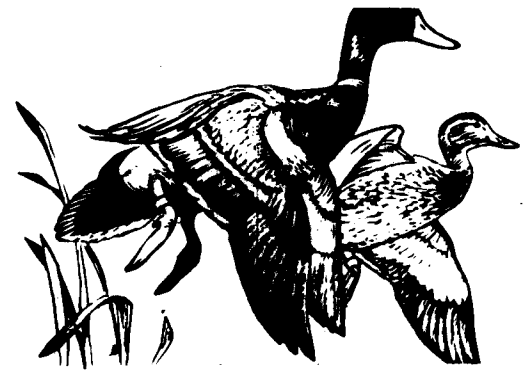


SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

Newsletter



VOLUME 5, No. 8

APRIL 1975

- NEXT MEETING -

Our next meeting will be April 8th and will feature a subject new to us - MR. RODNEY DOW, a professor at the State University of New York at Farmingdale will speak on THE INTERPRETATION OF BIRD SONGS AND CALLS. This will be a "must" for those who have always wanted to know what the 'birds' are saying. Have you ever talked to the trees and never been answered? Now maybe you can talk to the birds, and be answered! At the Freeport Library at the usual 8:15 P.M.

A Board meeting will be held on April 1.

◁ ————— COMING EVENTS ————— ▷

ARTS, CRAFTS, AND HOBBY SHOW: We have the place: Calvary Temple
Assembly of God, Joy Blvd., Baldwin

We have the day: Sunday, May 18, 1 to 5 P.M.

What we don't have are enough exhibitors - Mr. Fazio, how about more of that beautiful stonework; Betsy Gulotta, what about more stuffed birds (and we don't mean turkey!) and Evelyn Sniffin - more pots? All the people who exhibited last year - please come back. And let's have some new ones.
CALL: Marge and Jack Fischer, RO.4-6529.

FIELD TRIPS - Education Committee: Saturdays, 10:00 A.M.

April 26 - Plants of the Marsh - J.F. Kennedy Sanctuary, Tobay Beach
May 17 - Woodland Plants of Long Island - Muttontown Preserve, near
route #107 and #25A, Muttontown

THEODORE ROOSEVELT SANCTUARY: - Sundays, 1:30 P.M. - at the Sanctuary
April 13 - Natural Methods of Gardening, Landscaping, and Pest Control
(This is a change from last month's Newsletter)

May 11 - Nature Photography.

WILDLIFE FILM - April 10th, at the Town Hall Auditorium, Hempstead. This is the 5th and last film of the series. Clin Sewall Pettingill will give the illustrated lecture on "Sea Ice and Fire" and is a pictorial account of sea, glacial ice and volcanic fire. According to Alvin Friedman, it promises to be the best of the series. Don't Miss It!

TAC - THE ATLANTIC COALITION: Thursday, April 17th - 8:00 P.M.
This will be the April meeting and the speaker will be Thomas Donedan of Union Carbide who will speak on the "Purox Process." Hofstra University Law School, Room #238.

- PRESIDENT'S PAGE -

Many people, both Audubon and non-Audubon members, have been asking since Audubon is a birding organization, what are you doing about the mass slaughter of starlings and blackbirds in Kentucky? Among birding people this has been a major controversy. Even among members of our own chapter, I have heard strong arguments against the killing and strong arguments supporting the killing. Those against the killing say, "Even starlings have a right to live. It's not their fault that they were imported from Europe." while those for the killing say, "In such numbers the birds are a health menace and anyway starlings are not native and they are crowding our many native, more beautiful birds."

Recently, the National Audubon Society, being caught in the middle and strangely quiet on the whole issue, sent an official statement to all Audubon Chapter Presidents so that they may spread the statement to the members. So, to set the record straight I would like to present you with the official position of National Audubon in regards to the mass slaying of birds that occurred last month. It reads:

"Although we deplored the recent slaughter of blackbirds by the U.S. Army at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, we reluctantly decided not to oppose it. We withheld objection because our scientists believe the Fort Campbell roost was a highly exceptional case which involved a genuine threat to human health and safety. And the "wetting agent" method that was used is, in our judgment, less damaging to other birds and animals and the environment than any other feasible technique now available.

"Don't misunderstand our position. Fort Campbell was an exception and an emergency. We continue to believe there are better ways to handle wildlife problems when -- and if -- such problems actually exist.

"Fort Campbell is a good case in point. It never should have happened. The roost developed there because the Army set out 15,000 acres of pine trees in what is normally a hardwood area, and provided a roost-site that attracted the blackbirds. As the long-run solution we have urged the Army to thin those pines.

"But meanwhile the giant roost, numbering up to 5 million starlings, grackles, cowbirds, and red-winged blackbirds, had become a threat to human health because it was located close to a military housing area, and a safety hazard to two nearby airports, one military and one civilian, because the huge flocks flying across the runways might have interfered with aircraft during landing or take-off and caused a crash.

"But in the case of most large blackbird roosts no such threats exist. We strenuously objected this winter, for example, to the Army's plans for killing blackbirds at another base, at Milan, Tennessee. And we completely reject the argument that blackbirds must be controlled to protect agriculture; there are other ways to reduce the farmers' losses, and with proper research more and better measures may be developed.

"National Audubon proposes to encourage or sponsor research into the ecology of large winter concentrations of starlings and blackbirds. The purpose will be to discover the environmental factors that determine the concentrations of the big roosts.

3/6/75"

Mike Smiles, President

AN ANNUAL NIGHTMARE?

Following are excerpts of Congressman William S. Broomfield's Remarks for The Congressional Record, February 24, 1975.

"Mr. Speaker, the sight of the United States Army waging allout war on millions of blackbirds last week would have been almost comical were it not so cruelly inhumane.

Disregarding advice from wildlife and environmental authorities, as well as Interior Department and Environmental Protection Agency officials, the Army has gone ahead with its plans to systematically destroy the blackbird population around Ft. Campbell. Last week's kill amounted to over half a million birds and further assaults on the survivors are planned.

It is incomprehensible that a civilized nation could resort to such brutal tactics to deal with an environmental problem. The Army's plan of spraying the birds with a chemical that dissolves the protective oils in their feathers causes a painful suffering that can last for days before death occurs. Stripped of their protective coating, the birds die an agonizing death from exposure. During last week's attack, the pathetic cries of the birds were heard throughout the night as they huddled together seeking warmth.

"Aside from the inhumane nature of this program, massive depletion of the blackbird population can have serious effects on the overall ecological balance. Vast increases in insect and rodent populations will result, and the environmental impact of such increases could be extremely adverse. The Environmental Protection Agency stated in a comment on the proposed killing that sizeable reduction of the blackbird population 'could have a significant effect on the success of commercial crops in states to which the birds migrate and could require compensating increases in the use of insecticides.'

"Mr. Speaker, I applaud the efforts of wildlife and environmental groups to block this mindless slaughter, and join them in urging the Defense Department to reconsider its position. The Department has adopted a disgraceful short-term program without the least consideration to long-term implications. Scientists assure us the blackbirds will return to the area as long as their present roosts exist, so killing the birds this year will not solve the problem for the future. That raises the disgusting prospect of a yearly blackbird kill by the Army unless other methods of control are utilized.

Considering there are only two weeks remaining before the birds' spring migration, the logical and humane solution is to wait until then and begin the process of thinning the roosts, or removing them entirely, to prevent the return of the birds next year. Yet the Army indicates it plans to kill as many birds as possible before migration begins.

It has been said that a people's attitude toward the animals with which it shares the world is one significant measure of the people's civilization. By that standard, the needlessly cruel and inhumane action of the Army last week has brought shame to our entire civilization. I only hope that Secretary Schlesinger and Army officials will act to return a degree of dignity to the civilization by ordering a cessation of the senseless destruction of blackbirds."

If you share Representative Broomfield's aversion, write

Honorable James R Schlesinger, Secretary of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C., 20301,

begging him to put an immediate stop to this mass cruelty. And, write

Honorable Rogers C.B Morton, Secretary of the Interior
Washington, D.C., 20240

urging him to deny all future requests for permits to use Tergitol, and to cancel any outstanding permits.

Al. Lemke

- BIRDS - BIRDING - FIELD TRIPS -

FIELD TRIPS: - As usual, bird walks start at 10:00 A.M. unless otherwise stated, and there is no walk if it rains, snows, or the temperature is 25 degrees or below.

- APRIL - 6 - Zach's Bay, Parking Field #4, N.E. corner.
13 - Jamaica Bay
20 - Tobay - J.F. Kennedy Sanctuary
27 - Tobay - J.F. Kennedy Sanctuary
- MAY - 4 - West End Parking Field #2, N.W. Corner - Jones Beach
11 - Jamaica Bay

JUNE - And don't forget to call Elliott Kutner if you are interested in a Pelagic boat trip during this month.

Elliott Kutner, Chairman, Birding
Tel. IV.6-7667

And is it nice to get letters like this?

"To The South Shore Audubon Society:

Dear Friends:

It has been a great pleasure to me to receive copies of the South Shore Audubon Society Newsletter and this letter is sent to thank you. I have been a member for some sixty years and only wish I might be able to attend your very interesting and informative meetings, but advancing years preclude my attendance at evening meetings.

Besides thanking you for your Newsletter, I thought you might be interested in knowing some of the birds that visit our backyard in Garden City, and partake of the food in the feeders and the suet cakes that hang from an evergreen branch hung on the garage door where we can watch our feathered visitors. The black-capped chickadee has been one of our favorites and a constant visitor for many years, as have been the brown thrasher, the catbird, cardinals, white-throated and the fox sparrows, red-winged blackbirds, blue jay, towhee, doves, downy woodpecker, a flock of evening grosbeak on New Year's afternoon, purple finches, flickers, purple grackles, juncos, meadowlarks, a pair of mocking birds, red-breasted nuthatch, and also white-breasted nuthatch, phoebe, song sparrows, downy woodpecker, ruby-throated humming bird, wood thrush.

The check enclosed is to help pay the expense of my copy of your Newsletter.

With best wishes always, "

Fern Stieg

AND, we are still looking for a new editor for the Newsletter - to take over after the June issue; namely, September, which must be done in August.

- C O N S E R V A T I O N -

OFF-SHORE OIL DRILLING UPDATE:- I wish to thank those people who attended the off-shore oil drilling hearings held by the Interior Department in Trenton, N. J. in February; South Shore members Mary May, Janet Dietrich, Marion Kaplan and my special thanks to our two drivers, Education Chairman, Linda Schlotterhausen, and my dad, Leo Rogo. Ms. Nancy Manfredonia, a member of Great South Bay Audubon and Citizens for a Clean Environment, also made the trip with us and delivered a very eloquent speech on the hazards of offshore oil drilling. As we were scheduled to speak on the last afternoon of the hearings, not many people were in attendance. Mr. Kenneth Butterfield, Supv. of Huntington, stated that the hearings were a "mockery" and expressed my feelings when he said the decision to go ahead with the oil leasing and drilling had already been made regardless of the environmental consequences. He also described several "minor" oilspills which have already occurred in his area. Ms. Claire Stern, Director, Long Island Environmental Council, spoke, as I did, of the many hazards of off-shore oil drilling on our beaches, fish and wildlife. Mr. Charles Callison, Executive Vice-President of National Audubon, spoke on Feb. 13 and voiced strong objections "because it (off-shore drilling) will mislead the public into thinking the government is doing something to solve the energy problem, when in fact government has not even formulated a realistic energy policy or implemented obvious and practical methods of conserving energy." He urged that that the U.S. Geological Survey or other appropriate agency do exploratory drilling to find out where the oil is located and that it be accompanied by an "adequate" environmental impact statement.

Meanwhile, Secretary of Interior Morton withdrew his call for tract nominations for Atlantic oil drilling because of a legal agreement which barred any go-ahead on leasing pending the outcome of a suit now before the Supreme Court. The suit was filed by 12 coastal states contesting federal ownership of the oil and gas off their coastlines as per Colonial charter.

Senator Ernest Hollings (S.C.) and 14 other coastal state senators have introduced a bil, #S-426, which would put a temporary moratorium on leasing of outer continental shelf oil in "frontier" areas, namely, Georges Bank (New England), Baltimore Canyon (Mid-Atlantic), the Blake Plateau and Florida Embayment (Southeast), and the areas off So. Calif. and the Gulf of Alaska. Leasing would be postponed in these regions until the Federal government conducts an exploratory program to determine the extent and location of gas and oil deposits. This would give Congress the right to veto leasing in the new areas and also allow the coastal States to play a greater role in decision making. Please write your Congressman asking him to support this bill.

On March 8, Royston C. Hughes, Asst. Interior Secretary, stated that the Dept. "publicly admits that the (offshore drilling) program as it operated in the Gulf of Mexico has to change in order to meet the concerns of the Atlantic coastal governors." However, States will not be allowed to "veto" any drilling near their coastlines and the Interior Dept. opposes having the Federal government conduct exploratory drilling. Hughes said that a study to share revenues from off-shore leasing with State governments is about half finished. (This would eventually require Congressional approval.) He also stated that Interior officials do not believe that domestic supplies will be used up until well into the next century and that offshore oil resources should be developed NOW. By the sound of it, the decision was made a long time ago. The only thing we
continued

Conservation - cont.

can do now is to lean and LEAN HARD on our public officials and Congress, voicing our strong opposition to Interior's disastrous decision.

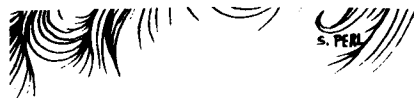
OIL-SPILL REPORT: The U.S.Coast Guard in a report issued semi-annually on oil spills off L.I. said that from January to June last year 6,578 gallons were spilled into waterways in 42 incidents. During the last half of 1974, the spillage amounted to 6,399 gallons in 45 spills. In the second half of 1973, about 47,000 gallons were spilled due to several large tanker accidents.

AERIAL SHOOTING OF WOLVES: The Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game plans to 50% to 80% of the wolves in a large area south of Fairbanks by shooting them from the air. Officials say the moose population is depleted and needs to recover. A temporary court injunction is preventing the Dept. from going ahead with the project. The Alaska Conservation Society questions whether the moose population is really lower than it should be and says that pending further study the Fish and Game Dept. should close the area to all hunting rather than the "extreme measure" of aerial shooting of the wolves. Please voice your concern by writing: Gov. Jay Hammond, State Capitol, Juneau, Alaska, #99801.

STRIP-MINING: The House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs gave nearly 3 to 1 approval of a new strip-mine regulatory measure that is slightly tougher than one vetoed by President Ford as too restrictive two months ago. A new veto test is likely. Spokesmen for the Administration asked for several softening amendments. They were nearly all rejected. If this legislation becomes law, it could have a major impact on Ford's energy strategy, which is to develop huge new strip mines in the rich untapped coal reserves of the Plains and Southwestern States. The accelerating trend toward strip-mining could be halted or modernized. Some of the new measure's provisions are specifically designed to encourage deep mining rather than strip-mining.

Pat Davis
Chairman, Conservation

Since the above report was written, the Supreme Court has ruled against the 12 Coastal States re ownership of off-shore oil and gas. (see Para.2). However, Caso and Klein plan to pursue legal action further from another angle. Pat.Davis



Vanishing Joy

Would you kill Flipper for a tunafish sandwich?

As usual, greed is the culprit.


To make a few extra dollars many tuna fishing fleets are now using nets that trap porpoises (dolphins) along with tuna and drown them. Some untrapped porpoises die trying to help others escape.

But there is something you can do. You can write to the President and demand that the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 be enforced.

And you can hit them where it hurts. In their tuna fish sales. You can stop buying and eating tuna fish.

You can make killing porpoises cost more than it nets.

A boycott speaks louder than words.



Send us the unused portion of your tunafish money and we'll send you a button of the porpoise you're saving. If you can spare \$10 we'll send you a beautiful poster.

Name _____

Street _____

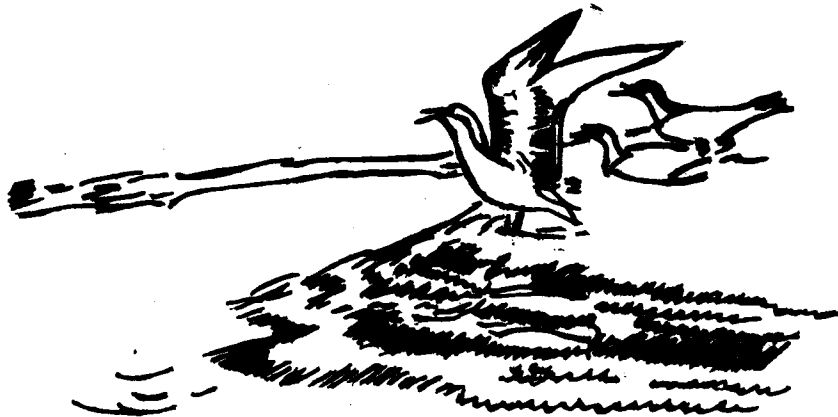
City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Make tax-deductible checks payable to:

FRIENDS OF ANIMALS
 11 West 60th Street, New York, N.Y. 10023,
 Att: Alice Herrington

-- NEXT MEETING --
-- Tuesday, April 8th --
-- Freeport Library --
-- 8:15 P.M. --



-- SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY --

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