

SOUTH SHORE SKIMMER



VOL.17, NO.6 - SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

FEBRUARY 1987

Meeting

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1987
FREEPORT MEMORIAL LIBRARY
8:15 P.M.



PLANTING TO ATTRACT THE BIRDS

Speaker: Jim Browne, Biologist at Marine Nature
Study Area in Oceanside

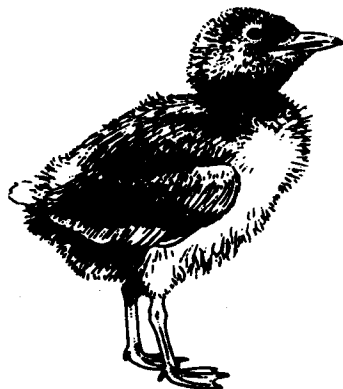
Jim, an active member of South Shore Audubon Society, will discuss and illustrate with slides plantings for wildlife. He has many interesting facts to share with us and will make suggestions on plants appropriate for our gardens.

NEXT MEETING

TUESDAY, MARCH 10

A SOLO BIKE TRIP IN FRANCE

Speaker: Melvin Brenner, member of South Shore Audubon Society



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

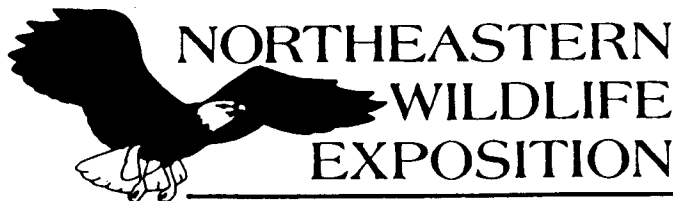
PRESIDENT'S PAGE

At our December meeting we heard from the President of the Huntington Audubon Society, Don Vorath, that the Department of Environmental Conservation was planning to begin immediate excavation of two new ponds at Tobay, JFK Sanctuary. DEC is planning to spend some \$50,000 remaining from the 1972 Environmental Quality Bond Act money to dig the ponds. The purpose is to create more fresh water habitat for the black duck. However, the proposed area for one of the ponds has a nest site for the state threatened northern harrier right in the middle of it.

Pressure from local Audubon chapters and the state Audubon representative Ron Dodson on the DEC and the Town of Oyster Bay, which has to approve the project, has finally had a positive effect. Since our December meeting, the DEC and the Town of Oyster Bay have met and changed their plans. They now plan to excavate only one pond which will be dug at a site suggested by the Audubon Society. It will be located north of the Sanctuary parking lot, between the lot and the bay, an area that does not endanger the northern harrier. All nesting areas of the northern harrier, including the probable habitat in the western section, will be saved.

Tobay Sanctuary is a frequent location of our Sunday morning bird walks, and sighting a northern harrier is always a thrill. We are grateful to the local chapters, Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary and our state representatives whose hard work has resulted in victory for the preservation of the northern harrier and other wildlife at Tobay Sanctuary.

BETSY GULOTTA



The 1987 Northeastern Wildlife Exposition will be held on March 20, 21, and 22 at the New York State Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza, in Albany, New York. The Exposition, a premiere event for the sporting arts, is an outgrowth of the International Fish and Wildlife Exposition which has been held in Albany for the past three years. All aspects of wildlife will be featured through a variety of special exhibits, activities, events, competitions, art and product sales, demonstrations, and seminars. American wildlife painters, carvers, sculptors, and crafts people will display their works, discuss the fine points of their art, and offer for purchase a magnificent collection of wildlife arts and crafts. The intention of the 1987 Exposition is to inform and entertain the rapidly growing number of wildlife and art enthusiasts, and to raise funds for wildlife and habitat conservation.

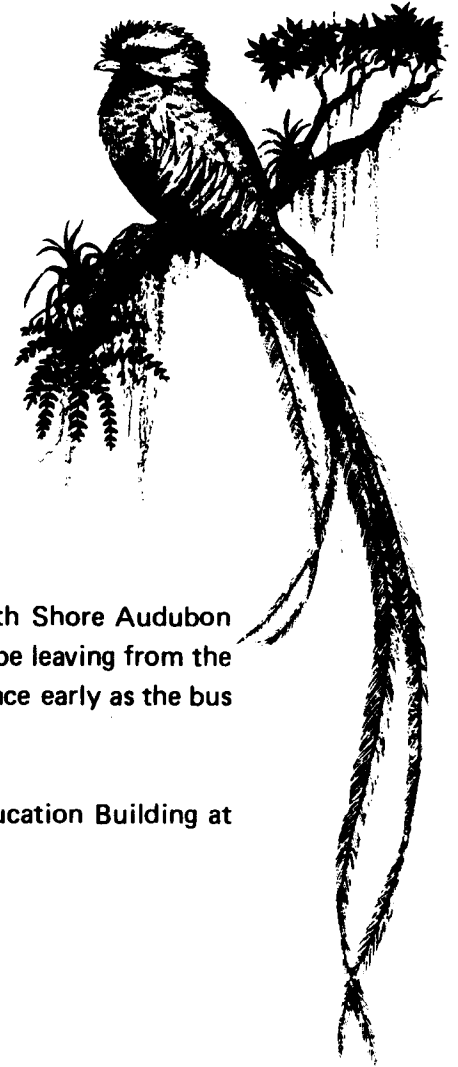
For more information about the 1987 Exposition, write or call:
NORTHEASTERN WILDLIFE EXPOSITION
8 WADE ROAD
LATHAM, NEW YORK 12110
518-783-1362

BRONX ZOO TRIP

SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 1987

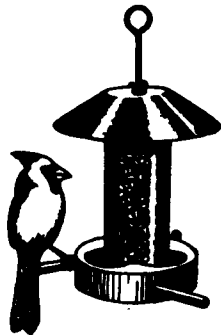
VISIT

WORLD OF BIRDS/NEW JUNGLE WORLD/HIMALAYAN PLAINS
(Guided by Zoo Staff)



If you are interested in going by Bus, send check for \$7.00 (made payable to South Shore Audubon Society) to Evelyn Blume, 313 Smith Street, Merrick, New York 11566. The bus will be leaving from the Merrick Road Park at 9:00 A.M. and will leave the Zoo at 3:30 P.M. Please reserve space early as the bus only holds 40 persons. For further information call Evelyn at 378-7122.

Those desiring to drive their own cars should meet at the seal exhibit near the Education Building at 10:15 AM.



Dear Friends,

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of our Holiday Party -- whether it was time, refreshments, pine cones, etc., every bit was appreciated. We sure had fun and **HERE'S TO NEXT YEAR!**

Frieda Malament

BIRD STUDY COURSE

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.

Conservation

At last month's Audubon meeting, concern was expressed about the building of several new ponds at J.F.K. Sanctuary, Tobay Beach. Many knowledgeable citizens advised both the New York State DEC and the Town of Oyster Bay that the proposed alteration would interfere with significant Northern Harrier nesting sites. Bill Kolodnicki of T.R. Sanctuary, whose active interest, along with that of several Audubon groups, influenced a change in this project, has said that plans to build the interfering ponds have been scrapped. A new pond is planned for a north corner of the preserve that was originally a fill area, is mostly phragmites and has no nesting harriers. The following letter from a SSAS member was one of many that may have helped influence this compromise.

December 10, 1986

Editor, NYS Conservationist

Dear Sir,

The changes being made at the Kennedy Sanctuary, part of the Town of Oyster Bay's Tobay Beach (east of Jones Beach), are a demonstration of the need to conduct hearings and publish environmental impact statements before making land use changes and accompanying projects.

The officials at the Town of Oyster Bay, who are using \$50,000 from NYSDEC, are not aware that this site is a remaining nesting habitat of the Northern Harrier (Marsh Hawk).

Public hearings would have revealed this information long before plans were drawn and long before construction started. Four acres of ponds are about to be dug to give the Black Duck additional habitat. We already have plenty of Mallards and Black Ducks. It would be a mistake to take away vital Harrier habitat to make way for them.

Paul A. Butkerei, Sr.

AUDUBON NEWS

KEMPS RIDLEY SEA TURTLE -- Audubon is working with Okeanos Ocean Research Foundation in an attempt to spot stranded sea turtles on Long Island, especially Kemps Ridelys (the most endangered sea turtle in the world). Anyone in the area who is interested in helping is urged to call Audubon at (518) 439-0287 or Okeanos at (516) 722-8160.

NEW YORK LOON CONSERVATION PROJECT -- There is still time to join the 1987 Winter Loon Watch along Long Island Sound and the south shore of Long Island and participate in the counts on February 15 and March 15. Write to Audubon at 282 Delaware Avenue, Delmar, New York 12054. There is a \$5.00 fee to cover expenses. Our hope is to learn something about loons in their coastal wintering areas.

by JOAN BUTKEREIT

This second letter by Lawrence Kelly, former director of the Town of Hempstead Nature Center in Oceanside and a past member of SSAS, should be of interest to our readers. It appeared in Newsday during November, 1986.

Water, Zoning and Quality of Life

If the state cap on potable water in Nassau ["NY Caps Water Usage in Nassau," Sept. 17 and "Water Suppliers Battle Cap," Oct. 1] were to be strictly enforced, it would be one of the better things to have happened since we white men came to Long Island in the 17th Century and started to muck things up.

Such a restriction on the use of a very limited, gravely abused resource would force a limit on further degradation of our already overdeveloped region, and we might then salvage a vestige of the environment that makes this island so desirable a place.

Blame for the "sleazing" of Nassau and much of Suffolk is not easy to assign. It began in earnest immediately after World War II when the richest, most productive truck-garden farms in the nation were destroyed to make way for housing developments, shopping centers, parking fields and an ill-conceived road system that has rendered us almost totally dependent upon the private automobile.

If that rush to build had been properly controlled, we would not have the congestion, ugliness, degraded air quality and water crisis that are facts of life here now.

One of the ironies of the situation is that local government has and has had the power to control development. The tool to use is the zoning authority, which is a police power of the state that town governments are empowered to administer. If local authorities had exercised the power to zone and to grant zoning variances properly, lawfully and with the best interests of the public as a goal, much of the area would not be paved over today, traffic would be less dense, air quality would be

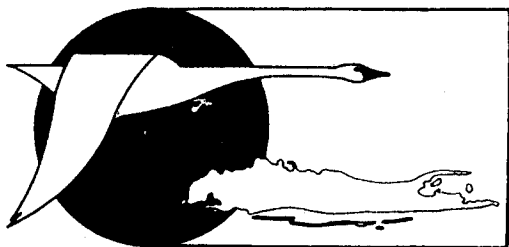
better, there would be some beauty left and our water resource situation would be as it had been — plenteous and pure.

But the zoning power was not used properly. The applicable law clearly states the zoning powers are to be used solely to ensure the health, safety and well-being of residents and not (as has too often been the case) to encourage development, provide employment, increase the taxable base, foster the economy or provide profit to entrepreneurs. In other words, zoning has nothing to do with progress as it is conceived in the mind of officialdom; it has to do with quality (not quantity) of life.

The elected and appointed officials are not solely to blame for the state of things. Who knows, perhaps they have never read the law and maybe they believe in "progress." We must also ascribe blame to the individuals and corporations who, impelled by the motive of profit, destroy more and more of our open land as they erect their tasteless malls, towers and complexes. Do they think about the consequences of these development to the quality of life?

It is just about too late to save much of Nassau and western Suffolk, but the little that is left that is good deserves our effort to preserve. Let us hope that the limit on potable water pumpage in Nassau is enforced and that this limit stops development in its tracks. Let's hope, too, that those who govern wake up and realize that real progress is measured in increments of improvement in the quality of life and not in cubic yards of concrete poured or earth bulldozed.

Lawrence A. Kelly
Baldwin



VOLUNTEERS for WILDLIFE

WILDLIFE REHABILITATION SEMINAR

Volunteers for Wildlife will host a two-day Wildlife Rehabilitation Seminar on Saturday and Sunday, March 28-29 at the Uplands Farm Environmental Center in Cold Spring Harbor from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. on both days. The seminar will be conducted by the International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council (IWRC), a California-based organization.

The course covers all aspects of wildlife rehabilitation and is extremely helpful as preparation for the New York State Wildlife Rehabilitator test. For further information, contact Volunteers for Wildlife at (516) 367-4468. Deadline for registration is February 23.

WATER CRISIS

For many years environmentalists have warned of an impending water crisis on Long Island. Some Nassau County officials have long maintained that our drinking water is both pure and plentiful. Recently the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) placed a cap on the withdrawal of Nassau County groundwater preventing the county from pumping any groundwater in excess of what is being pumped at this time.

The sole source of drinking water in Nassau County is an aquifer system beneath the land surface consisting of three major aquifers (water-bearing geological deposits). They are the Upper Glacial, which is mostly contaminated, the Magothy, our main source of potable water, and the Lloyd, set aside for future use. In some locations our aquifers have become contaminated. We have also over pumped from our water supply. We have two serious water problems - one of quality and one of quantity.

At the present time, there are about 45 to 50 wells in Nassau County contaminated with organic chemicals such as solvents, petroleum products, pesticides, etc. Wells can also be contaminated with nitrates from fertilizers, domestic sewage systems, etc. The Environmental Protection Agency has set new standards for groundwater quality which are expected to go into effect around 1988 and will result in between 100 and 105 wells in Nassau County being restricted.

Fortunately, we have the means to solve the problem, the technology of choice being granular activated charcoal filters at the wellhead. This method is effective but expensive, with the cost of the filters estimated at a half million dollars per well. We can have pure water, but it will cost us.

Our water quantity problem is still another story. To understand the problem, think of our groundwater as a box sitting on bedrock. Inside the box is fresh water. Salt water surrounds the box. The pressure of the fresh water keeps the salt water out. Unfortunately, the box leaks. We lose water through streams entering the bay, through seepage from the aquifers into the bays and from evaporation. The box, or aquifer, must be recharged via rain water. If it is not, it gets smaller and we have salt water intrusion. We also lose water when we pump it from the ground for human use. The water we use then enters the sewer system. The waste water from the sewage plants is then pumped into the ocean and is lost.

Between 1980 and 1985 Nassau County has pumped in excess of 200 million gallons of water per day. This rate of withdrawal has resulted in serious depletion of our groundwater resource. The cumulative withdrawal in 1985 for the 41 water districts in Nassau County was 187.6 million gallons per day. The amount permitted by the NYSDEC is 188.5 million gallons per day. This means, essentially, that there is no more water to be taken out of the system. This is why the NYSDEC placed a cap on how much we can pump. With these facts in mind, the Board of Directors of the South Shore Audubon Society has passed a resolution concerning the water crisis.

RESOLUTION

The members of the South Shore Audubon Society have become increasingly concerned about the water crisis in Nassau County. We have witnessed our streams, ponds and lakes drying up. The recent ground water withdrawal cap imposed by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the ever increasing number of contaminated wells have only served to emphasize the need for action. The Board of Directors of the South Shore Audubon Society resolves:

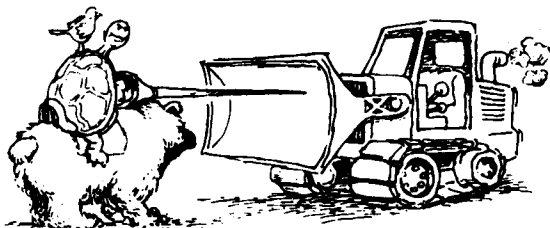
Officials of Nassau County should enact a moratorium on development until the following actions are taken to solve our water problems;

1. Enactment of a comprehensive conservation program that will include government, water suppliers, businesses and residents of the county.
2. Development of a long range water management policy that will ensure an adequate and pure water supply in the future.
3. Reclamation of waste water from sewage treatment plants, to be used to increase stream flow and refill our lakes and ponds.

TOM TORMA

NEXT MONTH: WHAT CAN BE DONE!

Join the Crusade!



Pick up your lance and join those crusading to protect wild-life 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.

T-SHIRTS AND SWEAT SHIRTS

South Shore Audubon Society now has its own T-Shirts and Hooded Sweat Shirts for Sale. All proceeds from the sale of these items go to help operate the Chapter. Pre-ordering greatly aids us in determining the amount of each size that we need to keep in stock. These shirts are made by a well-known maker of sports wear of 50% polyester and 50% cotton. The T-Shirts are white with a blue ring collar and blue sleeve. The logo is printed in blue. The Sweat Shirts are Navy blue, with the Logo in white. The prices are \$5.00 for the T-Shirt and \$14.95 for the Sweat Shirt. They will be available at our Bird Walks and General Meetings.

You can pre-order by mailing a check (payable to South Shore Audubon Society) to Malcolm Marum, 1 Carle Place, South Farmingdale, N.Y. 11735, or call 516-752-0396.

NEW MEMBERS

A hearty welcome to our newest members. We would like to meet you all. Come to our meetings, bird walks, and parties. JOIN IN!

ARVERNE.....Mr Ed Silverfine
BALDWIN.....G Kassof, Richard A Ausburn
BELLMORE.....Maddalena Esposito, R J Huttleston, Ms Claire Leete
Pat Moran
BETHPAGE.....Mrs Mary A Forbes
BROOKLYN.....Kathy Mulligan, Mr Daniel Schoenberger
EAST MEADOW.....Janet Collins
ELMONT.....Mr Philip Springler, Mrs Doris G Treloar
FARMINGDALE.....Walter Kleps
FLORAL PARK.....Jeannette Hildebrandt, Michael Miraglia
FRANKLIN SQUARE....Ms Janice Hastings
FREEPORT.....Ms Olivia Dunn, Mrs C Holster, John Mapes
GARDEN CITY.....Mr Richard N Frank, Dorothy Levi, Ann & Stan Lyons
HEMPSTEAD.....Mr S Feldman, H Pulak, Elizabeth Sammons,
Marianne Wetrich
HICKSVILLE.....Nick Andonian, Ms Debra Lupski, John Moehringer
ISLAND PARK.....Eleanor J Abend, Myrna Brier, Lisa Ripi
LEVITTOWN.....Kathi Feustel, Miss Joanne M Fioretti,
Rita Tolomeo
LONG BEACH.....Mrs L Eaton, Mrs Phyllis Maizel, Dr A Parrinello,
V Soriano
LYNBROOK.....S Braun, Miss Ethel A Grote, Susan K Young
MALVERNE.....Ms J Fedele
MASSAPEQUA.....Ike Botkin, Mr Eugene Haller, Mr Paul Vitucci
MERRICK.....M D Schramm
NEW YORK CITY.....Shirley Gaynor
OCEANSIDE.....Dorothy Duane, Leon Siegel
PLAINVIEW.....Mr Bernard Kobbs, Herbert Schneider
ROCKVILLE CENTRE...Mrs Dorothy Kirol, Ms Brenda L Simonian
UNIONDALE.....Mr-Mrs Gerard Daly
VALLEY STREAM.....Michael Bartolomeo, David Rolnick, John S Scolaw
WEST HEMPSTEAD.....Mr Max Beck, John Borkowski, Elizabeth Whelpley
WANTAGH.....Mr-Mrs D Driscoll, Mr R Gonzalez, James Rossi
WOODMERE.....Dr Aron Lantz, H Shereff

MARION YAVARKOVSKY
MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSON

PROGRAMS

One of the most important functions of South Shore Audubon Society is the presentation of interesting and informative programs at our monthly meetings. In an effort to continue to provide the quality of programs that the membership desires, our chapter is forming a Monthly Program Committee.

The committee will consist of a Chairperson, who will report to the Board of Directors, and volunteer members. We would like to give the entire membership the opportunity to contribute ideas and/or service to this important aspect of our chapter.

Please take a few minutes to read the following questions. We welcome your suggestions.

1. Do you have a program that you would like to present to South Shore Audubon Society?
2. Do you know of someone who has a program that would be of interest to our members?
3. Would you like to serve on the Monthly Program Committee?

Please return your answers either by phone or in writing to LEN GORDON, 1637 Westervelt Avenue, Baldwin, N.Y. 11510 (223-1365).

EDUCATION

To acquaint our members with our library of slides, I am arranging a series of one hour showings at Baldwin, N.Y. You will be able to discuss the materials and to inform others of their availability.

The subjects are: Water - We Can't Live Without It; Birds of the Wetlands; Birds of the Woods, Garden and Fields; Birds That Hunt and are Hunted; Understanding Predation; Understanding North Eastern Birds of Prey.

Please write me your name, address, phone number and the time and weekday you would like to be present.

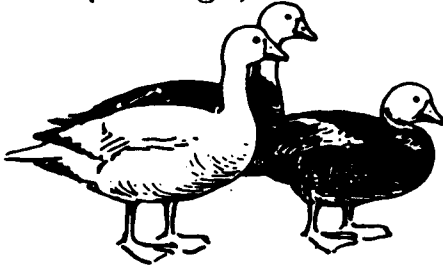
LENNOX A. GORDON
1637 Westervelt Avenue
Baldwin, N.Y. 11510
(516) 223-1365

BIRD WALKS

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

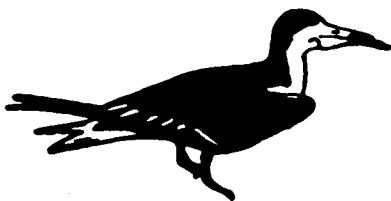
- Feb. 1 Cedar Beach
 8 West End #2, N.E. Corner
 15 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
 22 Zach's Bay, Pkg. Fld. 4, N.E.
- Mar. 1 Twin Lakes Preserve *
 8 West End #2, N.E. Corner
 15 Cedar Beach
 22 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
 29 Tobay - JFK Sanctuary

*Sunrise Highway to Old Mill Road, North on Old Mill Road. Park and meet in parking lot of Forest Lake School (Wantagh).



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

ELLIOTT KUTNER
461 DUNSTER CT
W HEMPSTEAD NY
11552



DATED MATERIAL

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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

