

## ATLANTIC CURRENTS

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

VOL V, NO. 3

January, 1979

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A Happy New Year to all our members and our wishes for a good year in 1979.

While these dreary winter days are still upon us, it is time to think ahead to our spring activities. Some good times are in store for those who participate. Remember - an important part of Audubon is getting involved - how about you?

### PROGRAMS

Meetings will be held in Room B116 at Stockton State College in Pomona. This will give us some much needed space as those of you who attended the fall meetings can attest. Coffee hour begins at 7:30 PM and the meeting itself will be gaveled to order by President George Bassett at 8:00 PM.

- Jan. 24th: Members Night. Bring your favorite slides (grouped in 10's) and we'll go through as many as time and patience permit. For those who have been, no encouragement is needed, but for any new members we urge you to try to make this and see what our members show in the way of talented slides. Other exhibits of interest may also be brought for display.
- Feb. 28th: Diamondback Terrapins in the Salt Marsh. Roger Wood will provide a look at another dimension of that fascinating biosphere, and one of the lesser known inhabitants.
- Mar. 28th: To be announced. An outstanding speaker is being lined up.
- Apr. 25th: Frank Dunstan, our regional representative of National Audubon will present a program on his work at a Florida sanctuary run by NAS. This was Frank's job prior to his appointment as rep and will give us a look at another aspect of Audubon activities.
- May 23rd: To be announced. Also promised to be a great program- details in March.

While the specific programs for March and May are not yet settled, rest assured that they will be most interesting, and up to our usual quality.

### FIELD TRIPS

GET INVOLVED - LEARN SOMETHING NEW - ENJOY AN ADVENTURE - MEET NEW FRIENDS

- Jan. 20th: Winter Birding at Barnegat - Meet at the Barnegat Lighthouse parking lot at 9 AM. Bring binoculars, scope if you have one, and dress warmly. Something hot to drink and snacks if you wish.
- Feb. 17th: Natural History Museum in N. Y. - A repeat of our popular bus trip last year. Don Carlton will lead, but get your reservation in early! Call Don at 266-3088. Bring lunch or buy there. Bus will leave Stockton at 7:30 AM.
- Mar. 25th: Birding at Cape May - All day - bring lunch, binoculars, etc. Meet in lighthouse parking lot at Cape May Point at 9 AM.

FIELD TRIPS (cont.)

- Apr. 7th: Birding at Brigantine Wildlife Refuge - Meet in the parking lot at the refuge in Oceanville for a look at the spring migration. Some walking, some auto tour of dikes. Bring binoculars, scopes, and snacks to keep your energy up. *SAM*
- Apr. 27-29th: Pokomoke Parade - our annual weekend camping trip to the Delmarva Peninsula for birds, flowers, and anything else that crosses our path. Make reservations for campsites with Ed Bristow, or your own motel arrangements. Maybe this year I'll get to see that Swainson's Warbler!
- May 12th: Warbler Wander - Meet at 5:30 AM in the Brigantine Refuge parking lot as we greet a fine spring morning and a search for those elusive migrants.  
Flower Frolic - starts at 10 AM in the same place. A great double header if you can manage, or take only one of the pair.
- May 18-20th: Washington in the Spring - Another camping weekend and a new venture for the group. June Carlton has volunteered to lead us and will take reservations for campsites. Motels are available if you don't wish to camp. Gardens, zoo, Smithsonian, etc. WOW!!
- June 3rd: Flower Walk - Time and place to be announced, depending on the best areas.

We have some other possibilities in the works, including a canoe trip so keep your schedules loose and join us.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

Fortune smiled on us this year as the weather remained fairly warm and clear for the first weekend of the count period, but rain on the 31st and wind on the 17th held totals down somewhat. Sorely missed this year were former compilers Jim Akers (Marmora) and Ben Hiatt (Tuckerton) who both passed away in recent months. We were fortunate to have able help to fill their shoes in the persons of John Danzen-Baker (Marmora) and Fred Hamer (Tuckerton).

Results:	<u>Oceanville</u>	134 species
	<u>Marmora</u>	109 species
	<u>Tuckerton</u>	97 species

Thanks to all who participated and to Dr. & Mrs. Robert Durham who provided their hospitality after the Marmora count. If you would like to join next year's counts, get some practice on our field trips this spring and be ready.

NATIONAL AUDUBON CONVENTION

Estes Park, Colorado is the site of this years national meeting to be held June 29-July 1st. A National Audubon convention is a unique experience, and the addition of the Colorado scenery, blooming wildflowers, and abundant wildlife makes this one stupendous! If you can make the time, the price will be right and well worth the trip out. Watch for details in your January Audubon magazine.

### WILDLIFE ART SHOW

A very successful show was held in the Stockton College art gallery, and we extend our thanks to all who helped man the exhibit and reception for the artists, all under the guidance of chairman Fred Hamer. Special thanks go to Ruth Stamps for organizing the reception and Shirley DeMill for publicity.

Winner of the special Ben Hiatt Memorial Award for Color Photography, given by the Atlantic Audubon Society, was Edgar C. Bristow for his "Cattle Egret". Other awards included:

- Oil-Acrylic: 1. Fred Hamer, "Ivory Gull". 2. Linda Weisbecker, "Ben's Decoy".  
3. Linda Weisbecker, "From Sand and Surf".
- Water Color: 1. Anthony Hillman, "Battle of Barnegat Bay"  
2. Fred Hamer, "Laughing Gull!" 3. Diane Newcomb, "Owl Nestling".
- Wood Carving: 1. David Rhodes, "Longbilled Marsh Bird".  
2. Joseph Overs, "Carolina Wren". 3. Joseph Overs, "Thrasher".
- Color Photography: 1. Edgar C. Bristow, "Autumn Gold".

The show was judged by Margaret Hiatt, a South Jersey artist of note, and our thanks to her for a fine job.

### SPECIAL NOTE

The Board of Directors would like to thank all who contributed so generously to the fund for a memorial to Jim Akers. Plans are now being formalized to set up a fund to provide scholarship assistance to a worthy student in the field of environmental education - a strong interest of Jim's. Further details will be covered in a future newsletter.

### EDITORIAL

As we begin this year, it is urgent that as many members as possible provide input to our elected officials in the form of letters, telegrams, and phone calls on the many conservation issues facing the various legislative bodies. At stake is that important, but poorly understood idea known as the "quality of life". Such issues as Alaska lands, energy resources- use and conservation, "pork barrel" projects of all sorts, fiscal priorities, and effects of environmental factors on health, will have to be faced. We, as members of an important organization involved in many of the issues, and as individuals affected by decisions made at various levels, must be prepared to make our voices heard- not as strident extremists, but as thoughtful well informed citizens who do not wish to see this great land go down the tubes, greased by ignorance, greed, and unconcern.

In support of this goal, the Board of Directors has previously authorized a policy of providing 2 first class stamps for each copy of a letter written to any official on these concerns. Primary goals now should be support again for the Alaska lands- a thank you to President Carter and Secretary Andrus is in order for their actions to protect vital areas until Congress completes action- as this will be up again; strong support for further cuts of boondoggle projects benefitting few, and hard looks and careful evaluation of such projects in the future; a vigorous effort toward practical development of "soft" energy paths; and locally a push for strong protection of our precious wetlands and careful planning for the coming growth. Conservation committee chairman John Williamson will be happy to provide necessary information and guidance, as will other of the Board of Directors. Your help is vital!