

# SOUTH SHORE SKIMMER



SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

VOL. 12, NO. 3

FEBRUARY 1982

## Meeting

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

The feature of our February meeting is Audience Participation Night. Members are invited to bring five - seven favorite nature slides to show at the meeting. Please be sure your name is on each slide and, on the side facing away from the screen, place an arrow to indicate which side should be placed up in the projector.

Please bring your slides and join us.

## LECTURE SERIES

South Shore Audubon is sponsoring a lecture series at Long Beach High School. The lectures will deal with environmental issues and natural history. They will be held on the last Thursday of each month, beginning at 8:00 P.M.

February 25: Fred Hager of County Executive Furcell's office on plans for the Mitchell Field Development.

March 25: Elliot Kutner, past President of SSAS will speak on spring birds and show movies he has made.



Spring Warbler  
Workshop - Saturday,  
March 13, at T.R.  
Sanctuary, 2-4 P.M.  
Call 922-3200 for  
information.



"Doris, did you refill the bird feeder?"

Thanks to Gloria  
Cohen for sending  
the cartoon!

## ENDANGERED SPECIES

"We are still too ignorant of ultimate consequences to understand in full the urgent need to protect even the most inconspicuous forms of life so that we do not diminish the rich variety of biological resources that continue to exist. Nevertheless, the urgency is there, and we need to impress upon the public consciousness that extinction is an act of awesome finality." -- Undersecretary of State James Buckley

In 1973 Congress passed our most important wildlife law, the Endangered Species Act. This law attempts to protect plants and animals that are currently in danger of extinction ("endangered" species) or that may become so in the foreseeable future ("threatened" species). This includes vertebrates, such as birds and mammals, as well as invertebrates, such as mollusks, crustaceans and others.

The act is designed to protect plants and animals in several ways. Endangered animals (but not plants) may not be killed, hunted, collected, injured or otherwise "taken." Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act requires that all federal agencies insure that actions authorized, funded or carried out by them not jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered or threatened species or destroy critical habitat of any such species.

The Endangered Species Act also protects species from other countries. Under international treaty with 70 nations, we have agreed to restrict international trade in endangered and threatened species and products made from them.

The avoidance of unnecessary loss of species serves the interest of human welfare. The many material benefits of species preservation include opportunities for improved crop production through cross-breeding with related wild species and the production of new medicines from wild plants and animals.

If the act is not re-authorized, we will lose the only tool we have to stop the threat of extinction, which, according to federal government estimates, will reach one million species by the year 2000. The Endangered Species Act is in trouble. Forest products and utilities industries, the Western Water Resources Council, on behalf of western governors, the Association of Western Water Users, the National Association of Realtors and the Department of the Interior will try to seriously weaken or repeal the act.

"By permitting high rates of extinction to continue, we are limiting the potential growth of biological knowledge. In essence, the process is tantamount to book-burning; but even worse in that it involves books yet to be deciphered and read." -- Undersecretary of State James Buckley

Tom Torma

### WILDLIFE CENTER

Coast Watch has been approached by member Marilyn Forman, who with others concerned with wildlife problems on Long Island, has formed a group with the long-term goal of creating an Island-wide center for the rescue, rehabilitation and release of injured wildlife. Since their purposes and goals parallel those of Coast Watch, the Central Coordinating Committee welcomes this new group and has promised to work with them. If you are interested in joining this group, call Marilyn Forman at 759-1492.

Valley Stream, N.Y.  
January, 1982

Dear Editor:

Filled the feeders this cold, cold morning ("current Deer Park temperature, 5 degrees") and spread corn and seed on the light covering of snow. Throughout the day I watched the activity, and some observations and questions came to mind which might be of interest to your other readers.

The white-breasted nuthatch flits from suet feeder to seed feeder to the trunk of the linden tree for seed cracking, then repeats the procedure. Is it the same individual all the time? I suspect that when I have the opportunity to watch during the day I see at least two different individuals, although I never see more than one at a time. One always seems timid, nervously surveying the feeders before making its moves; the other boldly dashes to the objective without hesitation. Perhaps they are one and the same in any event.

I haven't seen the red-winged black birds for several days; where do they go for days on end?

The most interesting birds for me are the downy woodpeckers. I know there are at least four (3 males and a female) for I have seen four all at the same time. They frequent the suet feeder, but never more than one at a time. Every so often a sunflower seed is extracted with great delicacy from the seed feeder and cracked against the linden tree.

Later, a pair of cowbirds stands in the snow pecking at the feed. They appear to be uncomfortable with the snow and the cold because they alternately lift a leg, stand on one foot for a few seconds, then replace it and lift the other. It is not the hopping-scratching activity of the white-throated sparrows or the juncos, which is such a delight to watch.

Among the sparrows and finches, I recognize the white-throated, white-capped, fox, song, European, junco, purple finch and house finch (both red and orange variants). I thought I would not be able to distinguish between the purple and house finches, but there is no mistaking the former when it shows up.

Starlings, blue jays, cardinals, chickadees, tufted titmice, mourning doves, an occasional rusty blackbird, and a pigeon or two make up the balance of my guests. I did not set out the niger seed stockings this year, and so have not seen a single goldfinch (in years gone by they were almost as numerous as sparrows). Will they still come if I set out stockings in February? Will they come next year if I wait until then to set out the niger seed?

A mass eruption of beating wings and the strident scolding of a blue jay announce the arrival of a neighborhood cat, and the entire complement sits patiently in the shrub and tree branches until the intruder slinks off. Then, slowly, the feeding activity resumes, and I sit down to write a letter.



Sincerely,

Murray Sklaroff

## FIELD TRIPS

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

Starting time 9:30 A.M.

FEB. 7 Zach's Bay, Pkg. Fld. #4  
14 West End #2, N.E. corner  
21 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge  
28 Tobay, J.F.K. Sanctuary  
MAR. 7 West End #2, N.E. corner  
14 Zach's Bay, Pkg. Fld. #4  
21 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge  
28 West End #2, N.E. corner  
APR. 4 Tobay, J.F.K. Sanctuary  
11 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge  
18 West End #2, N.E. corner  
25 Zach's Bay, Pkg. Fld. #4  
MAY 2 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge  
9 West End #2, N.E. corner

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

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### 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.)

MARCH NEWS DEADLINE  
FEBRUARY 15

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