

# SOUTH SHORE SKIMMER



SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

VOL. 9, NO. 9

MAY 1979

**NEXT MEETING:** TUESDAY, MAY 8TH  
FREEPORT LIBRARY  
8:15 P.M.

**GUEST SPEAKER:** Albert Lemke

## "Galapagos Wildlife"

During the past few months, Al Lemke has shared his trip to the Galapagos with us through his superb articles in the "Skimmer". These have laid the groundwork for his new slide show on the wildlife of this ecological wonder. As a founding father of SSAS, Mr. Lemke has served it in almost every capacity from Conservation Chairman, President, Board Member, Treasurer and Lecturer to Nature Photographer. It is in this capacity that we are privileged to have him present this program. Please join us for an exciting glimpse of the Galapagos

## "4TH ANNUAL CANOE TRIP"- JUNE 3RD

This year's trip will take us down Suffolk's rustic Peconic River. The trip will cover about 10 miles of downstream light paddling and will take most of the day. Pack a lunch. The cost of possibly getting wet, eaten by mosquitoes and a few sore muscles is a mere \$7.00 per person. To arrange car pooling we will meet at 7:30 A.M. sharp on June 3 at the Twin Theatres North, Mid-Island Shopping Center, Hicksville, N.Y. The theatres are located just south of the LI Expwy. on Broadway Route 107 in Hicksville. If you are interested, call Marion Friedlander at 249-4628 (evenings to reserve a space. After your reservation is confirmed, mail your check, payable to SSAS to Marion Friedlander, 262 N. Kentucky Ave., No. Massapequa 11758.

## SSAS PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

Photos may be submitted in the following categories: 1) Themes in Nature 2) Man & His World. A limit of 3 photos may be entered in each category. Both black and white and color enlargements are eligible. Slides will be accepted for separate judging. All entries will be displayed on May 20 at the Symposium which is being held at Hofstra University. Winners will be announced at this event. Entries may be mailed to: South Shore Audubon Photo Competition, P.O. Box 31, Freeport, N.Y. 11520. They may also be brought in person to the May 15 Audubon meeting. SSAS cannot be responsible for damage or loss in shipment. Non-members may participate.

SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON PROUDLY PRESENTS:

## "HORIZONS"

A Symposium on Wildlife, Wilderness, Resources and Resourcefulness

Sunday, May 20, Hofstra University

Agenda may be found on Page 2 of this newsletter. Why not send in your reservation today?

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If you are able to attend this most important meeting, please fill out the form below and mail it to Pat Davis, 7 Myers Ave., Hicksville, N.Y. 11801.  
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I WILL ATTEND THE "HORIZONS" SYMPOSIUM ON SUNDAY, MAY 20TH

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_

I WOULD LIKE TO ORDER THE BOUFFET LUNCHEON  
● \$3.50 PER PERSON

S O U T H   S H O R E   A U D U B O N

Proudly Presents

H O R I Z O N S

A Symposium of Wildlife, Wilderness,  
Resources and Resourcefulness

SUNDAY, MAY 20TH

HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY  
STUDENT CENTER - NORTH CAMPUS

A G E N D A

9:30 A.M.    Field Trips exploring botany, birdlife (height of spring migration) and history of the Hempstead Plains area.

Coffee and Danish will be served in our reception area.

The following exhibits, slide programs, films and guest speakers will be scheduled for your selection.

Morning Events (beginning at 11:00 A.M.)

Richard Meyers -  
Nature Photographer with the Nassau County Museum of Fine Arts - A program of slides exploring nature's beauty.

Bill Kolodnicki -  
Naturalist-Instructor at the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary - presentation concerning tern nesting colonies on Long Island.

Film -  
"Wild America, Who Needs It?" produced by the National Audubon Society and exquisitely created by Carol Taylor.

Robert Farwell -  
from the Whaling Museum at Cold Spring Harbor will present a film on the California grey whale.

Mike Madigan -  
Board Member from the Hudson River Sloop Clearwater - slide show and discussion on Sloop projects and the Long Island Sound.

Bob Waligara -  
East Coast Representative, Defenders of Wildlife will present a film concerning leg trapping.

Film -  
"Time for Survival" - first showing of this film produced by National Audubon film-makers.

Thomas Zawyrucha -  
Executive Director, Marine Environmental Council - a slide show concerning Long Island's valuable wetlands.

Luncheon Buffet - 1:45 P.M.  
(\$3.50 per person, reservations a good idea)

Afternoon Programs (beginning at 2:30 P.M.)

Roger Rodriguez -  
President, FIN Alliance - Roger is in the process of establishing a system of information gathering and computer storage for better understanding of whale migration, behavior and lifespan in order to save whale species. He will present a slide show and videotape.

Chuck Basset -  
Director, The Nature Conservancy-Long Island Sanctuaries and land acquisition will be presented with a slide program.

Dr. Basil Tangredi -  
President of Lyman Langdon Audubon will present a program on the Long Island Waterfowl Rescue Team's projects.

Dr. Julian Kane -  
Hofstra University Geology Dept.-program on Drinking Water Resources for L.I.

Dr. Fred Wolfe -  
Hofstra University Geology Dept.-Coastal Zone Management

Adrian Dignan -  
Nature Conservancy Board Member and SSAS member with his highly entertaining program "Birds, Bugs and Butterflies"

Chris Cooper -  
Youth Board Member of SSAS and member of Uniondale Forensic Society-debate on energy independence for the U.S.

Guy Coheleach -  
Renowned Wildlife Artist-film examining his techniques and subjects.

DROP BY OR SPEND THE WHOLE DAY!!!

This past month the headlines have been dominated by nuclear incidents. What are the chances of a nuclear catastrophe and what could the results be?

Alvin M. Weinberg is the former head of the Oak Ridge Laboratory. In his keynote speech of the twentieth anniversary of the International Atomic Authority in May 1977, he referred to the Rasmussen Report. "The chances of a reaction melt down was one in twenty thousand years per reactor." Weinberg predicted that by the year 2050, there would be 5,000 reactors producing 5,000 megawatts. If the report is correct then logically, we could expect to have a meltdown every four years.

The results of a catastrophic meltdown was studied by Brookhaven National Laboratories. In a report issued in 1965-65 they predicted a meltdown could cause 45,000 deaths, 100,000 injuries and contamination of an area the size of Pennsylvania. The cost could range from 17 billion to 280 billion dollars depending on location of the accident.

West Valley, New York is the site of a nuclear reprocessing facility. It has been operated by Getty Oil. Getty is giving up its lease next year. They are leaving behind 600,000 gallons of radioactive liquid wastes, 170 tons of spent nuclear fuel rods, and 100,000 cubic ft. of solid waste, mostly leftover hardware. It will cost the taxpayer from \$200 million to \$1.1 billion to clean up the mess. The federal government agreed to take over responsibility for eventual disposal of the waste outside New York. In return, New York has agreed to allow storage of spent nuclear products from either New York or the whole Northeast, depending on the source of information. After the Three Mile Island accident, Governor Carey denied agreement on West Valley. The State Energy Chief, James La Rocca, said "there was an agreement in principle." Clarifying statements followed that clarified nothing.

This past month the Army Corps of Engineers began dredging in Stamford, Connecticut Harbor. The waste is being dumped in Long Island Sound. This waste contains arsenic, mercury, lead and cadium. This waste could do irreversible harm to the marine environment.

New York State has done nothing to prevent it. Perhaps our Governor is willing to trade the dumping for the bridge to New England he desires so much.

The Convention of International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna & Flora was held in Costa Rica, this past month. Thirty-one nations adopted regulations that would help 130 plants and animals. Some of the actions taken was the placing of all whale and whale products under protection of the international trade restrictions. Most birds of prey, such as eagles, hawks, osprey and nocturnal owls were given protection. The grey zebra was given the highest protection. Other actions were to continue protection for the brown and grizzly bears, peregrine falcon, lynx, Alaskan bald eagle and a rare European Alpine Butterfly. Added protection was given to seals, the gyrfalcon, and several orchid species. Other subjects were discussed. These included status of the North American bobcats, mountain lions, and Alaskan wolves. Smuggling of rare cat skins and better training of customs inspectors was also discussed.

The last piece of information I would like to pass along is that New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation has found 230 chemical dump sites upstate. Tom Torma

**JUNE DINNER:** The annual June Dinner will be held Monday, June 18, at the Arbor Inn, 35 Woods Ave., Rockville Centre. The price per person is \$11.50 and includes hot hors d'oeuvres, appetizer, soup, prime ribs of beef, vegetable, potato, dessert and coffee. Please make your reservations in advance since seating is limited. Checks should be made payable to South Shore Audubon Society, P.O. Box 31, Freeport, NY 11520. Our guest speaker for this occasion will be announced in our next newsletter.

Continued from page 4

I had only gotten about chest deep when a large bull took exception to my presence and came at me with loud roars and flashing teeth. I tried to persuade him I was not interested in his harem-one wife was plenty for me. To no avail-he kept coming and I beat a hasty and rather undignified retreat, much to the amusement of the rest of the group.

But even this rather ignominious ending will remain a cherished memory, together with all the others, of the Enchanted Islands.

Al - euke

Las Islas Encantadas  
The Galapagos Islands

9. Hood-Marine Iguanas and Waved Albatrosses

The beach on Hood (Española) was littered with sea lions-I counted forty-two of various ages and sizes.

As on virtually all the islands, the rocky shore was crowded with marine iguanas. On the other islands, these iguanas were a uniform sombre dark gray to almost black color; the ones on Hood still showed quite a bit of red, remnants of their breeding colors. Hood also boasted the largest specimens we saw. These lizards, which usually grow to 3 ft. in length, are the only ones in the world which regularly feed in the sea. Their dives to the seabed for seaweed frequently take them to depths of 40 ft., and they can remain under water up to an hour. They swim with their laterally compressed tails, all limbs folded to the body. Their claws are long, sharp, and strongly curved, enabling them to cling to the lava boulders in very heavy seas. They drink salt water, and possess a special gland between the eyes and nostrils to filter out excess salt, which is periodically ejected in a long spray from the nostrils. We frequently saw them spraying each other, but none of the densely packed horde seemed to mind.

Naturally, they are cold-blooded, but do not need to seek shelter during the hottest part of the day. They adjust their temperatures by raising or lowering themselves on the lava and changing their direction in relation to the sun's rays.

We saw numbers of Darwin's finches, as on all the islands, the birds that first caused Darwin's thoughts of evolution and speciation. There are 13 species, most of which are extremely difficult to identify. Size and shape of the bill is the diagnostic feature of these finches. The location may give you some clue, as not every species is found on every island. However, without a field guide (out of print) and a naturalist who apparently found most of Darwin's finches as confusing to identify as we did, things were difficult at best. Some, like the large-billed

ground finch, or magnirostris, with a bill as big as his head, are easy. Others are next to impossible, and true to Michael Harris, "Only a very wise man or a fool thinks he is able to identify all the finches he sees." Although uniformly drab brown to dark gray to almost black, they are a fascinating example of a single ancestral species differentiating and radiating to fill various ecological niches.

There are five species of sea birds endemic to the Galapagos, that is, they breed nowhere else. The Galapagos penguin, the flightless cormorant, the lava gull, the swallow-tailed gull, and the waved albatross only breed on Galapagos. The waved albatross has the further distinction of being endemic to only one island - Hood.

Attractive birds, they show brown backs, wings and tails, white underparts, and head and neck tinged with yellow. The breast is covered with very fine, wavy yellow-brown lines.

Almost three feet long, they are by far the heaviest Galapagos bird, weighing 7 to 11 pounds. Despite their huge eight-foot wing span, their weight makes takeoff extremely difficult, and they normally catapult themselves from a cliff. Once airborne, however, they are magnificent flyers and unsurpassed soarers, going far out to sea.

They lay a single egg, which weighs a half pound. The chick is covered with brown down and after two weeks is left unguarded while the parents fish. They are fed an oily secretion produced in both parents' stomachs. The feeds are prodigious, up to four pounds at one time. The chicks visibly swell, and after feeding can hardly stand. They can go after a heavy feeding, for up to a week without food.

Immediately after fledging is the most dangerous time of an albatross' life, but if it survives this it can live extremely long, up to forty years.

Here also we were fortunate enough to still see some of the birds display. Most touching to watch was how they simultaneously preened each other's heads with those formidable bills in the tenderest manner.

This was our last day, for that night we returned to Baltra for our flight back to Quito. So, on our return to the beach I decided on a last swim with sea lions, several of which were in the water.

**FOR CHILDREN****Kindergarten and 1st Grade  
EXPLORER I**

Instructor, Heidi Lichterman, will guide 5 and 6 year olds through an exploration of living things in their natural environments. The children will make ant and worm farms. Also, marine and fresh water aquariums will be set up and stocked by the group to allow continuous observation on those habitats. Similarities and differences of mammals, reptiles, amphibians, fish, birds, insects and plants will be examined in local environment. *Above all, an attitude of respect for our environment will be instilled.* Each session is designed to complement the previous week's field experiences and is available in the morning or afternoon. Maximum enrollment is 15.

Session I — Mon., July 9 thru Thurs., July 12  
 Group I: 9:00—11:30 Group II: 1:00—3:30  
 Session II — Mon., July 16 thru Thurs., July 19  
 Group I: 9:00—11:30 Group II: 1:00—3:30  
 Session III — Mon., July 23 thru Thurs., July 26  
 Group I: 9:00—11:30 Group II: 1:00—3:30  
 Fee per Session: \$25.00  
 Fee for Series of 3 Sessions: \$65.00

**Grades 2 and 3  
EXPLORER II**

Instructor, Nancy Pirtle, will introduce 7 and 8 years olds to a creative series of outdoor, hands-on experiences. Sessions will look at the Lilliputian worlds of frogs, bats, moths, earth-worms, ants, spiders, snakes, fish and other critters of the deep forest. Children will be led to the fascinating minihideways in our environment and take part in "hatching from an egg," plaster casting animal tracts and construction of bird feeders. Throughout, the instructor's reverence and respect for the natural world will be communicated to the children. Each session is designed to complement the previous week's field experiences and is available in the morning or afternoon. Maximum enrollment 15.

Session I — Mon., July 9 thru Thurs., July 12  
 Group I: 9:00 — 11:30 Group II: 1:00 — 3:30  
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 Fee per Session: \$25.00  
 Fee for Series of 3 Sessions: \$65.00

**Grades 4 and 6  
EXPLORER III**

Nine, ten and eleven year olds will travel to two distinct natural environments during the first week of this program to discover wildlife of Long Island. Session I participants may elect to attend on Monday and Tuesday or Wednesday and Thursday. This schedule is necessary as a full day in the field (9:00—3:00) will serve to prepare participants for Session II and III of the Explorer III program. Session II will focus on nature activities such as the care of distressed wildlife, overnight survival skills, observing wildlife and many other experiences that lead to a fuller understanding of the needs of wildlife on Long Island. In Session III we will endeavor to expose the child to two additional stimulating environments and impart skills necessary to enjoy these environments this summer and in the future. Audubon staff naturalist instructor, William J. Kolodnicki, will attempt to develop a strong affection in each child for our fragile Long Island environment.

Session I — Mon., July 9 thru Thurs., July 12  
 Sect. A: Monday and Tuesday, 9:00—3:00  
 Sect. B: Wednesday and Thursday, 9:00—3:00  
 Session II — Mon., July 16 thru Thurs., July 19  
 Group I: 9:00 — 11:30 Group II: 1:00 — 3:30  
 Session III — Mon., July 23 thru Thurs., July 26  
 Group I: 9:00 — 11:30 Group II: 1:00 — 3:30  
 Fee per Session: \$25.00  
 Fee for Series of 3 Sessions: \$65.00

**Grades 7 and 10****EXPLORER IV**

Audubon Guides, Bill Kolodnicki, Alan Ruppert and D. Tooker, will involve young people (ages 12, 13 and 14) in the natural heritage of Long Island. The emphasis is on outdoor activities such as fresh and salt water fishing, canoeing, boating, hiking and camping. The outdoor resources of Long Island state and county parks will be EXPERIENCED! This type of program was developed in 1978 by TRS on a pilot basis; this summer it will involve camping at a park for 3 nights. Limited to 12 participants.

Session I: Mon., August 6 thru Thurs., August 9  
 Time: August 6 — leave from T.R.S. at 10:00 a.m.  
 August 9 — return to T.R.S. at 3:00 p.m.  
 Fee: \$55.00 per person including food

**Grades 5 thru 7  
EGGS TO FLIGHT**

Audubon staff naturalist instructor, Bill Kolodnicki, will conduct a special program for ages 10 thru 12 which will study the life of birds from eggs to adulthood. The activities will involve the study of five birds in all stages of development at the T. R. Sanctuary, other local environments, and at one distant field site. Children will be involved in care of young and injured birds, banding, making charts and other activities useful to bird study. This program will be an excellent opportunity for the child to begin or expand an interest in birds.

Session I — Mon., July 30 thru Thurs., Aug. 2  
 9:00 a.m. — 2:00 p.m.  
 Fee: \$45.00

**SUMMER EXPLORER PROGRAM  
REGISTRATION**

Registration day will be on **SATURDAY, JUNE 9** at the T. R. Sanctuary from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Participants may pre-register by mail before this date. All participants should be registered and tuition paid in full by June 9. A detailed outline of the program will be available on registration day or mailed to participants who have pre-registered. A limited number of scholarships are available for the programs. Inquire at T.R.S. office. Note: you are encouraged to register by mail to insure participation in the program.

**Transportation**

It will be the parent's responsibility to transport children to the T. R. Sanctuary. It is expected that transportation to off-site study areas will be by car-pooling, and that fuel costs will be shared.

JUNE NEWS DEADLINE MAY 15

NEXT MEETING---TUESDAY, MAY 8TH, 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.

- May 13 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge  
20 Hempstead Plains-meet at Hofstra Univ.  
Student Center-use pkg.no. of Hemp.Tpke.  
27 West End #2,N.W.corner pkg.fld. wear  
boots, walk through water  
JUN 3 Canoe trip-call Marion Friedlander  
10 Zach's Bay,Pkg.Fld. 4, N.E. corner  
17 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge  
AUG 19 Boat trip on Great South Bay-Meet at  
Freeport Boatman's Assoc.,540 So. Grove  
St., Freeport 7:30 A.M. Boat is  
Norseman II, Capt. Carlson, place  
reservation Elliott Kutner, IV 6-7667  
First come, first serve \$15 per person  
Room for 49 people  
26 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge  
SEP 9 West End #2, N.E. corner  
16 Tobay, J.F.K. Sanctuary  
23 Zach's Bay, Pkg. Fld. 4, N.E. corner  
30 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge  
OCT 7 Tobay, J.F.K. Sanctuary  
14 West End #2, N.E. corner

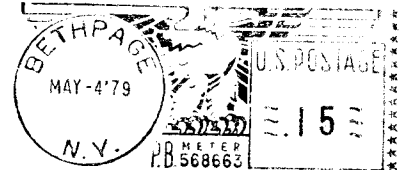
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Telephone or see us at the  
meetings and birdwalks.

**SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY**  
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**SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON INVITES YOU**

to

**‘ ‘ H O R I Z O N S ’ ’**

A Symposium on Wildlife, Wilderness, Resources  
and Resourcefulness

**Sunday, May 20th, 1979**

**HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY**

**STUDENT CENTER — NORTH CAMPUS**

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9:30 a. m.	——	Field Trips
11:00 a. m.	——	A Selection of:
through		Films
5 p. m.		Guest Speakers
		Slide Programs
		Crafts Exhibit
		Photographic Display
		Artists at Work

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**BUFFET LUNCHEON (\$3.50) — 1:45 p. m.**

**(Reservations; 822-6189)**