

SOUTH SHORE SKIMMER



SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

VOL. 12, NO. 1

SEPTEMBER 1981

Meeting

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

Al Lemke of South Shore Audubon will be showing slides of three natural areas in the East; Acadia National Park in Maine, the Outer Banks of North Carolina and Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge in Georgia and Florida.

Please join us. A program featuring Al's beautiful slides is always most informative and enjoyable.

.....



President Pat Davis and Asa Starkweather at the Annual Dinner. SSAS presented Asa with a special plaque honoring his dedicated service to the chapter since its inception.

Photo: Roz Stein

Dear Friends,

I'd like to welcome you back to another year with SSAS. We have many fine programs lined up for the coming year. Our friend Mr. Watt promises to keep us busy-so, with your help, we're going to try to keep him busy, too!! We will be distributing fact sheets in our newsletters and at meetings on the most critical issues. If there is something you wish to bring to our attention, please do not hesitate to call me.

In July I was privileged to attend the National Audubon Biennial Convention at Estes Park, Colorado. The mood at the convention was one of serious determination. Our Washington staff painted a very dismal picture of our chances in Washington. When NAS Vice-President Brock Evans was introduced to James Watt, he was told he would do better to be a garbage-man. There's nothing wrong with being a garbage-man, but somehow I don't think Mr. Watt meant it as a compliment. Does he sound like someone we can work with? Perhaps not, but we have no choice.

All the superlatives I've ever heard cannot begin to describe the Rocky Mountains. We saw a Ferruginous Hawk on a nest and Evening Grosbeak as numerous as starlings. The prairie dogs were a delight. The clean air, azure skies and wildflowers in every color made it nearly perfect. Only nearly perfect because my husband and I were able to stay just four days.

We were fortunate to have Roger Tory Peterson as a guest speaker. A truly charming and modest man, Dr. Peterson signed many autographs and was kind and helpful to all who could get close enough to speak to him.

Once again, thank you for your financial support and your dedication toward giving our children the precious legacy of clean air to breathe and space to grow.

Pat Davis

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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Canoe Trip

June 7th was a beautiful day and about fifty people of all sizes, shapes and ages took advantage of the annual South Shore Audubon canoe trip on the Carmans River.

This is a beautiful river for canoeing, starting with a shallow, narrow, winding creek (it tests the stern paddler's skill as he must maneuver around banks, trees and sandbars), and eventually broadening to a good-sized river with tributaries for exploration and, finally, becoming a small lake near the end of our trip - South Haven Park.

There are obstacles to paddle through - a gate, posts, a small waterfall. Most of us portaged over the falls, but the smart ones stayed in their canoes. Have you ever tried walking on railroad gravel beds with bare feet?

The scenery was beautiful - woodlands, marshes, meadows. The Yellow Bull's Eye water lilies and the purple iris along the banks made a colorful contrast.

The highlight of the trip was coming around a bend in the river to find a White-tailed buck deer munching the marsh grass. He ignored the several canoes that remained motionless, afraid to paddle further until, finally, we were forced to keep moving as others were closing in behind us. Slowly we paddled ahead. The deer continued his meal until we were about 6 feet from him when, startled, he looked up and bolted. I understand he returned to his favorite spot so that most of our group was able to get a good look at him. And, in our canoe, no one had a camera!

As for birds, an Osprey, a Yellow-billed Cuckoo, a Tree Swallow, a Kingfisher and the ubiquitous Red-wings were seen as well as a couple of swan families and Mallards.

Nobody fell in, nobody got lost and everybody had a great time. The only complaint was that the trip was too short. Many thanks to the coordinator, Marian Friedlander.

Helene Kappelmann

Since our last general meeting in May we have added 59 new members. We welcome you to South Shore Audubon and hope you will enjoy our meetings and participate in our Sunday bird walks and other activities. Our new members are:

BALDWIN: Mrs. C.A. Scobie, K. Shortall;
BAYSIDE: Leon Weidman;
BELLMORE: Harriet Fox, Guy Mazza, Regan Darcy;
BETHPAGE: Richard Cheslak, K.W. Nelson, Milton & Beverly Rager;
EAST MEADOW: Charles Bedford, J. Bunshaft Family, Emil Pagano;
EAST ROCKAWAY: Morris Yomtov
FAR ROCKAWAY: Judith Sherman;
FARMINGDALE: Konstantin Dierks, Edward Garrett, Charles Stevenson;
FLORAL PARK: Mrs. P.H. Pearson;
FREEPORT: Eileen Goldbach;
GARDEN CITY: Helen Cole, Janith Kice, Edward Rider, Shuhei Suyana Family;
GLEN OAKS: Edythe Becker;
HEMPSTEAD: Frank LaGreca, A. Goldstein;
HICKSVILLE: Frank & Veronica Spies, Peter Thorsen;
ISLAND PARK: David Taplitz;
LEVITTOWN: Mr. & Mrs. S. Shinder;
LYNBROOK: Patricia Curran;
LONG BEACH: Kathleen Lavcius, Gabriel Nadelman, S. Schuchman Family, Mike Sutter Family;
MALVERNE: Gordon Brodwin Family, Barbara Labrot Family;
MASSAPEQUA: Edric Carrington, Ron Castellucci, Mr. & Mrs. Donald Horowitz, M. Pandolphi;
MASSAPEQUA PARK: Ruthann Perillo;
MERRICK: Molly Dobbie, Karen Wenzel, Daniel Muller Family;
PLAINVIEW: Philip Gelfand, Virginia Hladki;
ROCKVILLE CENTRE: Robert Piersa;
SEAFORD: Mr. & Mrs. Walter Rabe;
VALLEY STREAM: A. Bianco, Cathy Chapman, Michele Miller, M.M. Zulch;
WANTAGH: Frances Hunt
WEST HEMPSTEAD: Fran Negrin, Philip Waldstein;
WOODMERE: Murray Kaufman, Robert Rosenbaum, Ira Rosenfeld Family

We look forward to seeing you at the September meeting.

Doris Pirodsky

Rare Bird Sightings
(212) 832-6523

Summer Stuff

Sanctuary programs went great this summer! A special thanks to Wendie Pirtle Russell, Jeremy Pirtle, Cathy Fitts, Lynn Beegle, Sallie Ruppert and their assistants. They taught seven weeks of great programs to over 150 children and adults.

Laura Zaines' Youth Training Program presented several programs to members and the public during July and August. They were well attended and a lot of fun for everyone.

This fall, besides regular programs, the Sanctuary will be presenting workshops at the New York State Outdoor Education Conference and at the National Audubon Northeast Youth Conference. We will sponsor three overnight programs this fall at Montauk, Fire Island, and up in the Catskills. Anyone interested in helping with these elementary education programs should contact us. These programs run on bird seed, so please support your chapter sales this fall.

Best wishes for fall birding,
Bill Kolodnicki

.....



Bill Kolodnicki and Laura Zaines with "Marsha" the Short-eared Owl at a Youth Training session. Marsha was found in a farmer's field by a dog who carried her home to his owner. She had lost part of her wing to a gunshot wound. Marsha's disability prevents her from being returned to the wild. She is a permanent resident of the Sanctuary where she assists with many of the educational programs.

FOLK ART

The Museum of American Folk Art, 49 West 53rd Street, New York, N.Y., will focus on the decoy as a unique American art form with its show "The American Decoy," September 3 through November 8.

Miniature decoys and duck-head stick pins created by South Shore Audubon's Marge Fischer will be on sale in the gift shop.

Museum hours are: Tuesday-Sunday, 10:30 A.M.- 5:30 P.M.

Admission is \$1.00. Senior citizens and students, 50%. Children under 12 are admitted free. Admission is free Tuesdays 5:30 P.M.-8:00 P.M. For further information call

(212) 581-2474

HARVEST FESTIVAL

The Long Island Chapter of the Nature Conservancy is holding its Harvest Farm Festival on Sunday, September 27 from 10:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. at Uplands Farm in Cold Spring Harbor. Nature arts, crafts and photography will be on display. There will be natural history workshops for adults and children, films and harvest foods for sale.

At 2:00 P.M. there will be a special concert by folk singer Oscar Brand, followed by a wine-tasting party in the barn.

Norwegian Birds

"Birds and Landscapes of Norway," a slide presentation by photographer-naturalist Øyvind Gjerde, is being sponsored by the Freeport Scandinavian Society on September 17 at 8:00 P.M.

3 at the Freeport Library.

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The Greatest Kind*

I was at Hog Island Audubon Ecology Workshop in Maine for twelve days, nearly all of them sunny. We had occasional fog, one rainy day, and we slept under two blankets.

The island consists of over 300 acres, incredibly beautiful - and all ours. We were fifty-two campers (a wonderful group) and a staff of instructors who were the very best, headed by Mary and Manny Sargent, also the "v.b."

I shared a room with a young science teacher from Milwaukee. Our house-keeping was simple. We pulled the bed up in the morning, and, as the prevailing wind was from the west and, as the only door was a curtain, the dust blew across the hall to the opposite room!

The brochure required that prospective campers be "agile" and stated that the trails were primitive. I worried about that, but clambering over the wet rocks, getting in and out of

dories from our big boats Osprey III and Puffin III, my eyes glued to the paths through the woods where one tree root could trip you, I decided I passed the test.

The view of Muscongus Bay, pine-treed islands in the distance, waves gently lapping on rocky shores, lobster buoys bobbing in the water and the purest air in the world - all this I could see from my bedroom window.

By boat we went to visit Great Blue Herons that were nesting and saw their fledglings. Walking through the trees in single file and watching the huge birds silhouetted against the blue sky was



Dr. Stephen Kress, head of the Puffin Project, with Ruth Grossman at Audubon Workshop in Maine.

a spectacular experience.

Hiking through the spruce forest, sunlight dappling the ferns, fairy rings of tiny mushrooms, on a thick carpet of pine needles, birds singing was a most moving experience surrounded by the peace and quiet of the woods.

One morning our group was scheduled for "Decomposers." I thought unhappily of cemeteries, but it was about mushrooms. They grew in incredible colors, shapes and sizes - oranges, reds, browns, whites and yellows. On another walk we tasted a Chanterelle which was delicious and, of course, not poisonous!

Another day Grace, the plant life instructor (each word that she spoke was so enthusiastic you'd swear it was her first season and it was her 12th) and Ellen took us to the rocks to dredge in the mud. Among other stuff, we dug up clams and periwinkles and they were steamed, dipped in butter and eaten on the spot. Delicious and very fresh!

We took a boat trip to see the Puffin colony. It was a foggy day and the seas were rough. I felt fine. Jo, one of the ornithologists, promised to make me see a Puffin. However, after 5 minutes of intensive looking through my binoculars, I never did see anything recognizable in the thick fog, though I wanted to very much and Jo had tried so hard to help me.

Steve took us for a bird walk one morning. He is one of the most inspiring teachers I ever listened to. He knows so much and he gives so much!

I had to do table "hopping" (setting up the dishes, etc. and serving) for two days. I told Debbie my four-year-old grandchild about it. "You were a hopper, Grandma?" - her voice was pleased and incredulous. I think she imagined I had turned into a rabbit then and there!

(continued on page 5)

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(continued on page 5)

The only thing I never did - though I was tempted - was to plunge into the icy waters of Muscongus Bay for a swim. I did so much and enjoyed it all so much, I didn't need another experience, and I said to myself, "My cup runneth over."

Though I took no notes, I learned so much. So many memories flash through my mind: Folk songs before a crackling fire, accompanied by the twang of a guitar; a Humming Bird darting in and out of a huge pot of pink fuschias; picking blueberries and tiny wild strawberries; an incredibly beautiful sunset

as the sky darkened in the peace and quiet of the evening; walking through the pines to take a shower; our final dinner of lobster eaten outdoors; the shapes and colors of the huge rocks on the shore at low tide.

One thing I discovered all over again: "Audubon-ers" are the nicest people!

*A Maine expression for something wonderful - could be a chowder or a lovely day.

Ruth Grossman

Waterfowl Rescue

COAST WATCH (New York Oiled Bird Rescue), the waterfowl rescue program described in detail in the June Skimmer, will be holding its training workshop for volunteers on Saturday, October 17, from 9 A.M. to 3 P.M. at Hofstra University's Gittleson Hall.

Volunteers from TRI-STATE BIRD RESCUE of the Delaware Audubon Society, an organization very experienced in waterfowl rescue techniques, will be leading workshops in the following areas; facility set-up, operations control, medical, cleaning, rehabilitation and records and statistics. Each workshop will be one hour long and each will be repeated once.

Pre-registration is \$3.00 per person. Registration at the door will be \$4.00 per person. The cafeteria will be open for those wishing to purchase lunch.

Thanks to the Hofstra Biology Department for its help and cooperation. Further information on COAST WATCH will appear in the October Skimmer.

If you are interested in attending the workshop at Hofstra, please complete the form below and send to:

COAST WATCH (N.Y. Oiled Bird Rescue)
134 Cove Road

Oyster Bay, N.Y. 11771 (phone; (516) 922-3200)

Remember, in the event of an actual oil spill, only trained volunteers can assist.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

- I enclose the \$3.00 registration fee.
- I plan to register at the door for \$4.00.
- I am interested but am unable to attend this workshop. Please notify me of the next training session.

FIELD TRIPS

OFFICERS

No walk if it rains, snows or temperature is 25 degrees or below

P. Davis-President 822-6189
7 Meyers Ave., Hicksville 11801
T. Torma-Vice-Pres. 223-7947
921 Van Buren St., Baldwin 11510
E. Kutner-Birding IV 6-7667
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

Starting time 9:30 A.M.

- SEPT. *13 Nassau County Fine Arts Museum (2 blocks west of Glen Cove Rd. on Northern Blvd. (25A)
- 20 Tobay, J.F.K. Sanctuary
- *27 West End #2, N.E. corner
- OCT. 4 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- 11 Zach's Bay, Pkg.Fld. #4, N.E. corner
- 18 Fine Arts Museum
- *25 Tobay, J.F.K. Sanctuary
- NOV. 1 Pelham Bay. Meet 9:00 A.M. Throg's Neck Bridge Toll Plaza
- 8 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- 15 Zach's Bay, Pkg. Fld. #4, N.E. corner
- 22 West End #2, N.W. corner

* Picnic after bird walk. Bring your own sandwich and drink.

If you can bring a cake to the meeting, please call Roz Stein at 223-0608.



BINOCULAR SAVINGS

Joan Butkerei 593-4554
Asa Starkweather 599-5824
Bill Herzog 791-7886
(7 P.M.-9 P.M.)
Barbara Tancredi 775-1790
(11 A.M.-1 P.M.)

OCTOBER NEWS DEADLINE
SEPTEMBER 21

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