

## ATLANTIC CURRENTS

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

VOL IV NO. 1

September, 1977

Editor: E. Bristow

Welcome to a new year of Audubon activities, a year of further growth and increased strength if we all contribute some effort. There are many issues which will be of both immediate and continuing concern to all of us as citizens and especially as members of the Atlantic Audubon Society.

To those of you who have recently joined our ranks, we are delighted to have you with us. The society extends a cordial invitation to participate in any or all of our activities. To all members - please give of your time in any areas of interest or concern. There are a number of committees in need of working members - no experience needed, just enthusiasm.

Participate in the field trips - you do not need to be an expert. An interest and willingness to learn more of the natural world around us is the only requirement.

### MEETING NOTES:

Board meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month, September through June and are open to anyone interested in attending. All constructive input is welcome. If you have ideas and can't make board meetings, contact any member of the board and pass those ideas along. Meetings will be held in Room G202, Stockton State College, and begin at 7:30 PM.

Program meetings are on the 4th Wednesday except in November. Coffee hour is from 7:30 to 8 PM, with the meeting starting at 8 PM. We will meet in Room J203 at Stockton State College in Pomona.

Starting in September, in the interests of conservation, we request that each person bring his or her own cup, mug, or whatever for coffee, tea, etc. to each meeting. While this is only one small thing, it will help to reduce waste and conserve energy.

### PROGRAM SCHEDULE:

September 28th:	The Pine Barrens	Eileen Hand, naturalist at Batsto, will provide a look at a critical local area. She and her husband Lou have had long experience in this area.
October 26th:	Coastal Zone Management and the Wetlands	David Kinsey, Director of the Office of Coastal Zone Management for DEP will talk on the implementation of related laws and the effects of such things as offshore oil drilling, casino building, etc. A most important and timely topic.
November 16th:	Africa	Our own Ruth Stamps will present a look at an area of some international concern with emphasis on wildlife.
December:	NO MEETING	

PROGRAMS: (cont)

January 25th            Members Nite            Again, we invite everyone to gather their favorite slides to share with all. This has been an excellent program each time and we expect more of the same.

Also in the works for next spring are talks on South Jersey geology, the Southwest, and other equally interesting programs. Don't miss them!

FIELD TRIPS

September 10th        Wildflower walk. Gil Cavilese leads. Meet at Port Republic church parking lot at 9 AM.

September 17th        Special Children's Walk. Meet at the jetty at the south end of Brigantine Island at 1PM Fred Hamer will lead.

September 24th        Birding at Cape May. Meet at Lighthouse Park, Cape May Point at 7 AM. All day, so bring lunch. Fall migration should be in full swing.

October 1st            Beach Walk. Meet at beach at north end of Brigantine Island near Seahorse Pier. A close look at the edge of the sea and what a barrier island is all about. 9 AM.

October 14-16         Hawk Mountain Weekend. Popular camping weekend returns. Let Fred Hamer know if you are interested so he can arrange for camping space. If you are not a camper, there are motels in the area where you can make your own arrangements.

November 19th         Birding at Brigantine Refuge. Fall waterbird spectacular should be in full swing. Meet in the parking lot at 8 AM.

November 26th         Barnegat Light Trip. Early winter birding. Meet at the lighthouse parking lot at 9 AM. Hopefully, we'll get a look at some of the wintering birds.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS:

Here are the tentative dates for the local counts in which we have been participating. The more eyes we have, the better the results have been, weather permitting.

December 17    Oceanville    Contact Ed. Bristew. Covers the area from the Mullica River south to Northfield.

December 18    Marmora      Contact Jim Akers. Covers the area from Linwood south to middle Cape May.

December 31    Tuckerton    Contact Ben Hiatt. Covers the area from the Mullica north to above Tuckerton.

UPCOMING EVENTS OF NOTE:

September 17    N. J. Council of Audubon chapters will be meeting in Ocean County. If interested, contact Martha Pokras.

September 30- October 2    N. J. Audubon Society Meeting in Cape May. Information available from Cape May Bird Observatory, office in the Wetlands Institute, Stone Harbor.



NEWS ITEMS:

Repair and rehabilitation of 100 National Wildlife Refuges is scheduled to begin in 1978 under a 5 year program. This is part of the Bicentennial Land Heritage Program launched last year. Purchase of wildlife habitat will also be stepped up in 1978. State endangered species programs will also get some federal funding in the form of matching grants, while endangered plants will get funding for listing and identification of critical habitat.

While the funds for the Garrison Diversion Project (see AUDUBON, Mar. 75) were not cut in the recent water projects bill, a pending suit may serve to hold that project in abeyance.

Whooping cranes are doing better! Total was 120 as of mid-summer. Final count will come in the fall after their perilous migration is over.

All members may now receive "Audubon Leader" if interested. Cost is \$5 per year for this biweekly newsletter. Contact National office in New York.

EDITORIAL

Although energy has been the headline grabber in recent months, there is an even more urgent problem developing in the form of water shortages. Droughts in many areas this summer have served to accentuate this problem. Balancing such things as water needs of developed areas, agricultural demands, and the necessity of preserving sufficient amounts in various aquifers to prevent salt water intrusions, etc. will lead to increasing conflict between these various segments in the near future. Even now there are areas, especially in the southwest, and far west where these conflicts are already creating major problems.

Closer to home is the suggested use of the Cohansey aquifer underlying the Pine Barrens. Among the problems which must be resolved before any amount of water can be withdrawn are the extent of salt water intrusion, land subsidence if withdrawal exceeds replenishment for a long enough period, and the effects of ground water pollution from over-development of the area.

Some of the factors involved in water shortages include changing weather patterns, less of rainfall due to run-off from extensive asphalt covered areas, increased acreage covered by developments, loss of water conserving trees and plants from such areas, and increased agricultural needs due to combinations of the above factors. How well we can resolve these conflicts, whether we can plan carefully and conserve water to a much greater extent than we have so far, will determine what the total effect of these problems will have on our life style in the future. It is incumbent on all of us to put some careful and reasonable thought to these problems now before we are reduced to fighting more dust bowls.

E. Bristow

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Directors: June Bancroft, Edgar C. Bristow, Schuler Dawson, Jerry Schonleber

Any questions, suggestions, complaints, etc should be addressed to the above fearless leaders of the Atlantic Audubon Society.