

# SOUTH SHORE SKIMMER



VOL. 15, NO. 7

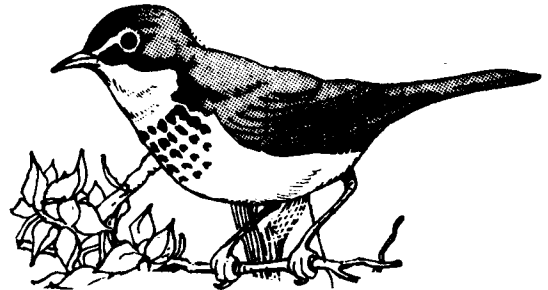
SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

APRIL

1985

## Meeting

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



Tamara Fielding will present the Shadow Puppet Theatre of Java. Mrs. Fielding, born in Java, is the first woman Dalang (puppeteer) to perform Wayang Kulit (Shadow Theatre), which dates back to the 10th century. She has presented her one-woman show at the American Museum of Natural History as well as for art groups, schools and organized audiences throughout the United States.

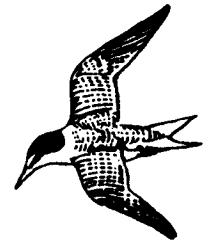
Shadow Theatre combines traditional Hindu mythology and Javanese legends dealing with the eternal struggle between good and evil, with good always triumphant. The stories also confront issues of contemporary life. The puppeteer manipulates the flat, filigree-perforated figures from behind an illuminated screen, creating the interplay of shadows seen by the audience.

Please join us for this fascinating presentation.

NEXT MEETING - MAY 14

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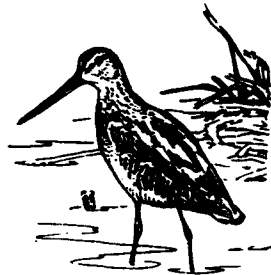
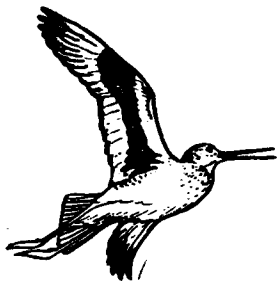
Volunteers will be planting a living fence of *Rosa rugosa* for the protection of the tern colony at West End Beach on Saturday, April 13. Manpower (and womanpower) is needed.



Anyone interested in assisting in this worthy project should meet at 9:30 A.M. , West End Parking Field #2, Jones Beach. Please bring the necessary digging tools.

For further information contact Jerry Bernstein at 623-8255.

## Notes from a Birdwatcher's Log



### COST AND VALUE - A MATTER OF CHOICE

Dear Friends in Audubon,

"He knew the price of everything and the value of nothing."

What are the essential parts of a purchase? There is a buyer and a seller, a product and the price. We make the final decision to buy when at least three criteria are met: personal satisfaction, peer acceptability and the right price. These three factors make up the value of the purchase; take note that we buy for the value - the price is only one essential part of our decision.

There are other relationships that require other costs and yield other values. In a purchase, the cost factor is money. In a friendship or marriage, we expend our time plus the entire gamut of human emotion, building a community of experience that makes our victories sweeter and the bitter moments bearable throughout the life of our shared experience. As a bonus, we have a treasure-trove of memory. The cost is reasonable for the value received.

Strip mining of coal was the most efficient, most profitable way to bring energy into our economic lives. The living earth was stripped away. Huge, ugly pit scars were left behind when the veins ran out. The sun could not warm them, the rain could not nourish them. The land had been killed. The runoffs carried lethal acids that poisoned the streams and sickened the surrounding land and all of its inhabitants.

High profitability was not enough! The death of the land was too high a price to pay. Laws were passed to guarantee the proper reclamation of the land to a state of "livability" for all creatures.

Dear friends, how do you balance the cost/value equation:

Twenty million of our neighbors, citizens of the United States of America, spend at least two days per month without food - starving.

What is the asking price to clean up this nation's toxic dumps - \$5 billion, \$7.5 billion, \$20 billion? Is there an unacceptable price for a legacy of legalized cancer dumps down to the third and fourth generations?

South Shore Audubon Society is an instrument of information, service and education to this community. It is for each of us to assess the cost of our participation. Do we remain aware but passive or do we step forward and offer our talents and ideas in the pursuit of a better managed environment?

Those words are a daily guide and an ever present warning because they define the life of a social bankrupt.

"He knew the price of everything and the value of nothing."

Cost and value - it's a matter of choice.

Sincerely,  
ELLIOTT R. KUTNER

## PRESIDENTS PAGE

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

As with any volunteer organization, South Shore Audubon is always in need of volunteer help from its members. If you have some time to spare and would like to help out on one of our many committees, we would appreciate being able to call upon you to help us. We could use help on any of the following committees:

**Education:** Help develop educational programs and disseminate information for use by the chapter membership and other community organizations.

**Membership:** Help with maintaining membership records, membership campaigns, and the distribution of membership information.

**Conservation:** Help to bring to the attention of the members and the community at large items that effect our environment and our natural resources.

**Publications:** Assist in the preparation of our Newsletter.

It is only through the influx of new ideas and programs that we will be able to continue to grow and become a viable and dynamic organization. Anyone interested in helping or who has a new idea that he or she would like to discuss, please contact Jerry Bernstein . . . . .

### SCHOLARSHIPS AUDUBON ECOLOGY CAMPS

Once again, as in previous years, the South Shore Audubon Society is offering two full scholarships to Audubon Ecology Camps. The first scholarship is for a two week session at the Audubon Ecology Camp in Maine and the second scholarship is for a one week session at the Audubon Ecology Camp in Connecticut. Anyone interested in applying for these scholarships should send a letter describing why he or she should be selected to: Educational Chairman, South Shore Audubon Society, P.O. Box 31, Freeport, N.Y. 11520. These letters should be received no later than May 1, 1985.

### MEETING

Tuesday, May 14, 1985  
FREEPORT MEMORIAL LIBRARY  
8:15 P.M.

Mr. Thomas Washburn of the Department of Environmental Conservation, Endangered Species Unit, will give a program about EAGLES. A live Bald Eagle will be exhibited as part of the program.



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

The Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary has several springtime activities planned which are open to members and the public:

Sunday, April 21, 2-3 P.M.  
Warbler Workshop

Saturday, May 4, 9-11 A.M.  
Fern Walk - Shu Swamp

Friday, May 10, 8-10 P.M.  
Astronomy Night

Saturday, May 11, 9-12 A.M.  
Photo Walk - JFK Sanctuary

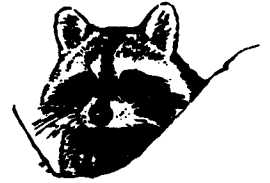
Sunday, May 26, 2-3 P.M.  
Movie and talk on Great Gull  
Island Tern Project

Every Saturday, 9 A.M.  
Beginners Bird Walk

For further information call the Sanctuary at 922-3200.



# NO KIDNAPPING!!!



## ON ORPHANS AND KIDNAPPING

As spring approaches, a new generation of wild birds and mammals will be born in our woodlands and yards. These young wild animals and birds are less wary of humans than their parents and are often mistaken for orphans and rescued by well-intentioned people. The fact is that in many cases, these infant animals and birds are *not really orphaned or abandoned* and are better left to be cared for by their natural parents. Human beings, no matter how well we know how to nurture our own kind, can not take the place of wildlife parents.

## RULES OF THUMB

There are at least two rules of thumb to go by when a young bird or mammal is encountered:

1. IF YOU HAVE TO CHASE IT TO CATCH IT, IT DOES NOT NEED YOUR HELP!!!
2. DON'T BE A KIDNAPPER!!! Don't unnecessarily take a young animal from its parents.

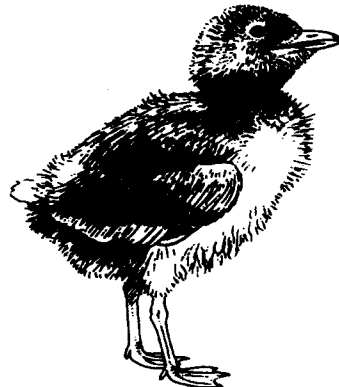
But how do you know if it is orphaned or not? Step back from the situation and watch from a distance. Many times you will catch a glimpse of the parent tending to the youngster by bringing it food or protecting it from predators.

Knowing some facts about the life histories of local wildlife can tell you which infant animals are likely to be found alone and why:

## THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT MAMMALS

COTTONTAIL RABBITS are an example of the amazing amount of time that some parents spend away from their young. Infant bunnies are often left alone for the day while the mother goes off in search of food. Nests are often found in the tall grass of lawns that are overgrown. The young rabbits huddle together under a blanket of grass (that the mother has covered them with to protect them) for the entire day. In the evening, the mother will return to feed them and stay with them for the night. She deliberately stays away from the nest during the day so as not to draw attention to it.

If you find a cottontail nest, the best thing to do is leave it alone. *DO NOT TOUCH THE YOUNG RABBITS!!!* Parents have been known to abandon their young if they have been handled by humans. Also, infant cottontails are very nervous and susceptible to stress. They can literally be scared to death if handled. If the nest is in an inconvenient place, have patience, young cottontails are ready to leave the nest in two to four weeks.



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

RACCOONS and SQUIRRELS will generally move their young if the nest has been disturbed, if you give them a chance. Raccoons will return for their young up to 48 hours after separation as will squirrels. If the infants are in immediate danger, they can be moved to a safe place close by, but it is safer not to handle them at all. Young raccoons can become quite tame, but in time they become wiser, wilder, and dangerous. State laws prohibit the keeping of raccoons as pets - and for good reason. As they grow older, they become unpredictable. They won't hesitate to bite if they do not like something that you do. A raccoon that has been hand-raised is no longer afraid of people and dogs. There is great potential for danger as a pet raccoon will not avoid a confrontation the way a wild raccoon would. Also, raccoons carry some serious diseases that can be fatal to humans including rabies and roundworm. For all of these reasons, please discourage the raising of pet raccoons in all situations.

#### THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT BIRDS

1. *An infant bird that has fallen from the nest can be returned to the nest by a human. Infant birds or nestlings are especially prone to kidnapping because of the widespread myth that if you touch a baby bird, the mother will reject it. Birds have no sense of smell and are unable to detect human scent. A nestling can and should be put back in its nest.*

2. *Many young birds are not able to fly when they leave the nest. Most infant songbirds leave the nest before they can fly. At this fledgling stage, the birds live on the ground or in low bushes for about two weeks as they test their wings and learn to fly. During this critical period, fledglings are often picked up because they can not get away. Though they may appear to be in dire straights, they are not unable to fly - they just haven't learned yet. If you watch them patiently from a distance, you may see the parent responding to the food cries of its youngster. Parents also try to protect their young from predators by dive-bombing and scolding.*

3. *Some birds nest on the ground. Waterfowl, such as ducks, geese, and swans, nest on the ground. Their nests are particularly vulnerable to disturbance by humans, pets, and other predators. Young waterfowl are seldom abandoned but the family will sometimes abandon the nest if disturbed. Once a ground nest is discovered, you can take a protective role by observing the nest from a distance and keeping pets and other people away from it.*

Remember, **DON'T BE A KIDNAPPER !!!** Don't pick up young animals unnecessarily.

GINA NICHOL  
Associate Director  
Volunteers for Wildlife, Inc.  
P.O. Box 12  
East Norwich, N.Y. 11732  
367-4468

National Audubon Society

# BIRDATHON

• 1985 •

## WHEN IS IT?

April 26, 1985 is the 200th anniversary of the birth of John James Audubon. Audubon chapters nationwide are planning special events to commemorate the birth of this great American artist and naturalist, and, of course, our Society's namesake. To cap off the celebration, we have designated the weekend of April 26 as **BIRDATHON** Weekend. Participants may choose any day for their **BIRDATHON**, but must limit their birding to a 24-hour period.

## HOW TO BEGIN

Prior to the **BIRDATHON**, visit potential sponsors—friends, family, neighbors, fellow workers. Give them an estimate of how many birds you expect to see, and ask for a pledge. Successful participants from years' past suggest sending a form letter to a list of friends, a Christmas card list for instance, and following up with a phone call.

On the day of the **BIRDATHON**, keep a careful field list of the bird species you identify over a 24-hour period. As soon as possible, return to each sponsor and collect the amount pledged. Checks should be made payable to your local National Audubon chapter that is conducting the **BIRDATHON**, and should be presented, along with this sponsor sheet, to the chapter **BIRDATHON** coordinator. Once all the **BIRDATHON** contributions have been collected and compiled by the **BIRDATHON** chap-



ter coordinator, one-half of the total proceeds should be submitted to the National Audubon regional office. We are asking the chapter to send this amount in one check, made payable to National Audubon Society, by June 15, 1985.

## ABOUT THE NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY BIRDATHON

The National Audubon Society **BIRDATHON** is the Society's annual fundraising event for chapters and affiliated organizations. A **BIRDATHON** is similar to a walk-a-thon or jog-a-thon used by nonprofit organizations to raise funds. Instead of obtaining pledges of money for each mile you walk or jog, counters obtain pledges from sponsors who agree to contribute money for each bird species seen in one calendar-day or 24-hour period. Pledges can be in any amount: 5¢ per species, even \$5, or more, per species. *Counters give their sponsors some idea of how many species they expect to see* (sponsors may stipulate a maximum contribution). Counters then go birding on **BIRDATHON** weekend, and keep a detailed field checklist, noting each species sighted. After the **BIRDATHON**, counters call on each sponsor as soon as possible to report on their birding and collect pledges.

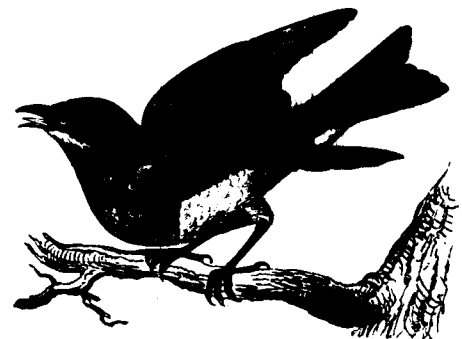
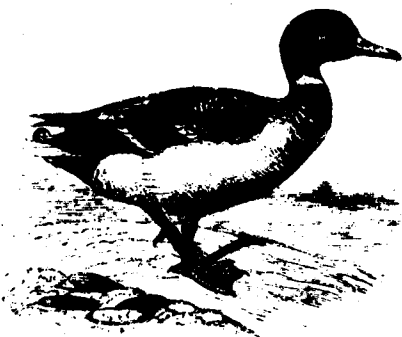
Last year's **BIRDATHON** raised more than \$100,000 (\$82,300 from chapters, \$25,400 from national leaders) by 114 chapters and hundreds of individual counters nationwide.

## WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

Anyone, even non-members, can participate. If you aren't a birder, an experienced partner or group can help you, but you must locate your own sponsors. Organizations wishing to take part should contact the nearest National Audubon regional office or National Audubon Society, 950 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10022, (212) 546-9220.

**BIRDATHON** contributions are tax-deductible and proceeds are divided two ways: one-half is kept by the chapter for important Audubon chapter projects such as protecting a natural area, "adopting" a national wildlife refuge, establishing or maintaining a community nature center, or sponsoring Audubon Adventures youth clubs, our exciting environmental education program for elementary students. The remaining half of **BIRDATHON** proceeds is sent by the chapter to the National Audubon regional office. **ALL FUNDS STAY IN THIS REGION** and support the Society's work on high priority issues identified by chapter representatives including: the protection of birds and other wildlife, wetland habitat protection, the reauthorization of strong federal Clean Air, Clean Water, and Endangered Species Acts, and much more.

Call Jerry Bernstein for information.

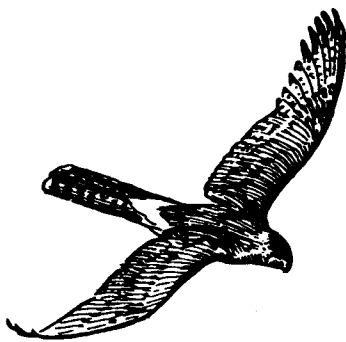




NEW MEMBERS

- BALDWIN: Nancy S. Rab
- BELLMORE: Mrs. Harry J. Blanchet; Mr. Frederick R. Nelson; Mr. Thomas Schwab
- BETHPAGE: Mr. Cliff R. Franklin; Wayne Rothstein
- CEDARHURST: Mrs. McKean Thompson
- EAST MEADOW: Chris Chapline; H. Deutch; Mr. W. Schnock, Sr.; Mr. Alan Uffer
- FARMINGDALE: Lynne Gienau
- FLORAL PARK: Mrs. Barbara Goldson; Charlotte Keim; James Schubert;  
Herman Shulman
- FRANKLIN SQUARE: Mr. & Mrs. Alan E. Helma; L. B. Speiser
- FREEPORT: Walter Burg; Ms Joan E. Pearson; Mr. Melvin A. Schwartz
- GARDEN CITY: Mrs. J. Appelt; Mrs. Lucy Katz; Ms Helen E. Mackintosh;  
Fred J. Martin; A. McKay
- HEMPSTEAD: Barbara Crosby; Dr. A. Ctterpohl
- HICKSVILLE: Richard P. Barry; Richard Carey; C. Clarke; Kevin Minn
- LEVITTOWN: Mr. Ross A. Macy
- LONG BEACH: Ms Geza Berko; Alicia Dunn; L. Moderno; Jason Rothstein;  
Bruce Stein
- LYNBROOK: Mrs. D. C. Carlson; Miss D. Liguori
- MALVERNE: Joseph O. Strumeyer
- MASSAPEQUA: B. Beetz; Marion Bodkin; Robert P. Green; Joan Labow;  
Mr. Hugh T. McDonald, III
- MASSAPEQUA PARK: Martha A. Kohn; Margaret E. Romano
- MERRICK: Carolyn Curley; Mrs. Madeline R. Davis; Steven Grab; Mr. I. Hirshon;  
Mrs. Frank H. Karl; Mr. M. Mathews; Mr. W. Ochse; Dr. R. E. Oppenheimer
- OCEANSIDE: Meriam Abernethy; Miss Ellen A. Brooks; Frank Freiheit
- PLAINVIEW: Ms Mary Fox; Mrs. George Miller
- ROCKVILLE CENTRE: Carl Guskin; L. Ryals
- SEAFORD: Mr. Leo Netter; M. Romeo
- VALLEY STREAM: M. J. Brennan; W. Jacobsen; Mrs. Catherine Semder
- WANTAGH: Mrs. Ruth A. Chisholm; S. Kramer; Mr. John Francis Krason;  
Melanie Whitaker; Steve Zaionz
- WEST HEMPSTEAD: Edna & Sigmund Klein; Mr. Garrett Taylor
- WOODMERE: Gregg Moses





# ANNUAL DINNER

South Shore Audubon's Annual Dinner will take place this year at the Oceanside Country Club on Tuesday, June 11. As usual, the June dinner meeting is held in place of a regular general meeting.

This year's dinner speaker will be Tom Litwin of Seatuck Laboratories.

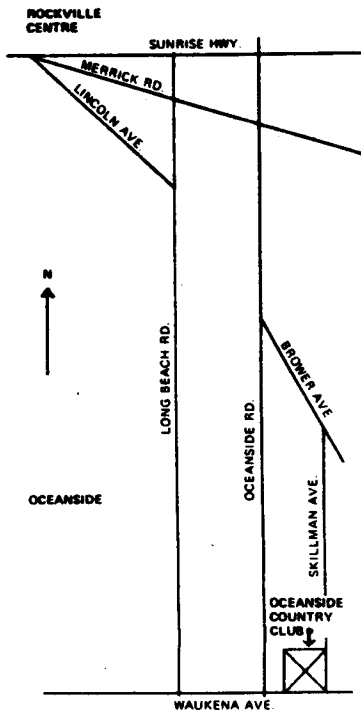
We begin at 7 P.M. with a cocktail hour. Drinks are \$2 apiece at the open bar.

For dinner there is a choice of:

- London Broil
- Roast Chicken
- or
- Broiled Fish

The cost of dinner is \$15.00 per person. To make a reservation, complete the form below and send it, with check payable to the South Shore Audubon Society to:

SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY  
P.O. BOX 31  
FREEPORT, NEW YORK 11520



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of Check \_\_\_\_\_ # of people \_\_\_\_\_

# of each dinner: London Broil \_\_\_\_\_

Chicken \_\_\_\_\_

Fish \_\_\_\_\_



# OFFICERS

## BIRD WALKS

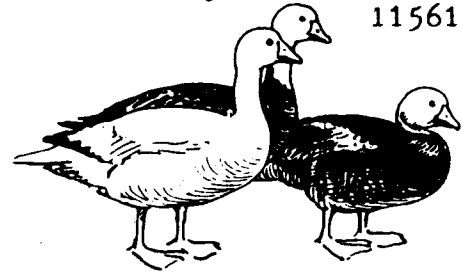
No walk if it rains, snows or temperature is 25 degrees or below

Starting time - 9:30 A.M.

- Apr.      7 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge  
          14 Hempstead Lake State Park  
              (Peninsula Blvd. Pkg. Lot)  
          21 Tobay, J.F.K. Sanctuary \*  
          28 Zach's Bay, Pkg. Fld. #4 N.E.
- May        5 West End #2, N.E. Corner \*  
          12 Hempstead Lake State Park  
              (Peninsula Blvd. Pkg. Lot)  
          19 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge  
          26 West End #2, N.E. Corner
- June      2 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge  
          9 Hempstead Lake State Park \*  
              (Peninsula Blvd. Pkg. Lot)  
          16 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge  
\* Bring a lunch. We'll picnic after  
the birdwalk.

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



For 30% to 50% savings on Bushnell and Bausch and Lomb binoculars and scopes, see us at meetings and bird walks or call: Barbara Tancredi 354-4524 (11 A.M.-1 P.M.)  
Bill Herzog 791-7886 (7 P.M.-9 P.M.)

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

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