

ATLANTIC CURRENTS

Newsletter of the Atlantic Audubon Society
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As we begin this Bicentennial Year, let us remember that we are all dependent on the survival of Planet Earth. Resolve to help maintain or improve the quality of what we still have left of the natural world. The Environmental Quality Index produced by the National Wildlife Federation shows continued deterioration in five of the seven measured areas, with only air quality showing slight gains. If the current talk from our state officials is converted into reality, even that gain may be reversed.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS: Our members participated in three counts this year with the following results.

Oceanville: 52 participants, 141 species, both new records.
Tuckerton: 16 participants, 105 species, also a record.
Marmora: 28 participants, 123 species, no record, but only our second.

Thanks to all who participated. Any one else who might be interested, keep these in mind for next year. The more people we have in the field, the better our chance for improving the quality and quantity recorded. We have also received requests for assistance in other count areas nearby. These will be publicized next fall. Our organization hosted a get-together at the Brigantine Refuge at the end of the day for the Oceanville count- very well received and requested again for next year. Special thanks to Ben and Margaret Hiatt for hosting a get-together after the Tuckerton count, and to Bob and Mildred Durham who did likewise for the Marmora count.

NEW MEMBERS NOTE: We are gratified that there has been a steady flow of new members into the group. Some of you have been recruited by old members, and some have come in through other channels. To clarify your status, the following information is repeated.

All individuals in our area, which includes Atlantic County plus parts of Ocean and Cape May, are supposed to be automatically assigned to our chapter as joint members of National Audubon and Atlantic Audubon for the one fee. (Part of this fee is returned to us to support our local activities.) For this, you should receive Audubon Magazine and Atlantic Currents, the local newsletter. All activities of this chapter are free and open to the public. The only exception would be where extra expenses were incurred as in our weekend field trips. If you have any other questions about this, please contact any of the officers at meetings or drop a note to our box. Also-- please remember to renew your membership!!! We need that support.

REMINDER: Recent weather makes those feeders very attractive. Please remember to keep them filled. With the ground frozen and snow cover present, many of the natural sources of food are absent, so don't let the birds down.

HELP WANTED: We have need of some legal advice. If there are any lawyers in the group who would be willing to donate a little time and legal knowledge, please contact the president at 641-4670.

Also, we have several committees consisting of chairman only. If you can spare some time, we can expand some of our present activities and add some new ones. We are also in need of a new chairman for the Education committee- volunteers will be most graciously accepted!

LOCAL BIRD HOTLINE: We now have a telephone hotline set up. If you would like to be included, contact Jim Akers at 266-7859 for information.

BOG CLEANUP: Our cleanup project of the bog on Great Creek Road in Oceanville was very successful. A large dump truck (donated by Ole Hanson Co.) was filled with the results of our efforts. Please remind your friends and neighbors to put their trash where it belongs instead of scattering it all over the countryside. We will consider other such projects if specific areas are brought to our attention.

MARKETPLACE: We have several items available for sale to anyone interested. All are available at meetings, and some can be mailed out.

Field Guides: Wildflowers, Winter Tree Finder, and Master Tree Finder each is priced at 75¢.

Bumper Strips: Obey 55 MPH Limit, Boost Sun Power, Save Energy-Insulate, Save Energy- Recycle, and Bring Back Windmills each at 50¢. These are Audubon Society Energy message items.

Bumper Strip: "I'd Rather Be Birding" at \$1.00 This is on order only.

Daily Field Check Lists- Eastern Birds: Available at 4¢ each.

FINALLY- starting with January meeting - our own patch!!!! Available at \$1.50 each.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: Will man be next? The chief threats to all forms of wildlife are loss of habitat followed by pollution of all sorts, especially pesticides. In recent days there has been more evidence indicating that man is not immune to this either. There are now 126 animals on the endangered list. Action is underway to place 3200 plants on the list. An additional 23,642 species of plants are under review including some 17,000 species of orchids. Others under study include 65 mammals, 44 birds, 28 reptiles, 26 mollusks, 6 amphibians, and 2 fish. We are seeing locally the effects on sealife of unbridled harvest.

What difference does this make to you and I? Each loss is another break in the chain of life that supports us, and we will ultimately be the losers. It is vital that this message get across to everyone - rich or poor, whatever your race or sex, wherever you live. Most importantly, this must get home to the officials in all levels of government, starting at the local level. Make your voice heard - attend meetings, talk or write to those who are elected. They will respond to pressure!! Make sure you have the facts to support your arguments - it works much better than just shouting.

ADVANCE PLANNING DEPARTMENT: The following programs need some advance warning so please note these dates and decide early.

Weekend trip to Delmarva for some concentrated birdwatching is again in the works. Tentative plans are for the weekend of May 1-2. This is a repeat of our very successful trip of last year, and will again be planned as a camping trip. If you are not a camper, there are motels in the area. Sign-up sheet will be available at the January meeting and we will take people up to at least March 31.

We will be running another Beginners Bird Identification Course this spring. This will be starting in early March - details later. There will be a small fee. Both more extensive evening lectures are planned as well as regular field work.

PROGRAMS: Meetings are held at Stockton State College in Pomona. Currently we are meeting in Room J-203. Follow signs from parking lot to J wing. Coffee "hour" is 7:30 PM to 8:00 PM. Program proper starts at 8:00 PM and runs until about 9:30.

January 28, 1976: Members Nite. This is an opportunity to share your favorite slides, pictures, other items with the rest of the group. For those with slides, please place them in groups of 10 slides. Each individual will have the opportunity to show one group and we will recycle as often as time will allow. Those with regular photos or other items will have a chance to "show and tell" in between the slide groups.

February 25, 1976: Down Mexico Way with Fred Hamer, Sherri Tisdale, and Kevin Inman as they show their slides and talk about their expedition to Mexico last summer.

March 24, 1976: Songbirds of South Jersey by Dr. D'Orio of Vineland. He promises a painless presentation on slides of our feathered friends - a most appropriate time as the spring migration gets under way.

April 28, 1976
May 26, 1976 Both to be announced later. Speakers are being lined up now.

FIELD TRIPS:

The only trip definitely scheduled at the present time is noted below. Other trips being planned include plant and flower walks, another canoe trip, more birding, possibly insects and frogs. If you have suggestions, let us know.

February 14, 1976: Winter Seabirds. Meet at Barnegat Light Park, 8 AM. Bring lunch if you plan to make a day of it. Binoculars, etc. Dress warmly as those breezes can get really cold!!

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