

## ATLANTIC CURRENTS

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

VOL. V NO. 5

May, 1979

Editor: E. Bristow



As this newsletter is being written, your editor sits amid the splendors of the Great Smoky Mountain National Park in springtime. Dogwood, Shadbush, and Silverbells bloom along the road and up the mountainside, while profusions of wildflowers lurk around every bend in the road, literally carpeting the ground in many places. Juncos flash across the roads, Chestnut-sided warblers trill in the shrubs, Golden-winged warblers zip over the low plants and bushes, overhead soar hawks, a silly Ruffed Grouse sits in the middle of the road - all sing of this joyous season of re-awakening. Yet, lest we forget, there are many who can only see the dollar value of land, timber, and minerals and cannot understand that the human soul needs something more to sustain it. We must preserve such wild places!

### PROGRAMS

Last program of our current year will be on May 23rd at Stockton State College, Room B116 at 8:00 PM. Coffee hour will begin at 7:30 as usual, and we urge you regular members to bring your own cups to conserve. We would also urge that you invite a friend as this will be a particularly good program.

Sailing in Search of Humpback Whales: Ken Tompkins of the Stockton faculty will present a slide program and talk about his experiences on a sailing vessel searching in the Carribean for the Humpback whale. Highly recommended by one who has already heard it.

We are now beginning planning for next years programs. If you have an idea or have heard an interesting one that would be of general interest, please let one of the officers or directors know. This is your society.

### FIELD TRIPS

Last of the schedule for this year. Plan now to participate.

May 12: Warbler Wander - Meet at 5:30 AM in the parking lot at Brigantine Wildlife Refuge  
Flower Frolic - Meet at 10:00 AM same place. A nice double header.

May 18-20: Washington in the Spring: Another camping trip and a new area for the group. June Carlton will lead. Camping outside the Capitol.

June 3: Flower Walk - Gil Cavileer will lead us on a favorite trip to look at whatever is blooming. Meet at 9:30 AM one block toward Nacote Creek from the Port Republic Church (can't use the church parking lot as it is Sunday). 2-3 hours, bring magnifying glass, field guide.

Again, we solicit your ideas on field trips for the coming year. New areas, new subjects, new leaders are all welcome - contact any of the new officers.

ELECTION RETURNS

Annual elections were held at the April general meeting and the following slate of officers and directors presented by the nominating committee was unanimously elected with no floor nominations.

President (2nd year of term):	George Bassett
President-elect	: Joseph Delesantro, Jr.
Vice-President	: June Carlton
Secretary	: Anita Bayer
Treasurer	: Wes Stadlmeier
Directors	: Marion Bartlett
	Jim McKenna
	Bill Osburn
	Rudi Salati
	Jerry Schonleber

Congratulations to all. They will be officially installed at the May meeting, and will take up their duties at the June meeting of the Board.

POKOMOKE TRIP A HUGE SUCCESS

Our annual camping weekend on the Delmarva peninsula was a great success this year in spite of the horrendous jump in camping fees. Twenty-four members and friends gathered Friday night in the campground (some were a little late arriving!) and set off early Saturday morning for the Pokomoke Swamp. Variety was not quite up to some prior years, but we had good looks at the species we did find. The afternoon was spent at Chincoteague and Assateague where a cold wind cut down the number of ducks but otherwise provided good birding. Some folks enjoyed dinner in Chincoteague, then headed back to Ocean City, Maryland where the annual "Salisbury" decoy show was in progress. A most enjoyable evening admiring the tremendous skill exhibited by the participants. Sunday morning was spent back in the swamp, and then the group split, part going to Blackwater refuge and part heading north to Bombay Hook Refuge. Total species list for the weekend was 135 with Bald and Golden eagles at Blackwater and Avocets at Bombay Hook being a few of the highlights.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH

Don't forget the National Audubon Society meeting in Estes Park, Colorado the end of June. This can be an unforgettable part of your Audubon experience, and the cost for the weekend is low excluding travel cost. Several members are already planning to attend - why not join in? Time is short, but there is still time to get your application in to convention headquarters.

CITIZEN'S AWARD

The Board of Directors of the Atlantic Audubon Society voted at its last meeting to establish a "Citizen's Recognition Award" to be presented on an annual basis to an individual or firm that has made a significant contribution to improvement of the environment in our area. We earnestly solicit your recommendations for the consideration of the Board. Recipients do not have to be members of the society. There are no restrictions as to age. If no suitable candidates are nominated in any year, the award will be held over to the next year.

UPCOMING EVENTS OF NOTE

Save Stone Harbor Point Day: June 9th with program to begin at 11 AM in the parking lot at the south end of Stone Harbor. All day with various activities including beach walks, birding, marsh walks, vegetation studies, etc. Write American Littoral Society, Sandy Hook Highlands, N. J. 07732 for details.

Safe Energy Fair: Somerset County Park Commission in cooperation with the Hudson River Sloop Clearwater, Inc. and S. E. A. Alliance have organized this activity at the Somerset County Environmental Education Center, the nation's first solar heated and cooled education facility, 190 Lord Stirling Road, Basking Ridge, N. J. on June 16th, 10AM to 5 PM. For more information call (201) 766-2489, 842-9240 or 256-6615. Many different activities, music, demonstrations, etc.

Stockton Center for Environmental Studies: Schedules many meetings, courses, and field trips involving various aspects of the environment. For current programs, call the center at 652-1776 and ask for the Center for Environmental Research.

WANTED - A LIVE ONE

We are in need of a volunteer to take over the job of chairman for our wildlife art show. This would involve arranging for space, contacting artists, publicity, hanging the show, etc. We do have volunteers to assist, but we need someone to assume the overall direction. If you are willing to contribute some time and effort, here is a great opportunity! Contact President George Bassett at 927-9095.

DO IT "WRITE" AWAY!!

You think you're the only one who hates to write? Hah! - not by a long shot. Most everyone dislikes to sit down, pen in hand and write a letter, especially to a congressman. Aha! Therein lies a secret. Because of just that fact, those who do take the pains to write find that their letters count more heavily among the mail received by legislators. Got a problem where to start? Try Senators William Harrison and Bill Bradley at Senate Office Building, Washington, D. C. 20510 and also William Hughes, House of Representatives, Washington D.C. 20515. Urge their support for the much needed Alaska Lands Bill, now close to voting, and our biggest wilderness conservation chance of the century. Closer to home, support is needed for the Pinelands preservation bill offered by Merlino to provide strong protection for a rare natural area in our own back yard. Contact Sen. Parskie and Assemblymen Mike Matthews and William Gormley on that one. Do it "write" away and you'll feel great that you did. It is one of the main things each of us can contribute to the Audubon cause. P. S.: You can get two stamps for every letter you mail by simply presenting a copy of the letter to our secretary.



CONSERVATION REPORT

The Conservation Committee under the guidance of John Williamson reports that a dozen Wood Duck nest boxes have been placed in several locations in our area and are being monitored. Results will be reported when available. Committee is now working on a program to have the appropriate agencies considered alteration of their current mowing practices along roads and highways to develop programs more compatible with the growth of our native wildflowers. This has been done in other states with some excellent results, not the least of which is decreased costs of maintenance, labor, etc. with more beauty for the passing motorist. Here is another area where more help is needed. Other projects are under consideration, but will require more manpower to get things underway. Committee meets first Wednesday of the month at 7:30 at Stillwater County Building, Shore Road, Northfield.



EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Our slide show on the wetlands has met with a good response, based on initial requests for it. Only a limited mailing was sent out, but the response was rapid. Further mailings to schools, clubs, and other organizations are slated for the future. If you belong to a group that would like to have this presented, contact Sky Dawson at 822-6373.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Once again we would like to welcome the following new members to this society. We hope you will all take part in our many activities and meetings, as this is the best way to get the most out of your membership in Audubon. To present members, if you know any of our new members, invite them to a meeting or field trip - it is the sharing that makes activities more rewarding.

Welcome to:

- H. R. Nostrand - Tuckerton
- David Bielous - Brigantine
- E. Winlate - Buena
- Joseph Halpin III - Linwood
- Agnes Wilson - Somers Point
- D. L. Arlia - Pleasantville
- Myra Holland - Port Republic
- Gordan Shaffner - Northfield
- W. M. Wess - Absecon

- Don A. Pussehl - Ocean City
- George Cheli - Landisville
- Edward Alleau - Pleasantville
- Virginia Robinson - Ventnor
- B. A. Wissler - Atlantic City
- Mrs. R. Clark - Absecon
- W. A. Lippincott III - Somers Point
- Raymond Smith - Brigantine

Once again - join in our various activities. Double your pleasure!

SUMMERTIME ACTIVITIES

Although our formal activities are dormant over the summer, there are many things that one can do on an individual basis to further your understanding and enjoyment of the environment. Keep active - it's better for your health and the health of our environment.

Ride a ferry - take the Cape May - Lewes ferry over and back without your car and enjoy the sea breezes and do some birdwatching on the way. If you have some ambition, take a bicycle along and cycle to Cape Henlopen State Park for lunch and return.

Summer activities (cont):

Ride one of the many fishing boats out to look for pelagic birds. Many of the boats welcome birders - you might even want to try your hand at fishing!

Walk in the pines and look for wild flowers - try to learn a few new species each time.

Walk the north end of Brigantine Island north of the pier - it's a state park area. Check along the dune line for some of the interesting creatures that make their home there. Look for shells along the waterline and find out something of the immense diversity that exists in the tidal zone.

Watch for birds building nests in your yard - some regular observation can teach you and your family much about bird behavior. Search out the wildflowers in your yard. (Or did you call them weeds?)

SUPPORT ENDANGERED SPECIES

Our project of T - shirt sales to provide additional funds to the Non-game and Endangered Species projects of the State is in high gear now. More shirts are on order, so get your order in promptly. Use order blank below. Our announcement in the last newsletter did not do justice to these shirts- high quality, beautiful design, and an excellent price when you consider that \$1 goes to the Fund and \$1 goes to the chapter. This is your opportunity to do something positive for wildlife. Each dollar contributed to the fund through this sale is matched by \$2 of Federal money through a grant so the effect is greatly multiplied.

-----  
ORDER FORM

Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ Osprey T-shirt(s). Enclosed is \$5.25 for each shirt plus \$.65 postage and handling for one shirt (\$.50 postage for each additional shirt).

Size:        S            M            L            XL

No. each \_\_\_\_\_ Total amount enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_