

# SOUTH SHORE SKIMMER



VOL. 15, NO. 5

SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

FEBRUARY 1985



## Return a Gift to Wildlife

### BIRD STUDY COURSE

The South Shore Audubon Society is sponsoring a series of four one hour programs entitled "Introduction to the Birds" at the Baldwin Public Library, Grand Avenue and Prospect Street, on Wednesday evenings, March 6, 13, 20, and 27, 1985 at 8:00 P.M. The course is designed for those who wish to have a better understanding of what differentiates birds from other classes of animals. Both physical characteristics (evolution, morphology, and anatomy) and behavioral characteristics (ability to fly, courtship, feeding behavior, nest construction) as well as aids to the identification of the birds will be discussed. There are no charges for this course. Members and non-members are equally welcome to attend. For information, call Jerry Bernstein, 516-623-8255.

## Meeting

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 12  
FREEPORT MEMORIAL LIBRARY  
8:15 P.M.

Mary and Frank Stibritz will present "Insect Life of Long Island," a very interesting look at the usually unseen world of insect life in our area.

The Stibritz's presentations are always beautiful and fascinating. This one features many prime examples of close-up and macro photography.

NEXT MEETING - MARCH 12



Great Blue  
Heron

# Notes from a Birdwatcher's Log

## TRUTH AND REALITY - A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

Sunday, December 23, 1984

Dear Friends in Audubon,

Even though we had no walks scheduled, I found myself at West End this morning. I've been searching for a Snowy Owl for three days. I found him this morning! We shared a half hour staring at each other -- amber eyes framed in a pure white face with a dark stippling over his white body; in one word - Grand!

Dear friends, at this time of year there is a perceptible slowing in our daily activity. We pause and look at where we have been and where we appear to be going. At the very heart of it, we share a paradox - the wonderful simplicity of truth and the terrible complications of reality. What I mean is that there is a body of natural law that describes, guides and disciplines the lives and actions of all things including ourselves. In essence, we call this "truth." It does not depend on human sanction. On the contrary, we survive and thrive because we are part of the natural order.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed."

How wonderfully simple!

As a society, we seem to be so involved in our own immediate needs, so preoccupied with our personal goals that we have lost contact with each other and the possibilities of growth and benefit that derive from a community of interest.

If we extend this complaint to a world wide perspective, we are faced with intimidating and frightening scenarios. I submit to you some of our realities:

Together, we must press for an honest inventory of the toxic waste sites around this country and secure prompt action in a detoxification program.

Together, we must find a way to end the buckpassing policy in dealing with our garbage. Practical solutions are needed based on acceptable costs, maintenance of neighborhood integrity and a technology that recycles our waste to our own benefit.

Together, the family of nations must find a way to stop the cutting of the equatorial rain forests. If we don't, it is predictable that we will begin to lose one species a week beginning in 1990.

Together, the family of nations must begin to question the wisdom of nuclear armament and agree that nuclear weaponry is unacceptable as a viable diplomatic tool. If the human family does not find a way to stop this madness, we may have to pay the price in one simple, searing, incinerating truth of a nuclear holocaust. There will be no reality in the bitter cold nuclear winter, because there will be nothing and no one to experience that cold reality born of that fatal heat.

At this turning of the year, my friends, I resolve to do better. I want to help preserve and improve the quality of life for all of this world's inhabitant including our own.

ELLIOTT R. KUTNER

## PRESIDENTS PAGE.

This year your chapter is embarking upon two major conservation programs in Nassau County. The first program is to assist the Town of Hempstead in the restoration and enhancement of the area known as the Wantagh Creek Watershed. The second program is to assist the Department of Environmental Conservation in protecting the tern nesting area at West End, Jones Beach.

Wantagh Creek Watershed is located on Long Island's South Shore. It is bounded on the north by the Southern State Parkway, east by the Wantagh Parkway, west by Beltagh Avenue and Mill Road, and south by the Sunrise Highway. The area is approximately 150 acres in size. The Pond systems (Wantagh and Seaman Pond) consist of emergent marshes and open bodies of water. The Wantagh Creek Watershed represents one of the few remaining semi-natural areas in the Town of Hempstead. The freshwater wetlands associated with the watershed provide habitat for a great variety of wildlife, such as waterfowl, song birds, squirrels, raccoons, opossums, reptiles, amphibians, and a large variety of trees and other plants. This area offers a good deal of recreational opportunities such as birdwatching, hiking, nature photography, and educational and scientific research. The open space provided by the watershed is an irreplaceable resource to the people of Nassau County.

The second project, the protecting of the tern nesting areas at West End, Jones Beach. West End is one of the better-known tern nesting colonies on Long Island. From a high of 2500 pairs of common terns in 1976, the area now supports only 350 pairs. This decline appears to be caused by a number of factors. Disturbance from humans, pets, and predation from rats, squirrels, gulls, and killings by automobiles have been identified as significant mortality factors. A more subtle factor is now working against the terns and skimmers. Vegetative succession is altering this site from good quality to poor quality habitat. Terns prefer to nest on beaches that are in early stage of vegetation. Small clumps of dune grass or goldenrod provide optimal conditions; dense stands do not. Succession is, of course, a natural dynamic process. Under natural conditions, tern colonies have a certain life expectancy as dictated by vegetative succession. Colonies would move to new sites as they were created by natural forces such as wind and wave. Man's activities, however, have severely limited the number of available sites on Long Island. Clearly, man's development activities are responsible for the "Threatened" status of these birds. It is from this perspective that we feel man's intervention on behalf of the terns is necessary here.

To assist in these programs, volunteers will be needed for these endeavors. For the Wantagh Creek Watershed volunteers will be needed to help clean up the area, restore the trails, etc. For the tern colony volunteers will be needed to help plant a 1000 foot "living fence" of saltspray rose (*Rosa rugosa*), provided by the DEC, to prevent young terns from wandering onto the roadway and to prevent human intrusion into the site. Anyone interested in volunteering to help in these programs, please contact Jerry Bernstein.

Jerry Bernstein  
President

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### HELP PRESERVE NEW YORK'S WATER QUALITY

You can be a valuable source of assistance in preserving New York's water quality so that our waters can be more "fishable" and "swimmable." If you see any unusual marine phenomena including oil spills or the dumping of hazardous materials please report your sightings to the appropriate agencies.

Environmental Protection Agency  
210-548-8730 Hot line for emergencies, call  
collect.

U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)  
800-424-8802 Toll free number

N. Y. State Dept. of Environmental Conservation  
518-457-7362 Hot line for emergencies, collect

# AUDUBON ADVENTURES

Since September, 1984, the South Shore Audubon Society has been participating in a new program called "Audubon Adventures."

National Audubon, through its education department, has encouraged all of its chapters to sponsor individuals or groups teaching environmental education. For the amount of \$20.00 a class, children receive a membership card, an Audubon "owl" sticker and copies of a newsletter with articles, lessons and puzzles dealing with environmental education.

South Shore Audubon is sponsoring seven groups this school year and, since we are one of the fortunate groups, we would like to share some of the activities that we have been doing with thirty children each week at the Atkinson School in Freeport, N.Y.

Every Wednesday afternoon we meet with fifteen 5th grade and fifteen 6th grade students for an environmental enrichment educational program. In this program we are concentrating on endangered and threatened wildlife. Once every ten weeks we visit the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary in Oyster Bay. Here children are taught about endangered animals through games, films and seeing and discussing live animals and how they may become endangered.

As part of our overall program we make and maintain bird feeders, plant bulbs, adopt and learn about trees, write letters to legislators, adopt endangered animals by writing to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, pick up litter every week around the school, make and hang posters in prominent places about saving the environment, read aloud from the Audubon Adventures Newsletter and discuss the articles and do the activities.

We have thirty new students every ten weeks in our program and we and the children want to say thank you to South Shore Audubon for sponsoring us and enabling us to have the Audubon Adventures Program at our school.

ELAINE BUTKEREIT  
CHERYL CAMPBELL

On the following pages are some of the letters Elaine Butkereit received after an assembly program presented by Joanne Cullen and some of the birds from the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary.



NEW YORK STATE RESIDENT TAX RETURN  
(IT 201)  
LINE 64

January 24, 1985

Dear Mrs. Butkerit,

I want to say thank you for arranging the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary Assembly we had on January 23, 1985. I'm sure you spend a great sum of money setting it up and have four performances performed. So I say thank you for the kindness you've shown us.

Sincerely,  
Tara Sealrood  
H.R. 407



January 24, 1985

Dear Mrs. Butkerit,

Thank you for arranging the assembly. It was very interesting for me because I have never seen some of those animals that Joann showed us the hawk. My favorite part was when she showed us the owls etc.

Yours truly  
Kevin Dunne

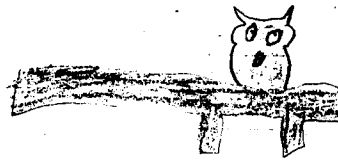


January 24, 1985

Dear Mrs. Butkerit,

Thank you for the program you arranged. I liked it very much. The part I liked the best was when she showed us the alive birds. One of the birds looked like it was stuffed since it didn't move.

Sincerely,  
Chris Nonemaker  
H.R. 407



January 24, 1985

Dear Mrs. Butkerit,

I'd like to thank you for putting this performance together. I like the part when Joann brought out the birds. The birds were beautiful.

Sincerely,  
Linda Weldon  
H.R. 407



1/24/85

Dear Mrs. Butkweit,

Thank you for arranging the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary to come to our school. I really enjoyed the program. My favorite part was when Joann brought the red tailed hawk out. The hawk kept on getting over excited and tried to fly away. Thanks again for arranging the program.

Sincerely,  
Karin Ousa  
R.R. 407



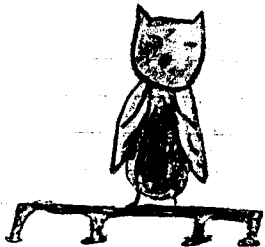
red-tailed hawk

January 24, 1985

Dear Mrs. Butkweit,

Thank you for bringing us a great show. I like the part when she showed us all the real animals. I never saw such beautiful animals. and thank you for arranging the show. Thank you very much.

Yours truly  
Wendy Vanegas  
H.R. 407



January 24, 1985

Dear Mrs. Butkweit,

Thank you for arranging that fantastic performance from the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary. I really enjoyed it! I liked the part when all the beautiful birds were brought out and were showed to us! I thank you again!

Sincerely,  
Carrie Mubrey  
Roomroom 407



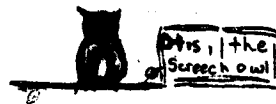
January 24, 1985

Dear Mrs. Butkweit,

I would like to thank you for arranging that wonderful program on the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary. It was very interesting. I enjoyed every minute of it. I especially liked the red-tailed hawk, and the small screech owl. All of the birds were beautiful. It was an outstanding performance. Thank You very much.

Sincerely,  
Marisela Feliz

H. R. 407





## THEODORE ROOSEVELT SANCTUARY

The New York State personal income tax return has a provision enabling the taxpayer to "Return a Gift to Wildlife." Initial approval has been given for the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary to receive \$52,000 of these gifts - \$40,000 to study the Northern Harrier (Marsh Hawk) for two years and \$12,000 to manage the Long Island Tern Warden Program.

The New York State Natural Heritage Trust has granted \$10,000 to the Sanctuary for the preparation of an Environmental Curriculum for Education. Exxon, well known for energy and other fine products, has granted \$1,000 to complete the Tern display.

Our own South Shore Chapter has provided \$500 to help make signs describing the contents of displays.

LENNOX A. GORDON

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POLITICIANS · JOURNAL WRITING · CONTRA DANCING · NATIONAL PARKS

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### COMMENT FROM YOUR TREASURER

The name of our bank account is "South Shore Audubon Society." All checks should be made payable to this account. The purpose of the remittance should be stated as a Memo. Our records record "scholarship," "memorial," "sales" and "special trips."

Lennox A. Gordon

# NEW MEMBERS

The following list contains the names of those who have been added to our membership since the December-January issue of the Skimmer.

We welcome all of you and hope you will join us in our activities and share our fellowship and environmental concern.

DORIS PIRODSKY,  
MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

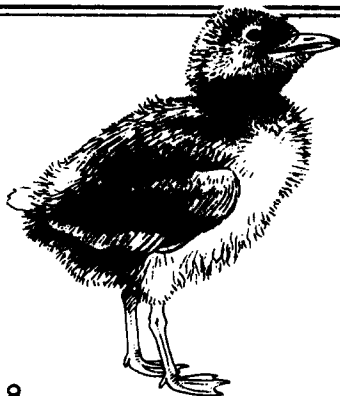
AMITYVILLE: Mr. Lou J. Gutzalzier  
BELLMORE: Earl & Evelyn H. Daisey, Gertrude Raynor, Tina Spadaro  
EAST MEADOW: Mr. Charles Bedford, Mr. Stanton Orens  
EAST ROCKAWAY: Ellen Dreyfuss  
PARMINGDALE: Mr. C. J. Dwyer, Steven M. Heller, Starr Emanuel Witty  
GARDEN CITY: Isabel Koressler, James Trentalange  
HEMPSTEAD: M. Fleisher  
HICKSVILLE: Michael Davidowsky, Hermia Landow  
LAWRENCE: Pamela B. Kruger  
LEVITTOWN: Jim Connolly, Henry Orlando  
LONG PEACH: Fred H. Burns  
MASSAPEQUA: Diane Palmer Cornell, V. D. Laurie, Michael Sperling, Debra Wein  
MASSAPEQUA PARK: Robert & Peggy Ann Marion, Ms Ellen K. Smith,  
Ms Anita J. Weinblatt  
MERRICK: Jason Mallin, Mr. & Mrs. Willard Pribnow, George Warrin,  
H. Waterman  
OCEANSIDE: Mr. Allen Glass, Joyce Whittle  
OLD BETHPAGE: Del Grosso Family, Maureen Martin  
POINT LOOKOUT: Lawrence Brosnan  
ROCKVILLE CENTRE: Mr. Kevin Sheehan, Marybette Smolen  
SEAFORD: J. Gustafson, Anne Kehrmann  
SYOSSET: Laurie Moghadam  
UNIONDALE: Mr. Albert Ackerman  
VALLEY STREAM: R. Bonanoglia, Ruth Isaacson  
WANTACH: Dolores Franzone, R. Froelich, Mr. Glen Rubin  
WOODMERE: Barry Newman, Mrs. Barbara Simons

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## MEETING

Tuesday, March 12  
FREEPORT MEMORIAL LIBRARY  
8:15 P.M.

James Remsen will present a program relating to his experiences at the Audubon Ecology Camp in Maine.



**Rare Bird Sightings**  
**(212) 832-6523**





WHAT THE EARTH THINKS.  
by Lillie E. Barr

I am threatened with a comit,  
With the all-absorbing sun;  
Told that I shall slowly burn out,  
As my own fair moon has done;  
Warned of coming conflagrations  
That will seize me unaware:  
Can I fear annihilation,  
After what I daily bear?

Pelted constantly with hailstones,  
Fiercely shook by hurricanes,  
Thrown by whirlwinds topsy-turvy,  
Nearly drowned by constant rains,  
Growled at day and night by thunder,  
Pierced by lightning everywhere,  
Nipped with frosts, until I scarcely  
Know if I am round or square

Out all night in freezing weather,  
Under tropic suns all day,  
Dug and struck with ploughs and shovels,  
Scratched with harrows every way.  
Beaten down for streets and highways,  
Galopped over day and night,  
With steam-engines burned and scalded,  
Kept in a continual fright.

Deeper wounds than these I suffer--  
I am mined and bored and hit,  
Torn by dynamite and powder,  
Blown to pieces bit by bit;  
I've seen comets without number,  
And they always keep their sphere;  
It is man that makes me tremble--  
Restless, curious man, I fear.

For I know some day or other  
He will find a stronger "force,"  
Wondrous chemicals discover,  
And the end will be, of course,  
I shall have my shattered remnants  
Blown away like any feather;  
Yet I have one consolation--  
Probably well go together.

Harpers Weekly, February 20, 1886

(contributed by Donna Sauers)

This poem appeared in the October-November issue of Moriches Bay Audubon Society's newsletter The Osprey and is reprinted here with the kind permission of Co-editor Kathleen Tuohy.

# OFFICERS

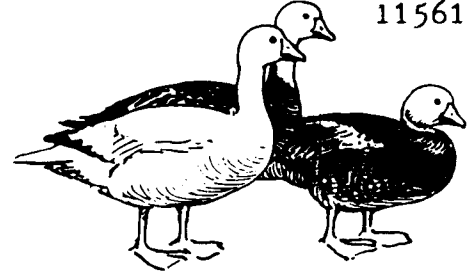
## BIRD WALKS

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

Starting time - 9:30 A.M.

- Feb.    3    Tobay, J.F.K. Sanctuary  
      10    Zach's Bay, Pkg. Fld. #4 N.E.  
      17    Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge  
      24    Cedar Beach
- Mar.    3    West End #2, N.W. corner  
      10    Hempstead Lake State Park  
          (Peninsula Blvd. Pkg. Lot)  
      17    Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge  
      24    Tobay, J.F.K. Sanctuary  
      31    West End #2, N.W. corner
- Apr.    7    Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge  
      14    Hempstead Lake State Park  
          (Peninsula Blvd. Pkg. Lot)

J. Bernstein-President MA3-8255  
1958 Lowell Ln. Merrick 11566  
E. Zapp-Vice-Pres. 488-6466  
275 Waldorf Ave. Elmont 11003  
E. Kutner-Birding IV6-7667  
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



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(11 A.M.-1 P.M.)  
Bill Herzog 791-7886  
(7 P.M.-9 P.M.)

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