

SOUTH SHORE SKIMMER



SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

VOL. 10, NO. 10

JUNE 1980

HORIZONS II

We are planning to hold our Environmental Fair, Horizons II on Sunday, November 16, 1980, 1-5 PM, at Adelphi University's Ruth S. Harley University Center in Garden City.

Please contact Pat Davis at 822-6189 if you would like to display your arts and crafts or if you can help with the displays and programs.

WE NEED YOU!!!!



(above) Bird walk at West End. The last walk of the season will be on June 8 at the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge - starting time, 9 AM. Walks will resume in the fall.

HAVE A NICE SUMMER

Annual Dinner Meeting

GUEST SPEAKER: Dr. George Ruggieri

South Shore Audubon is honored to have as guest speaker Dr. George Ruggieri.

Dr. Ruggieri is the Director of both the New York Aquarium at Coney Island and the Osborn Marine Laboratory. He will be presenting a program concerning the fascinating projects being undertaken at these facilities.

The dinner meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 10, at the Coral House in Baldwin. The price per person is \$10.00 and includes appetizer, soup, roast beef, vegetable, potato, dessert and coffee. The cocktail hour (cash bar) is from 7-8. Dinner will be served at 8. Please make reservations in advance as seating is limited. For reservations call:

593-4554 or 623-2114

JESSIE AND BENSON welcome visitors to the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary. Jessie, who grew up on a busy street in Queens, does a very convincing imitation of a police car. The crows and the rest of the staff will be on hand for summer programs for children, Kindergarten to Grade 17. For information call 922-3200. Adult programs are described on page 3.



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PLANTING FOR BIRDS

by William O. Astle

Part III



Lonicera Tartarica; variety grandiflora with white flowers, variety rosea with rosy-pink flowers and variety lutea with yellow flowers, all flower

or fruit in the summer or early fall. Lonicera markii and Lonicera podocarpa have white flowers. They mature late and the fruits last for the winter birds.

If you wish to make a more informal planting, put one or two bushes of either photinia villosa or elaeagnus agentea in the row of bush honeysuckles. Both of these shrubs are excellent, hardy, berry bearing plants. In fact, if you want a one plant garden, then I would select the photinia. This is my favorite shrub. It gives the best results. The flowers are white like the hawthorne. The berries are reddish yellow and are very attractive to the thrushes and robins. It seems to be disease free and grows strong and vigorous to a height of fifteen feet.

If your soil is sandy then try the Russian Olive. This bush has been planted all along Jones Beach Causeway. It has pinkish fruits which stay late into the winter. The under parts of the leaves are silvery and flash white as the wind turns them over.

For a border of shrubs I would use the dogwoods, virburnums and cotoneasters. There are many varieties of cotoneasters, each growing at different heights, so I would consult with a nursery before buying.

The virburnum family is also very large. The only variety I would not buy is the high bush cranberry or virburnum oppulus. Virburnum dilatatum is excellent. The bush is compact and the fruits are red. Virburnum wrightii is another good variety. It too grows into a tight, compact bush with quantities of bright red berries. I also have a seedling variety which grows tall and straight like virburnum cassinoides or the with rod. It has purplish fruit and the thrushes, catbirds, white-throats, waxwings, purple finches and robins will stay in the yard as long as the fruit lasts.

The shrub dogwoods, which you know as the red and yellow twigged plants that grow along parkways and in damp places, bear fruit liked by birds. For accent planting use the Mountain Ash or the Japanese dogwood Cornus kousii.

Washington Thorn is often planted when you want a small tree. I have noticed this year the birds have not taken these fruits. Perhaps you need a really long, heavy cold spell to break the fruits open before the birds will eat the seeds as is the case with many other varieties of the thorn family.

Symplocos, or sweetleaf, is another tree-like shrub which stands well when planted alone. This plant has blue fruits. They are very attractive to the birds and do not remain long on the plant when they are ripe.

In closing I must mention Arnolds and Sargents Crab. Both are fine, hardy varieties. The spring flowers are white and red, as are the fruits. They remain on the trees until November or December. There are many, many other shrubs, flowers and trees which will attract birds. Please remember that these are only a few which I have found hardy and suitable for our own area.

BOAT TRIPS

Jack Fischer of Oceanside will take up to three people who are willing to share expenses (gas and oil) on boat trips around Middle Bay to observe and photograph shore birds. Jack's boat is an open outboard with no amenities aboard.

Jack will be available through July and August. Weekdays are best as there is less traffic. Arrangements must be made with Jack directly at RO 4-6529, not through South Shore Audubon.

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SEPTEMBER NEWS DEADLINE
AUGUST 5



The coming of spring heralds the re-birth of life. Unfortunately, ticks are included. Since many of our members frequent areas where ticks abound, I would like to pass along some information I received from the Cooperative Extension.

There are two types of ticks on Long Island; The Brown Dog Tick (*Rhipicephalus Sanguineus*) and the American Dog Tick (*Dermacentor Variabilis*). The Brown Dog Tick is a parasite of dogs, but seldom bites man and doesn't breed in the woods or in open country. The American Dog Tick occurs in animal runs, on paths, in fields, parks and wooded areas. This tick is considered more of a nuisance because it bites humans and can transmit Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever and Tularemia (rabbit fever). The larvae and nymph ticks feed largely on rodents. The adults feed on dogs, cattle and other large animals, including humans. The adults are similar in appearance to the Brown Dog Tick, but these have white spots on their brown backs. The adult ticks are abundant in the spring and early summer. A few are encountered after August 1. Larvae and nymphs may live for a year without feeding and the adult ticks for two years.

The head and thorax of a tick are fused, not separated as in most insects. Mature ticks have four pairs of legs. The larvae or seed ticks have three. The mouth parts are adapted for sucking blood from the host. The body of the tick, especially the adult female, becomes very large and distended when engorged with blood. It gives the appearance of a gray raisin.

To help control ticks:

1. Use repellents. Mosquito repellents containing N,N-diethyl toluamide (Deet, Off) will provide some protection against the American Dog Tick. Apply as directed. Tuck in shirt or pants. Boots are helpful. It is easier to spot ticks on light colored clothing.
2. Spray malathion, Baygon or carbaryl in heavily infested areas such as dog runs (when infested). Read directions carefully and contact the Cooperative Extension at 454-0906 for further information. Brown Dog Ticks can infest a house. Use a household spray containing the above chemicals, following directions. Get rid of new broods. Use only household formulations of malathion as others may have an objectionable odor. Be sure preparation is non-staining. Spray or paint it on cracks in the floor, around baseboards, window casings, and any other places ticks may be hiding (rugs, upholstery, etc). Be selective with insecticides and use only where and when needed.
3. Inspect pets, children, adults and any other warm-blooded animals thoroughly, especially at hairline of neck. Any ticks found should be removed and killed.

The Cooperative Extension says to remove a tick, first apply an ice cube or some alcohol to it, then gently remove the pest with a tweezer. Be sure no mouth parts remain embedded. Some first aid books recommend touching the tick with a lighted cigarette. I have always covered the tick with an oily substance like butter or petroleum jelly, waited about a half hour and then removed gently.

Unfortunately, at this time, there are no effective biological controls for ticks.

TEACHERS! SOMETHING MORE Elementary through High School

A course designed for teachers who participate in T.R. Sanctuary programs as well as other interested educators. New and experienced outdoor educators will share and learn, so that we may all give our students Something More!

Specialists will demonstrate teaching methods which have been successful at the Sanctuary, offer new ideas, and basic local historic and environmental information.

Field trips, including a special colonial overnight and a visit to National Audubon's Greenwich Education Center, will provide experiences in outdoor cooking, camping and night programs.

Our staff intends the climate to be one in which the exchange and development of ideas will flourish, June 30 thru July 3, 9:00 A.M.—3:00 P.M. with an overnight.

June 30—July 3 9:00 A.M.—3:00 P.M.

Fee: Member—\$50.00

Non-member—\$55.00

ORNITHOLOGY OF LONG ISLAND

Participants will follow the paths of early Long Island naturalists and observe the most current research and educational methods.

Led by Bill Kolodnicki, T.R.S. Naturalist-Instructor, the program will include such rare opportunities as a visit to Great Gull Island and an overnight on eastern Long Island Pine Barrens to study nocturnal/diurnal bird activity. There will be additional field trips to select birding areas, field research stations and museum collections.

June 23 thru 27, 9:00 A.M.—3:00 P.M. Monday thru Friday.*

June 23—June 27 9:00 A.M.—3:00 P.M.

Fee: Member—\$50.00

Non-member—\$55.00

*Overnight to be arranged.



In the midst of the Painted Desert lies Petrified Forest National Park. This park contains the greatest concentration of petrified wood in the world, scattered in great profusion and in a variety of sizes ranging from chips to logs a hundred feet long. The stunning beauty of the "wood," with brilliant hues of red, yellow, blue, green and white, is highlighted by the colorful Painted Desert.

The area was surrounded by thunderstorms, the major source of summer rainfall. Intermittent heavy rains had fallen for several days, turning the Puerco River, normally a dry bed or a mere trickle, into a raging torrent. But it also caused many of the wildflowers to bloom, like the brilliant red cardinal flower.

A half day's drive, through lovely country steadily dropping from the high plateau of northern Arizona, took us to Tucson and another highlight of the Southwest, the desert. For most people the word "desert" brings to mind vast stretches of swirling sand, interrupted by a few palm trees clustered around widespread oases. This may be true of the Sahara, but it paints a very false picture of the American deserts, in all of which there is varied, specialized vegetation.

The American deserts are known as rain shadow deserts. The winds from the Pacific are pushed up by the high peaks of the Coast Range and the Sierra Nevada. The resultant cooling of the air brings condensation, so that the mountains receive considerable rainfall, leaving little for the deserts lying in their "shadow."

Three major deserts run from Mexico into the United States - the Chihuahan of western Texas and much of New Mexico, the Sonoran, embracing most of southern Arizona and the southeastern corner of California, and the Mojave (or Mohave) of southwestern California.

They are distinguished mainly by their differing vegetation. The Chihuahan contains large numbers of yucca and agave, fascinating plants consisting of a long, solitary stalk capped at times by a large bloom, and surrounded at the base by huge, fleshy "leaves" coming to a needle-like point. Yuccas are also found in the other deserts, but they are a different species, rarer and generally smaller.

Tucson, in the Sonoran Desert, is the site of Saguaro National Monument, established to protect the superb stands of the giant saguaro cactus. The remarkable saguaro is a classic example of adaptation to a hostile environment. Extremely slow growing, a two year old saguaro is $\frac{1}{4}$ inch tall. It may take fifteen years to reach a height of one foot; by the time it is twenty feet tall and has developed its first branch, a saguaro has survived approximately 75 years. A mature plant, weighing several tons, may reach a height of 50 feet and an age of 200 years. It can absorb a great deal of water in a heavy rain; during extended dry periods it gradually uses its stored water, shrinking in girth and decreasing in weight.

A great many other fascinating plants grow in the desert - ocotillos, with long, narrow branches covered with tiny leaves, numerous varieties of the rather low, multi-branching chollas, bristling with extremely fine thorns, sagebrush, creosote bush, etc. The Palo Verde tree increases its photosynthesis by having chlorophyll in its bark, whence the name, Spanish for green wood. Various barrel cacti were in full bloom, their tops covered with large, showy red, orange and yellow blossoms.

Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, on the Mexican border in western Arizona, contains still other vegetation. Saguaros are rare, and have been largely replaced by the organ pipe cactus. They consist of a tight cluster of stems growing straight up to a height of some fifteen feet, resembling the pipes of a giant organ. The monument also boasts the northernmost stand of senita cactus, covered with fine strands looking like the gray hair of an old man. In one corner of the park a natural spring has formed a good sized pond hosting a number of coots, a striking anomaly in the middle of a desert.

Memories of delightful times in the Chihuahan and Sonoran Deserts, combined with the rigors of the New York winter, led to our decision, in February 1979, to head for southern California. At home, under a leaden sky with snow underfoot, the temperature had



HELP FOR FEATHERED FRIENDS

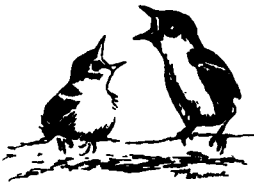
*Wild birds are protected by state and federal regulations
and MUST be returned to freedom*



OUR RESPONSIBILITY

If baby bird is fully feathered, has short tail feathers and hops but doesn't fly . . .

LEAVE HIM. His parents will return and take care of him (even if he has been handled by human hands!). You can best help by removing dogs and cats from the area.

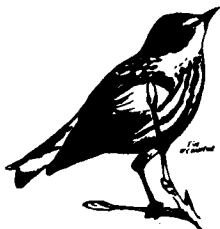


IF you are **POSITIVE** that the baby bird is an orphan . . .



BABY BIRD HEADQUARTERS

- Use a strawberry box for a nest and fill with paper towels and tissue. (Do not use old nest.)
- Temperature in "nest" should be 95° to 100°. Use outdoor thermometer as guide. Heating pad, hot water bottle or table lamp could be used.
- Using a blunt toothpick, feed baby bird formula every ½ hour during daylight hours.
- Place food far down throat when mouth is open, using blunt toothpick.
- When baby bird is too big for "nest" place him in cardboard box – see "temporary home for injured."



BASIC WILD BIRD FORMULA

(for most baby birds
and injured adults)

- ¼ lb. raw chopped beef
- 1 hardboiled egg yolk
- 1 tsp. wheat germ
- 1/8 tsp garden soil
- sprinkle with vitamins
- moisten with water
- mix
- place in dish or
serve on a blunt toothpick

Dry dog food moistened with water till soft is a convenient substitute for worms and bugs, or for above formula.

Slices of orange, banana, or peeled, chopped grapes and apples for older birds.

If possible, adult birds should be offered foods they eat in the wild.

If adult bird still will not pick up food after 6 hours . . . HE MAY HAVE TO BE FORCE FED.

- Hold bird on towel in your lap facing away from you.
- Gently but firmly press on corners of jaw, slipping fingernail between upper and lower bill.
- Insert food as far down throat as possible – wait until bird swallows.
- For a robin size bird, feed ½ to 1 tsp. 3 times daily.
- **Never** force water or liquid down throat of any bird. With fingertip, place drops of water on the tip of the bill.
- Usually after 2 or 3 force feedings the bird will start eating and drinking from a shallow dish or jar lid.

SHOCK – CONCUSSIONS

Put bird in small covered box with air holes

Leave in quiet warm place for 2 hours.
Release.

Or

Place bird in protected bush in sunny spot. Go away.

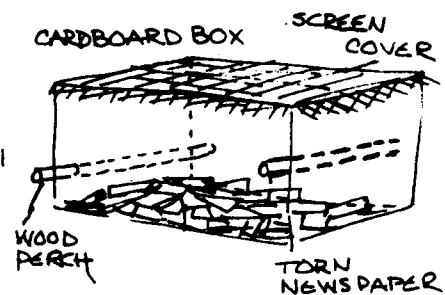
FIRST AID FOR INJURED BIRDS

- Clean cuts with Hydrogen Peroxide.
- Apply first aid cream
- For broken or weak wing . . . wrap masking tape (NOT adhesive) around body and bad wing, using body as a support for folded wing. Remember to leave good wing free.
- Remove tape in 3 weeks



TEMPORARY HOME FOR AN INJURED BIRD

Use a cardboard carton covered with a grate or screen. Do not use a parakeet cage.



Use wood perches of varying sizes.

Place torn newspaper or paper towel on floor.



Suggested Reading

Care of Wild, Feathered and Furred
– Hickman and Guy

Bird Ambulance
Mockingbird Trio – Arline Thomas

My Orphans of the Wild – Collett

Wild Orphan Babies – Weber

– By Sallie Ruppert

Call 922-3200

Mon.-Fri. 9 am-2 pm

Educational Service of Huntington Audubon Society
and the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary

(continued)

fought its way up to one degree above zero. Five hours later we landed in Los Angeles under sunny skies with the thermometer reading 68.

One hundred and forty miles east we settled in for a six-day stay at Joshua Tree National Monument, in the heart of the Mojave. Unique to this area, the Joshua tree's skyward pointing green branches reminded the early Mormon settlers of the Biblical Joshua praying. Like the palo verde and ocotillo, it is not a cactus.

Most of the park and surrounding country is in the "high desert," a 3,000 foot plateau. The altitude is apparently ideal for the Joshua trees, which grow in considerable profusion. As the land slips into the Pinto Basin, however, the Joshuas gradually disappear to be replaced by ocotillos, chollas and other of the smaller desert plants. There were none of the large succulents such as the saguaro so typical of the Sonoran.

At scattered points where there was groundwater stood clusters of magnificent California date palms. No palms are found in the other deserts.

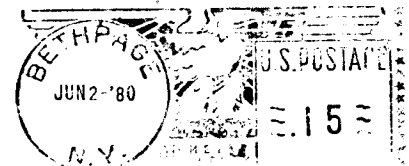
Plants are not the only life found in the deserts. Various species of lizards abound. We saw numerous cactus wrens,

glossy black phainopeplas, lovely little Anna's hummingbirds, Gambel's quail, shrikes and several soaring hawks. Desert jackrabbits were common, including a very tame one who permitted me to get close enough for a full frame picture. Outside the park I finally got a good picture of a roadrunner, though I had to go through the yard of a private house to do so, fortunately undetected.

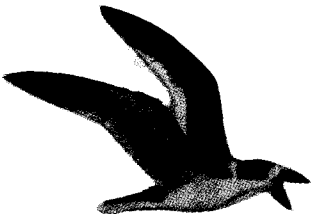
For anyone interested in adaptations of life to a hostile environment the deserts are a fascinating laboratory, especially for the more obvious plantlife. Most plants have wide-ranging, shallow roots, enabling the greatest possible absorption of even a light rainfall. Cacti have modified their leaves into needles, reducing water loss through transpiration. Some, like the palo verde and most true cacti, have green stems to aid photosynthesis lost through the absence of large leaves. A number secrete a poison into the ground which inhibits other growth close by, lessening the competition for water. The succulents like the saguaros and barrels store large amounts of water for future use.

For us, the deserts weave an almost magical spell that calls to us to return, and return we shall.

SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY
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