

ATLANTIC CURRENTS

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

VOL III

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Editor: E. Bristow

The sound of goose music fills the air. the brilliant colors of fall foliage fade into dull browns and return to the soil from whence they came, and the first snow flurries have provided an early taste of the coming cold and nature's long period of rest. Audubon activities go on!!

PROGRAM

Novembers program will be held in Room J203 at Stockton College. on November 17th at 7:30 PM. Featured will be our own George Bassett who will present a program on the "Natural Areas of West Virginia".

Reminder - January program on January 26th will be members night and a chance to present your favorite slides for the enjoyment of all. Start picking those pix now - further details in January Newsletter.

FIELD TRIPS

November field trip will be a joint outing with the Bucks County Audubon Society at the Brigantine Wildlife Refuge. Date is November 20th and we will meet in the refuge parking lot at 8 AM. This is an excellent opportunity, especially for the novice birders, to get a fine look at waterfowl. Who knows - maybe even an eagle!

SPECIAL - SPECIAL - SPECIAL

Guy Coheleach - well known wildlife artist has provided 100 prints of his "Young Great Horned Owl" to help New Jersey's endangered wildlife. Profits from the sale of these prints will go to the N. J. Division of Fish, Game, and Shellfisheries Endangered and Non-Game Species projects to help finance the restoration of the bald eagle, osprey and peregrine falcon in New Jersey. These are available at a cost of \$50 - of which \$40 will be a donation to the above projects and therefore tax-deductible. Prints should be ordered from:

Wild Things, Inc.  
Box 245  
Mountain Lakes, N. J. 07046

Here;s a way to really help and gain some pleasure for yourself at the same time.

DONATIONS

We have now received our definitive letter from the IRS confirming our tax-exempt status. All donations to the local chapter are now affirmed as a tax-deductible contribution. We do ask that you also remember that it takes people to make this organization work, so please help where you can.

As a part of National Audubon's Bicentennial program, they have been developing a special fund for the support of their sanctuary program and projects. They have asked each chapter to try to contribute either \$1000 or \$1 per member. For us, this would amount to about \$200. Your board of directors has decided to try to meet this goal and we ask your help. We will take up a special collection at the November meeting for this purpose. If you can't make the meeting, please send whatever you can to our P. O. Box by December 4th. Sanctuaries become more important every day. For a good look at what can be accomplished by such programs, see the November issue of AUDUBON on the puffin restocking program in Maine. If NAS

reaches their goal of \$800,000 by 12-31-76, the Whittell Foundation will add an additional \$200,000 to that to make an even one million dollars for the program. Let's all pitch in!

#### CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

At our October meeting, Victor Emanuel provided some excellent background on the development and growth of this great annual census of birds. The 76th count of December 1975 set new records with 1141 separate count areas and 28,688 people taking part. More and more individuals are becoming interested and each year the tally grows. We would like to invite you to join in one of the three counts in our area this year. Places, dates, and who to contact are listed below. Feeder watchers are also needed. A fee of \$1 is charged each individual taking part to help defray the cost of compiling and publishing the results (last years volume ran some 650 pages). If you are interested in seeing the results of all this effort, single copies are available for \$4.50, annual subscription to American Birds is \$8.00 per year for six issues including the Christmas Count issue. To participate in the counts, contact:

Oceanville Count	-	Dec. 18th (Sat)	-	Ed Bristow	641-4670
Marmora Count	-	Dec. 19th (Sun)	-	Jim Akers	266-7859
Tuckerton Count	-	Dec. 26th (Sun)	-	Ben Hiatt	296-4016

Please note that these are all day operations, so plan accordingly. Even if you are unable to complete the entire day, we can make use of what time you can give. There will be post-count get-togethers as follows:

Oceanville	-	Brigantine Refuge auditorium	starting at 4 PM
Marmora	-	Dr. Durham's home, Tuckahoe Rd	" at 4 PM
Tuckerton	-	Ben Hiatt's home, Tuckerton	- he will advise.

Purpose of these get-togethers is to begin compiling species and to verify any unusual sightings, as well as to enjoy good company and something to thaw out the icicles.

#### LEGISLATIVE SCOREBOARD

Among legislation passed and signed prior to the recent elections were some gains for the environmental movement. Included were reforms on forestry cutting practices and timber management; passage of the Bureau of Land Management Organic Act; protection of over 400 miles of river in Montana and Tennessee, the Alpine Lakes area of Washington, and the New River; a bill to create National Wildernesses in 19 of the National Wildlife Refuges and study 8 more areas for wilderness protection.

Also, effective January 1, 1977 tax exempt groups such as ours can finally do a limited amount of lobbying without jeopardizing their tax-exempt status. This has been a long sought goal, especially since industry can lobby as much as they want and write off the expense to boot.

National Audubon, National Wildlife Federation, and EPA among others have resigned from the advisory board of "Keep America Beautiful". Reasons - KAB has been dominated by the container industry which has pointed toward clean-up rather than trying to get at the causes, including throwaway containers. They have also been expending millions of dollars fighting the bottle return bills in various states. The fact that two more states have passed such laws may yet convince the industries involved to switch rather than continuing to fight such efforts.

Locally, a report in the Atlantic City Press indicating that the proposed plan for construction of the protecting breakwater for the Offshore Nuclear Plant using "dolos" may have some serious flaws based on reports of damage to similar construction in California. This is one more reason to keep these plants out of the ocean. Passage of casino gambling will lead to a surge of development. It will be urgent

to check carefully on planning to insure that such development remains compatible with preservation of our wetlands and coastal zones. Such features as the effects on water tables and sewerage disposal must also be monitored. If you see such problems developing, let us know so that appropriate action can be taken.

#### PRESIDENT'S CORNER

As members of a large, influential, national conservation organization, we have unusually good access to the latest information on local and global conservation problems. The "yellow pages" in the back of each Audubon magazine provide surprisingly detailed information on challenges, victories, and setbacks facing the Audubon cause. After relaxing through the excellent feature articles and the astoundingly beautiful pictures in each copy, I usually sit back, take a deep breath and dive into the difficult issues in the yellow pages, alternately exasperated, elated, and angered. Often there are suggested activities for channeling this energy, such as writing letters or reading further reference material. Another source of the latest information is the "Audubon Leader", a newsletter published by the National Audubon Society for its chapters and affiliates. Individuals may subscribe to this hotline for \$5 a year by writing to National Audubon Society, 950 Third Avenue, New York, N. Y. 10022.

Martha Pokras

#### WILDLIFE ART SHOW

For those who enjoy the beauty of wildlife art, a show has been planned for the weekend of February 5-7 at Stockton College. We are interested in obtaining works of local artists for exhibition, so if you know someone who works in this field let us know. Fred Hamer is coordinating the affair and will provide details. We will also have some outside artists work exhibited through the efforts of the Prince Georges Audubon Society of Maryland. They did a fantastic job at last spring's regional conference at Bucknell. Full details will be in the next issue of the newsletter.

In order to provide wide coverage of this event, we are planning to distribute posters throughout the area. Help will be needed to make these and so we will have a poster-making party on January 13th at 7:30 PM at Stockton College - room to be announced later. Please plan to help!

#### THE BOOKWORM

Suggestions for Christmas giving to those who matter:

The Pleasure of Birds and The Audubon Wildlife Treasury - both from Audubon.  
History of Wildlife in America, from National Wildlife Federation.  
Habitat Guide to Birding.

Review: "The Drama of the Oceans" by Elisabeth Mann Borgese, Harry N. Abrams, Inc.

As an introduction to the wonders of the oceans, this book provides an interesting and readable guide from the geology and geography to the many users and uses of the oceans. The photography is excellent with some really stunning shots of the sea and its inhabitants. However, it suffers from trying to cover too broad a field and does not provide sufficient depth for anyone seeking a full understanding of the areas covered. This book is probably best suited for someone who is just beginning to learn about this most vital area.

#### BIRD FEEDERS

Now is the time to get those feeders in operation if you have not yet started. Please remember - once you start, those birds become dependent on that source of supply. Nothing is guaranteed to create more disaster than unfilled feeders, especially if the weather is very cold or storms develop and cut off wild food.

HOLIDAY GREETINGS