

ATLANTIC CURRENTS

Newsletter of the Atlantic Audubon Society  
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As we start our third century as a nation, we face many challenges and problems. It is urgent that each of us look carefully at both the short and long term effects of our actions lest we leave our children an impossibly difficult heritage. Seek out both sides of each question and issue - weigh carefully the solutions available and remember that extremes in either direction are usually bad over the long term.

GOOD NEWS-

As a result of coordinated efforts, including our chapter members donations, the goal of a one million dollar National Audubon Society Bicentennial Sanctuary Fund is a reality. Over one million dollars was raised by National Audubon and the Whittell Foundation added their promised \$200,000 challenge grant to that. This fund will be used according to needs for sanctuary protection, development and expansion. Efforts will continue to build this fund through 1981 - the Society's Diamond anniversary. With 385 chapters now in action, great things are possible.

-and BAD NEWS:

The recent rash of tanker accidents and spills would appear to be the beginning of the predicted end result recorded in "Supership", a most interesting book of recent vintage. This serves to point up the potential that exists for major disaster that could spell big trouble for this area. In addition, the Alaska Pipeline project continues to pose many questions - where is the oil going?; is the pipeline itself as well constructed as it was supposed to be?; and so on ad nauseum. No one yet has come up with the answers that we need. It behooves all of us along the Jersey coast to watch with great care as the oil companies begin their drilling program offshore, so that we don't get caught napping.

WILDLIFE ART SHOW

On February 4-6, 1977 we will sponsor a wildlife Art Show at Stockton State College with many local artists represented. For some this may be their first efforts, for others just one more of many. For all it will be an opportunity to display to the residents of this area the great wealth of talent that lies within our midst. We expect an excellent show. We do ask that you make an effort to get out to see this show and invite your friends and neighbors to do likewise. I'm sure that everyone will find something to give them pleasure. All sales will help support our local activities as well as rewarding the artist. Do set that date aside now.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS:

Once again the Christmas counts went well with good participation. The results were as follows:

Oceanville:	123 species	60 participants (a record)
Marmora:	119 species	30 participants (a record)
Tuckerton:	93 species	14 participants

Our thanks to all who participated. Special thanks go to the local Coast Guard station for providing a boat and crew for the ocean survey on the Oceanville Count. Thanks also to the Durhams who hosted a get-together after the Marmora count and to the Hiatts who did likewise for the Tuckerton count, as well as the members of our group who prepared the repast for the Oceanville count. Please keep next year in mind.

### NEW JERSEY AUDUBON COUNCIL

The second meeting of the council of Audubon chapters in New Jersey was hosted by Mommouth County Audubon Society on Dec. 4, 1976. Six members of our chapter participated. Discussions were held concerning mutual problems and some efforts made toward coordination of activities such as field trips. Next meeting of the council will be held on March 5th with our chapter acting as host.

### 1977 PROJECTS:

There are two areas of vital concern this year, about which all members should become knowledgeable. The first is the Alaska Wildlands issue which we have discussed previously, supported by the excellent slide program in September. We now have an excellent brochure available which includes all pertinent information as well as a map of the involved areas. This is available to anyone free of charge - if you can use one or know anyone else who might be interested, contact either Martha Pokras or your editor and we will provide you with same. The second issue is of more local concern involving the Pine Barrens. The advent of oil exploration, casino gambling and suburban sprawl make it mandatory that a well defined plan for protection of this unique area be established without further delay. Not only is the above-ground area important, but there is a large water reserve below ground which must be protected. We ask that each one keep informed on the issues and contact those officials who can provide some positive action in this regard.

### FREE LEAFLETS:

National Audubon has provided two excellent leaflets - "The Blackbird Problem" and "Pesticides Do's and Don'ts". These will be available at meetings or by sending a stamped self-addressed envelope to the editor.

### NATIONAL AUDUBON CONVENTION:

The next general convention will be held at Estes Park, Colorado on June 9-12th. This provides an excellent opportunity to meet other Audubon people from all over the country and exchange ideas, programs, etc. It also will provide an opportunity to see a spectacular part of the Rockies. Details are available from President Martha.

### EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS:

There will be two opportunities for those interested in learning more about our area during the next several months. George Bassett is organizing a course on Marsh ecology which will be presented through the Mainland Regional Evening School Program. Watch for the announcement in the paper in the near future. The Society under the able guidance of Mark Pokras will again present the Bird Identification Course which has been well received the past two years. Details will be forthcoming in the near future. Although this has been designed primarily for the novice birder, it should prove of interest to more experienced individuals as well. There is a fee for both programs, proceeds going to support our activities.

### KEEP THOSE FEEDERS FILLED!!!

With the cold and snow cover, birds are having a rough time. It is especially important that everyone keep their feeders well stocked and spread some extra out on the ground if you can keep it stocked. Don't be surprised at anything that may turn up to take advantage of your largess.

- PROGRAMS: January 26th: Members Night. Bring your favorite slides to share with all. Please divide them into groups of ten, so that we can allow everyone a turn and then repeat until slides or viewers are exhausted. This has always been a great show so come on out.
- February 23rd "Nature in the City" . Ken Hunt will present a program on what is being done in Britain and Sweden in the way of environmental planning in their new towns. This will be a good program to invite your town officials to see.
- March 23rd: Endangered Species in N. J. This will be presented by Joan Galli of the state Fish Game and Wildlife unit. It should provide us with an update on what is currently being done in this area and what is still needed.
- April 27th: Peru. Jim Akers and John Danzenbaker will take us on a trip to one of the great birding areas of South America via slides from their recent trip.
- May 25th: To be announced.

FIELD TRIPS:

- January 22: Winter birding at Barnegat Light. Meet at the lighthouse parking lot at 9 AM. Dress very warmly as the wind can really put the chill on. Bring lunch if you wish to stay longer.
- February 26: Birding at Cape May. An early look at winter stayovers and hopefully some early migrants. Meet at Lighthouse Park in Cape May Point at 8 AM. All day if weather lets us, so bring lunch.
- March 26: Birding at Brigantine Refuge. Meet at 8 AM in parking lot. Beginning of waterfowl migration and some shorebirds as well as the winter leftovers.
- April 16: Birding along Great Bay Boulevard in Tuckerton. This can be a good spot if conditions are right. Meeting place will be announced at a later date.
- April 29-May 1 Delmarva birding and camping trip. A repeat by request of a great weekend. In spite of the rain last year, we had good birding. Will include Pokomoke Swamp, Chincoteague Refuge, Blackwater Refuge and maybe some other spots. There are also motels in the area if you are not a camper, but you will have to make your own arrangements for that. Registration for camping will be due by April 8th to Fred Hamer.
- May 14: Spring Warbler Search. Place and time to be announced at a later date.
- May 21st Canoe Trip. If you need canoe rental, get in touch with Shirley DeMill. Money must be turned in by date she will specify in order to reserve a canoe.
- June 4: Flower Walk. Gil Cavileer will again provide leadership for one of our popular trips. Place and time will be announced later.