

ATLANTIC CURRENTS

Newsletter of the Atlantic Audubon Society
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Editor: E. Bristow

As the various legislative bodies take their summer breaks, we have a chance to evaluate the progress made so far. While there have been some environmental gains, there is still tremendous pressure being brought to bear to reverse or downgrade those not yet enacted into law. It is essential that everyone continue to write both congressmen and state legislators to keep them aware of our interests. There is still time to write President Carter supporting veto of those water projects which have been approved by the legislature. In view of the drought conditions prevailing this summer, it would be folly to allow those which will withdraw more water from already short areas.

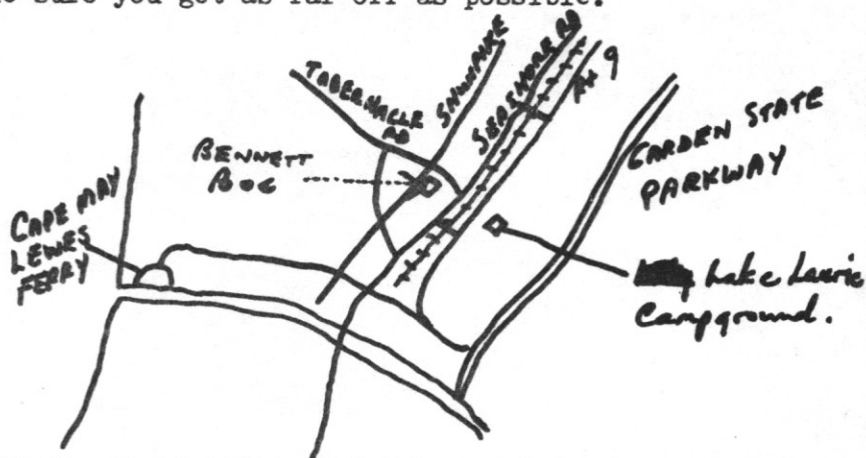
SUMMER SPECIAL:

There will be an extra flower walk on August 6th at Bennett Bog Sanctuary in Cape May led by Gil Cavileer. Meet at the bog (New Jersey Audubon Sanctuary) at 9:30 AM. Parking is along the road, so make sure you get as far off as possible. Directions for reaching the bog:

Be prepared for wet walking if there is rain between now and then.

Bring field guides, cameras, and hand lens. Hopefully some of our native orchids will highlight the trip.

*Church at corner of
Seashore Rd + Tabernacle Rd.*



MEETING REMINDER:

Our first meeting of the fourth year of Atlantic Audubon activities will be on September 28th at 7:30 PM at Stockton State College. Room number will be announced in Spetember's newsletter. As announced at our last meeting, we will be starting a new effort in September in conservation. We ask that each member bring their own cup or mug for coffee to cut down or eliminate use of plastic cups as we had been doing. While this is a small thing, we should be practicing what we are preaching to others.

TERN PROJECT:

Again this summer, least tern and black skimmer colonies have been posted and are being monitored on a regular basis. Success with this program last year verified that when disturbance by people is minimized, the colonies do much better. If you are near one of these areas, make it a point to talk to people using nearby areas—you'll find most are quite receptive when the reasons are explained.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

Once again we are asking that all members carefully consider how they can best help the Audubon effort. Various committees will be needing help, and your board is always receptive to useful suggestions and ideas. Please remember that we can only do those things for which we have the manpower.

REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE:

We would like to welcome our new regional representative Frank Dunstan who took over the job on July 1. We wish Dick Martyr well in his new job as Western Regional rep, an area he is well acquainted with from past experience. We are looking forward to working with Frank.

NEW JERSEY COUNCIL OF AUDUBON CHAPTERS:

On June 18th, Martha Pokras attended the quarterly meeting of the council, hosted by the Summit Nature Club in Basking Ridge, N. J. These quarterly meetings serve as an opportunity for communication with the other Audubon chapters as well as with New Jersey Audubon Society. At each meeting issues of state-wide importance are discussed, efforts are made to coordinate activities, and gives each one the best chance to meet other leaders for the Audubon cause in New Jersey. And, not too surprisingly, they are fine people, anxious to share facts and figures, fears and hopes, victories and defeats.

The next council meeting will be held on Sept. 17th and will be hosted by Jersey Shores Audubon Society. If you are interested in attending, call Martha at 652-7655 for details.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER:

From June 9th to 11th, Mark and I joined representatives of 180 National Audubon chapters to take part in the Society's national convention in Estes Park, Colorado. After settling in at "our" cabin at the YMCA of the Rockies, we joined more than 900 people from 47 states to hear the opening address by National Audubon president Elvis J. Stahr.

Dr. Stahr traced the history of the Audubon movement from the time when Guy Bradley a heron warden, was shot by plume hunters in Florida, to the recent surge in Audubon membership. (More chapters have been added in the past four years than in the previous 70 years - there are now 397 chapters!!) Conservation action and environmental education were early Audubon concerns, and though tremendous strides have been made, these remain our top priorities. Dr. Stahr reported on two new elements that should boost our effectiveness: 1. we have an ally in the White House" and 2. we have a new law on lobbying by tax-exempt organizations which permits us to support environmentally sound programs far more effectively than before.

Major addresses by Secretary of the Interior Cecil Andrus, Senator Gary Hart of Colorado, and Mr. David Freeman, White House energy advisor, punctuated the conference with the challenge that our Audubon input is important and necessary to solve today's pressing environmental problems.

Workshops on Audubon chapter concerns provided new ideas and enthusiasm. We learned how to diagnose the health of an Audubon chapter (we're doing just fine!), picked up suggestions on building membership, new educational approaches, and new field trip ideas (how about one especially for older people).

For me, one of the most exciting aspects of the convention was the informal contact with so many other Audubon people. Breakfast conversation ranged from saving a canyon in California to an Audubon summer festival in Connecticut. These people are committed to the Audubon cause, and were representing huge old chapters, embryonic new chapters, or just themselves. And they were just a sample of the more than 360,000 Audubon members who share our respect and concern for a healthy environment, and our commitment to work toward that end.

The Rocky Mountains provided fine inspiration, and for a couple of days after the convention we stayed on to learn a few of their secrets. It was an experience I wish you could all have shared.

I have lots of new ideas for future Atlantic Audubon projects and priorities, which I will be sharing with our officers and board members in the fall. I welcome your help with Audubon decision making, and look forward to your increased involvement with Atlantic Audubon in the coming year.

Martha Pokras

Editor's Note: Having previously attended a National convention, I can only say amen!!. This was one of the greatest experiences I have ever had, and I most heartily recommend it to anyone who can manage in the future.

POTPURRI:

We will again be offering a number of items as fundraising ideas such as the energy bumper stickers, small field guides to trees and wildflowers, gift tags, as well as our own Atlantic Audubon member patch. Every little bit helps.

We again expect to be involved in three Christmas bird counts - and we need all the help we can get. If you would like to be involved, contact Jim Akers, Ben Hiatt, or Ed Bristow for details. Further announcement as to dates will be published later.

Tentative plans are already in the works for another art show. Since help is vital to make it worthwhile, keep this in mind also.

Ideas for programs and field trips are always welcome - contact any of the officers or Board members.

We are always on the lookout for new members. If you have suggestions, give the names and addresses to Ruth Stamps, or give them an application yourself.

And lastly - please, please remember to renew your memberships when they come due. Not only do you help the whole Audubon cause, but a portion of those dues are returned to the chapter to support our own activities. Also make sure you notify us of any change in address. The postal service will not return any undeliverable third class mail, so we have no way of knowing if you move.