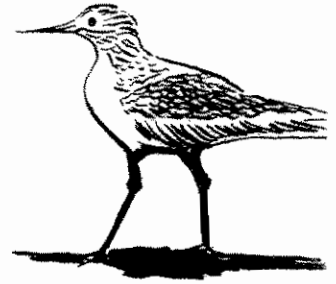


# Notes and Niches



news of Menunkatuck      January/February 1983

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Views of the President

Volume 2    Number 1

## THE NEW CAST OF CHARACTERS

This is the last time my name will appear beneath this column for my term as Menunkatuck Audubon's first President is about to expire. The year has been, in the majority view, a big success, and this new Chapter seems to be afoot and running. For this I am entitled to only a small bit of the credit. I was the voice, sometimes the face -- in actuality more like the coxswain of a crew with eight strong backs pulling to the cadence. Without those backs (more than eight in this case) we would not only have lost the race but would never have left the dock.

We are richly endowed with talent in this community, and not only have I had wonderful people on whom to rely, but we are continuing to attract enthusiastic and dedicated people.

Before I introduce your Board of Directors' choices to fill next year's posts, and to list those people who have unstintedly stepped forward and volunteered to handle the many challenging tasks ahead, I would like to say a few words about our Vice President -- Virginia Corbiere. She has been my right hand, and more, throughout this whole year and not only bailed me out of countless schedule problems stepping in to do what was clearly my job, but as publicity chairman is singularly responsible for the record-breaking attendances at our meetings. In short, she is one of the finest human beings I have ever known or had the pleasure of working with, and she is the Board of Directors' unanimous choice to be our next President.

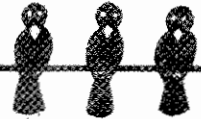
The Nominating Committee enthusiastically submits for your consideration the following slate:

President	Virginia Corbiere
Vice President	David O. Hill
Secretary	Nancy Pochan
Treasurer	Lois Meyers

Additional members of the board:

Carol Schultz (Newsletter Editor)  
William Cullen (Publicity Chairman)

(Membership Chairman and Program Chairman are  
already represented in the slate)



Committees for 1983: Adopt-A-Park.....Mike Pochan  
 Conservation.....to be filled  
 Education.....Dan Cinotti (Ch.)  
                                   Carl Harvey  
                                   Helen Downing  
 Field Trips.....John Gaskell (Ch.)  
                                   Debbie Turnbull  
                                   Fred Sibley  
 Legal.....David Johnson  
 Membership.....Lois Meyers  
 Newsletter.....Carol Schultz, Editor  
                                   Judy Fettig, Ass't Editor  
                                   Milton Smith, Circulation  
 Programs.....David O. Hill (Ch.)  
                                   Kathy White  
 Publicity.....Bill Cullen  
 Social.....Kathy White (Ch.)  
                                   Laura Morrell  
 Wildlife.....David O. Hill (Ch.)  
                                   Alfred E. Gross - bluebirds  
                                   Laura Morrell - purple martin  
                                   Loren Evarts - osprey  
                                   Bruce Young - osprey

Annual Events: Bird Seed Savings Day (Oct.) - Chairman to be named  
 Membership Drive (Nov.) - " " " "  
 Fund-raising Drive (Dec.) - " " " "

A THOUSAND THANKS FOR ALL YOUR HELP !

David O. Hill

Report of the Nominating Committee- Proposed slate for 1983:

President Virginia Corbiere

Vice-President David Hill

Secretary Nancy Pochan

Treasurer Lois Meyers

Program David Hill, Kathleen White

Publicity William Cullen

Membership Lois Meyers

Newsletter Carol Schulz, Judy Fettig, Milton Smith

Education Dan Cinotti

Wildlife David Hill

Park Mike Pochan

Field Trips John Gaskell

Conservation

Social

Fund Raising Drive

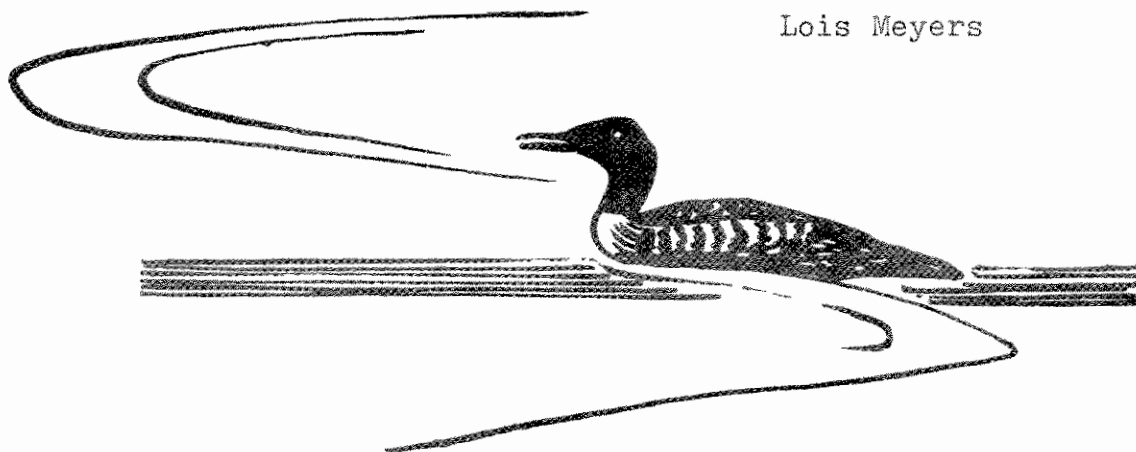
Bird-Seed Savings Day

November Membership Drive Milton Smith

Carl Harvey, Chairman

David Hill

Lois Meyers



The Menunkatuck Audubon Society now has a place to serve as its base of operations. The place is the Interpretive Building of the Baldwin Outdoor Education Center on County Road a short distance west of Route 77 in North Guilford. This facility has the potential for becoming the recognized headquarters for the Society, where members and potential members can get together to share interests and experiences, to get information, or to hold meetings. It is a place where the administrative functions of the organization can be carried on. It can be the "naturalist's meeting place" for the shoreline area.

If this is to become a reality, a great deal of volunteer assistance is needed to help staff the interpretive building. There are many tasks for which your help is urgently needed. At the top of the list is the need for people to serve as receptionists. This would involve answering the telephone to respond to inquiries and provide information about programs and field experiences or trips offered by the Outdoor Education Center or the Menunkatuck Audubon Society. The receptionists would also handle registration for the various programs that are offered.

The volunteers are also needed to greet people coming to the building to obtain information, to observe the displays, to use the resource library, or to register for programs.

Other tasks for which assistance is urgently needed includes typing of program materials, correspondence, the newsletter, the monthly happenings, as well as collating and stapling the materials after they are run off. Help is needed to prepare newsletters and fliers for mailing.

People are also needed to help prepare and maintain displays at the interpretive building and for other places in the community, to assist

with the maintenance and cleaning of the interpretive building and grounds, to maintain the bird feeders, to help set up for programs or to serve as host/hostess for special meetings held at the building. Supervision of use of the resource library and reference files would also be involved.

As stated earlier, there is a great deal of potential for this interpretive building and the kinds of things it can provide for our area, but, to do so, we must have your help. Mrs. William Pallman (Cynthia), is the Volunteer Services Coordinator for the interpretive building. Please call her at 457-0626 after 2:00 PM to let her know when you can be of assistance at the society's new home.

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#### FIELD TRIPS

##### Guided cross-country ski tour

##### Lake Gaillard

Saturday February 6

1:30-4:30

Leader: Gerry Axelrod, Education Director, West Rock Nature Center

limited to 25 people, advance registration required

Call: 457-0692 or 457-0222 (Nature hike if there is no snow)

Winter Walk    Killams Point    Saturday February 12    10 am-Noon

Sponsored by Schooner, Inc. and Menunkatuck Audubon

Leaders: Schooner biologists    Wear warm clothes, bring hot drink

Meet Short Beach Road side of Caldor's parking lot, Rte 1, Branford

Bird Watcher's Walk    Menunkatuck Reservoir    Saturday March 5

limited to 20 people, advance registration required

Call: 457-0692 or 457-0222    Call John Gaskell (245-9224) for details

Meet in parking lot, NW corner Rte 1 and Rte 77, Guilford

## BIRDING NOTES

At noon on November 7, thirteen Audubon members and friends met at the entrance to Hammonasset State Park for an afternoon of birding. Many were first time birders. We concentrated our efforts on Willard's Island, the adjacent marsh, and Clinton Harbor.

A partial list for the day included 60 swans, a flock of 45 Canada geese, and a common loon, all in the harbor. Along the marsh edge we found three great blue herons. At least four Marsh hawks were seen coursing over the marsh, no doubt on migration. Other predators on Willard's Island included a kestrel and a Cooper's hawk.

The mixed hardwoods, cedars, and brush of Willard's provides excellent cover and feeding opportunities for a marvelous variety of songbirds. Here we found mockingbirds, chickadees, white-throated sparrows, house finches, and myrtle warblers in profusion.

From the raised boardwalk, we spotted meadowlarks in the marsh, yellowlegs on the wing, and a late group of double-crested cormorants on the rocks off Meig's Point. Other birds throughout the park included flocks of horned larks, three species of gulls, a flock of plovers, and a lone snow goose in flight.

A thorough search of the cedars near the water tower produced no owls, although these woods should be watched throughout the winter for saw-whet and long-eared owls. The open marsh is the winter home of the short-eared owl, as well.

John Gaskell

BIRD SEED SAVINGS DAY

Thanks to Fred Sibley and Ray Schwartz. The bird banding demonstration on Bird Seed Savings Day was a tremendous success. Those of us who had a chance to observe or to actually hold and band a wild bird found it a very special experience.

Thanks to those who organized the sale: Chairman Ray Brink, and Carl Harvy. and to those helpers who lifted 9,000 pounds of birdseed from the truck to the school, and from the school to our customers cars:

Bill Johnson	Blair and Walter Anyon
Mr. Heintz	Mary, Roby, and Chris Briggs
Stephen Heintz	Carol and Gary Lemmon
Roger Coulter	Priscilla Sperry
Scott Curry	Mrs. Johnson

It was both fun and lucrative. The profits will go to education and conservation.

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PROGRAM

Joe Kenneally, DMD "Photographic Field Notes of New England"

Tuesday February 1 8 PM Guilford High School

Dr. Kenneally, an oral surgeon from Concord, Mass., a bird watcher for 34 years, and a four-star photographer of the Nature Division of the Photographic Society of America, is an expert on high-technology photography.

Ray Schwartz "Connecticut Breeding Bird Atlas Project"

Tuesday March 1 8 PM Guilford High School



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BALDWIN OUTDOOR EDUCATION CENTER  
LONG HILL ROAD  
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