

SOUTH SHORE SKIMMER

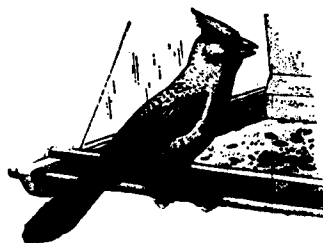


SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

VOL. 6, NO. 1

SEPTEMBER 1975

MEETING: Tuesday, September 9, 1975
TIME: 8:15 P.M.
PLACE: Freeport Library
PROGRAM: "Birds of Long Island"

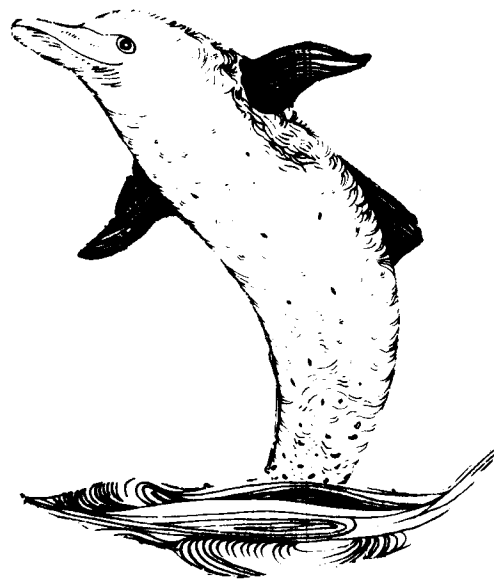


Al Lemke and Bruce Phillips will show their color slides of birds seen at the backyard feeder and around Long Island. I know you will find their program both enjoyable and interesting so please mark the date on your calendar -- TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 1975 at 8:15 P.M., FREEPORT LIBRARY. See you there!

Board Meeting this month will be held on September 2nd.

PORPOISE MORTALITY DANGEROUSLY HIGH!

In our April 1975 Newsletter, we alerted you to the "incidental taking" of porpoises by tuna fishing fleets who use nets that trap porpoises (dolphins) along with the tuna and drown them. Some untrapped porpoises die trying to help the others escape. The Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 directed the tuna industry to reduce porpoise killing to levels close to zero. In an update on the April report, the tuna industry working with the Government, has reduced the annual mortality by using improved fishing gear and procedures. However, the annual porpoise kill remains high and porpoise populations are declining. WHAT YOU CAN DO: Write Robert Schoning, Director, National Marine Fisheries Service, 3300 Whitehaven Parkway, Washington, D.C. 20240. Urge him to adopt stiffer regulations which would put a limit on the annual permissible porpoise take, and keep boycotting tuna until the matter is satisfactorily resolved.



► PRESIDENT'S PAGE ◀

After another summer hiatus and hoping you all had a very enjoyable summer, I would like to welcome everyone back to another season of full activities with South Shore Audubon. As you read elsewhere our first program of the season begins on September 9, the second Tuesday of the month, as will all programs of the upcoming year. So leave that day free and plan to join us throughout the year. Hopefully, you will find the programs both interesting and educational. Also, our regular Sunday birdwalks are in full swing again. That schedule may also be found elsewhere in this newsletter. Many other special events are being scheduled and I do hope you will all take full advantage of them.

Actually beyond the superficial appearance, things do not completely stop during the summer months for South Shore Audubon. Programs must be organized, a budget must be set up, and letters must still be written on pressing environmental matters. Indeed, there are two items that have developed this summer which I would like to bring to your special attention.

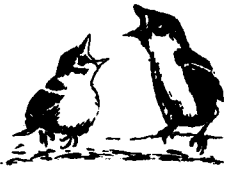
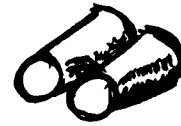
I have been in contact with a new member, Mr. Kenneth Smelcer, who would like to set up a bird "hospital" on the South Shore of L.I. He has been taking care of sick and injured birds quietly on his own for several years and has now invited any members who find injured birds to call him at 799-7208. Ken will be happy to give advice over the phone or take the bird in if you bring it to his home in Massapequa. I'd like to thank Ken for volunteering for this task, since I get many calls on this problem, which I cannot answer with great satisfaction.

The second item I wish to bring up concerns the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary in Oyster Bay. You will notice attached to this month's newsletter is a progress report for the T.R. Sanctuary. South Shore is a participating member along with three other L.I. Chapters. The Sanctuary has been very active this summer running educational programs, but behind the scenes is running into many financial difficulties. Help is desperately needed for many necessary grounds improvements for which the Sanctuary cannot afford to pay money. In an attempt to get more chapter involvement and have you get better acquainted with the Sanctuary, Saturday and Sunday work parties are being organized to get some of this needed outdoor work done. These chores include trail improvement, elimination of Norway maple seedlings, seed planting, English Ivy pulling, outdoor bench building, cedar tree transplanting, brush piling, etc. As an incentive for helping, the Sanctuary is offering volunteers firewood or all the English Ivy you want. We expect to be working every weekend that weather permits.

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer for this project, call the warden, Mr. Alan Ruppert (922-3200) or Asa Starkweather (LY 9-5824) who has agreed to coordinate volunteers from our chapter.



Mike Smiles, President

BIRD WALKS 1975-76

FIELD TRIPS: The new starting time for all bird walks is 9:30 A.M.
There is no walk if it rains, snows, or the temperature is 25 degrees or below.

- SEPT. 14 - Zach's Bay, Jones Beach, Parking Field #4, N.E. corner.
21 - Tobay - J.F.K. Sanctuary
28 - Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- OCT. 5 - West End, Parking Field #2, N.W. corner.
12 - Tobay - J.F.K. Sanctuary
19 - Short Beach - West End, Parking Field #2, N.E. corner.
26 - Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- NOV. 2 - Zach's Bay - Parking Field #4, N.E. corner.
9 - West End, Parking Field #2, N.E. corner.
16 - Tobay - J.F.K. Sanctuary
23 - West End Parking Field #2, N.W. corner.
30 - Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- DEC. 7 - Pelham Bay - Meet at Throg's Neck Toll Plaza at 9:00 A.M.
14 - West End Parking Field #2, N.E. corner.
21 - Zach's Bay Parking Field #4, N.E. corner.
28 - Tobay - J.F.K. Sanctuary
- JAN. 4 - Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
11 - West End #2, N.W. corner.
18 - Parking Field #4, N.E. corner.
25 - Pelham Bay - Meet at Throg's Neck Toll Plaza at 9:00 A.M.

Dear Friends:

As many of you know, this is my first issue as your new editor. Since I would like to make our newsletter more interesting and enjoyable as the months go by, I would appreciate your sending me any suggestions you may have. Also, mail any articles or items you feel would be of interest to our readers to me and I will print them, space permitting.

I would also like to give special thanks to Marge Fisher who did such a beautiful job on the drawing of the Skimmer for our new masthead. You did a great job, Marge. Marge also did this drawing of a Kingfisher. Hope to see you all Sept. 9. I also hope you enjoy reading the new "Skimmer" as much as I enjoyed putting it together.

Pat Davis, Editor

Oct. news deadline Sep.10





CONSERVATION NEWS

STRIP-MINING: For the second time Congress failed to override a presidential veto of the strip-mining bill. President Ford vetoed the bill on the grounds that it was inflationary. The House fell three votes short of achieving the two-thirds majority needed to pass the bill into law over the veto. Since the bill had passed through Congress by such a large majority (3 to 1), environmental groups had believed the veto would not stand. Sponsors of the bill have promised to reintroduce it at a later date. Meanwhile, they will attempt to attach variations of the bill to other pieces of legislation. No major action has been taken on this important issue. It would be in your best interest to let your representative know where you stand. L.I. Congressmen Lent and Wydler originally voted yes for the bill, as did all other L.I. Congressmen, but later switched to uphold the veto.

BOTTLES: Both the New York and Connecticut legislatures disappointingly failed to pass bottle laws this summer. Laws of this type have only passed in three states, although similar bills have been introduced in forty-two states. New York's bill would have required the beverage industry to use returnable bottles instead of the non-returnable containers now in use. Aside from lowering solid waste levels, such laws would create jobs, cut litter, lower the cost of beverage products, and most importantly save thousands of barrels of oil daily. Nassau County has long stood behind the passage of such a law. All environmentalists should back them in their efforts.

RIGHT TO SUE: A state bill on the right of environmental citizen suits has run into trouble. Unibill S 3618, A4553 was voted down in the State Senate by a twelve-vote margin. This bill would allow the public to sue in protecting the environment and allow public intervention in administrative proceedings where damage to the environment is threatened.

SST: The door may have been opened a little bit wider for the SST. The House was unable to pass a bill which would have prevented the use of federal funds by air controllers for the operation of civil supersonic aircraft. The British-French made Concord is being attacked by environmental groups for its detrimental impact on the environment. The potential noise pollution problem may be minor compared to the long-term damage the SST could have on the fragile ozone layer of the atmosphere. SSTs are mass producers of nitric oxide which at high altitudes destroys ozone by catalytic action. Representative Wolfe intends to introduce a bill banning SST's later this year.

EXOTIC WILDLIFE: Pressure from the pet trade industry is being applied through Congressman Leggett to the Lowery Act. The industry is attempting to soften newly proposed regulations that will govern the importation of alien animal species to the U.S. A letter to your Congressman may keep Congress firm on proposed regulations.

Paul Butkereiit, Conservation

The following is an article sent to me by one of our members, Mr. Stanley Ziminski of Massapequa. I know you'll enjoy reading it as much as I did-Editor.

We Had a Baby at Our House

I don't know how long the mother was living in the neighborhood before I got to know her. One Sunday three years ago I discovered she had moved in with my wife, myself, my two dogs and several other animals. After hearing a loud noise in the fireplace, I opened the damper a bit and was surprised to see some gray hair moving around.

"Some dumb squirrel must have fallen down the chimney!" I exclaimed to my wife, Adele. As much as I like squirrels, I am sure that some are dumber than others. I was equally sure that one of the dumb ones was now in my fireplace flue and would probably die there unless I could get him out.

I then lowered a piece of coarse rope down the chimney. I figured that if he had any brains at all he would grab it and climb right out.

I decided to take another look with my flashlight before going up onto the roof. I was hoping that it might be a flying squirrel and would soar up the chimney like Superman! As I shined the light into the flue, I realized the hair was too long to belong to a squirrel. I now decided that it was a raccoon!

As I looked into the chimney, I saw the cutest masked face staring back at me. I am sure that she was as startled as I was when we came face to face. But I was relieved to know that she was able to climb out by herself. I backed away and waited. Eventually she came out and ran across the roof to the hemlock tree alongside the house. She climbed down and disappeared into the neighborhood. But she must have liked it in the flue because she decided this was to be her new home.

I tied an aluminum dish to the hemlock branches and every night we filled it with food for her. Apparently she grew up in our well-developed community - we have no corn fields or orchards - and didn't know that raccoons are crazy about corn; she wouldn't eat corn or apples. We gave her scraps from dinner which included bones from chops, roasts and chicken. She seemed especially fond of chicken. Adele is continually feeding me chicken so that we'll have plenty of leftovers for the raccoon. In fact, I eat so much chicken Adele swears she hears me cackling instead of snoring in my sleep.

Occasionally, I would climb up to the roof and shine a flashlight down the chimney to look at her. I was astonished one night to see two masked faces looking back at me. She had attracted a mate and soon there were five raccoons on our roof. I don't know where she bore them; but I know it wasn't in my flue. The gestation period is 63-66 days. After mating, the male leaves to find another female.

Several weeks later, mother and babies disappeared. Today (Aug.7) Adele said she saw one feeding at the dish and heard it on the roof. Maybe Mother has come home. Maybe the young ones are now on their own. Maybe they will find another fireplace flue for a home. And maybe later tonight, I'll go onto the roof to see who I can see.



Stanley Ziminski

--NEXT MEETING--
TUES., SEPT. 9TH
8:15 P.M.
FREEPORT LIBRARY

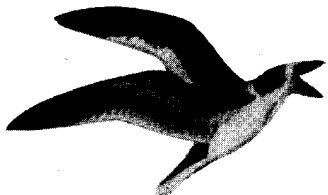


--SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY--

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SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 31
FREEPORT, N.Y. 11520



FIRST CLASS MAIL

— THEODORE ROOSEVELT SANCTUARY —
Box 5, Oyster Bay, Long Island, New York 11771
(516) 922-3200

Progress Report

June 1975

The first warm breezes of spring started the leaves unfolding and the birds returning to a most hospitable welcome in a rejuvenated Sanctuary. It was a little over a year ago that Alan Ruppert was chosen by the new Board of Management as

Director, to carry forward the pioneering effort initiated by Dr. Eugene Swope and continued so conscientiously by James Callaghan from 1938 until his recent retirement.

— MANY VOLUNTEERS —

In the past year, since giving up their school teaching out "East," Alan and his charming wife Estelle have been at the center of bustling activity guiding an increasing number of people helping to improve the Sanctuary in all its facets. Enthusiastic volunteers have come from local Audubon chapters, garden clubs, schools, scouts, 4-H clubs, local civic and business organizations and a few interested households in the community. Much has been accomplished: increased diversity of wildlife habitat, refurbishment of buildings, and above all, educational programs.

the eternal beauty of youth) have been made more attractive by volunteers from the Three Harbors Garden Club and the North Country Garden Club who clipped back the overgrown shrubs and pulled out unwanted seedlings. They are assisting in planning many more improvements in the planting for enjoyment of both wildlife and the public. The entrance gates have been open almost every day during the past year (from 9 to 5), but we have persuaded the energetic and dedicated Rupperts that they should have some time to themselves, and from now on the Sanctuary will be closed to the general public on Tuesdays. The Sanctuary trails could also stand a day of rest.

The Sanctuary entrance and the approach to the "Roosevelt Memorial Fountain" (with its graceful statue symbolizing

— PROGRAMS FOR THE PUBLIC and TEACHERS' WORKSHOPS —

Local Audubon chapter members have devoted long hours to reworking the educational exhibits in the main Learning Center building, helping to identify trees and plants, assisting the Director in planning the oversubscribed summer workshops for teachers, and the popular Sunday afternoon programs for the public. These last have included Autumn Woods Walks, Winter Search Parties, demonstrations of bird-banding

and care of injured birds, lectures on Nature Photography, Tree and Wildflower identification, Hardy Shrubs Attractive to Birds in the Home Garden, etc.

The community has also been assisted in the formation of a Waterfowl Rescue Team to help birds caught in accidental oil spills. Over 200 volunteers have come from many miles around for training sessions.

— MORE PEOPLE VISITING —

Visits to the Sanctuary have been increasing as word of its many attractions has spread. Starting in a small way a year

ago, the number of individuals, including school groups, has grown to as many as 400 in a single week.

— TEACHING CENTER ACTIVITIES FOR YOUTH —

Our Environmental and Nature EDUCATION Programs for pre-schoolers, youth, and adults are the programs getting most of our attention. School groups have come from as far away as Massapequa, Greenlawn, Plainview, and Westbury, as well as from Oyster Bay, and include students from nursery classes, public, private, and parochial schools, and Abilities, Inc. Scout groups have come from Northport, Sea Cliff, Westbury and East Norwich, too. A visiting class has a choice of participating in any one of five programs developed specifically for the elementary grades, or they may request a program to fit their own studies. These are not just "walks in the woods." Each child is involved in doing and learning through

all his senses, and follow-up work in the classroom is available to reinforce concepts experienced at the scene.

The reports we have received from parents who have observed the Rupperts' inspiring work with children of all ages are most gratifying. They not only make good use of the Sanctuary property as a TEACHING CENTER, but also as a base for trips to nearby salt water marsh, field, stream, pond and shoreline ecosystems. A special work-study program conducted with Holy Trinity High School has benefitted the Sanctuary as well as the students: attractive trail signs, maps, and other displays were created by the students for use at strategic spots about the grounds.

— THE FUTURE IS NOW —

We believe development in youth of a sympathetic understanding and appreciation of nature and its importance to their health and well-being is more necessary today than ever before. We are trying to reach as many children as our limited resources will allow. Summer 1975 will see three special one-week programs. Please see the separate brochure, or call the Sanctuary for details.

The way to reach greater numbers of students, with a rippling effect, is to work with their teachers. Two very successful Teachers' Workshops were conducted last summer and more are scheduled this year. Practical skills and techniques in field interpretation and the development of environmental curriculum are emphasized. Participating teachers may arrange for "in-service credit."

— HELP IS NEEDED —

In order for the Sanctuary to survive and for these programs to continue and to grow, we must build a sound financial base. Our first priority was to develop and demonstrate a worthwhile program, a program deserving widespread support. We believe we have succeeded, and we hope that, having read

this PROGRESS REPORT, you agree. Now, progress is needed in fund-raising, to maintain this momentum: to make the Sanctuary even more useful to birds and to people; and to conduct our vital Teaching Center Programs.