

# SOUTH SHORE SKIMMER



SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

VOL. 11, NO. 4

DECEMBER 1980

## MEETING

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9  
FREEPORT MEMORIAL LIBRARY  
8:15 P.M.

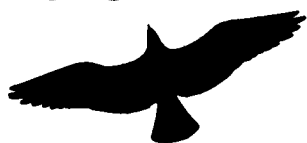
GUEST SPEAKER: Carl Safina  
"Banding Hawks on  
Fire Island"



Carl Safina is the Manager of the Scully Sanctuary in Islip.

His program on hawks will deal with ecology and identification of birds of prey.

Please join us for this exciting and informative program.



## Volunteers Strike Back

In a time when you wonder whether anyone cares about conservation, there is reassurance at the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary. During the months of September and October, forty-three educational programs were conducted for 789 children and adults. These programs carried the Audubon message.

The communication of our message about conservation was made possible by your efforts as volunteers on the sanctuary board and committees, by the bird seed sale and by your work on wood-splitting days.

Thank you for your support and please come up and spend some time looking at our winter birds.

Bill Kolodnicki  
Director, Theodore  
Roosevelt Sanctuary

Dear Friends,

Our Horizons II Environmental Fair on November 16 was a great success! Our speakers, Jack Pangburn (Photography), Bob Farwell (Whales), Mike Smiles (Beach Environment), our own Asa Starkweather (L.I. Birds), our Educational Co-chairpersons Elaine Butkerei and Gloria Cohen (Teacher's Ecology Workshop) were excellent. Thanks so much to Bill Robinson for making the trip from Saugerties to present his special Birds of Prey program. The environmental and arts and crafts displays were terrific!

Our SSAS members really worked hard to make Horizons II so enjoyable and informative. Special thanks to Len Gordon for publicity (we never would have had such a great turnout without his press releases); Joan and Paul Butkerei for handling the Treasury duties so well; Miriam Raynor for her delicious coffee; Ruth Grossman for her great idea of balloons for the children and then getting a committee together to follow through; Tom Torma, our Vice-President, for helping to plan the programs and then working so hard moving furniture and setting up displays. (I bet you had some sore bones

(continued on page 3)

# CONSERVATION

by Thomas Torma

## Alaska Lands Bill Passed

Recently the House of Representatives passed the Senate version of the Alaska Lands Bill and passed it on to the President. While this bill is not as strong as we had hoped, it is still considered a good compromise bill. It is important that this bill becomes law before Ronald Reagan takes office. He campaigned against it claiming it tied up too many resources. He would surely veto the bill which is a better one than the new, more conservative Congress is likely to pass.

## Superfund Bill Out of Committee

A \$4.2 billion Toxic Waste Cleanup Bill has finally cleared the Senate Finance Committee. This legislation will pay to clean up toxic waste dumps and chemical spills. Senator Russell Long, Chairman of the Finance Committee, said changes would be essential if the bill is to pass. Another version of the bill establishes a \$2.7 billion fund. A floor fight is expected after Thanksgiving. One problem with these bills is the question of who foots the bill - the taxpayers or the chemical companies. The Senate Finance Committee version requires that 88% of the cost go to the chemical companies. The House version is already approved. There are actually two bills, one establishing a \$1.2 billion fund for abandoned chemical dumps and the other setting up a \$750 million fund to clean up oil and chemical spills. The House would have the chemical companies pay 75% of the costs. Please write to our senators and ask them to support the Senate Finance Committee version S. 1480. Urge our senators to fight any attempts to weaken it on the floor.

## Triage for Endangered Species?

Triage, from a French verb meaning "to sort out," was a method used by the French in World War I when there were not enough medical corpsmen or supplies to go around. Soldiers with the best chances of survival were treated first. The others were left to die. In an article in the New York Times, Dr. Thomas J. Lovejoy, Vice-President of the World Wildlife Fund-U.S., suggests we do just that with the world's endangered animals and plants. We are on the verge of mass extinction of species. Since conservationists have only limited means for saving any species, a system must be found to decide which ones are to be saved. Dr. Norman Meyers, a wildlife ecologist and consultant on conservation, is heading a study for the World Wildlife Fund to set up a method for establishing priorities for evaluating different species. Some of the values given are:

- \* Biological; the general ecological, biological and genetic values and the uniqueness of the species.
- \* Economic; the species' agricultural, medical and industrial worth.
- \* Cultural and esthetic value.
- \* The special values of the ecosystem the species inhabits.

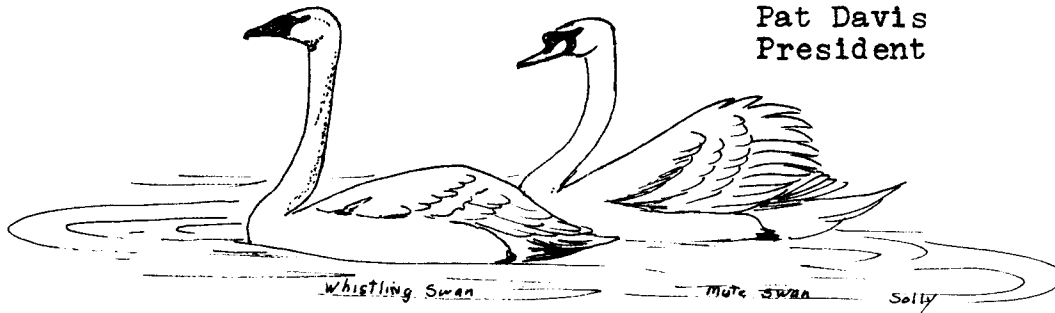
These decisions will be difficult. What do we save - whales, pandas, gila monsters, or creepy, crawly insects in a tropical forest. Each species has its own intrinsic value as well as its own special place in nature's scheme of things.

the next morning, Tom); Bill Herzog for selling binoculars; Doris Pirodsky, our new Membership Chairperson, for answering questions and distributing our newsletters; Jean Torma who registered the kids for the T.R.S. children's programs; Bertha Menche and my Dad, Leo Rogo, for their beautiful floral arrangements; Bill Menche for unloading a myriad of boxes; my Dad for going back home to retrieve our SSAS banner (which I forgot) and then hammering and taping flyers on the road to Adelphi (one thing we must do beforehand next time so it won't be so difficult to find the building!) and, of course, many, many thanks to all of you who came to learn about your environment and support SSAS.

The Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary Children's Programs were well attended and a special thanks goes to Bill Kolodnicki, the Director, and his staff - Cathy Fitts, Carla Slomin and Kathy McCue - for giving the children such a good time.

I hope I didn't forget anybody and I apologize if I left someone out.

Over 200 people attended the programs and I think we can all agree our Horizons II provided a worthwhile, enjoyable and stimulating day for everyone!



Pat Davis  
President

### Stream Flow Augmentation

The fourth public workshop will be held on Wednesday, December 10 at 7:30 P.M. in the conference room of the Cedar Creek Water Pollution Control Plant in Wantagh. The plant is on the south side of Merrick Road, between the Wantagh State and East Meadowbrook parkways. For more complete directions call Ruth Maikish at (516) 742-6202.

In addition to the regular staff members of Lawler, Matusky and Skelly Engineers, John St. John of HydroQual, Inc., will be present at this workshop.

Mr. St. John will present the results of the South Shore Bay modeling and its implications regarding salinity and temperatures in the southern bays. As discussed previously, reductions in freshwater flow to the bays may increase bay salinity which, in turn, may result in increased predation of shellfish.

**Biggest Bird?** The fossil remains of what is believed to be by far the largest bird ever to fly have been discovered in the Argentine, according to National Geographic Society. Scientists say the birds, called teratorns, had a 25-foot wingspread, measured 11 feet from beak to tail and weighed from 160 to 170 pounds. They are believed to have relied almost exclusively on gliding, rather than wing flapping.

#### AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILM/LECTURE SERIES

In cooperation with the South Shore Audubon Society, the Town of Hempstead will continue its informative Audubon Wildlife Film/Lecture Series.

December 16 — Charles Hotchkiss "Wilderness Trails"  
January 28 — Frank Heilmans "What Have You Done To My Country"  
All Performances will be at 8:15 pm. in the Town Hall Pavilion, Hempstead. Admission - free - but tickets are necessary.

For tickets, send a stamped, self-addressed envelope, specifying date, program and number of tickets desired to:

Audubon Lecture Series  
Hempstead Recreation Division  
200 N. Franklin Street  
Hempstead, NY 11550

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Correction: Paul T. Butkereiit was inadvertently omitted from the list of South Shore Audubon volunteers participating in the Education Committee-BOCES course for teachers.

**HOFSTRA** HEMPSTEAD, NEW YORK 11550  
**UNIVERSITY**

15 October 1980

Mr. Paul T. Butkereiit  
 268 Wallace Street  
 Freeport, New York 11520

Dear Paul:

I'm writing in response to the "Salt Marsh" article by Thomas Torma in the October Newsletter. I would like to have the following included in the November Newsletter.

Salt Marshes - A Response

In general, I agree with the remarks of Mr. Thomas Torma in the October Skimmer. The previous loss of wetlands on Long Island has been tragic and the remaining tidal wetlands should be vigorously protected.

That protection, however, should take place within the boundary of the Constitution of the United States. The passing of protective legislation for the general public benefit (such as the Tidal Wetlands Act - Article 25) may render properties valueless. The owners of these lands may be denied any reasonable use of properties on which they have been paying taxes for many years. This may be termed a "taking" and happily for you and me, government cannot take land without paying for it.

If what Mr. Torma is advocating in the last paragraph is true; his house could be similarly taken - say for road construction. Fortunately he is protected by the very federal and state laws which apply to the owners of the marshes along Lido Boulevard. His house would be condemned and he would be paid the current market price.

There is no question that salt marshes, freshwater marshes, ponds, streams and woodlands; particularly the pine barrens, should be protected. The problem is that much of this land is privately owned and that if we, the public, want to preserve it we must be prepared to pay for it.

Educating the public on the need to preserve open space is a primary function of the Audubon Society. However, such education should be reasonably complete. We must convince our governmental representatives that the public needs open space and is willing to pay for it with tax money. There is no such thing as a free lunch!

Sincerely,

*Bob*

Robert W. Johnson, Ph.D.  
 Associate Professor of Biology

RWJ:klo

# West Coast for the Birds

Asa Starkweather

We headed down through the Pine Mountains to the coast where we picked up Route 101 and continued north, stopping at almost every rocky shore to look for a Wandering Tattler which Alvin said I might see. I never did!

North of Santa Barbara we turned off at a small town called Solvang. Alvin and Laura had seen every bird his book listed as being there. The setting was ideal. A country road wandered along a brook with fields, shrubs and woodland. We saw Yellow-Billed Magpies, Violet Green and Tree Swallows and a Yellow-Breasted Chat. Alvin and Laura had seen about 20 more!

We stayed in a motel that night. There had been nothing but an outhouse at McGill Campground! Glad and I have golf cards and one of the places we could play free was Avila Beach. So I called and got a starting time the next morning. I had an agreement with Glad that I could take my binoculars with me on any California golf course (normally, she objects to bird watching when we are playing golf). Neither of us ever thinks of a camera and thereby hangs our sad tale. At the 8th hole alongside the fairway was a big dead tree bleached a silver grey. Starting about three feet above the base, in the center of the trunk, were perfectly regular rows of holes - ten across and carrying up the trunk for about eight feet, perfectly spaced. In each hole was an acorn! This was the work of an Acorn Woodpecker. It was amazing. I have no picture!

Further down the course was a water hazard to the left. On the far side, walking by the water, were American Bitterns - male, female and immature.

After the game we continued up the coast. Friends had advised us to tour San Simeon. It was mobbed and tickets were not available until the next day. So we gave that up and went to a campground near there. The next day we went to Fremont State Park.

Have I said anything about California State Parks? McGill Campground excepted, they are clean, well-run and well-sited. They have flush toilets, hot and cold running water, clean sinks and clean showers. Here at Fremont we saw six or eight Acorn Woodpeckers, Plain Titmouse, Oregon Junco, Olive-Sided Flycatcher and Red-Breasted Nuthatches. Of course, we have the Nuthatches here, but these and Brown Creepers were almost common.

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Doris Pirodsky will be taking over from Terry Stoltz as Membership Chairperson. Many, many thanks to Terry for being so tireless and efficient (not to mention unfailingly pleasant) in this difficult and thankless job. And thank you, Doris, for stepping in.

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At least one more "thank you" is in order. Once again, we express our appreciation to artist Gloria Solly of Long Beach for her beautiful drawings.



## FIELD TRIPS

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

- DEC.      7 Zach's Bay, Pkg. Fld. #4  
            N.E. corner  
           14 West End #2, N.E. corner  
           21 Tobay, J.F.K. Sanctuary  
JAN.      4 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge  
           11 Pelham Bay-meet at Throg's  
            Neck Bridge toll-9:00 A.M.  
           18 Zach's Bay, Pkg. Fld. #4  
            N.E. corner  
           25 Tobay, J.F.K. Sanctuary  
FEB.      2 West End #2, N.W. corner  
           9 West End #2, N.E. corner

## OFFICERS

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461 Dunster Ct., W. Hempstead 11552  
D. Pirodsky-Membership 378-1790  
225 E. Dean St., Freeport 11520  
A. Orens-Editor 431-9537  
282 Greenway Rd., Lido Beach 11561

**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 Butkerei 593-4554



*Happy  
Holidays!*

JANUARY NEWS DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 9

**SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY  
P.O. BOX 31  
FREEPORT, N.Y. 11520**



**FIRST CLASS MAIL**