

SOUTH SHORE SKIMMER



VOL. 17, NO. 4 - SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

DECEMBER '86 - JANUARY '87

Meeting

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1986
FREEPORT MEMORIAL LIBRARY
8:15 P.M.



GALAPAGOS: ISLANDS LOST IN TIME

SPEAKER: Rita Halbeisen, Director
South Shore Nature Center, East Islip

The Galapagos Islands hold an intrigue for all of us, with their interesting geology and the ecology of their unique community of plants and animals. Rita will discuss why Darwin and generations of naturalists after him have been drawn to the Galapagos. She will examine the factors that threaten the life of these islands and what we can do to help.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 1987
MEMBERS' PARTICIPATION NIGHT

Start saving your best slides now to share with us for this informative and entertaining evening. Just bring them with you. Please limit the number of slides to no more than ten per member.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1987
Program by OCEANSIDE NATURE STUDY AREA

**Happy
Holidays!**

The annual Holiday Party for Wildlife will be held on December 13 at Tackapausha. If you would like to volunteer to help at the party or to contribute refreshments or supplies, please call Frieda Malament at 795-5842.



PRESIDENT'S PAGE

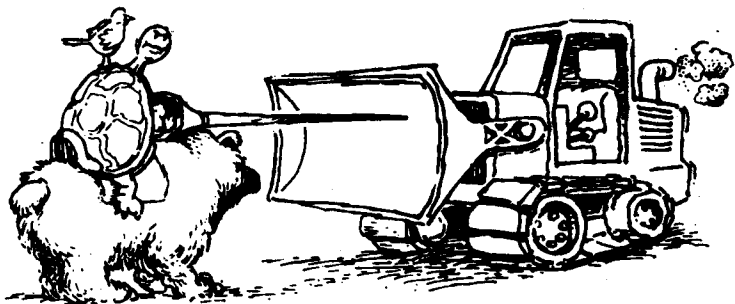
As the holiday season approaches, 1986 will soon come to an end. South Shore Audubon Society has had a successful year, and I want to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have made that possible by participating in our organization and giving your time and effort in the many activities in which South Shore is engaged. Your membership alone is a way of giving to wildlife and the environment, and making it possible for South Shore to accomplish the goals it has set. Our accomplishments and success as an organization really depend on you and your dedication.

One of South Shore's special events this time of year is the Holiday Party for the Animals, to be held on December 13, from 1:00 to 4:00 P.M. at Tackapausha Museum. It is our way of giving a gift to wildlife, in that children of all ages come to make feeders for the birds and participate in the holiday spirit of giving. Come and join us for a delightful afternoon of sharing and fun.

I wish you and your families good health and happiness this holiday season and throughout the new year. In keeping with the spirit of giving, I urge you to continue to feed the birds and help protect the wildlife in the community by your ongoing support in South Shore Audubon Society.

BETSY GULOTTA

Join the Crusade!



Pick up your lance and join those crusading to protect wildlife and the environment. *Audubon Activist*, National Audubon Society's new bimonthly newspaper, gives you all the information you need to slay the dragons. Sign up today. Fill out this coupon and send it with six dollars (for one year) to: Audubon Activist, 950 Third Ave., New York, NY 10022.

AUDUBON ACTIVIST

950 Third Ave.
New York, NY 10022

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip _____

Please make your check payable to
National Audubon Society.

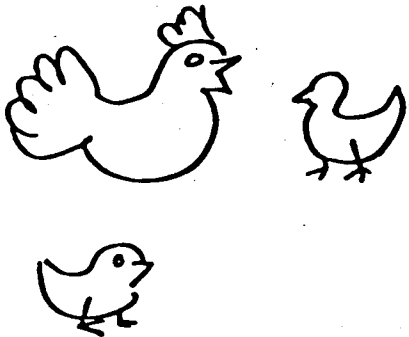
HOLIDAY PARTY AND WORKSHOP FOR THE ANIMALS

FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES OF ALL AGES

Saturday Dec. 13
1:00 - 4:00

Tackapausha Museum
Washington Ave.
Seaford, New York

Refreshments
Live Animal Programs
Make Gifts for the
Animals
Santa Claus
Trim the Tree



Sponsored by
South Shore Audubon Society
Tackapausha Museum
25¢ Admission to Museum

CONSERVATION by JOAN BUTKEREIT

President Reagan, bowing to public pressure before Election Day, signed into law a re-authorization of the Superfund (Toxic Waste Bill). Just after the election, the President did veto the Clean Water Act, which Congress had overwhelmingly passed without a dissenting vote.

New York State voters resoundingly passed the Environmental Quality Bond Act which this writer, many of you readers and The National Audubon Society strongly supported. As is usual with so many issues, passing the Bill is not the end of the battle. It is up to people who are concerned to let Governor Cuomo know that we want the Department of Environmental Conservation to manage this money better than they have the Conservation Fund. To quote Ron Dodson, Regional Representative of the National Audubon Society: "Audubon strongly supports the Governor's Environmental Quality Bond Act and the \$250 million for habitat acquisition will go a long way in starting a process of wildlife management change, but DEC must realize that this is not the 1940's. Wildlife should be managed as an indicator of the quality of our environment. If we are going to have healthy and thriving populations of wildlife species into the next century, it will take new and creative management techniques and the forging of new, professional and public constituencies to increase the budgetary and popular support needed to make it happen."

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In response to the October Skimmer article concerning the continuing sale, with resulting threat of development to the few remaining publicly owned natural areas in Nassau County, I received the following replies:

Dear Joan:

I fully agree that the remaining wetlands and other undeveloped lands in the Town of Hempstead and Nassau County be exempted from any further development. However, I feel that we have a problem in our area of a much greater magnitude that must be addressed as soon as possible. That problem is the overutilization and unwise use of our potable water supply in our Long Island Community. You are aware that the DEC has started to place certain restrictions on the pumping of this vital resource. You also must have noticed the drying up of certain streams and ponds due to the lowering of our water table. This is caused by the unrestricted construction now going on in the Town of Hempstead and Nassau County without regard to whether or not there will be a supply of water to adequately meet the needs of this construction explosion. It is estimated, that if this trend continues at the present pace, there will be a shortage of water by the middle of the 1990's. Therefore, I propose that the South Shore Audubon Society become involved in pressuring for legislation that will put a moratorium on further construction until a "Water Use Impact Statement" be submitted for each construction project and approved by the powers set up in such legislation.

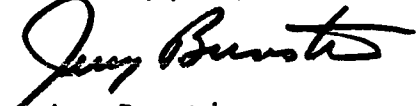
I am fully aware that this will not be an easy fight and that it will take all of our resources and that much time will pass before we are successful. I know it sounds like tilting windmills but we have no other choice if we are to see that our precious water resources are to be preserved for future usage. Our main adversaries will be the well endowed developers, local politicians and certain unions who have to look after the employment possibilities of their members.

I therefore request, that you being Conservation Chairperson, present this proposal at the next regular Board meeting of the South Shore Audubon for their approval.

I will do whatever I can to help you in this endeavor as I feel we have no other choice if we are to save our water supply.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,


Jerry Bernstein

Dear Joan,

I agree with you completely regarding the fact that remaining wild areas in Nassau that are publicly owned should remain so. They should not be sold for development or any other purpose. I sincerely hope that the law will protect the wetlands and not renege on their duty.

Sincerely,
Eleanor Ross

Joan,

Yes, we agree with you! The publicly owned wild areas should remain as they are ... and, of course, we should alert as many people as possible to the Environmental Bond Act on the ballot.

Best Wishes,
Shirley Sternberg

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AN INVITATION TO YOU FROM WILDLIFE ASSOCIATES!

- WHAT: The 1987 International Bird Feeding Survey
- WHEN: January 17, 1987
- TIME: 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (or as little as 15 minutes)
- WHERE: Your Own Yard!

On January 17, 1987, thousands of participants from all over the United States and Canada will be joining in a one day count of birds at bird feeders. Wildlife Associates, a New York based wildlife and education organization is the primary sponsor of this exciting annual event. Each participant will receive all materials necessary for the count which includes the survey form, instructions, certificate and, after all data is analyzed, a project report.

Bird feeding is the LARGEST WILDLIFE RELATED ACTIVITY pursued by Americans. A one day count with simple, standardized guide lines will result in some very exciting results. Bird abundance, distribution, feeder and feed preferences, migration patterns, and even specific information such as where BLUEBIRDS are during the winter and what they feed on, are examples of some of the results that will be obtained.

There will be a \$5.00 fee to cover production and mailing expenses and data analysis.

The International Bird Feeding Survey is not just a serious wildlife study. It is a project that can be great fun for the whole family. Everyone should join in this record setting bird count. It will be the largest single day bird counting event in history. Just imagine how much fun it will be to join in with thousands of fellow bird feeding enthusiasts. You have worked hard to provide wild birds with proper shelter and nutritious food. JOIN IN THE INTERNATIONAL BIRD FEEDING SURVEY AND MAKE SURE YOUR YARD IS COUNTED IN AS PART OF THIS EVENT.

SEND \$5.00 TO:
BIRD FEEDING SURVEY
WILDLIFE ASSOCIATES
8 WADE ROAD
LATHAM, NY 12110

Count me in on the International Bird Feeding Survey

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

(Please make checks payable to Wildlife Associates)

NEW MEMBERS

WELCOME to our eighty newest members. Our meetings, bird walks and other activities are for you to enjoy. We hope to see you at these activities.

BALDWIN.....Willis J Clark, L M Cole, James A McDonald
BELLMORE.....Dr Roberta L Kaufman, Mr-Mrs Stephen Mortin,
Dolores Seward
BETHPAGE.....Ms Laurie Murtha
EAST MEADOW.....Alma Bradeen, B Martell, Donald Vautier
ELMONT.....Eric S Miller
FARMINGDALE.....Mr J Ahlsen, Mr John R Gonta, Joe Lalota,
Ken Pearsall, Sandra Perko
FRANKLIN SQUARE...James Harrison
FREEPORT.....Kate Magerko, Mrs Deborah McCauley
GARDEN CITY.....Denis V Curtin, Mrs H B Vicory
HEMPSTEAD.....Donald Brown, Mr Kenneth L Meserole
HICKSVILLE.....Stefan Genda, Nancy Jenkofsky, Judith Lombardi
Garwood Narris, J Patterson
ISLAND PARK.....Mrs Jenifer S Collins
JAMAICA.....Miriam-Murry Diamond
LEVITOWN.....Ms B Achatz, L Donahue, Anthony Iannacone,
Teresa Samluk, Ms A Scully, Mrs L C Warmuth,
Monica Whyte
LONG BEACH.....Margery Collins, Miss Lisa Falciano, James G Sisti
LYNBROOK.....Mrs D C Carlson, Loretta Gately, Mr Charless I Mann,
Mr Peter G Molyneaux, Isodore Sandrow,
Mr Bernard Sherman
MASSAPEQUA.....Miss L Belardo, Caroline Cacavallo, Donato S Gallo,
Mr Randolph L Krumm, Mr Michael J Montello,
Paulette Nass, Mr Albert Piranio
MASSAPEQUA PARK...Barbara M Saxton, Mr Richard Wiebalk, Joseph Zuena
MERRICK.....Josephine-Frank Gencorelli, Jay Pitti,
Peter W Steinmaker
OCEANSIDE.....B Burke, John F Dooney, Judy Prior
OLD BETHPAGE.....P E Schmlemel, Anita Weinstein
PLAINVIEW.....Ellen Golub
POINT LOOKOUT.....W Keidaisch, R T Mitchell
ROCKVILLE CENTRE..John G Celmer
UNIONDALE.....Michael Boyer
VALLEY STREAM.....Mrs M Frick, John H Lindner, Mr-Mrs R Machalow
Rosemarie Walsh
WEST HEMPSTEAD....Mr-Mrs B Kinch
WANTAGH.....George Bredehorn, Charles Decosta, Paul T Stolmaker
WOODMERE.....Mr S Beliefer, Mr Theodore Bye, Mr Irwin Rosenbaum

MARION YAVARKOVSKY
MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSON

WISE OLD OWL

BIRD STUDY COURSE

- Q. How do I order nursery stock for wildlife?
- A. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation has started to send out the order lists for plant and tree seedlings. Write the New York State Regional Forestry Office location and ask for a Nursery Stock Information Sheet and Price List. Region #1:
Building 40, SUNY Campus
Stony Brook, N.Y. 11790
(Suffolk, Nassau)
(516) 751-7900
- Or call the nursery office at
(518) 587-1120 between 8 A.M. and 6 P.M., Monday through Friday, beginning January 5, 1987 and ending March 13, 1987.

A four session bird study course entitled "The World of Birds" is being offered at the Merrick Public Library, 2279 Merrick Avenue, Merrick, New York, on Wednesday evenings March 4, 11, 18, and 25, 1987 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 (evolution, morphology, and anatomy) and behavioral characteristics (ability to fly, courtship, feeding behavior, nest construction, etc., as well as aids to identification of the various families of birds will be discussed. There is no fee for this course and all members and non-members are welcome. The course will be conducted by Jerry Bernstein, Past President of the South Shore Audubon Society. For information call 516-623-8255 or 516-379-3476.

- Q. How do I get into the national parks without paying a fee each time?
- A. Apply at a national park or historic site for a Golden Eagle Passport. This permits all the occupants of your car to enter free. Passports are issued on a calendar year basis for an annual fee of \$10.
- MALCOLM MARUM

Rare Bird Sightings (212) 832-6523

In the November 1985 issue of the Skimmer, I called to your attention the intention of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to allow the incineration of PCB-laden hazardous wastes in our Mid-Atlantic coastal waters. I am pleased to report that on May 28, 1986, the EPA decided to deny a permit application for the incineration of these wastes.

AS THE CROW FLIES

Take a lovely drive out to the east end of Long Island and visit the Morton National Wildlife Refuge, established in 1954. It is located five miles west of the old whaling village of Sag Harbor on the north side of Noyac Road.

The refuge consists of an upland portion of 70 acres and a narrow 110 acre peninsula extending into scenic Peconic Bay. One half of the peninsula is a low sandy beach dominated by American beach grass and thickets of beach plum, and the other half is higher ground covered by a hardwood forest. A three acre brackish pond is located midway on the peninsula.

Greatest use by waterfowl occurs in November and December with black ducks being the predominant species. The brackish pond and western spit provide excellent locations for observing shore birds during the migrations. As many as 224 species of birds have been identified on the Morton Refuge.

MALCOLM MARUM

EPA's decision is a victory for all of those who are concerned about our Oceans. It shows what can be accomplished by public participation. Many organizations, individuals, and local elected officials (not from our area), voiced their concerns at public forums, congressional hearings, and in written testimony.

The controversy over ocean incinerations has not ended with EPA's latest decision. Past records have shown that the EPA will have to be continuously monitored or else public concern will not be a consideration in its future decisions. There is one hopeful sign however, with EPA recognizing the fact that a national comprehensive waste management program must be developed before permitting any such waste disposal in the future.

I would like to thank all of those who took the time to voice their opinions on this matter. It is only through the concerted efforts by concerned individuals will progress be made on issues which effect us all.

Jerry Bernstein

BIRD WALKS

OFFICERS

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

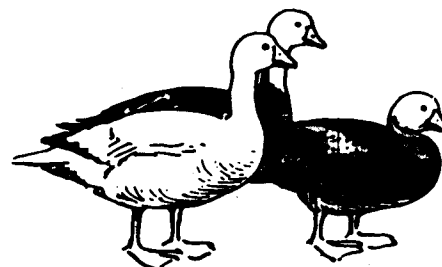
Betsy Gulotta, President...546-8841
Tom Torma, Vice Pres.....223-7947
Malcolm Marum, Treas.....752-0396
Nora Lorenzo, Rec.Sec.....868-4505
Ruth Grossman, Corr. Sec.....

- Dec. 7 Cedar Beach
- 14 Hempstead Lake State Park
(Peninsula Blvd. Pkg. Lot)
- 21 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- Jan. 4 West End #2, N.E. Corner
- 11 Tobay - JFK Sanctuary
- 18 Zach's Bay, Pkg. Fld.#4, N.E.
- 25 Pelham Bay - Meet at Throg's
Neck Bridge - Far side of tolls
at 9:00 A.M.
- Feb. 1 Cedar Beach
- 8 West End #2, N.E. Corner
- 15 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- 22 Zach's Bay, Pkg. Fld. #4, N.E.

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Elliott Kutner, Birding....486-7667
Alice Orens, Editor.....431-9537
Marion Yavarkovsky, Membership
379-2090
Joan Butkerei, Conservation
623-0843
Jack McLoughlin, Publicity
889-8092
Rose Ermidis, Education...785-6208
Myrna Brier, Hospitality..764-7523

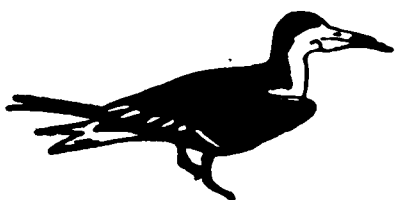
For 30% to 50% savings on Bushnell and Bausch and Lomb binoculars and scopes, see us at meetings and bird walks or call:
Barbara Tancredi (11 A.M. - 1 P.M.) ... 354-4524
Bill Herzog (7 P.M. - 9 P.M.) 791-7886



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Island Park, N.Y.

South Shore Audubon Society
P.O. Box 31
Freeport, N.Y. 11520

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W HEMPSTEAD NY
11552



DATED MATERIAL