

# SOUTH SHORE SKIMMER



SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

VOL. 6, NO. 6

FEBRUARY 1976

## AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION NIGHT

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH

8:15 P.M., FREEPORT LIBRARY

Our February meeting will be an Audience Participation Night. Some of our members have volunteered their slides for the evening. Members will show five to ten of their favorite slides - anything from general scenes to closeups of birds, plants, rocks, etc. These slides may be sequential shots on one subject or completely unrelated to each other. If you plan to bring slides the night of the program, please contact our Program Chairperson, Clara Thrush, telephone #796-6169.

Please let's make Audience Participation Night a big success. It depends on YCU!

## SCHOLARSHIP OFFER

At our January meeting, President Mike Smiles showed beautiful color slides of the Audubon Workshop on Hog Island in Maine. The magnificent Maine woods, the interesting and enjoyable classes in birding, horticulture, marine biology, etc. plus the boating trips, would make the workshop a rewarding experience for anyone interested in the outdoors. As you know, SAS is offering a full-tuition scholarship to the Audubon Workshop in Maine. The workshop is for a two-week period beginning Sun., July 11 and ending Fri., July 23, 1976. This scholarship is open to all members and non-members of Audubon; the only requirement being an interest in the outdoors. The minimum age is 18 at the time of the workshop. If you would like to be considered for this scholarship or receive a brochure, please write: Scholarship Committee, South Shore Audubon Society, P.O. Box 31, Freeport, N.Y. 11520. In your letter please explain how this workshop experience would help you spread the environmental cause. The recipient of this scholarship will be chosen sometime in March.



PRESIDENT'S PAGE

I am asking for your help in this month's newsletter. Below you will find a survey concerning our newsletter which I do hope you will take a minute to complete.

With the increase in postage last month the annual budget for our newsletter is approximately 65% of our total annual budget for South Shore Audubon. This is a large part of any budget which, of course, does prohibit us from expanding our operations into other areas which also cost money. Other Audubon chapters, faced with this same dilemma, have either gone to a bimonthly or even quarterly newsletter and/or gone to a third-class mailing.

Your Board, while wishing to cut costs but yet wanting to maintain programs and events, feels the newsletter is an important part of our organization and has varied feelings about how to save money with the newsletter. Therefore, I am asking that you respond to this survey to help give us guidance in appropriating money where it can do the most good. Please check off the choice that best summarizes your feelings. Any extra comments to clarify your feelings would also be appreciated.

tear off

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1.  I enjoy receiving the newsletter monthly and feel it should continue as is.
2.  I enjoy receiving the newsletter monthly, but feel it should be sent out third class to save money. (Danger: There would be a slight chance it may occasionally get delayed and arrive after a meeting date. Can you remember we meet on the second Tuesday of the month?)
3.  I'd prefer receiving the newsletter every other month, but add extra pages to it with part of the savings.
4.  I'd prefer receiving the newsletter every other month and have the money saved go into other areas, e.g. scholarships, conservation, education, special events, etc.
5.  The newsletter does not mean much to me and I don't really care what you do with it.

Please tear off this lower portion and send to:

South Shore Audubon Society  
Opinion Poll  
P. O. Box 31  
Freeport, New York 11520

Thank you.



Mike Smiles, President

### CONSERVATION NEWS

President Ford's veto of the \$6.5 billion Railroad Revitalization Bill was shortsighted and in direct conflict with the concept of energy independence. The railroads have had the misfortune of having to pay their own way, while the nation's other modes of transportation have been both directly and indirectly financed by federal funds. Today the railroads can't keep pace, and without Federal aid, one of America's most economical means of transportation is in danger of fading away. Environmentalists are concerned because trains offer both energy flexibility and the highest level of energy efficiency. Needed rights of way already exist in most cases and are in close harmony with their environment. A two-track rail line has far less impact on the environment than a six-lane highway, and a train can move great quantities of freight and passengers long distances with only a fraction of the consumption and detriment to our natural resources. A revitalized high speed railroad system would be most feasible and show great energy saving when moving people medium distances of up to 2000 miles. An expanded system of auto trains capable of traveling faster than the 55 mph national speed limit would be an inviting alternative to the interstate highway system that is exorbitant in its building expense and maintenance. If the President were to carefully consider the nation's future transportation needs, it would be obvious that the railroad should play an important role. The cost of revitalizing the system now is far less expensive than having to re-establish defunct lines in the future. The extinction of many railroads is close at hand. All those readers who are interested in the utilization and expansion of a system of transportation whose development would be in closer harmony with our environmental needs please urge your representative to override the President's veto immediately.

The New York State Environmental Quality Review Act, which became law last year, will have a very short life span if local government officials aren't soon convinced of the benefits of the law. Hearty opposition to the bill occurred from its initial conception from some business interests and labor unions. They felt it might impede or completely halt many construction projects. The law requires the filing of an environmental impact statement for all projects which would have significant effects on the environment. The law has gained opposition from local governments due to its inflexibilities. The Dept. of Environmental Conservation set tight rules that left much of the paperwork to the local governments. Although new, more workable regulations are in the offing, the harm has been done and many local officials are completely turned off by the law. Pressure and influence in Albany has created a chance for the law to be repealed or amended into uselessness. National Audubon urges all to constructively persuade local officials of the benefits of an impact statement system and to write your state representative to stand firm on the existing law.

Commissioner of the State Dept. of Environmental Conservation, Ogden Reid, is seeking to have a zero discharge of PCB's into the Hudson River by September 30, 1976. EPA's proposed ban by June 1977 is a date which many feel is not soon enough. PCB's are toxic chemicals whose long half-life could make them detrimental to the environment for years to come. Reid is seeking a 2 million dollar performance bond for reparation of the river. Two plants owned by General Electric have been noticed as major offenders, dumping up to 50 lbs. of PCB's daily. Because of the far reaching effects, tests are being planned for waters affiliated with the Hudson, such as the N.Y. bite and the L.I. Sound, as well as waters as far removed as the sources of L.I. drinking water and our ponds and sumps.

CONSERVATION NEWS CONT'D

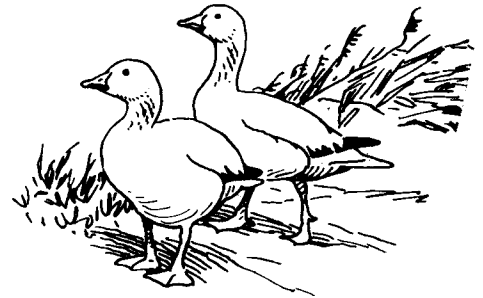
The Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game, which is concerned with the moose population as an important revenue source, has announced plans which could virtually liquidate all wolves in a 3000 sq. mile area north of Anchorage. The agency states they wish to see how the moose in the Nelchina Basin will fare over the next 5 years with little or no wolf predation. It is estimated that at least 400 wolves now roam the area and the numbers which would infiltrate from surrounding areas to fill the void could bring the number of wolves killed over the next 5 years to a substantial sum. Conservationists are appalled at such a plan and feel that much more could be learned about the wolf-moose relationship by studying them in the wild than by exterminating one and judging the effects on the other. Letters to Gov. Jay Hammond, Juneau, Alaska, 99801 may save the lives of some 400 unsuspecting wolves.

Paul Butkereit, Conservation

BIRD WALKS 1976

FIELD TRIPS: The 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.

- FEB. 8 - Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- 15 - Tobay, J.F.K. Sanctuary
- 22 - West End #2, N. E. corner.
- 29 - Zach's Bay, Pkg. Field #4, N. E. corner.
- MAR. 7 - Tobay, J.F.K. Sanctuary
- 14 - Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge
- 21 - West End #2, N.W. corner.
- 28 - Zach's Bay Pkg. Field #4, N. E. corner.



RAREST BIRD ....

The rarest bird in the world is not the U.S.'s famed whooping crane of which several dozen survive but an Indian Ocean hawk, the Mauritius Kestrel. Only 7 are known to exist although during the 1975 season two wild chicks were fledged. Eggs of a pair breeding in captivity were tragically destroyed when an incubator malfunctioned. According to National Wildlife, destruction of forest habitat and egg predation by introduced monkeys have driven the birds to the brink of extinction.

(Sports Afield, Nov. 1975)

Sent in by Mr. Arnold Lovering

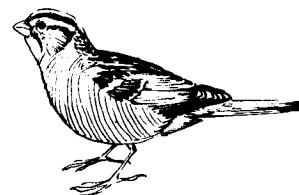
If fire should break out while you are away, these decals will tell firemen there are pets inside. For a set of 2 decals, send \$1 to:

FRIENDS OF ANIMALS, INC.  
Dept. 516, 11 W. 60th St.  
New York, New York 10023

Sent in by Mrs. Marge Fisher



From the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary.....



### THE BIRD GOURMET

Watching the wildlife outside your window could be a favorite winter pastime at your house. Winter is a difficult time for our feathered friends with insects, berries and seeds almost non-existent. As temperatures drop, a bird's metabolic rate increases in an effort to keep his own temperature at approximately 105 degrees. You may see him "fluff out" his feathers, trapping air between them as a form of insulation. It is evident that his caloric needs must increase to keep his tiny body from freezing.

What a welcome sight it would be to find a reliable source of food to help him through the winter -- at your feeding station constructed in any size or shape, from a shelf off a window to a coconut shell hanging on a tree. It could give you hours of enjoyment while serving a good cause. It may take the birds a few weeks to find your feeder -- just be patient and attract them to it by spreading seed on the ground.

Your feathered friends are not fussy. Bird seed with a variety of offerings can be purchased in any grocery or feed store and of course stale doughnuts, bread crumbs or cookies are a real treat right from your kitchen. There are certain foods more readily preferred by certain birds. Here are a few ideas when catering to the bird gourmet.

Woodpeckers and jays enjoy cracked nuts, corn and sunflower seeds. Suet is enjoyed by most of our feeder friends. It can be obtained from a butcher, placed between chicken wire and hung from a branch. If you would like to watch the antics of the little Chickadees, Titmice and Nuthatches, shelled peanuts, sunflower seeds, suet and bread crumbs are a delicacy. An occasional winter resident might be a mockingbird, catbird or robin. They would relish some cut apples, oranges, raisins and currants. Don't forget the beautiful cardinal, grosbeak and towhee, searching for a morsel of corn, cracked peanuts or sunflower seeds. Usually the search is on the ground so be sure to clear the snow away from a small area and scatter seeds there for them. You might also see the dark-eyed junco, the house finch, the white-throated sparrow and the house sparrow scratching the ground for wheat, millet, small seeds and scratch feed.

One of the most common birds seen at feeders is the Starling - who can be a real glutton and scare away the smaller birds. He can be controlled by covering your feeder with a small-meshed wire - just large enough for smaller birds to slip in and out. Let the starling eat the leftovers.

Don't forget, once you begin to feed the birds in winter (start in November and end about April), they'll depend on you for their life. It is as if you have adopted a family that needs you to feed them every day.

Would you like more information on feeders? Just call or visit us at the Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary, WA 2-3200.



Alan and Estelle Ruppert  
Directors

MAR. NEWS DEADLINE FEB. 10

NEXT MEETING--  
TUES., FEB. 10  
8:15 P.M.  
FREEPORT LIBRARY

---COMING EVENTS---

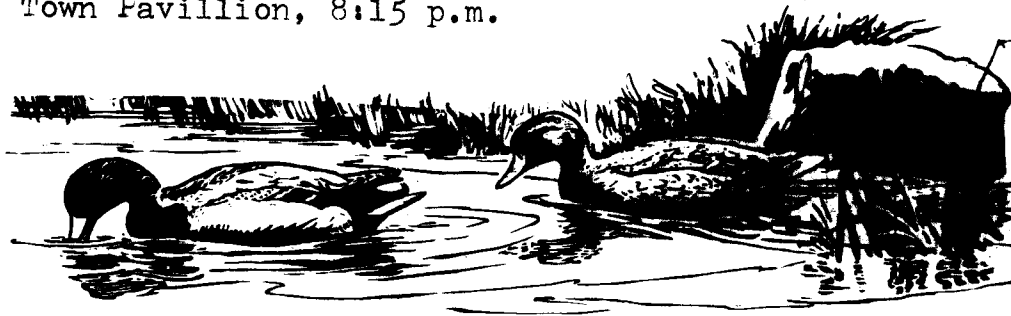
SUN. FEB. 8 "Winter Woods Walk"  
Theodore Roosevelt Sanctuary, 1:30p.m.

TUES. FEB. 10 Regular Meeting  
Audience Participation Night  
Freeport Library, 8:15 p.m.

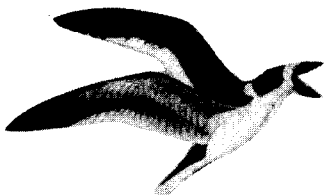
TUES. FEB. 24 Audubon Film Series  
"20th Century Wilderness"  
Hempstead Town Pavillion, 8:15 p.m.

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