilitation.

On February 10, 1979 from 9:00 to 3:00 P.M. the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary held a Waterfowl Rescue Team (WRT) Leadership Training Workshop for community and civic leaders of Long Island. The workshop was held at the Sanctuary in the morning, followed by a demonstration of recommended cleaning procedures at the Target Rock Wildlife Refuge in the afternoon.

Alan Ruppert, Director of the Sanctuary, welcomed us and introduced the lead speaker, Commander John Harrald of the U.S. Coast Guard. Cmdr. Harrald reviewed the Coast Guard's role in the event of an oil spill. They are responsible for directing oil spill cleanup and all agencies, both governmental and volunteer, must comply with their regulations and determinations during any oil spill emergency.

Other governmental agencies represented at this meeting included Roger Steelman, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Dr. Jeffrey Wenig, Town of Huntington Dept. of Environmental Protection, and Chuck Hamilton, N.Y. State Dept. of Environmental Conservation.

Roger Steelman praised ornithologist Sallie Ruppert's outstanding work in aiding oiled

waterfowl on Long Island. He stated that U.S. Fish and Wildlife would follow the Coast Guard's direction and assist in any way possible during a major oil spill.

The Town of Huntington has been a pioneer in wildlife conservation on L.I. and has assisted the Waterfowl Rescue Team in cleaning birds caught in several small spills. Dr. Wenig read a letter from Town of Huntington Supervisor Kenneth Butterfield which pledged continued support for any future WRT efforts.

Chuck Hamilton, N.Y. State Dept. of Env. Conservation, presented an informative color slide show on the effects of oil spills on plants and soil in our area.

Alan Ruppert then introduced Basil Tangredi DVM who showed, through the use of slides, the effects of oil on a bird's feather structure. Cleaning must be done very gently and carefully so this delicate arrangement is left intact. If the feather structure is destroyed and the feathers do not "lay" correctly, the bird will be unable to trap the air inside the feathers (which provides warmth in cold weather). His waterproofing is also adversely affected.

Eileen Hathaway DVM worked extensively with the Delaware Audubon Society in the area of oiled waterfowl and she reviewed the internal problems of oil on the birds. She also discussed the different feeding characteristics of each kind of water bird and how this must be taken into consideration. Some waterfowl like to dive for their food while others will eat from the surface. When caring for these birds in captivity, this is important to their survival.

Both doctors reiterated the fact that there is a very low survival rate among oiled waterfowl due to the extended period of stress and their already weakened condition when they arrive at the cleaning facility.

After a delicious lunch, we carpoled to the Target Rock Wildlife Refuge for a live bird demonstration. Sallie Ruppert demonstrated the cleaning procedure with one of the ducks (all were unnailed). Of course, the duck was not actually cleaned but we were shown how to protect the eyes, nostrils and beak and how to hold the bird while it is being cleaned. Several tubs of water

Waterfowl Rescue Team Meeting cont'd.

were arranged in addition to two wading pools and a holding pen.

An oiled bird must be cleaned thoroughly. It may take more than one session to clean an oiled bird. If the bird is very weak, Mrs. Ruppert believes it is better to wait a day or two before trying to clean it.

I wish to thank all of you from South Shore Audubon who attended this important meeting. I am proud to say we were very well represented. If any of you would like to join the Waterfowl Rescue Team but were unable to attend the meeting, please call me at 822-6189.

Although we met at the T.R. Sanctuary for a serious discussion on a very difficult topic, it was a most enjoyable day and I feel I learned a great deal about the problem and its possible solutions.

Pat Davis

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OTHER VOLUNTEER WORKSHOPS AT THE THEODORE ROOSEVELT SANCTUARY:

Over 125 elementary grade classes will be participating in the T.R. Sanctuary Environmental Education Program during the next few months. Therefore, we need many volunteers to help teach and assist during the different programs we offer. Below is a listing of dates specially scheduled for Volunteer Training Workshops. Don't worry about lacking an educational background, all you need is a love of nature and a willingness to get involved.

Wed., March 7, 9:30-11:30 A.M.  
"Woodland Discoveries"

Wed., March 21, 9:30-11:30 A.M.  
"Pond Expedition"



Tues., May 1, 9:30-11:30 A.M.  
"Beach Environment"

CAMP SESSION FOR TEENS:

This summer for the first time the Audubon Camp in Wisconsin will offer a special ecology workshop session for students of high school age. It will be held June 24-30 at the Hunt Hill Sanctuary in the northeastern part of the state, where adult sessions are held in July and August.

There will be morning and afternoon field trips and special programs or optional workshops in the evening. The subjects include bird life, animal life, aquatic biology (the sanctuary has two lakes), the physical environment, and general ecology. There also will be a few evening hikes for owling or star-watching, and free time for volleyball, swimming, snorkeling, and canoeing.

The cost for the session is \$210. Applications for enrollment are available from the Camp Department at the society's headquarters at 950 Third Ave., N.Y., N.Y. 10022. Deadline for enrollment is May 15th.

BOOK FOR BIRDERS:

Tips on buying binoculars, scopes, telephoto lenses, and tape recorders; thumbnail descriptions of periodicals and books for birdwatchers; lists of birding organizations places to go and guided tours to take. These are among the offerings of THE COMPLETE OUTFITTING AND SOURCE BOOK FOR BIRD WATCHERS, by Michael Scofield. The 192-page book is available in soft cover for \$6.95 at bookstores or direct from the publisher at 75 cents extra for postage: The Great Outdoors Trading Company, 24759 Shoreline Highway, Marshall, California 94940.



DID YOU KNOW?

There are 14 billion birds who don't fly south for the winter.

Birds eat up to 4 times their weight every day to maintain healthy body temperature.

Bread crumbs are not good nourishment for birds (they do not contain oils).

APRIL NEWS DEADLINE MAR.15

NEXT MEETING----TUESDAY, MAR. 13TH, 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.

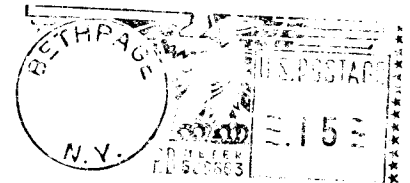
- FEB. 11 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- 18 Zach's Bay, Pkg.Fld.#4, N.E. corner
- 25 Short Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
  
- MAR. 4 West End #2, N.W. corner
- 11 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- 18 Zach's Bay Pkg.Fld.#4, N.E. corner
- 25 Tobay, J.F.K. Sanctuary
  
- APR. 1 West End #2, N.W. corner
- 8 Short Beach West End #2, N.E. corner
- 22 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- 29 Zach's Bay Pkg.Fld.#4, N.E. corner
  
- MAY 6 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

**OFFICERS**

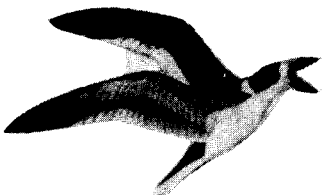
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**BINOCULAR SAVINGS** are available thru **barbara Tancredi evenings 7-9 887-2491**  
**the club. Save 30 to 50% on Bushnell Bill Herzog evenings 7 to 9 791-7886**  
**and Bausch and Lomb binoculars and Asa Starkweather 599-5824**  
**scopes. See us at meetings and Joan Butkerei 593-4554**  
**birdwalks or call the committee members listed.**

**SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY**  
**P.O. BOX 31**  
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