

SOUTH SHORE SKIMMER



SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

VOL. 10, NO. 8

APRIL 1980

TUESDAY, APRIL 8
FREEPORT MEMORIAL LIBRARY
8:15 P.M.

SSAS Tenth Anniversary

GUEST SPEAKER: Dr. George Loweth
"Wichita Mountains National
Wildlife Refuge"

Dr. Loweth thrilled us last year with his spectacular 16 mm movies of the wildlife and character of the Quogue Nature Sanctuary here on Long Island. Once again he will be presenting a 16 mm film he created about a very special location. The Wichita Refuge is home to many of the animals indigenous to America's Great Plains. Buffalo, long-horned cattle, elk and antelope are just a few of the numerous species presented in Dr. Loweth's film

Please join us for an exciting Tenth Anniversary meeting.

Paul Butkerei

1980-81 OFFICERS

Report of the Nominating Committee

President - Patricia Davis
Vice President - Thomas Torma
Treasurer - Kevin Hughes
Secretary - Richard Bullencamp*
Corres. Secretary - Ruth Grossman*
Director (1 year) - Richie Brookner
Director (3 years) - Lennox Gordon
Director (3 years) - June Klippel

* indicates incumbent
Elections will be held at the May meeting.

TOBAY DEVELOPMENT

The Town of Oyster Bay has announced plans to develop Tobay Beach. It is planning a campground for RVs and will enlarge the marina and parking lot. In JFK Sanctuary there are plans to erect an informational sign (possibly illuminated) and what is called the "east pond complex." This complex is reported to be a new pond and building to be used for what is called environmental education.

South Shore Audubon believes the proposed development is inappropriate to the dune and marsh environment of the area. The campground, marina and expanded parking will increase beach use and result in increased environmental damage. A side show attitude could develop. A sanctuary is not a park or an entertainment center. It is place set aside to protect wildlife. We do encourage people to come and enjoy this undisturbed natural habitat. Bird watching, nature study or just plain walking in peaceful solitude are legitimate forms of recreation increasingly difficult to pursue on Long Island. To let the town know how many people use JFK in its present state, we urge you to apply for a permit to the sanctuary. Send to: Dept. of Recreation & Beaches
Town Hall

Oyster Bay, New York 11771
Also write to Supervisor Joseph Colby at Town Hall and ask him to reconsider the town's plans.

Thomas Torma

PLANTING FOR BIRDS

by William O. Astle

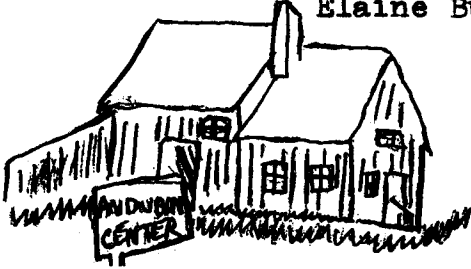
from the Education Committee

If you're sick of the mess, write a litter letter today!

Address it to your assemblyman or state senator and demand action on the long-stalled litter-control bill that would require every beverage container sold in the state to have a refund value of not less than five cents.

The bill number is A2822 in the Assembly and S2153 in the Senate.

Elaine Butkereiit



Our Education Committee urges you to pay a visit to the beautiful Audubon Center in Greenwich, Connecticut. It is located within one hour's drive of Nassau County and offers many programs of interest to nature lovers.

For details on Saturday afternoon programs and workshops call the center at (203) 869-5272.



CHECK YOUR ECO-PROFILE

If you know of any industrial water polluters in your area, write and express your concern. Ask what they're doing about it.

Note: SSAS member Ed Knettel obtained this article for the Skimmer from Mr. Astle, a noted lecturer who is associated with the Flushing Garden Club and Botanical Gardens. As space is limited, we will be publishing this very informative article in three parts.

Probably by the time you get this...., winter will have passed and danger from killing frosts will be over. If you are then like most bird people you will be experiencing the sharp urge to get outdoors, to take the good earth between your hands and plant something.

Why not a shrub? A bush that will grow strong and sturdy. Something that will offer food and shelter and a home for the birds that come to your yard. Something that will add to the beauty of your home garden and will give pleasure to all who pass by.

There are such shrubs, and I have had much pleasure growing them, proving their worth and finding out how, and where, they grow the best.

Eighteen years ago Mr. Henry Hicks gave me, from his nursery in Westbury, a collection of berried shrubs to see if they were liked by birds and also to see if they were of value in attracting and keeping them around the home and garden. Most of these shrubs I still have; a few I have discarded. Here are some of my observations.

My home is in the city of New York in Queens and in an established area of small homes. The house and garden, with a two-car garage, are on a plot 80x100'. In this area I operate my bird banding station, so I have no room for plantings which do not attract birds. I must use all available space as I want to offer the best site possible where birds may exist in such an urban area.

Even the house walls are of value. Virginia Creeper (*pahrthenopsis quinquefolia*) and Turquoise Vine (*ampelopsis brevipedunculata*) are excellent climbers which have fine foliage, cause no damage to the house walls and are willing providers of fruits relished by many kinds of birds. The berries of the Turquoise Vine are also much prized by the ladies who make floral arrangements.

(continued in May Skimmer)



CONSERVATION

by Thomas Torma

Recently I received a paper from the Environmental Protection Agency that deals with a source of energy known as "unconventional natural gas."

Most of this gas would come from "tight sands" areas, low permeability sandstone and limestone formations in the Southwest, the Rockies and the northern plains. The tight sands formations are already yielding the equivalent of 500,000 barrels of oil a day. Production could reach 4 million barrels a day by 1990, assuming either a \$20/ barrel price and advanced technology or prices exceeding \$20/ barrel. Four million barrels a day is half of our current import level. Tight sands could produce the equivalent of between several hundred thousand and 2 million barrels of oil a day by 1985.

Other sources of "unconventional gas" are Devonian Shale in the Appalachians and Midwest, geopressurized methane chiefly along the Gulf of Mexico, coal seams in most regions and very deep wells.

The Department of Energy's National Energy Plan estimates recoverable reserves of unconventional gas at between 5,000 to 63,000 quads (trillions of cubic feet). To put these figures into perspective, we now import the equivalent of 16 quads of oil a year. Our total annual energy consumption is 75 quads. This means that, conservatively speaking, this gas amounts to 70 years of fulfilling this country's energy needs.

Unconventional gas would be one of our least expensive alternatives to foreign oil. It is clean and safe, both to produce and to use. Tight sand drilling is a known technology, with known costs that are unlikely to escalate dramatically. It will produce jobs. It could be produced from many thousands of wells, encouraging competition and ensuring against large scale interruption and military vulnerability.

Why, then, is no one willing to develop this source of energy with all these attractive qualities? The answer can be found in government policy. Large subsidies are given to competing energy sources, such as synthetic fuel, and artificially low prices are maintained by controls on natural gas.

Congress, in its haste to do something about energy, has overlooked a safe and clean source of energy. As the price of oil goes up, unconventional gas looks like a better and better bargain. Instead of encouraging the development of this resource, Congress has actually inhibited its production. It is time to correct these shortcomings.

.....
Annual Dinner

South Shore Audubon's Annual Dinner will be held on June 10 at the Coral House in Baldwin. Tickets are \$10 per person.

Further information in next month's Skimmer.

SSAS SCHOLARSHIPS

South Shore Audubon Society is offering three adult scholarships for Audubon Workshops: (1) two-week workshop in Maine and (2) one-week workshops in Greenwich, Connecticut. All are scheduled for mid to late July. If you would like to be considered for a scholarship, please write explaining how this experience could help you to further spread the ecological theme. You need not be a member of Audubon to try.

Deadline: May 1, 1980
Write to: South Shore Audubon Society
P.O. Box 31
Freeport, New York 11520

Northeast Regional Conference

The Audubon Society's Northeast Regional Conference for 1980, the "Year of the Coast," will be held at the Monomoy Sea Camps in East Brewster, Cape Cod, on September 26, 27 and 28.

The conference theme is "Energy and Wildlife," but many diverse topics will be covered. One of the featured events will be a special whale/pelagic bird trip on Friday, September 26. The cost of the whale trip alone is \$25 per person. For applications write to:

Northeast Regional Office
National Audubon Society
Route 4
Sharon, Connecticut 06069



IV - Zion

Three major faults run north-south through southern Utah, the Paunsagunt, Sevier and Hurricane. This faulting and repeated periods of uplift resulted in the tilting and breaking of the land, creating a number of plateaus bearing Piute names - the Paunsagunt ("home of the beaver"), on which Bryce Canyon is located, the Markagunt ("highland of trees"), the locale of Zion National Park, and, a bit to the south, in Arizona, the Shivwits (a Piute clan), the Uinkaret ("place where the pines grow"), the Kanab ("willow"), and the Kaibab ("mountain lying down"). The last four are collectively known as the Coconino Plateau, a Havasupi Indian word denoting "little water." These picture-evoking names stand in sharp contrast to our prosaic practice of naming most geographic features after people.

Most of the short drive from Bryce to Zion parallels the Sevier fault, which is clearly visible in many places; on the east side of the road the rocks are made up of red and white sandstone, on the west they are a tan-gray color. The same uplift that helped create Bryce Canyon some 60 million years ago also occurred in the Zion area, but there much of the similarity ceases. Zion is a true canyon, carved by the rushing waters of the Virgin River. Due to the tremendous stresses of the uplift, the land broke into great blocks. Some blocks lifted vertically, some tended to "dome," and others tilted at various angles, creating different forms and heights and resulting in the wondrous variety of shapes surrounding this awe-inspiring defile. The predominant rock of Zion is Navajo sandstone, the product of an ancient desert. A short distance from the East Entrance stands Checkerboard Mesa, a huge sandstone block criss-crossed by vertical and horizontal lines. It is considered the finest example of cross-bedded sandstone in the world.

A few miles further an easy hike takes one to the Canyon Overlook for a superb view of the southern portion of Zion Canyon from the rim of a high plateau. The road then plunges into a mile-long tunnel cut through a mountain, after which it descends by a series of switchbacks into the canyon, with the visitors' center and the lodge snuggled on the banks of the Virgin. The 4,000 foot elevation, and the steep walls of the narrow canyon which shut out the sunlight most of the day, make for cool days and chilly nights. From the lodge we crossed a rather bouncy foot bridge to the Emerald Pools Trail, at the end of which a creek flows into a lovely little pool, spills over into another, lower pool, and thence in two waterfalls over the edge of the cliff to the Virgin below. The trail, protected by an overhanging ledge, passes directly under the falls. The crystal clear pools were inhabited by numerous tadpoles, and water striders walked on the surface. Colorful orange dragonflies and bright blue damselflies shimmered low over the water and rested on nearby rocks. In the woods near the upper pool an uncommon Townsend's solitaire posed obligingly for his picture.

The park road parallels the Virgin, ending at the Temple of Sinawava, a delightful natural amphitheatre over which towers the Great White Throne, a huge stone block which is the best known of the park's landmarks. From there on the canyon narrows gradually until it is entirely filled by the river. On the sides of the Narrows Trail are numerous small pools filled with wild, edible, watercress. Amid the many bushes and small trees strolled a wild turkey (the bird, not the bourbon). On a rock in the stream a water ouzel, or dipper, just emerged from a stroll on the river bottom, sunned himself. Along the sides of the cliff are the Hanging Gardens of Zion, where water oozes out and numerous plants have gained a foothold on the sheer rock. Nearby is Weeping Rock, where water filtering through the rock pours in a long sheet over an overhang.

Starting at Weeping Rock is the East Rim Trail, a strenuous four mile hike climbing 2,500 feet to Observation Point. Along the way we pass a narrow gorge with twisted, convoluted rock worn smooth by a small stream. The view of the canyon from the top, breathtaking in its scope and grandeur, was more than sufficient reward for the rigors of the climb. We were surprised at the number of hikers we met along the trails. When we first went west we saw hardly anyone more than a quarter of a mile from a road, but now more and more Americans are apparently learning that the only way to truly see this magnificent country is to leave one's car and continue on shank's mare.

BIRD RESCUE by Asa Starkweather

I am pleased to announce that the idea of a bird rescue team has worked out perfectly. I was away in February, but no problem.

.....Nancy Bloomfield got a call from Jack Murray who said that, while walking his dog near Massapequa Pond, he saw a Great Blue Heron standing in the bushes. No matter how close he and his dog got, it didn't move. So, Nancy went with him. The heron was still there and she was prepared to cover its head, but it was so sick it wasn't necessary. She took it to A & A Veterinary Hospital for care.

.....Alice Orens got a call from Mrs. Ruth Goldstein of West Hempstead who had a bird in the exhaust duct of her stove. Alice had had the same experience so she told Mrs. Goldstein to yell and bang on the duct. She yelled and banged with no success. That night her daughter and friend, Don, came to dinner. No one could eat because they were so upset about the bird which had now been trapped for nearly two days. A stove man had been called, but he couldn't get there

for at least another day. Don managed to take the duct apart. There was a starling! With a little prodding it flew into the kitchen, dining room, living room, etc and, finally, out the front door.

Both Alice and Mrs. Goldstein need guards around their vents. Since these close by gravity and open with fan current, house sparrows and starlings can lift the flap and get inside. I suggest half-inch wire netting, available in your hardware store. If they have it in aluminum, all the better. Form a box that will go around the flap yet permit it to open. Attach it with sheet metal screws to the frame around the flap.



.....David Levine found a herring gull on Lido Beach. Someone had put boards around it and given it bread. The gull seemed all right but wouldn't fly and wouldn't eat. Alice took the gull to A & A. When they examined it they found intestinal parasites. The gull has been wormed and is expected to be all right in a week or so.

.....
Once again, friends, thanks. I'm proud we have a smoothly functioning committee and you should be too!

EARTH DAY AT TACKAPAUSHA

Tackapausha Museum will celebrate the 10th Anniversary of Earth Day Tues., Apr. 22, 10 am-5 pm, with a T-Shirt special. Bring a light colored shirt (with hanger) and an EARTH DAY logo will be stamped on it, all for the admission price of 25¢. Special guest speakers will be at the museum each Sunday at 3 pm throughout April. For information call 785-2802.

NEW YORK BIRDATHON

PROJECT PUFFIN

Audubon Members and Friends are joining in the first New York BIRDATHON on Saturday, May 17 and Sunday, May 18. Your participation will help "Bring a Puffin Home." Project Puffin is the re-creation of a lost seabird colony off the

coast of Maine. A BIRDATHON is a contest similar to the walk-a-thon used by non-profit organizations to raise funds. Instead of obtaining pledges of money for each mile you walk, your pledges are for each bird species you see.

You may support Project Puffin even if you don't plan to bird on May 17-18 by sending a tax deductible gift to:

National Audubon Society
Northeast Regional Office
Route 4
Sharon, CT 06069

Each organization or individual who raises \$300 will be considered a Puffin Patron. Patrons will be acknowledged in the 1980 issue of "Egg Rock Update" and will be advised of the fledging circumstances of their adopted puffin. They will also be advised of future sightings of their birds.

BIRDATHON forms may be obtained at the April meeting or by calling or writing Paul Butkerei.



FIELD TRIPS

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

APR. 6 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
13 Tobay, J.F.K. Sanctuary
20 West End #2, N.E. corner
9AM starting time begins with Apr. 27 walk
27 Zach's Bay, Pkg. Fld. # 4
N.E. corner

MAY 4 West End #2, N.W. corner
11 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
18 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

OFFICERS

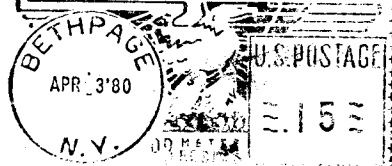
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BINOCULAR SAVINGS are available through the club. Save 30% to 50%
on Bushnell and Bausch and Lomb binoculars and scopes. See us at
meetings and birdwalks or call the committee members listed:
Barbara Tancredi 11 A.M.-1 P.M. 775-1790
Bill Herzog 7 P.M.-9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



MAY NEWS DEADLINE - APRIL 18

SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY
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