



ATLANTIC CURRENTS



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

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Flowers are blooming, birds are singing, and once again the earth is renewed. How much more of man's abuse of his world can be tolerated is a question which no one can yet answer. If you enjoy this marvelous sphere of ours, please give serious thought to any proposals made that will produce change. History is replete with examples of "if we had only known!"

CALENDAR ITEMS

- Programs: May 24th "The Hellstrom Chronicles" This is an excellent film on the insect world with unusual photography. Installation of new officers will take place. Meeting will be in the Lecture Hall, A-wing at Stockton College.
- Field Trips: May 13th: Warblers at Princeton Woods. Early departure. Contact Fred Hamer at 965-1948 for details.
- May 20th: "Feathers and Flowers" Meet in parking lot of Brigantine Wildlife Refuge at 6:30 AM for birding and same place at 10:30 AM for the flower portion of the trip, led by Gil Cavileer.
- June 10th: Beach Walk for children. Postponed from the earlier date due to bad weather. Meet at 1:00 PM at the south end of Brigantine Island at the jetty.

ELECTION

Our new officers and directors were elected at the April meeting. Installation will take place at the May meeting. Those elected are:

George Bassett of Linwood	President
Ruth Stamps of Bargaingtown	Vice-President
Nora Delasantro of Estell Manor	Secretary
Wesley Stadlmeier of Absecon	Treasurer

Directors: Martha Pokras of Absecon, June Bancroft of Linwood
Schuyler Dawson of Margate, Joseph Delasantro of Estell Manor
Lester Flock of Pomona.

Congratulations to the new executive board. We think they will continue to lead the society forward, but remember that they can not do it all alone. Everyone has to contribute to make this a meaningful organization. Committee heads will be announced as soon as selected.

***** IN MEMORIAM *****

Just as we were preparing this newsletter word was received of the sudden death of Ben Hiatt - a good friend and a strong supporter of Audubon. Ben was a charter member of the chapter, one of our first directors, a fine photographer as those who saw the March program can attest, leader of the Tuckerton Christmas Bird Count, and a fine friend. He will be missed.

AVIAN REHABILITATION CENTER: For our April program, Mark and Martha Pokras provided an excellent visual presentation on the work they are doing in caring for sick, injured, and orphaned birds. The center is a non-profit organization and can use lots of help in the form of monetary donations as well as various kinds of material for use in caring for the birds. Your tax deductible donations should be sent directly to them. If you can contribute other items, check with them as to what is needed.

FIELD TRIP NOTES: After some early spring wipe-outs due to impossible weather, we finally got going on a very successful tour of the Brigantine Refuge in March. Birds were a little slow in returning this year as they have continued to be all through the spring. In April, we traveled to Great Bay Blvd. in Tuckerton with a fine turnout of members - saw some good birds in spite of not quite the best weather. Our week-end extravaganza to the Delmarva Peninsula was a great success - 37 people joined the trek and enjoyed some welcome sunshine. Areas covered included the Pokomoke swamp, Chincoteague and Assateague, Blackwater Refuge and for some Bombay Hook Refuge. About 130+ species were recorded - highlight being an elusive glimpse of the "voice of the swamp" the Swainson's warbler. Have you tried a good trip lately?

WELCOME

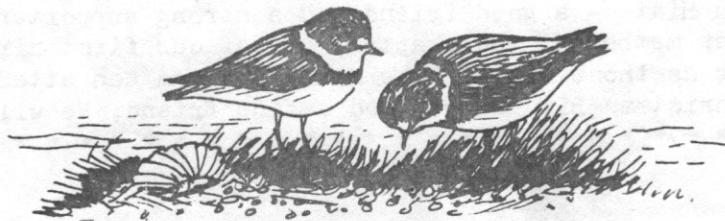
We say welcome to the following new members who have joined us since the last listing. If you have a friend who might be interested in Audubon, extend an invitation yourself, or give the name and address to our Membership chairperson Ruth Stamps who will see that they receive an invitation to join.

Meanwhile, say hello to -

- Evelyn Hamilton - Hammonton
- Rosemarie Lang - Forked River
- Evelyn Deutsch - Ventnor
- David Powell - Pomona
- James Meritt - Turnersville
- Tom Van Langen - Linwood
- John & Diane Murray - Ocean City
- John Ambrose - Vineland
- John Ulrich - Tuckerton
- A. E. Jahn - Lower Bank
- James Boice - Margate
- Kristen Caste - Northfield
- Rev. & Mrs. Albert Hartman - Ocean City
- Elizabeth Shriver - Somers Point
- Helen Clymer - Ocean City
- Mr. & Mrs. Carleton Ashley - Princeton

- Doris Hopkins - Absecon
- Aleda Straley - Pomona
- Frank Owens - Absecon
- Mr. & Mrs Howard Ziegler - Margate
- Mr. & Mrs. Peter Polisse - Barnegat Light
- Florence Haycock - Mays Landing
- Harry Myers - Pleasantville
- Warren Murphy - Hammonton
- Chris Compagnucci - Brigantine
- John Barnard - Linwood
- Daniel D. Delgesso - Pomona
- B. Osburn & Meyer - Absecon
- S. Simpson - Ocean City
- Stephanie Armiger - Ocean City
- Kathy Kilby - Ocean City

We invite all of you to attend our various functions, committees, etc. and get to meet some fine folks who make up the Atlantic Audubon Society.



COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

Education committee again provided our annual spring "Beginner Birding" course with 31 registrants this year. Our thanks to our friends at the Brigantine National Wildlife Refuge for their help in providing facilities for the evening sessions as well as the early morning walks.

In process is a slide program on the value of the salt marsh, which the committee expects to have ready by fall of 1974. Invitations will be sent to various groups announcing this. If you know of a group that might be interested in such a program, have them contact either June Carlton at 266-3088 or Mark Pokras at 652-7655.

Conservation committee has been in contact with the officials of Brigantine trying to preserve the large nesting colony of least terns in the south end of that city. Thus far, officials have shown some willingness to listen to our information and proposals. Further activities in this area will be followed.

CLEAN-UP

Two very successful clean-up projects took place in April - at Great Creek Road bog and at Jeffers Landing Natural Area. With strong support from eager hands, several loads of trash were removed resulting in considerable improvement in the quality of the environment in those areas - at least temporarily. Two over-eager anonymous volunteers took an unscheduled dive into the bog as they tried for a perfect result.

Special thanks go to Anthony Gay of Absecon who furnished his truck for both jobs again this year, and to Kenneth Ford of Egg Harbor Township for his assistance on behalf of the township.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

We need letters!!! Please let your Senators and Representative know how you feel about HR-39 and S-1500, which are the bills dealing with the preservation of land in Alaska for National Parks, Refuges, and Wild Rivers, etc. Various interests have already pushed through cuts in total acreage from the original proposals to some 100 million acres, and are pushing for still further cuts. Even though some 70 % of Alaska remains available for all uses, and 90 % remains open to hunting, some are not satisfied. Not only conservation groups are supporting this legislation, but they have been joined by a number of other citizens groups, large labor unions such as the UAW, and many individuals who feel that we must keep this last frontier open for future generations.

South Jersey representatives have now combined forces on a bill to protect the Pine Barrens. Watch for the details as they become available and let your Congressman know how you feel about preserving the Pine Barrens.

Locally, watch for proposals that may lead to further environmental degradation. There are better ways to handle many of the problems than those used in the past, and we need to push elected officials into looking at all the options.

We are also supporting HR-10255 which is a bill to provide ongoing support for non-game and endangered species programs. While there are some improvements needed, it is urgent that some degree of funding for these programs be established.



COMING EVENTS

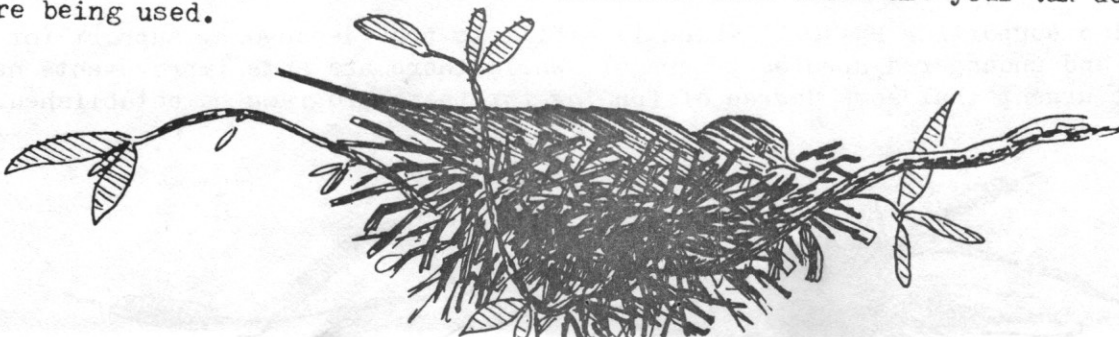
Plan now for some excellent activities that will be coming along in addition to our regular programs and trips.

August 25th-27th: Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference of Audubon Chapters. This will be held at Messiah College near Harrisburg, Pa. with full details in the next newsletter. Package deal including two nights lodging and six meals will be about \$25. This is a tremendous opportunity to meet other folks from the various chapters and to learn a great deal about Audubon functions. This will charge you up like nothing else I know, except maybe the National convention!

Nov. 8th-12th: The second Atlantic Audubon Wildlife Art Show will be held in the gallery at Stockton State College. Featuring the talents of many local artists as well as folks from other areas, this should be bigger and better than last year's show. Chairman Fred Hamer and his committee are already at work on planning. If you are interested in helping or contributing, contact Fred at 965-1948.

COMMENTARY

One of the items in the national budget is the so-called "pork barrel" programs, which tend to be voted along the lines of you scratch my back and I'll scratch yours, rather than on the merits of the particular project. For many of these projects there is good justification. For many of the larger ones, there is increasing evidence that they are developed for the benefit of the few, with very marginal cost-benefit ratios. Increasingly we find out that costs are reduced by dubious calculations of the monetary cost and failure to include environmental costs; while the benefits are extended to areas of considerable question. A case in point: The Tellico Dam project in Tennessee has been held up by the appropriate use of the Endangered Species Act. It is now proposed by Sen. Baker of Tennessee and Sen. Culver of Iowa to allow a committee of seven heads of agencies to decide whether an endangered species can be destroyed to allow a construction project to continue. A vote of 5 of the 7 would doom the endangered species. The economic justification for the Tellico Dam has been severely criticized on many grounds - flooding of prime agricultural land (while we are supposed to spend billions to fund irrigation projects to produce more agricultural land), destruction of ancestral sites of the Cherokees, and flooding of the last free-flowing stretch of the Duck River, among other considerations. Further, the TVA has seized land far in excess of its actual needs through the power of eminent domain and plans to sell this off at a profit to industrial concerns. Such practices no longer have a place as this country tries to reach a sensible balance. We urge that all concerned citizens look into these practices - remember that those are your tax dollars that are being used.



something new

from the
endangered
and nongame
species project



1978 ENDANGERED SPECIES DECAL featuring the BOG TURTLE

New Jersey has been a leader in research and management programs designed to protect and restore endangered species. The Division of Fish, Game and Shellfisheries Endangered and Nongame Species Project has made important strides in the management of the osprey, the peregrine falcon, the bog turtle and both the tiger and blue-spotted salamanders.

To continue this work requires funding beyond that appropriated by the state. By purchasing a decal you help provide this funding. All proceeds will be donated to the Endangered and Nongame Species Project. In addition, under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, the federal government will remit \$10 in federal aid monies for each \$5 donation. Therefore, each decal sold means \$15 invested in endangered species work.

These colorful decals, featuring the endangered bog turtle, are available for \$5.00 each. To receive your decal use the order form below.

Show others that you care about the future of New Jersey's Endangered Species. Get your decal today for display on your car, boat, window, etc.

DECAL ORDER FORM

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Please send me _____ bog turtle decal (s) at \$5.00/each.

Total amount enclosed _____ (check/money order)

MAIL TO: **ENDANGERED AND NONGAME SPECIES PROJECT**
New Jersey Division of Fish, Game and Shellfisheries
Box 1809
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

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