

ATLANTIC CURRENTS

Newsletter of the Atlantic Audubon Society

VOL I NO. 2

October 14, 1974

Editor: E. Bristow

A fine meeting on Sept. 25th got the group off to its official start as approximately 70 people turned out to see the new Audubon film "It Began With Birds" and also the issuing of our provisional charter by Audubon Regional Representative Alan Miller. The following officers were elected for this year:

President:	Edgar C. Bristow, 3rd	Board of Directors:
Vice-Pres:	Kevin Inman	James Akers, Fred Hamer,
Secretary:	Cathy Stahl	Frank Knight, Mark Pokras
Treasurer:	Bil Stahl	Leon Rosenson

On Sept. 28th 13 members and guests traveled to Cape May for our first field trip of the year. Due to somewhat adverse wind conditions, it was not one of the better birding days, but over 80 species were identified by the group. Highlights for the day included a merlin, osprey, and a fulvous tree duck.

SPECIAL NOTE: The official mailing address of the society effective immediately is as follows:

Atlantic Audubon Society
P. O. Box 63
Absecon, N.J. 08201

Please address all correspondence and inquiries to this address.

COMING ATTRACTIONS:

Monthly programs: October 23 Stockton College, Room CC103 (first section) 8 PM - Title not set at this time.
November 20 Stockton College, Room CC103, 8 PM
"On Safari in Kenya" - Jim Akers, John Banzenbaker.

Beginning with the October meeting, we are inaugurating an informal get-together to help members get acquainted with one another. This will run from 7:30 PM to 8 when the regular program starts.

Field Trips: October 27 2 PM (Sun) Brigantine Wildlife Refuge in Oceanville meeting in the parking lot. BEGINNERS BIRDING. Bring binoculars. See Presidents Corner.
November 3 Brigantine Refuge 8 AM. Meet in parking lot. Primarily waterfowl. For as much of the day as you wish to spend. Binoculars, lunch if you're staying.

Other meetings and lectures of note:

Pelagic birding - Jim Akers has organized a series of monthly trips out of Atlantic City on the Mayflower II. Contact him for details at 266-7859 if you are interested.

Pine Barrens Conference - Stockton College on Oct. 23, 9 AM. A good chance to learn more about possibilities of preserving this vital area.

On Oct. 26th, the Society will sponsor a talk by Cleveland Amory on wildlife. He is also appearing at the Shore Mall Bookstore in the afternoon to promote his new book. Time of evening talk is set for 8 PM. See local papers for further details.

REMINDER: November 5th is Election Day. You must vote to have any effect on the vital issues of the day. Find out where the various candidates stand on conservation and environmental issues and vote your convictions. Support the Green Acres Bond Issue. VOTE!!!

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS: All those interested in participating in one or more of the following counts are requested to contact the listed individual if you have not been on that count before. If you have never been on a count and would like to participate, please let us know.

December 14 - Tuckahoe area. Contact Jim Akers at 266-7859.

December 18 - Tuckerton area. Contact Ben Hiatt at 296-4016.

December 21 - Oceanville area. Contact Ed Bristow at 641-4670.

December 22 - Cape May area. Contact Keith Seager at 884-8778.

The Tuckahoe count will be a new area with our Society as the sponsor so we would like all the help we can get.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER:

At our recent board meeting, it was suggested that many people may not participate in the field trip programs because they feel that they are not knowledgeable enough. Needless to say, this is just the reason why you should join in - that's how we all learn. We are going to try to remedy this in several ways. First of all, let me assure you that we don't care if you don't know an eagle from a sparrow, a dandelion from goldenrod. The purpose is for everyone to learn a little more. Secondly, we hope through our informal pre-meeting discussions to acquaint everyone with some of the current natural scene as well as meeting the others in the society. Thirdly, we are inaugurating a beginners program on Oct. 27 at 2 PM to meet at the parking lot of the Brigantine Wildlife Refuge for an hour or so. Several leaders will be on hand to afford any and all the opportunity to learn something about a few species at a time in order to improve your skills. If there is a good response, we will continue this at regular intervals.

As an aid to individual observations, we are starting a new feature of field notes to act as a guide to plants, animals, and birds of current interest. Contributions will be welcomed, but the editor reserves the right to modify or omit items depending on space available.

Please remember that our financial support comes from your dues to National Audubon. A proportion of each membership comes back to the local chapter each time a new member joins or an old member renews, so please do your part. NOTE: If you are already a member of National Audubon and have NOT yet notified them of your desire to be a joint member, please do so. In that way ONLY do we get any local benefit from your dues.

FIELD NOTES

Fall migration began with a Cape May warbler on Sept. 12. By the seventeenth we were banding numbers of downy woodpeckers, ovenbirds, northern yellowthroats and northern waterthrushes. As the month progressed the variety of warblers increased and we banded many catbirds and thrushes. All five species of thrushes were taken on Oct. 1. The season's first winter wren, white-throated sparrow and R.C. kinglet were taken on Oct. 4. A dark-eyed junco and golden-crowned kinglets were taken on Oct. 5.

Mark & Martha Pokras

LOCAL BOTANY

In autumn while the birder is puzzling over the fall warblers, the amateur botanist is trying to identify the many goldenrods and asters. With about 25 species of goldenrod in New Jersey and more than 30 asters, this can be quite a challenge. One species of each that is easily distinguished is the seaside goldenrod and the stiff aster. Abundant on the dunes and salt marsh edges, but also occurring for some distance inland is the seaside goldenrod (Solidago sempervirens). Among the showiest of goldenrods, it is large with fleshy toothless leaves and a bright inflorescence made up of large individual flower heads. The stiff aster (Aster linariifolius) is abundant throughout South Jersey as a roadside plant growing in patches beneath the oaks and pines. Well named with rough, stiff, needle-like leaves, it grows up to one foot tall and has pretty yellow centered blue flowers.

Help is at hand for the frustrated goldenrod and aster identifier. Peterson & McKenny's A Field Guide to the Wildflowers greatly simplifies all wildflower identification. Serious amateur botanists are advised to also use a plant key in conjunction with the illustrated field guide. A good key is H.A. Gleason's Plants of the Vacinity of New York.

Frank Knight