

**SOUTH SHORE
AUDUBON
SOCIETY**



1971

NEXT MEETING - OCTOBER 12

Another month has rolled around and our next meeting, October 12th, is here! It promises to be another interesting one. This time, Professor Henry C. Courten, an astronomer from Dowling College, will discuss, with illustrations, the new object in the sky, "Zoe", tentatively identified as a new and 10th planet which Dr. Courten believes he has discovered.

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Those of us who attended the first meeting in September enjoyed a most interesting set of slides of the birds and animals of the two National Parks of South Africa; together with an enthusiastic and entertaining commentary by Al Lemke, who, with his wife, toured both parks and took the pictures. Our thanks to both of these good members.

The following is a brief run-down of not only the fall meetings but through January as well. They promise to be good - so make your plans and save the dates.



DON'T NEGLECT TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

South Shore Audubon Society Newsletter
101 Lexington Avenue
Malverne, New York #11565

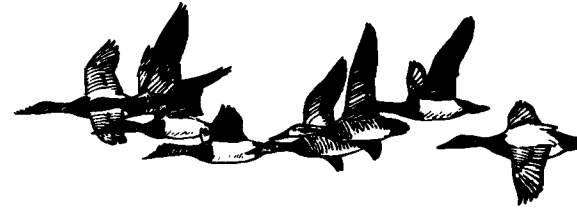
First Class Mail



On November 9th, Thomas Macres, Jr. of the Committee on Resource Management, will discuss Atlantic Offshore oil drilling. This organization is non-political and pledged to stop this drilling.

In December, on the 14th, we will again tap our own resources when Elliott Kutner will show his entertaining motion pictures, "Birds in Your Backyard". This will be a program children can appreciate and enjoy, so you are encouraged to bring them.

On January 11th, we will show the film, "The American Bald Eagle", one of the now well-known film series of the National Audubon Society. It promises to be both enjoyable and worthwhile.



News of Pollution, Re-Cycling, and Such:

Herring Gulls and Pollution: Everyone has seen that there are more and more gulls around. They are in such numbers at Jamaica Bay that the Skimmers were crowded out. Now, Richard Anderson, Acting Director of the Maine Audubon Society, has equated them with pollution. Gulls are scavengers and as long as we have open garbage dumps (and New York City dumps its garbage within Gull reach at sea) we are creating a continuing and plentiful supply of food for Gulls. So we have more Gulls, a pollution gauge?

Check with your community. Where does your garbage go?

Paper, Bottles, Cans: The official Town of Hempstead collection places are:

6000 Merrick Road
Merrick (At Meadowbrook Parkway)

Oceanside Sanitation
End of Mott Street, Oceanside



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How About Testing Your Bird Knowledge?

Can you match the following antonyms?

- Slow -----Heron
- Regurgitate-----Dove
- Whisper-----Swift
- Damen (Cer.)-----Owl
- Hawk-----Swallow

And these synonyms?

- Be Seated! -----Lark
- Lookout!-----Merlin
- Spree-----Avocet
- Magician-----Duck

(Contributed by Lawrence J. Wolitz)

BIG TREES, ANYONE?

A search is on for New York's big trees.

If you've ever wondered if that huge tree in the backyard or out in the back forty is the largest of its kind in New York State, you'll soon be able to find out.

Environmental Conservation Commissioner Henry L. Diamond said, "With the Big Trees Project we hope to not only learn where the biggest trees in New York State are located, but also to draw attention to the important part trees play in providing a wholesome environment."

Commissioner Diamond, noting that the project is being sponsored by the State and District Forest Practice Boards in cooperation with the Department of Environmental Conservation, said "To compile a directory of Big Trees, as complete and accurate as possible, will require the cooperation of many people, particularly the owner of the tree." Commissioner Diamond added, "If you have a tree on your property or know of one that is exceptionally large in height or girth, contact your nearest regional office. A Department forester will be out to measure it."

The last Big Tree census was taken in 1941. Since then the Department has received many inquiries from the public relative to record-sized trees.

NUCLEAR BOMB TEST: On October 16, on Amchitka Island in Alaska, there will be a 5-megaton nuclear blast test. This explosion, 250 times larger than Hiroshima, can cause grave environmental consequences too hazardous for speculative experiment. Dangers feared are:

- 1- Radio-Active Poisoning through accidental leakage of nuclear material.
- 2- Active earthquake zone is straddled by Amchitka Island, where the world's largest blast could trigger major quake and tidal waves.
- 3- Efforts toward an integrity in Nuclear Agreements in U.S. and Soviet Relations could be further weakened.
- 4- Many qualified critics believe this test is not necessary for defense.
- 5- Amchitka Island, a National Wildlife Refuge since 1913, became a Sea Otter Sanctuary in 1936. 4,000 Sea Otters now live in waters around the 43-mile island. The Atomic Energy Commission estimates "only" 10-15% loss will occur from blast - random deaths from overpressures generated underwater. Other factors not reported, which could contribute to Otter loss, are the presence near blast site of two all-male herds, damage or destruction of which could seriously affect future population. An accumulative contaminated food cycle could have a grave effect on Sea Otters. Amchitka National Wildlife Refuge has 44 species of birds; 55 pairs of Bald Eagles, with nests; 19 pairs of Peregrine Falcons, with nests.

If we all agree that this blast should not be discharged, could we not do something collective (and/or) individually, such as telegraphing the President (time is too short for letters)? Letters and telegrams should be addressed to: The Hon. Richard S. Nixon, President, The White House, Washington, D. C. Request that the Amchitka blast be rejected. Be brief, but positive. Laurie Maas

BIRDS AND BIRDING:

Last month we listed the bird walks scheduled for fall (we hope you have kept it) -- so, what else? Yes - it is again time to think of winter feeding for the birds. If the birds are to stay around and, perhaps, even survive the increasing shortage of food until spring (in an increasingly built-up area), they need supplements to what nature provides. But remember! Don't start if you don't intend to carry on until spring (April, or later). It is probably true that feeding is not as important as it was before the days when not so many people engaged in this pleasant pastime. The birds probably have learned to "make the rounds" of the many feeders available. Still, birds are creatures of habit and quickly learn to depend on the source of food supply. Water (and sand) is not as often thought of, but it is equally as important as food, especially in dry spells. Thermostatically controlled heaters will keep your water wet in freezing weather.

Is everyone aware that Oceanside has a village feeding station - to the best of your editor's knowledge, provided by the merchants and supplied by one of them?

Crabgrass and such: "Three widespread and abundant species of crabgrass are outstandingly useful to songbirds and upland game birds. The seeds provide a considerable part of their food. The same is true of the lowly dandelion. So, relax, gardeners, your weedy lawn is ecologically sound." This comforting bit of information comes to from a recent Newsletter of the Moriches Bay Audubon Society, by way of the "Long Island Gardener", a publication of the Federated Garden Clubs of New York State.

If I Were A Bird
 A poem by Thea Wolitz, age 8

If I were a bird I would be a Blue Jay
 I would fly and be free
 I would stay free all my life
 I would fly all over the world
 I would be high and free
 My color would be blue and white
 I would surprise my father
 because he is a bird watcher
 and he loves birds
 And I would have a yellow beak

But I am happy I am not a bird
 I would not have all the wonderful things
 happen to me
 I do not wish to be a bird after all.

American attitudes have changed: Connecticut Light and Power Co. is an example. Last April a pair of ospreys built their nest on a pole near Mystic, Connecticut, which carries a 33,000-volt power line. Clearly they were in imminent danger of electrocuting themselves and short-circuiting the power system at the same time.

A decade ago a company lineman would have seen the birds and destroyed their nest without a second thought. This time, however, they set up a new pole - at some trouble and expense - a few feet away from the original one. Then, they carefully dismantled the nest and put some of its twigs on the cross-arms of the new pole. Within a few hours, the ospreys had got the idea and started rebuilding their nest at the new site.

So maybe the company was merely following the advice of its Public Relations people who don't want any hassle with the local birdwatchers and conservationists. Until recently, they have had no reason to worry about that kind of trouble.

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