

SOUTH SHORE SKIMMER

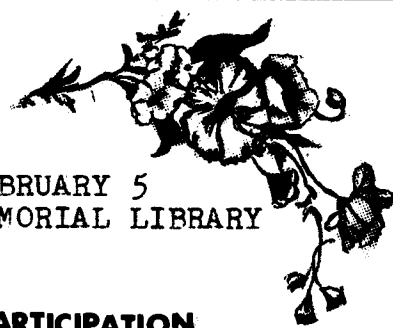



SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

VOL. 10, NO. 6

FEBRUARY 1980

FEBRUARY MEETING



TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5
FREEPORT MEMORIAL LIBRARY
8:15 P.M.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

The February meeting will be South Shore Audubon's Fifth Annual Audience Participation Night. All members are invited to bring 5-10 of their favorite nature slides to share with the group.

Please mark slides with an arrow to indicate which edge stays up in the projector. Arrow should be placed on the side that will be facing the projectionist.

Please pick out some of your favorite slides and join us for this most enjoyable evening.

THANK YOU!!

The Hospitality Committee wishes to thank the many members who have been providing the delicious cakes and cookies for our meetings. Your contributions are sincerely appreciated.

Ed. Note: We want to thank the Hospitality Committee for doing such a fine job!

CHECK YOUR ECO-PROFILE

South Shore Audubon's Education Committee, chaired by Elaine Butkereiit and Gloria Cohen, suggests that each of us check his or her "eco-profile."

The committee has provided a number of suggestions everyone can follow to help alleviate some of our environmental problems. We will be printing some of these guidelines each month. See how many of these suggestions you already practice:

1. Do not use colored tissue, colored paper or colored napkins. Dye released in the manufacturer's effluent pollutes streams.
2. Switch light bulbs not used for reading to a lower wattage. Lower electrical power consumption reduces home or office operating costs and reduces pollution at the electrical generating plant.
3. Adjust the float or put a brick in the flush tank of every toilet you have in your home. This will reduce the amount of water used without decreasing efficiency.
4. If you must fertilize your lawn, use organic fertilizers. These release soluble nitrates and phosphates at a slow rate and minimize runoff of these substances into streams.
5. Do not run your faucet unnecessarily. Always conserve water as if there were a drought.

1980 AUDUBON ECOLOGY WORKSHOPS

by Barbara Tancredi

It's time to start making plans for your summer vacation. Why not consider an Audubon Ecology Workshop? There are four camps in various parts of the United States. Sessions run for two weeks in Maine and Wyoming, one week in Connecticut, and one or two weeks in Wisconsin. Fees include all meals, housing, field trips and instruction by the finest teachers.

Whether novice or expert, anyone can benefit from some aspect of the camp curriculum. Please make your reservations early as many sessions are limited as to number of participants.

Greenwich, Connecticut - \$220 per session

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| I June 29 - July 5 | V July 27 - August 2 |
| II July 6 - July 12 | VI August 3 - August 9 |
| III July 13 - July 19 | VII August 10 - August 16 |
| IV July 20 - July 26 | VIII August 17 - August 23 |

Hog Island, Maine - \$420 per session

- | | |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| I June 29 - July 11 | III July 27 - August 8 |
| II July 13 - July 25 | IV August 10 - August 22 |

Hunt Hill, Wisconsin - \$220 per one-week session
\$400 per two-week session

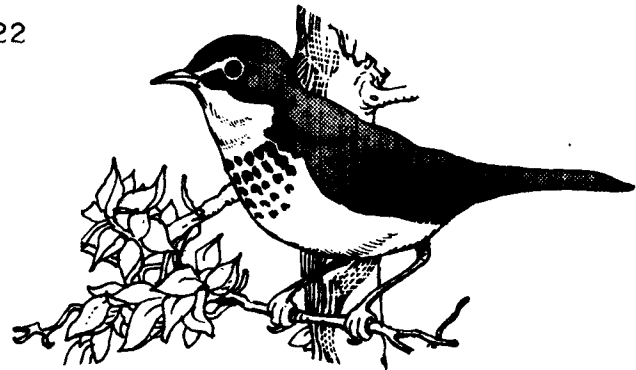
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|------------------------|--------------------------|
| I June 29 - July 11 | IV August 3 - August 9 |
| II July 13 - July 25 | V August 10 - August 16 |
| III July 27 - August 2 | VI August 17 - August 23 |

Dubois, Wyoming - \$400 per session

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| I June 22 - July 4 | III July 20 - August 1 |
| II July 6 - July 18 | IV August 3 - August 15 |

For more information contact:

Audubon Camps
National Audubon Society
950 Third Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10022
(212) 832-3200





CONSERVATION

by Thomas Torma

Alaska Lands Bill

The Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee has completed action on its version of the Alaska Lands Bill. This is a weak bill that favors special economic interest groups: it mandates oil and gas exploration in the Arctic Wildlife Range; it opens prime wildlife habitats to incompatible uses; it fragments entire ecosystems among federal agencies; it deletes 38 million acres from the House-approved National Wildlife Refuge System; it fails to provide wilderness protection for millions of acres of this nation's most outstanding natural environments.

Fortunately, the Senate has been offered an alternative...the Tsongas substitute (amendment 626). Senator Paul Tsongas' (Mass.) proposal incorporates the best of the House-passed bill with numerous provisions adopted by the Senate Energy Committee. The proposal allows commodity development on the vast majority of potential areas, but retains some of the most spectacular wildlands. It is now time for the Senate to debate and vote on this major conservation issue. It is also time for us to write our senators Daniel P. Moynihan, Jacob K. Javits and ask them to support the Tsongas substitute.

Long Island Land Preservation

The Nature Conservancy has announced the finalization of the purchase of the Mashomack Forest on Shelter Island. This preserve will have 2,037 acres, 600 of which are wetlands. The preserve is a breeding area for waterfowl, shellfish and finfish. Along with nearby Gardner's Island, this area contains the largest concentration of osprey nesting sights on the East Coast.

Recently, thirteen state environmentalists and planners selected the Flanders-Peconic Bay area as a federal estuarine preserve. This area includes Robins Island, now in private hands and slated for development. The estuarine sanctuaries, established under the 1972 Federal Coastal Zone Management Act, are outdoor laboratories for the study of animal and plant life in coastal areas. This designation, however, would not override local zoning laws. Therefore, it is necessary to purchase the land in the preserve, or it could still be developed. The site selection comes with \$1.8 million for purchasing land.

County Executive Francis T. Purcell has announced the preservation of the New York City owned watershed in Nassau County. The city will transfer to the state title to 1,800 acres.

(cont. on p. 5)



membership application

South Shore Audubon is a chartered chapter of the National Audubon Society. By using the form below, you will automatically join both organizations.

With this joint membership you will receive 6 issues of Audubon magazine and 10 issues of the South Shore Skimmer. These publications will keep you informed of all local and national activities.

Check the membership you desire.

- Student 13.50
- Individual 20.00
- Family 25.00
- Senior Citizen 13.50
- Senior Citizen Family 15.00

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

This is new membership renewal

Local Chapter: South Shore

Please make checks payable to:

National Audubon Society

Send check and form to:

South Shore Audubon Society
P.O. Box 31
Freeport, New York 11520

South by Southwest

by Al Lemke

II. Arches and Canyonlands

A half day's drive from Montrose, in the famed redrock country of southeastern Utah, lies the old Mormon pioneer town of Moab, slightly changed nowadays by a conglomeration of motels for the tourist throngs spilling into nearby Arches and Canyonlands National Parks.

Arches contains more natural stone arches, windows, spires and pinnacles than any other section of America. The contrast with the Black Canyon of the Gunnison is marked - here the predominant color is red, and the erosive forces, rather than a stream, have been wind, rain, frost and sun. The rock a 300 foot layer called the Entrada Sandstone, was deposited as sand, presumably by the wind, in the Jurassic period, some 150 million years ago. In time it was covered by new layers and hardened into rock. A period of uplift, twisting and cracking followed, and the newer layers were eroded away, exposing the original sandstone. Uneven erosion, more rapid in the softer areas, resulted in undercutting, forming the windows, arches, towers and other fantastic shapes. More recently the erosion has been speeded up by jets and sonic booms, which frequently do extensive damage to these delicate formations.

Well-maintained trails led us to the various spectacular formations, including dozens of arches - long and short, thick and thin, single and double. Landscape Arch, 291 feet long, is believed to be the longest natural stone span in the world. Several former arches have collapsed, as in time all will, leaving just the fins and some broken rock.

On our last day we climbed to Delicate Arch, the "trademark" of the park, pictured on the National Park Service brochure. Although the hike is only $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles, the rather steep ascent up the smooth petrified dune, under a blazing sun which raised the temperature to 106 degrees F., made the trek quite strenuous, especially for sedentary, out-of-shape, no longer very young people like the writer. But a close-up sight of the lovely arch made it all worthwhile. Most of the arches are carved out of long rock rows, or fins. But here the fins have been eroded away, leaving a completely free-standing arch. The backdrop of the La Sal Mountains in the distance added to the almost ethereal beauty of the scene.

A side trip took us into a portion of Canyonlands National Park. A twenty-mile drive through this still undeveloped park, most of it over a very bumpy dirt road, brought us to the edge of the vast, deep canyons of the Colorado River near its confluence with the Green River. The scenery was truly breathtaking, as it was at nearby Dead Horse Point State Park with its sweeping vistas of the Colorado some 2,500 feet below. The park's name arose from the exploits, about a century ago, of a group of men who rounded up wild horses for sale to ranchers. The hapless animals were kept penned up on a narrow spit of land jutting out over the canyon. Those that were considered usable were sold, while the others were left to die of thirst within sight of the water that could have saved their lives - one phase of the pioneer spirit our western opponents of gun-control legislation boast of so fondly.

Most of the wildlife of this area is nocturnal, and the heat of the day forced virtually all of the animals into hiding until well after sunset. The higher elevation, cooler weather and increased vegetation of our next stop, Bryce Canyon National Park, were to bring a dramatic reversal of this pattern.

BIRD RESCUE

by Asa Starkweather



Most times I am going to save a bird, but sometimes I get the bird!!

This past August my wife and I were in Florida, driving south on Route 4 from Clearwater to Naples. We were driving with the traffic and that means slow. Cars down there are leisurely - 35-45 M.P.H. Without warning, a duck flew into our windshield!

The windshield caved in. Glass sprayed all over the car and us. Fortunately, we both wear glasses, for we were covered with little bits of glass. The duck, a Muscovy, hopped off the hood to the mall between the lanes. It had a broken wing.

I stopped, of course. Other cars stopped and people came running. A sanctuary was called to pick up the duck for repair before we got the car off the road. A factory office staff let us use their washrooms to get de-glassed and their phones to call the rental company. In a half hour we were on our way again.

.....
I'm a bird watcher with a life list and a bird I really wanted was a Black Rail. It is southern and Florida is a good place to look. I was riding around and found a nature preserve - swimming, shelling and nature study. It was a rainy day. There were two men there - one to collect the admission and another who drove a fifty-place tractor-pulled conveyance to take people the mile and a half to the beach.

I told them that I was an Audubon person checking out sanctuaries since I was coming down to live. The driver said, "Hey, if you know birds, would you tell me what they are if I take you around?" I would. Without paying the fee, I followed the man to his vehicle. He started the tractor and I sat in the nearest possible seat. Off we went. We went over a small wooden bridge and along the road. Ahead was another bridge and a small black bird hopped off the bridge into the bushes near the water.

"Stop!" I yelled, over the tractor noise

"What's the matter?" said the driver.

"Did you see that little black bird?"

"Yeah, it's running around in the bushes all the time."

IT WAS A BLACK RAIL!!!

.....
Our editor rescued an immature laughing gull that was injured by a stone thrown by a boy who later was very contrite. These things can happen. Some years ago, there was a mute swan in Hempstead Lake State Park lake. It stayed near the center, about two to three hundred feet from shore. A boy shot an arrow with no idea of getting near the swan, but the arrow pierced its neck - an unbelievable shot - and the swan died. The moral, of course, is don't even fool around.

.....
I picked up a brain-damaged tufted titmouse that did not survive.

(cont. from p. 3)

The state, which has easements on these properties and intends to retain 845 of the acres for park and parkway purposes, will transfer 955 acres that are of interest to the county, towns and villages for specific public purposes at the price negotiated by the state and city. This land must be used for public purposes or it will be returned to New

York City. There is an additional 100 acres on which county or other local jurisdictions will negotiate separately with the city.

On Fire Island there is a stretch of unspoiled barrier beach known as the 8-mile zone. This area is up for review for inclusion in the National Preservation System. If the 8-mile zone becomes a wilderness area, it will be preserved, hopefully, forever.



FIELD TRIPS: Starting time - 9:30 A.M.
No walk if it rains, snows or temperature
is 25 degrees or below.

- FEB. 3 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
10 West End #2, N.E. corner
17 Tobay, J.F.K. Sanctuary
24 West End #2, N.W. corner
- MAR. 2 Pelham Bay Park (meet at toll
on Throg's Neck Bridge 9 A.M.)
9 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
16 West End #2, N.E. corner
23 Tobay, J.F.K. Sanctuary
30 West End #2, N.W. corner
- APR. 6 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

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MARCH NEWS DEADLINE
IS FEBRUARY 12

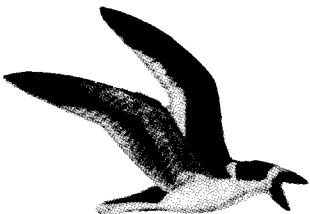
BINOCULAR SAVINGS are available through the club. Save 30% to 50%
on Bushnell and Bausch and Lomb binoculars and scopes. See us at
meetings and birdwalks or call the committee members listed:
Barbara Tancredi 11 A.M.-1 P.M. 775-1790
Bill Herzog 7 P.M.-9 P.M. 791-7886
Asa Starkweather 599-5824
Joan Butkereiit 593-4554



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