

# SOUTH SHORE SKIMMER



VOL. 14, NO. 1

SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY

SEPTEMBER 1983

## NATURE WORKSHOP

for  
Parents, Grandparents, Teachers

Early childhood is the most impressionable time of our lives. Certainly, it is the time to introduce children to the joys of nature. Insects and birds should become our friends then, before a lack of understanding makes them our foes.

I should like to demonstrate how I have attempted to introduce nature study to young children through the medium of art and language arts. With simple materials and the process of creating insects and birds in paper, children become involved in a kind of ownership of these creatures. Scientific information can then be imparted.

When you cut out and create a lady bug beetle you remember how many legs she has. You understand why she has spots on her back and what they mean when you decide how many to place there. Finally, you certainly will not destroy a real lady bug rushing home to save her children from a fire as in the poem.

Do come and spend a pleasant morning with us and have fun creating insects and birds from materials provided for you. We will meet at the Oceanside Marine Nature Study Area on Saturday, September 24 at 9:30 A.M. For further information call me at 785-6028 or Tom Torma at 223-7947

ROSE ERMIDIS



*Resplendent quetzal*

## Meeting

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13  
FREEPORT LIBRARY  
8:15 P.M.

### GUEST SPEAKER:

JOAN SCANCARELLI

Ms. Scancarelli's beautiful program, photographed in Costa Rica, explores the ecology of the tropical rain forest and its importance to the world.

(See article page 3)

# PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Tom Torma

Welcome back after our summer hiatus. I hope all our members had an enjoyable vacation. We are looking forward to an exciting year, with many activities planned for the upcoming months.

On Saturday, September 24, we will hold a workshop on "Teaching Nature to Children and Grandchildren" at the Oceanside Marine Nature Study Area. The program will start at 9:30 A.M.

In November the National Audubon Society's Arc, a traveling wildlife exhibit, will make an appearance at Roosevelt Field. The South Shore Audubon Society will have an exhibit at the same time.

We are also planning another Spring Festival, field trips and much, much more. I am looking forward to seeing you at these activities.

## Our Space Shortage

One thousand hikers showed up at a campground in the Grand Canyon designed for seventy people. They began fist fighting over the right to eat lunch on the limited number of sandbars at the Rio Grande Wild and Scenic River! The State of Connecticut closed Diane's Pond, a local swimming hole, to all activities except fishing. It seems that the beauty of the spot is attracting too many people. Celebrities are buying up large tracts of land in the Hamptons because summer crowds are infringing on their privacy. They hope to block access to the beach, thereby keeping the crowds out.

The above incidents were reported in newspapers and magazines this summer. Americans have suffered numerous shortages over the past several years, including oil, paper, etc. Now we are suffering from a shortage of space. Despite our need for open spaces and wilderness, the Reagan administration, through James Watt, has failed to make the purchases necessary to expand our public lands. Their policy has been to develop these lands, to "improve" our present National Park facilities. I am sure this means more hotels, more shops, more tourist facilities, etc. We will see more oil and gas wells, strip mines, etc. To the Reagan administration our public lands are for profit.

With all the pressure on our public lands, we should be purchasing more. As our population increases, our parks take on increased importance. Open spaces are quickly becoming one of our most precious resources.

An action park is being built outside Grand Canyon National Park that will provide tourists with a five minute simulated Colorado River raft trip. The waiting list for the real raft trip is ten years.

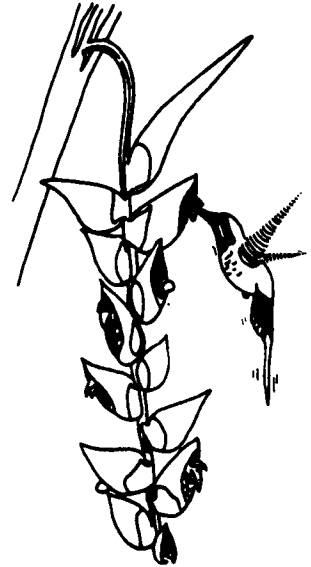
At Diane's Pond a young man was arrested for sitting at the edge of the pond, resting and contemplating. He received a summons because he wasn't fishing. Will future generations have open spaces to enjoy or will they have to go to amusement parks and take in simulated wilderness experiences?

## SLIDE SHOW AVAILABLE

The Clean Air Coalition has made a slide presentation entitled "The Clean Air Act" available to organizations in this area. A representative from the coalition presents the program. If you belong to a group that would be interested in the show, please contact Tom Torma at 223-7947.

# COSTA RICA

For thousands of years ancient man cleared the land for his needs by using crude tools, which made progress painstakingly slow. However, with the high powered machines of the twentieth century, man can now clear a forest at the unbelievable rate of 50 acres per minute. Two-thirds of Southeast Asia's and half of Africa's rain forests have already disappeared, leaving Latin America with half the world's remaining forests. Millions of years ago the earth's surface was covered with a mantle of lush green forests. Today the earth is shamelessly naked, dotted only with little green places and wearing a narrow green belt around its waist.



A tour with O.T.S. (Organization of Tropical Studies) took me to remote field stations in the national parks and preserves of Costa Rica to study the ecology of the rain forest. The leaders of the expedition were Dr. Mildred Mathias of UCLA and Dr. Gary Stiles of the University of Costa Rica. We spent several days at the Monteverde Cloud Forest, perhaps one of the last remaining cloud forests in Latin America. As I stood straining eyes upward for a glimpse of the quetzal, my thoughts were of the noted ornithologist Dr. A. Skutch and the many years he spent in the chilling gray mist of this forest recording the life of this regal bird. The quetzal, a member of the trogon family, has become increasingly rare as cloud forest habitats have been taken over by coffee plantations.

We traveled over mountain roads toward the Atlantic lowlands to visit the remote Tortuguero National Park. Acres of land were being cleared to make way for new logging roads, while other land was being burned to prepare it for spring corn planting. After traveling eight hours through some of the most beautiful tropical forests and lowland swamps of Costa Rica, observing howler monkeys, sloths, turtles, anhinga, macaws and many herons, we arrived at Tortuguero on the Caribbean coast via a motor launch we named "Our African Queen." Tortuguero is the major breeding site of the green sea turtle. A valiant struggle goes on to protect these reptiles from poachers during the egg laying season.

We continued on to La Selva which still contains 90% virgin forest. Here is an ideal place for serious researchers and students to stay and work. Funds from OTS, World Wildlife Fund and the National Science Foundation have helped this site grow into an international study center for the tropical sciences. I had the opportunity to speak with students from the United States and Central and South America who are working toward their doctorates. Each in his own way is dedicated to unlocking the secrets of the rain forests -- before they disappear.

Five square miles of La Selva's preserve contain 400 species of birds, a diverse cat fauna and more than three times the number of tree species as the Great Smokey Mountains which is 150 times larger. This is just one example of the tropical forest's diversity.

Developed countries have as great an economic stake in the long-term survival of tropical rain forests as do the countries in which the forests grow. A very large percentage of the world's oxygen is produced by these forests. These regions serve as a "storage tank" for some 55% of stored carbon. With deforestation there would be an increase in atmospheric carbon dioxide resulting in a change in global climate. Consider, too, the gene pools of flora and fauna stored within these forests and the agricultural and medicinal benefits yet to be discovered.

# THE FACTS ARE CLEAR

MORE THAN 400,000,000 POUNDS OF TOXIC INDUSTRIAL CHEMICALS END UP IN OUR PUBLIC SEWERS AND WATERWAYS EACH YEAR.

A bill by Senator Chafee, S. 431, would reduce industrial toxic pollution by continuing the present program that requires industries to pretreat their toxic wastes before releasing them into our sewers, and by tightening controls where there are "toxic hotspots" to make the waters in these heavily industrialized areas fishable and swimmable once again.

WE HAVE ALREADY LOST HALF OF THE MARSHES, BOGS, WINDING CREEKS, SLOUGHS AND ESTUARIES THAT ORIGINALLY EXISTED IN THE LOWER 48 STATES, AND EACH YEAR WE AND THE WILDLIFE DEPENDENT ON THESE WETLANDS LOSE MORE.

Section 404 of the Clean Water Act has reduced the needless dredging and filling of wetlands, but even with this provision, over 450,000 acres of wetlands are being lost each year. Section 404's procedures for conserving wetlands must be strengthened.

EACH YEAR STORM WATERS WASH BILLIONS OF TONS OF SOIL, ANIMAL WASTE, BACTERIA, OIL, ACID, LEAD, PESTICIDES AND OTHER TOXIC CHEMICALS FROM OUR FARMS, CITIES, MINES AND CONSTRUCTION SITES INTO OUR WATERWAYS, CAUSING HARM TO THE WILDLIFE AND HUMANS THAT DEPEND ON THOSE WATERS FOR LIFE.

The existing Clean Water Act does nothing to control this "nonpoint" pollution, yet over half of our pollution comes from these sources. Senators Stafford, Chafee and Durenberger have proposed amendments to begin a program to control nonpoint pollution.

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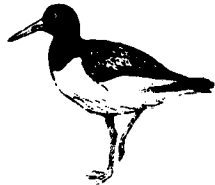
Soon, your Senators will decide whether to weaken the Clean Water Act, keep it the same, or strengthen it. IF YOU WANT THE QUALITY OF OUR WATER TO IMPROVE IN THE 80'S, WRITE TO YOUR SENATORS TODAY.

- \* Tell them why you care about clean water.
- \* Urge them to vote for a strengthened Clean Water Act by supporting Senator Chafee's bill (S. 431), amendments to strengthen Section 404, and the Stafford-Chafee-Durenberger proposal to control nonpoint pollution.

Write now to Senators D'Amato and Moynihan c/o U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510. The floor vote on this issue could come before the end of September.

## BIRD ART

Bird artist Arthur Singer is having a one-man show through September 25 at the Nassau County Museum of Fine Art, Northern Boulevard, Roslyn Harbor. Museum hours are 10 A.M.-4:30 P.M. Tuesdays through Fridays and 1-5 P.M. on weekends. For further information call 484-9337.



Louis Agassiz Fuertes is considered one of the greatest natural history artists of all time. Many of his paintings and field sketches make up the exhibit "A Celebration of Birds: Louis Agassiz Fuertes and His Art," at the American Museum of Natural History now through October 2.

Also at the Museum of Natural History, now through November 30, is "South of Winter," a photographic exhibit of the birds that winter on the Gulf coast of Texas and their relationship with the industrial rigs in the area. Many of the photos were taken at the Aransas National Wildlife Refuge (where whooping cranes from Canada spend their winters) and at Padre Island Seashore.

### WILDLIFE FILM/LECTURE SERIES

A truly informative and provocative presentation of our earth and its wildlife as narrated by world acclaimed naturalists. All presentations begin at 8:15 p.m.

Nathan L. H. Bennett Pavilion, Hempstead

**Fee:** \$1.00 per ticket in advance. \$1.50 per ticket at the door  
**Program:** Monday, November 7 - Steve Maslowski "Call of the Yukon"  
 Thursday, December 1 - Dr. Arthur C. Twomey "Arizona's Desert Wonders"  
**Tickets:** Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope, specifying the date of performance, amount of tickets desired, along with a check made out to the Town of Hempstead, covering the cost of tickets, to: Wildlife Series, Town of Hempstead Dept. of Parks and Recreation, 200 North Franklin Street, Hempstead, N.Y. 11550.

**Rare Bird Sightings  
 (212) 832-6523**



## Nature Awareness Day

The Huntington Audubon Society will hold its annual "Nature Awareness Day" Saturday, September 10, 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. at Uplands Farm, Cold Spring Harbor

Admission is \$2 for adults, \$1 for seniors and kids. Activities will include field walks, films, programs and children's activities. Topics to be covered include wetlands, whales, Africa and ponds. There will also be a visit with live hawks and owls.

Natural foods will be served at reasonable prices. This event is always very interesting and enjoyable and the setting is beautiful.

For further information call 234-3677



## Do you know.....

This new column will bring you information on what you can do ecologically to re-cycle the so-called "waste," such as plastics, metals, glass and other things that litter our environment. It will tell you about things you can make or re-use, re-cycling areas and what they do with them.

If you have any re-cycling ideas you'd like to share, send them to me at 2644 Central Ave., Baldwin, 11510 (phone 223-0608) with your name, address and phone number or see me at meetings.

ROZ STEIN

If you can bring a cake to our meeting, please call Rose Ermidis at 785-6028.

## BIRD WALKS

No walk if it rains, snows or temperature is 25 degrees or below.

Starting time - 9:30 A.M.

- SEPT. 11 West End #2, N.E. corner  
18 Hempstead Lake State Park  
(Penninsula Blvd. Pkg. lot)  
25 West End #2, N.E. corner
- OCT. 2 Tobay, J.F.K. Sanctuary  
9 Zach's Bay, Pkg. Fld. #4, N.E.  
16 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge  
23 West End #2, N.E. corner  
30 Pelham Bay (meet at Throg's  
Neck Bridge Toll Plaza 9 A.M.)
- NOV. 6 Hempstead Lake State Park  
(Penninsula Blvd. Pkg. lot)  
13 Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge

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Bill Herzog 791-7886 (7 P.M.-9 P.M.)  
Asa Starkweather 599-5824

**SOUTH SHORE AUDUBON SOCIETY**  
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