

ATLANTIC CURRENTS

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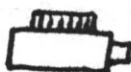
HAPPY BIRTHDAY to NATIONAL AUDUBON

Welcome to a new year and a new decade - a time when environmental sanity will be challenged as never before, and when it is needed more than ever. There is some hope glimmering in the mists of time ahead, but it will be up to us - the people - to determine whether the future results will be good or bad. Join with your friends and neighbors to learn more about this precious world that supports life - and invite them to join you - at programs, field trips, committee meetings - so that we will all be better informed.

PROGRAMS

Monthly meetings are held at Stockton State College, Pomona in Room B-116. We recommend that you use Parking Lot #1 for easiest access. Coffee "and" will be served from 7:30 PM to 8:00 PM. We urge regular members to bring their own cups for beverage so that we can conserve energy by not using a lot of disposables. Meeting begins at 8:00 PM with reports of unusual bird sightings as well as other natural phenomenon from members.

Jan. 23rd: MEMBERS NIGHT



Our annual extravaganza of great photography. As in the past, we request that each member bringing slides place them in groups of 10 or less. Each person will have a chance to show one set, then we will repeat until the audience or the slides give out! If you have photos or other items to show, let us know at the start - we'll fit those in during slide changes.

Feb. 27th: ?????

Program was not confirmed at press time, but the tentative one will be an exciting one, and of great interest to all.

Mar. 26th:

COLORADO - LAND OF CONTRAST:

A slide program by Ed Bristow on a most interesting state, site of the last National Audubon Convention, setting for some upcoming environmental battles.

Apr. 23rd:

BUTTERFLIES

George Bassett will show us another facet of the great beauty in the natural world, and one in which he has great interest.

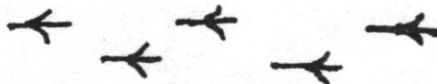
May 28th: To be announced.

FIELD TRIPS

Everyone is welcome, member or not, unless otherwise noted. Bring a friend and enjoy some fine activities.

- Feb. 9th: NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM IN NEW YORK: Bus trip to visit a place with great exhibits and opportunities to gain some new knowledge. Bus will leave Stockton College, Pomona at 8 AM. Contact Jerry Schonleber at meeting or call 398-4983 around 9:30-10 AM or same hours in PM. to make reservations Cost will be \$7.00 per person unless bus is not filled. Bring lunch or buy food in their cafeteria. Will leave museum at 4 PM with return to Pomona between 6-7 PM depending on conditions and traffic.
- Mar. 22nd: BRIGANTINE WILDLIFE REFUGE: Meet in the refuge parking lot in Oceanville at 8 AM for a morning of birding for early migrants. Some songbirds, but emphasis will be on waterfowl and shorebirds heading north. Bring binoculars, field guides, scopes, and snack if you get hungry.
- Apr. 13th: EXPLORING GREAT BAY BOULEVARD: Meet at the corner of Rt. 9 and Great Bay Blvd. in Tuckerton for a morning devoted to spring in the salt marsh and estuary as we look for birds, early flowers and insects. Bring binoculars, field guides, hand lens.
- Apr. 20th: CELEBRATION OF EARTH DAY, 1980: Meet in the county park in Estell Manor on Route 50 at 1:00 PM for a picnic lunch and some guided walks. Full schedule is not yet worked out, but details will be in the next newsletter and your local paper.
- May 2-4: DELMARVA SPRING: Our annual camping weekend on the Delmarva Peninsula near Ocean City, Maryland. Explore the Pokomoke Cypress Swamp, Ocean City beaches, Chincoteague and Assateague, and either Blackwater or Bombay Hook Wildlife Refuges. Great birding with good company. Make your own arrangements re camping and food. Further details to come in March newsletter.
- May 10th: FEATHERS AND FLOWERS: A double header! Birding begins in the parking lot of the Brigantine Refuge in Oceanville at 6 AM for the early "birds". For you sluggards, the flower portion of the trip will begin from the same area at 10AM. Are you ready for both ends of this great doubleheader??
- May 17th: BEACH WALK: In celebration of the Year of the Coast, we will meet at 9 AM in the parking lot across from Brigantine Castle in Brigantine, to walk the north beach and see what we can discover about this marvelous area where land meets sea. Wear sneakers, we might get wet feet! Bring binoculars, cameras, field guides, and snacks.

If anyone has other suggestions for places to go, let Jerry or one of the other officers know, and we will consider them as we plan for the coming year.



CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

A fine weekend greeted our hardy counters this year - sunny and fairly warm for both count days. Results were as follows:

Oceanville CBC	- 134 species	56 observers
Marmora CBC	- 119 species	25 <u>±</u> observers

A big thank you to all those who participated. Special thanks go to Mike O'Brien who arranged the post-Oceanville get-together and also to Bob and Mildred Durham who hosted the post-Marmora affair. We would like to invite those who were not with us this year to consider joining next year's counts.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Special to all members from Marion Bartlett, membership chairman:

Please remember that we have a membership drive on - we stand to increase our treasury by a substantial amount from National Audubon if we can increase our membership by 20%. This is very easy! If each of us will bring in ONE new member, we would increase it by 100%. So THINK - which of your friends would enjoy Audubon? Call them up and invite them to a meeting, and then stop by and BRING THEM WITH YOU! Make sure that they pick up an application blank at the registration table - it's THAT easy. You'll be doing them a favor and you'll be helping Audubon at the same time.

(Editor's Note: It really is easy to recruit new members - friends, neighbors, anyone who has asked you about some facet of nature - all are potential members. Try it - you'll like it! - they'll like it! - and Audubon will love it!!!)

YEAR OF THE COAST

1980 has been proclaimed by President Carter as the Year of the Coast. There will be newspaper, magazine, radio, and TV features throughout the year, and it comes at a time when we all need to learn more about this marvelous area where the waters meet the land. If you belong to another group interested in this, ask John Williamson or Sky Dawson about our Wetlands Slide Show. Join in the scheduled activities - ours and others such as Wetlands Institute, Littoral Society, etc. Various programs will deal with all aspects of this poorly understood area, and we can all learn something. Along with these activities, there are a number of good books that can assist in your acquisition of new information. A partial list follows:



American Wilderness Series, Time-Life Books

1. The Northeast Coast
2. Atlantic Beaches
3. The Northwest Coast

"Life and Death of the Salt Marsh" by Teal & Teal

"The Outermost House" by Henry Beston. A classic of life over a year on Cape Cod.

"The House on Nauset Marsh" by Wyman Richardson, Chatham Press

"Sea Beach at Ebb Tide" by Arnold, a Dover book. A field guide type.

"Field Guide to the Atlantic Seashore" by Gosner. One of the Peterson series.

"The Drama of the Oceans" by Elizabeth Borgese.

A BIG 75 YEARS FOR NATIONAL AUDUBON

On January 4, 1905, thirty-five state Audubon societies joined forces as the National Association of Audubon Societies for the Protection of Wild Birds and Animals, an unwieldy name later shortened to National Audubon Society. Today the society is one of America's oldest conservation organizations and the largest of its kind. With over 400,000 members and over 430 local chapters, The National Audubon Society represents a potent voice for the environment. In honor of those 75 years, we urge your active support of the goals and priorities as stated in the January issue of AUDUBON magazine. All can help - by writing letters to our lawmakers on vital issues, by joining in activities of the local chapter, and by urging others to join in this effort to make this world a better place to live. All around us, the earth is being assaulted by those who care not for the web of life that sustains us all. Wetlands are filled, coastlines are altered, the earth is covered with asphalt, toxic wastes are poured out as from a cornucopia, water is wasted in large quantities daily, and natural resources disappear at an alarming rate. Only the efforts of many individuals, knowledgeable about this planet and its functioning, bringing pressure to bear on legislators, government bodies, industry, and unknowing citizens, can by united effort preserve what is needed, avoid unnecessary destruction, and leave a legacy to those generations yet unborn. National Audubon is one of the leaders in this effort - can we count on you to help maintain this leadership?



EARTH DAY - 1980

On April 22, 1980, we will mark the 10th year of celebration of Earth Day. That first celebration of our world brought the terms of ecology and environment to the forefront of public awareness, and generated new laws designed to protect and enhance that environment. Today, many of these same laws are under attack because they impair some of the freewheeling tactics that industry and public officials have used in the past. Pursuit of money, wasteful use of resources, whatever the reason - this day must bring renewed attention to problems long neglected. We urge your support of Earth Day and the varied programs that will be held. We especially invite your participation in our own celebration on April 20th as noted in the list of field trips. There will be more information coming, but mark your calendar now.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE

This active committee under John Williamson's guidance is currently working on a number of projects which can use additional workers. There is a Wildflower Slide Show being developed; a study of the Great Egg Harbor River is getting under way; development of wildflower nurseries to provide stock for transplanting back into various areas has begun; letter writing and contacts with legislators always need a helping hand. If you are interested in any of these or other areas, please contact John or come to the committee meetings the first Wednesday of each month at 7:30 PM in the Stillwater Building, County Offices, Shore Road, Northfield.



WINTER BIRD FEEDING

In spite of our rather mild winter thus far, birds can use some help with food supplies, and we offer the following suggestions if you wish to enjoy some bright company on bleary days. BUT - if you start feeding, you are committed until early April when natural food supplies again begin to appear.

What to feed: Suet- for woodpeckers, nuthatches, chickadees as well as others.
 Mixed seed - sparrows, blue jays, cardinals among others.
 Sunflower- almost all birds go for this.
 Thistle - especially good for finches.
 Corn - mourning doves as well as other ground feeders.
 Bread & doughnuts, etc. - will serve as an initial attraction.
 Fruit - orange halves, apple halves etc will also attract birds.



How to feed: Hanging feeders are good to keep food off ground and birds away from dogs and cats..



Platform feeder - good all purpose type. Should have rim.
 Pole type - attached to pipe stuck in ground. Baffle or grease will help discourage squirrels.

Spring loader feeders - can be adjusted to close under heavier weight birds as well as squirrels.

Things such as half an orange can be impaled on a nail or twig.
 Peanut butter can be spread on cones or placed in holes in a piece of wood or log.



Suet can be rendered and poured into shallow containers or mixed with seed, craker crumbs, and peanut butter and then placed in shallow containers, or molded and hung by an imbedded string.

There are a number of devices to prevent squirrels from using such food sources, but most are variable in their success. Don't be surprised if you discover a hawk snatching one of your guests for his dinner - the congregation of small birds offers him a chance to feed also. It's part of the natural world. If you can, supply water as well, as that is sometimes a critical need in freezing weather. Careful observation may net you other visitors to the feeder - I've had mice in mine!

CONSERVATION AWARD SET

Through donations previously received, your Board of Directors has established an ongoing annual award at Stockton State College to be designated as the "James F. Akers Conservation Award". This will be given to a junior or senior in the college who has made a serious contribution in the field of conservation of wild-life and natural resources. The recipient of the award will be selected by a committee of 4 members of the Atlantic Audubon Society assisted by the Dean of the division of Natural Sciences and Mathematics, and will be presented with the award at the college spring award ceremony and at the April program meeting of Atlantic Audubon. Anyone wishing to make a further contribution may do so by sending a check made out to Atlantic Audubon Society and a note designating it for this award. The initial amount of the award will be \$50, with increases in later years if fund income permits. We are pleased that this project has come to fruition to honor the memory of one of Atlantic Audubon's founding members and a fine teacher, conservationist, and friend.

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