

SOUTH SHORE SKIMMER



VOL.17, NO. 8 - SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

APRIL 1987

Meeting

TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 1987
FREEPORT MEMORIAL LIBRARY
8:00 P. M.

THE S/R/L CENTER ORPHAN ZOO: HUMAN-ANIMAL COMPANION BOND
Speaker: Mark Stebbins, Director of the Stress Reduction
Learning Center, Creedmoor Psychiatric Center

Mark will describe his unique program which combines the concept of selective wildlife rehabilitation and care-taking of domestic and exotic animals with patients' therapeutic and psychiatric needs.

NEXT MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 12, 1987
A BIRD ON THE HAND--FALCONRY TODAY
Speaker: Peter Hart, Falconer



WINTERING THROUGH

(A Tribute to SRL's "Keeper" Ted)

by Mark W. Stebbins

Cradled amidst Nature's disguise of dense vines and taloned thicket to the west and a mosaic of shadows advancing from a row of tall oaks, lined in salute, across a colonial parade ground to the south, reposes a settlement of structures in miniature. Some are built of marine canvas stretched over dome shaped framing. Others are lean-tos with backs arched against the prevailing wind, their earthen floors layered thick with leaves and straw. From raised platforms housing assorted perches, non weather facing ports are angled to admit a path of light and warmth traced by the winter sun.

(continued on page 2)

This pastoral tapestry in relief finds animation at dawn in the almost thoughtful yawn of a free ranging tuxedo rabbit, eyes trusting but alert, reclining Sphinx-like, close flanked by two whites. From behind the contour of an encircling hedge created with straw slabs sliced carefully from a larger bale and just as carefully fitted igloo style against snow fence ribbing then woven fast, a pair of Canada Geese, both flightless through injury, periscope pipe briefly in low orchestral tones and nod obligingly in tandem at the service of hot water sending vapor over glacier fragments upended by the "keeper's" pick from what was drinking water just the night before.

The hand that stays the drinking water from its frozen trough, the hand that turns numb while mounting walls of grade ten burlap on the weather side of fencing, lacing cloth tape through at every tenth square until hours after, ankle deep in falling snow, the job is done - that same keeper's hand, when a brief victory over winter's arsenal allows, shifts stride, trades pick for pen and spells out chronicles if you will - "What Needs Watching," in a naturalist's script. For instance, "The branch the Broadwing Hawk prefers is wearing smooth and to avoid his slipping, righting in mid 'one-winged' flight is rough..." (a hunter's slight). "Binding it, the branch, with cord will restore the desired grip..." And on the chronicle goes.

With all else bedded down, darkness, helped by a well placed timber to support a splintered door, seals beloved "Merlin," more walking icelandic sweater than goat, somewhat reluctantly to his nightly sheltered rest. Where sleeps the keeper is what this is all about, for his quarters and those shared by his assistants are in Creedmoor Psychiatric Center, Queens.

The Stress Reduction Learning Center (SRL) Orphan Zoo, part of Creedmoor, under the direction of Mark Stebbins and with Dr. Eileen Rowan's generously bestowed expertise and voluntary clinical animal care, has reached a three year mark in an intensive field study involving psychiatric patients meeting their therapeutic needs through their caretaking of selected orphaned and injury recovering wildlife together with complimentary exotic and domestic animals. Findings of this study are the subject of a slide presentation hosted by South Shore Audubon on April 14.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

Alley Pond Environmental Center, a non-profit environmental education institution located in North East Queens, is seeking a qualified applicant for the position of Education Assistant. Qualifications include a degree in education or environmental studies, and one year experience in environmental education field or equivalent. Duties will include planning, scheduling and conducting education programs. Salary varies from \$14,500 to \$17,250, depending on qualifications. Respond to:

Aline Euler, Education Director
Alley Pond Environmental Center, Inc.
228-06 Northern Boulevard
Douglaston, New York 11363
718-229-4000



THEODORE ROOSEVELT SANCTUARY

A fund raising cocktail party and auction for the benefit of the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary will be held at the Oyster Bay home of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Storrs on Saturday, May 9. If you would like to make a donation to the auction or attend the party, please call:

T.R.Sanctuary....922-3200
Hugh McQuillan...679-8319

This spring the Sanctuary will be offering an interesting and varied assortment of weekend activities for the family, children and adults.

Children will have the opportunity to make nature crafts, investigate geologic specimens and explore the woods. Families and adults can learn about bird carving, take a nature walk to Sagamore Hill, watch a program with live owls or join a staff member of the Vanderbilt Planetarium to observe the night sky.

For more information about these and other Sanctuary activities, call 922-3200.

EARTH DAY

Volunteers are needed to help at and/or donate refreshments for the Earth Day Extravaganza to be co-sponsored by South Shore Audubon at the Tackapausha Museum and Preserve in Seaford on Saturday, April 25, 1 - 4 P.M.

The day's activities will include games for children, educational programs and refreshments. Participants will be able to make Earth Day buttons and design their own T-shirts (bring your own light colored, synthetic T-shirt)

If you can help or would like more information, call Frieda Malament at 795-5842.

TRIP TO BRIGANTINE

SATURDAY, MAY 16

7:00 A.M. - 9:00 P.M.

Cost: \$36.00 per person, including bus fare, dinner and gratuities

Bus leaves from the Merrick Road Golf Club, Merrick Road and Clubhouse Road (next to Holiday Park shopping center off Exit 9 Eastbound of the Meadowbrook Parkway), Merrick, N.Y. Bring your own lunch and beverage.

Make checks payable to SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY and mail to:

Mrs. Evelyn Blume
313 Smith Street
Merrick, N.Y. 11566
378-7122 after 6 P.M.

Please indicate your choice of dinner entree - Roast Beef or Chicken Breast Champignon.

Get in touch with Evelyn as soon as possible. Bus accommodations are limited.

NOMINATIONS

1987-88

President.....Betsy Gulotta
Vice Pres.....Tom Torma
Secretary.....Nora Lorencio
Treasurer.....Malcolm Marum
Corr. Secretary..Ruth Grossman

Director.....Louise Halpin
Director.....Arthur Atlas

RAIN FORESTS

THE GLOBAL GREEN BELT

From the equator there once extended a vast broad-leaved forest in which a great wealth and variety of life flourished. That forest, greatly reduced, lies mostly along the equator now: the tropical rain forest.

Even in their "dry" season, rain forests may receive 3-4 inches of rain per month, 30 inches per month in the rainy season. Temperatures hover around 80 degrees the year round; even at night the tree canopy creates a greenhouse effect to imprison the heat of the tropical day.

Today's major rain forests are found in West Africa, Indonesia and South America. Others remain in Australia, India, Central America and islands of the Caribbean and the Pacific. The predominately woody plant life of these forests grows such that three "layers" of the forest are formed: a lower story rising to 60 feet, a canopy which may be as high as 120 feet, and an emergent layer of giants which may be 160 feet tall.

Ironically, this rich forest grows on soil whose usable supply of nutrients is to be found only in a thin surface layer where the constant process of decay is going on. All the remaining nutrients are "locked" in living vegetation. Consequently, rain forest soil is nutrient-poor and easily damaged by human misuse; if the forest is cut it is not uncommon to get only a single season's growing out of it. The root systems of the trees in the rain forest are superficial, as might be expected in these soil conditions, and stiltlike and buttress roots have evolved to give these trees support.

Hunting forest peoples were, until recently, the only humans to affect the rain forest's ecology, but now Western civilization routinely eliminates large tracts to replace them with plantations of rubber, coffee and cocoa. This is because rain forests are found largely in developing countries and these require the trade to stimulate their economy.

Unfortunately, the plantations are then abandoned and second growth takes their place. Forest many eons old has been lost and cannot rapidly replace itself.

Native forest peoples practice subsistence agriculture which results in the cutting and burning of trees, leaving the soil vulnerable to sun and rain damage. These plots are then abandoned to meet a fate similar to that of the plantation lands.

The necessity of banking more rain forest in national parks and preserves is obvious. These forests are a storehouse of genetic diversity, and to eliminate them is to alter the course of evolution on our planet, deprive migrant North American birds of winter habitat, and obliterate the future discoveries of new species and their importance to us these forests hold. With an annual loss, on a global scale, of rain forest equal in area to England and Wales combined, the future of our rain forests is an issue of concern to all of us.

JAMES REMSEN
YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE
SSAS

Starting on March 7, Spring Nature Walks will be held at 9:30 A.M. on alternate Saturdays until June 13, at the Tackapausha Preserve, Seaford, N.Y. The walks are scheduled so that one may enjoy and see the effect of the oncoming of Spring, in all its glory, on the animal and plant life found within the 80-acre site. The walks will be conducted by Jerry Bernstein, volunteer museum naturalist. The dates of the walks are as follows:

	May 2
April 4	May 16
April 18	May 30
	June 13

ANNUAL JUNE DINNER

We shall be returning to the charm, comfort and good food at the Oceanside Country Club for South Shore Audubon Society's Annual June Dinner. As usual the June Dinner is held in place of a regular general meeting.

This year we are privileged to have as our guest speaker, Dr. Richard Van Gelder, Curator of Mammals at the American Museum of Natural History. He is the one and the same Richard Van Gelder who is leading the South Shore Audubon Society African Safari in July. Dr. Van Gelder will share with us what it is like to be on an African Safari and show us slides of the many beautiful birds and mammals which can be seen.

As space is limited, make your reservations early for this enjoyable and entertaining evening. Complete the attached reservation and send it along with a check payable to South Shore Audubon Society to:

Myrna Brier
3409 Fairway Rd.
Oceanside, New York 11572

Place: OCEANSIDE COUNTRY CLUB
WAUKENA AND SKILLMAN AVENUES
OCEANSIDE, NEW YORK

Date: TUESDAY, JUNE 9 , 1987

Time: 6:45 P.M. COCKTAILS

7:30 P.M. DINNER

Cost: \$15.00 per person

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

_____ PHONE NO. _____

Amount of check _____ Number of People _____

Number of each menu choice: London Broil _____
Chicken _____
Fish _____

NEW MEMBERS

(Marion Yavarkovsky, Membership Chairperson)

March has come in like a lion with a pride of new members. We hope you will enjoy the various aspects of our organization.

BALDWIN.....Robert R Camman, Mrs Bonnie Earnest
BELLMORE.....Mrs Olive Cordaro, W. Zerfuss
BETHPAGE.....Ms Maureen Bishop, Marian M Carr,
Lance M Christiansen, Mark Norris
EAST MEADOW.....Mrs Elaine Bergman, James Cackowski,
Miss Theresa Montanaro
ELMONT.....Mrs F Lach
FARMINGDALE.....Liz Desmond, Jack Goor, Ronald Hotchkin
FLORAL PARK.....S P Bikla, Mr P Durecko, T J Gabris, G J Kass
Catherine Ryan
FREEPORT.....Thomas W Judge Sr, Ms G Karaman, Joseph A Zarnoch
GARDEN CITY.....Joe Cantey, Dr Piero M Deluise, Marie Ramos,
Mrs Shirley Sackett, J B Sandler, J Szczepaniak
HEMPSTEAD.....Deborah Harnett, Jacqueline Jackson
Mrs Christine E Michael, Donna Monroe, Joan Reilly
HICKSVILLE.....William F Breare, Mr-Mrs R Risoli, Robert Scholler
LAWRENCE.....Marilyn Burke, Wayne L Mulligan
LEVITTOWN.....Miss Jan Joffe, Martin J Focazio
LONG BEACH.....Steven R Barras, Fuad Dajany, A R Gilbert,
Vickia Pinto
LYNBROOK.....Miss Marsha Falk
MALVERNE.....Frank Grundstein, Catherine A Kreppein
MASSAPEQUA.....Irene Boegle, Dr Matthew J Brown, Ms E Deichler,
K Drake, Miss Janice Oursler
MASSAPEQUA PARK....Robert F Barnes, John J Clancy Jr,
Alice-Arnold Rosenblatt
MERRICK.....George W Grunfelder, J A Parrish, Robert Squires
NEW YORK CITY.....Llyod Spitalnik
OCEANSIDE.....J E Glynn, Neil Huttner, Mrs Rochelle Manel
PLAINVIEW.....L Goldberg, Everett Lind, Jack Rukin
ROCKVILLE CENTRE...Cheryl Campbell, R Hyman, Dennis Kelly,
Kevin McLaughlin, Raymond Middleton, Daniel Ryan,
Miss Sydney Scheiner, Mrss Wurwarz
SEAFORD.....Paul Krism, Joseph J Lutz, Raymond Schreiber
UNIONDALE.....R E Fritts
VALLEY STREAM.....Susan Brychey, Richard Cooper, Mrs Irene Ehrlich,
Arthur-Olga Eisig, Mrs Louis J Haag, Robert Kurtz,
Walter Lawler Jr, J Liguori, Joanne MacKnight,
C McCarthy, Grace Rogers, Adrienne Storace,
Frank Williams
WEST HEMPSTEAD.....Miss L F Ryan
WANTAGH.....Robert Gilmore, Lyle Rousseau

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ATTENTION SSAS MEMBERS:

The long control extension for the slide projector is missing. Please search, find and return.

LEN GORDON (223-1365)

K30A

by Richard L. Becker

Sunday, April 14, 1986, 4:00 PM, Basking Ridge, New Jersey. It is a clear, sunny afternoon at the Great Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. Bluebirds are a specialty here as are wood ducks and other waterfowl that are attracted to the wetland habitat. Today, however, it is quiet. Not a bluebird in sight. Several species of waterfowl are seen, but only one pair of wood ducks is observed.

While driving down the back road, I scan the birds alongside. One Canada goose stands out from the rest. It is wearing a yellow collar with "K30A" inscribed in black. I note this number and, somewhat belatedly, send it to the Bird Banding Laboratory of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service in Laurel, Maryland.

Shortly thereafter, the Fish and Wildlife Service advises me that they have forwarded my sighting to the New York Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit located at Cornell University. Later on, the Project Coordinator sends me a report on K30A. It is a male Canada goose that was banded as an adult on January 14, 1985. Since then, there were two other reports of sightings of this bird in addition to mine. Both occurred in New Jersey - once on December 4, 1985 and then on January 14, 1986 (the anniversary of its banding).

But what good is this information? An accompanying sheet advises that after the hunting season, the population of Canada geese inhabiting eastern North America now numbers in excess of 1,000,000. This represents a 2½ times increase in population since 1950. In the past, Canada geese wintered as far south as was necessary to obtain adequate food. This resulted in large numbers wintering in North Carolina, with some birds travelling as far south as South Carolina and Florida. At the present time, most of the Canada geese winter on the Delaware-Maryland peninsula. Despite the increased numbers of Canada geese, fewer birds are migrating further south. The Cornell study is attempting to find the reasons for this anomaly.

A change in food supply is one of the factors that may have caused this change in distribution. Traditionally, Canada geese have fed on aquatic and moist vegetation (known as browse). This green diet is still the principal food source during warm weather and on its breeding grounds. In the 1940s, however, Canada geese began eating waste grains such as corn and soybeans to supplement their diet. These grains have a higher energy content than browse and this has allowed the geese to withstand lower winter temperatures.

A second factor is the change in habitat. More and more grain is being grown further north. The grainfields provide both additional food (between four and five bushels of corn are

T-SHIRTS

A GIFT TO ENDANGERED SPECIES

Ten-year-old John Starapoli, a junior member of South Shore Audubon, has a unique method of raising money to help protect endangered species. He makes and sells T-shirts with pictures of the Bald Eagle and Whooping Crane which he himself has designed. He has offered his entire profits to SSAS for the purpose of helping endangered species, including the two above-mentioned birds.

John's T-shirts cost \$6.75 each. To order yours, please call him at 599-1569.



spilled for each acre harvested) and more snowfree and secure feeding sites. Refuges have been established where the geese can winter. An increase in the number of man-made refuges began at the time as the changes in distribution.

A third possible factor arises from hunting pressure. The less distance that a goose migrates, the less likely it is to succumb to a hunter. Therefore, the populations that winter further north are more likely to survive and reproduce.

Other possibilities are changes in climate and the introduction of resident flocks of Canada geese. The trend towards warmer winter temperatures means that geese do not have to travel as far south to reach an environment in which they can survive. Resident flocks of Canada geese may act as decoys and attract migrating birds and thus cut short the migration.

The next time that you see a flock of Canada geese, scan them carefully. Your observation of a neck-banded goose can help in this research. Report all sightings to the New York Cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, Fernow Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York 14853 or the Bird Banding Unit of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service in Laurel, Maryland. Your observations should include the color of the neck band, complete code sequence, calendar date and time of observation, location of sighting (as specific as possible), size of flock, and the habitat that the birds were in. Your report should also include your name, address, and telephone number.

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BIRD WALKS

OFFICERS

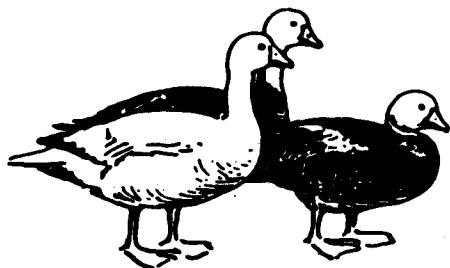
No walk if it rains, snows or temperature is 25 degrees or below.
STARTING TIME - 9:30 A.M.

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.....

- Apr. 5 Twin Lakes Preserve
- 12 Zach's Bay, #4, N.E. Corner
- 19 West End #2, N.E. Corner
- 26 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- May 3 Hempstead Lake State Park
- 10 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- 17 West End #2, N.E. Corner
- 24 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

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



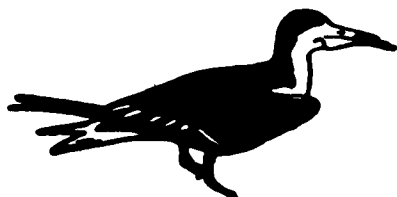
For 30% to 50% savings on Bushnell and Bausch and Lomb binoculars and scopes, see us at meetings and bird walks or call:

Barbara Tancredi (11 A.M. - 1 P.M.) ... 354-4524
Bill Herzog (7 P.M. - 9 P.M.) 791-7886

South Shore Audubon Society
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