

## ATLANTIC CURRENTS

Newsletter of the Atlantic Audubon Society  
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CLEAN-UP PROJECT: A small group of hardy souls made a start on our last clean-up project. Because of the large amount of trash, this will be re-scheduled in the fall - hopefully with much better support.

MID-ATLANTIC REGIONAL CONFERENCE REPORT: Seven of our members traveled to Bucknell University the last weekend in June to participate in the Regional Audubon meeting along with the other 27 chapters. It was a most interesting and informative get-together with participation in various seminars, reports on various National Audubon Society activities and programs. Our chapter gave a report on running our beginners birding course, and four of our members had entries in the Wildlife Art show - with Fred Hamer taking first place in the carving section with his Shearwater and Dave Rhodes taking second place with a carving of a willet.

Your editor would again urge that anyone who can attend one of the National or Regional meetings do so, as they are really stimulating experiences. Next one will be next year's National Conference meeting in Estes Park, Colorado.

PEREGRINE RELEASE: Four young Peregrine falcons are now in residence at the Brigantine Wildlife Refuge. This is part of the Cornell project to re-introduce these birds to former nesting areas, and is being run in conjunction with the State program on Endangered Species. Last year Island Beach was the site of release for three birds. Hopefully we will soon be seeing these magnificent birds as regular residents rather than as rare migrants. Remember to support the State program by buying the decals we mentioned in the last issue.

### SUMMER PREVIEW OF COMING ATTRACTIONS:

Some very exciting programs are already scheduled for our fall season. Our opening meeting on September 22nd will feature a new National Audubon Society slide show on Alaska - a marvelous presentation on the proposals for National Parks, Wildlife Refuges, Wilderness areas, and Nature Preserves. It is particularly important that we all become knowledgeable on this topic as Congress begins their consideration of the various bills related to this, so that we can each make known to our congressmen our feelings and ideas. The current issue of Audubon magazine provides some additional looks at various aspects of these same topics. This will be a crucial time for your support since Alaska lands represents the last chance the country will have to put aside any large areas for preservation. Please give this all the support you can in any way you can.

October 20th will be the date of that month's meeting - advanced a week to allow us to obtain a special speaker. Featured on that evening will be Victor Emmanuel of Texas - one of the superstars of birding if you can use that term. Lecturer, tour leader, compiler of the Freeport, Texas Christmas Bird Count, Mr. Emmanuel will present a program on the Christmas Bird Counts, thus serving as a fine lead-in to the Count season. Hopefully this will stimulate more people to take part in our local counts.

REMINDER: We will have an informational booth at the 4-H fair Aug. 12-14. If you haven't been able to make the meetings, here's a good chance to meet some of the officers and members who will be manning the booth.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER:

"You're so lucky to be a young chapter just starting out. You can really chart your own course," said an officer of the Valley Forge Audubon Society. And I realized I hadn't thought about it that way.

At the recent Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference of the National Audubon Society, there were representatives of some large (4000 members!), old, established Audubon chapters, and they were anxious to share their experience. Most of these older chapters began as nature clubs or bird clubs, and during the sixties underwent identity crises as their memberships were swamped with more politically oriented environmental activists. Difficult times followed for many chapters as they struggled to meet the needs and represent the interests of all members.

Our advantage as a young chapter is our ability to foresee this challenge, and to evaluate early how we want to allot our time and energy. How can we best combine our interests in enjoying South Jersey's natural beauty and defending it against the threats of a growing population with growing energy needs?

I urge each of you to share your ideas on the direction of the Atlantic Audubon Society with our officers and board members, or bring your thoughts to a board meeting (2nd Wednesday of each month Sept. to June). Let's take advantage of our youth!!

FROM EDUCATION AND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS:

As our Atlantic Audubon Society grows and becomes more active we are going to need more hands and more heads to get the work done. At our first fall meeting we will be handing out a questionnaire (short) asking how much time you would be willing to commit to Audubon projects. We will then compile a list of specific skills that members would be willing to apply to Audubon goals.

So, between now and September please think about what you can do to play a more active role on our conservation projects and educational programs. We will need all kinds of skills from typing, telephoning, and poster-making to giving talks at schools, lectures to groups, trip leaders, and those with specialized scientific and legal expertise. HOW CAN YOU HELP????

PROJECT REPORT: Our efforts in conjunction with the YCC program at the Refuge is paying dividends in the improvement of the successful fledging of Least Terns. If you have not heard the radio spots, several colonies have been marked and watched to prevent disturbance and the birds have responded quite well.

EDITOR'S NOTE: There are several speakers available from our group who can provide programs for other organizations that might be interested. We are asking that such groups make a donation to either our Sanctuary Fund or our Marine Animal Fund, the latter an outgrowth of the efforts to save the small whale last spring. Your assistance in spreading the word will be appreciated.

As we enter our third year, please remember that we are always looking for new members to strengthen the organization. Be a recruiter!

See you all at the September meeting.