

SOUTH SHORE SKIMMER



SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

VOL. 9, NO. 10

JUNE 1979

JUNE DINNER MEETING-MONDAY, JUNE 18

Arbor Inn, 35 Woods Ave., Rockville Centre

Cocktails-7:00 P.M.

Dinner -8:00 P.M.

"ANTARCTIC ECOLOGY"

A Slide Program by Dennis Puleston

Mr. Puleston has recently returned from leading his tenth trip to Antarctica aboard the "Lindblad Explorer". His program will present the landscape and life of the Antarctic, "a very desolate and hostile area as far as man is concerned, and yet teeming with forms of life that have managed to adapt to the harsh environment." We are privileged to have Mr. Puleston as our June Speaker. He has also served as naturalist for numerous National Audubon Wilderness Expeditions. As a founding father of the Environmental Defense Fund, he was influential in preserving Long Island's Carmans River as a scenic and recreational natural area.

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 by June 12, since seating is limited. Checks should be made payable to South Shore Audubon Society, and mailed to P. O. Box 31, Freeport, N.Y. 11520.

Dear Friends:

This is our last issue of the "Skimmer" until September. After three years, this will also be my last issue as your Editor. Alice Orens will be taking over and I am sure will do a fine job. I wish

EDUCATION:

Many children in the Freeport Public Schools have seen the film "Wild America, Who Needs It?" produced by the National Audubon Society. After viewing the film, Mrs. Olian's third grade class at Bayview Avenue School had an enlightening discussion, and then put their thoughts down in writing. The following is an example of one of these reports:

Conservation by Marion Barnes

Before man came the world was full of wild life. When man came the world started to get polluted. Please! Help keep our world clean. You don't have to throw things on the ground. Instead of throwing things on the ground, pick them up. You are the one that's breathing the bad air. We need your help!

My Opinion by Marion Barnes

We should clean the world. We should keep it beautiful.

The Education Committee recommends this film be shown at a faculty meeting in order to make teachers aware, and hopefully they will take it back to the classroom.

Elaine Butkereiit
Gloria Cohen
Education

to thank all of you for your help, cooperation and support during the past 3 years and look forward to working with you again next year as Vice-Pres. For Sept, please send your articles to: Alice Orens, 282 Greenway Rd., Lido Beach, N.Y. 11561

Paul Butkereiit took a 4th grade class from the Columbus Avenue School on a field trip to the pond near the Freeport High School. By using the telescope and binoculars, they studied the many kinds of ducks, geese and swans that inhabit the pond during the winter months. Here is one of the many letters that he received from the class.

Mr. Washington's Class
Columbus Ave. School
Freeport N. Y 11520

Dear Mr. Butkereiit,

Thankyou for letting us go to Millwom Pond. I saw many ducks. There were many different kinds of ducks. Here some of the names of the ducks: Black Duck, Mallard, Canada Goose, Grey Winged Teal, and the American Widgeon. I learned that some ducks dive down under the water not just waddling. And thankyou again for all the effort you put into the trip.

Sincerely,
Kevin Russ

Some South Shore Audubon Board Members have been teaching children in the Freeport Public Schools all about birds! Asa Starkweather visited the 3rd and 4th grade classes with his program using stuffed birds. The following is a letter written to him from a third grade class at the Bayview Avenue School (on next page).

Bayview Ave School
Freeport N.Y. 11520
January 12, 1979

Dear Mr. Starkweather,

This is to thank you for a very nice time,
To put it simply, we're writing it in
rhyme!

You had a very interesting display,
It really beat going out to play.
We had a spelling word,
The word "tern"

What a surprise to see it in your hand
"turn".

The herring gull so swift, white and
gray, In Freeport, daily swooping into
the bay.

The woodpecker pecking into the wood,
Always does as he should. Good!

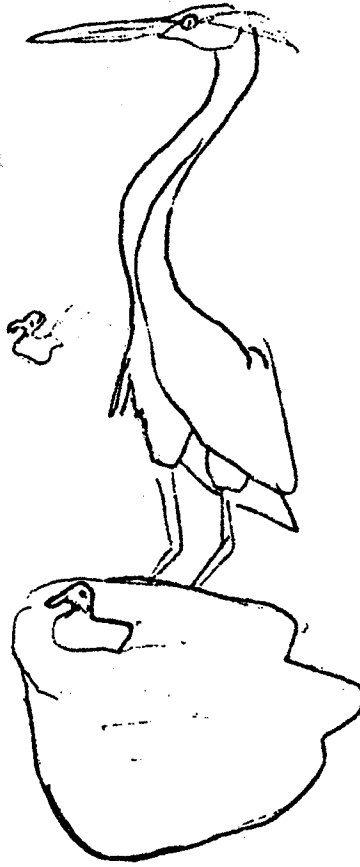
The cat-bird mewing in his nest,
Can quickly imitate all the rest.

Now you can see we learn easily,
All you have shown us from the top of the tree.

Mrs. Olian's Third Grade

The following is an article written by a young boy, John Giambalvo, who birdwalks with us. He wrote it for his school newspaper.

BIRDWATCHING



On October 6, 1978, our class went to Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, where birds and small animals live and visit. Because there are salt and fresh water ponds, many varieties of birds can be seen there. Our class was divided into two groups and Rangers led us through the refuge and told us all about it. The plants we saw there were placed for the birds to use as protection and food. Because there was a storm the night before, many birds had come inland to the safety of the refuge. In one pond some glossy ibis were drying their wings after diving in the water for fish. There were also egrets poking their heads in the water for fish. Along the banks of the fresh water pond there were hundreds of Mallards. We also saw such birds as the Osprey which is in the hawk family, and a Great Blue Heron. Our ranger found ^{two} baby turtles and a five-leafed clover. Our class enjoyed the trip and we hope to go again in April.

John Giambalvo (Age 9)

Gotham Ave School
Elmont, N.Y. 11003

From the "Gotham Globe"
Winter, 1979

Walk Into A Spring Day

It was a beautiful day. The sun was shining brightly in a clear blue sky. The temperature was in the sixties. You may remember it. It was March 22, 1979. It was a spring day that made you forget about the winter days that had just ended. It was a day that made me decide to forget everything else and take a walk into the more pleasant environment.

The spotted purple spathes of the skunk cabbages had started to make their appearances through the swampy ground. Overhead, I could hear the staccato call of the Downy Woodpecker as it flew from tree to tree.

Looking up, I could see it on the tree searching for insects hidden in the bark.

As I approached the brook, I spied Painted Turtle basking in the sun on the bank. It scurried into the safety of the water. I was surprised by its wariness and agility as I was sure that it must have recently emerged from its long, winter hibernation.

Continuing on my way, I heard the whirring of wings as a pair of Mourning Doves flew overhead. High in a tree, a lone Crow perched, keeping his eyes on me as I made my way. In the distance, I heard the calls of Spring Peepers. Usually they do their calling during the night or, at times, in the day when the sky is overcast.

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But the day was so beautiful, they must have decided to help herald spring with their chorus. Hoping to see them, I went to their area. Before I had even gotten close, the singing ceased. When I reached the reeds in which I was sure they were hiding, I stopped; I stood motionless for minutes. Only my eyes moved, searching the reeds for a glimpse of this tiny frog. My effort was fruitless.

Moving on, I walked about a hundred feet when I heard, "Peep! Peep!" Soon another joined in; then another. Finally, the air was again filled with the chorus of the Spring Peepers announcing joyfully that spring had arrived.

Stan Ziminski

CONSERVATION NEWS

As the energy crisis deepens and oil prices rise, our nation is looking for new sources of energy. What are some of the advantages and disadvantages we face?

Nuclear energy is expensive. It presently costs 200 dollars per kilowatt of capacity to build a Nuclear Power Plant. That cost is expected to triple in the next few years, and to triple that cost again by 1990. Nuclear power is a long lasting source of energy, and could help us become independent of foreign oil. But, if we replaced all the oil fired power plants with nuclear plants, we would only cut our oil consumption by 12%.

Coal is presently plentiful, but it is not cheap. A midwest utility company that gets half its energy from nuclear reactors, recently estimated that its annual cost would rise by \$365 million, if it converted to coal. Coal will also create many environmental problems. A 1,000 megawatt coal-fired power station would discharge enough sulphur dioxide in a year to cause 25 deaths, 60,000 cases of respiratory illness and 25 million dollars in property damage. Carbon dioxide from coal could cause a greenhouse effect in the atmosphere that would warm the earth. There is also environmental problems at mines, and health and safety problems of the miners to

consider.

Solar energy is clean and safe, but it is expensive. A solar hot water system costs between \$3,500 to \$4,500. Solar space heating costs between \$10,000 to \$15,000. Claims of savings of up to 50% on fuel bills seem to be overly optimistic. Photovoltaic cells convert sunlight to electricity. This is presently extremely expensive. If we could start mass production of photovoltaic modules their price could drop to 50¢ per watt after 5 years. This price would be price competitive with current residential power cost nearly everywhere in the country.

For free information on tax benefits, brochures and solar unit installers in our area, call the National Solar Heating and Cooling Information Center. The toll free number is 800 523-2929.

Wind power is said to need extensive research before becoming an important energy source. Yet, forty years ago a megawatt wind powered generator was built in Vermont. It could be possible to use wind power in conjunction with hydroelectric power. Perhaps wind generators could be used to manufacture hydrogen which in turn could be used as a fuel.

Brookhaven National Laboratories has taken over a small abandoned dam upstate. This dam will be renovated to produce hydroelectric power for the manufacture of hydrogen. This hydrogen will be added to local natural gas supplies for industrial purposes. There are at least 125 similar sites in upstate New York.

Conservation is still an important part of the energy program. Europe wastes 50% of its energy, and we waste more. We could save more energy by insulating our houses, improving industrial processes, and more efficient transportation. We should continue to look for better ways to save energy.

Most likely all of these methods, and others not mentioned here, will be needed to meet our future energy requirements.

Tom Torma
Conservation

