

Delaware Audubon Journal

PRESERVING OUR NATURAL STATE

Vol. XXIV No.6
July-August 2002



Delaware Audubon Society is a statewide, volunteer organization of over 1500 members.

The mission of Delaware Audubon Society is to promote an appreciation and understanding of nature; to preserve and protect our natural environment; and, to affirm the necessity for clean air and water and the stewardship of our natural resources.

All of our activities depend on the devotion of our members to conserving and preserving the health of our environment.

HIGHLIGHTS OF ACTIVITIES 2001-2002



Our Audubon Adventures program was used in 190 classrooms involving approximately 5700 students in grades 3 to 5. This program provides curriculum enhancement materials to teach students about wildlife and their habitats and the importance of conservation.

Auduboners participated in the Christmas Bird Count, Spring Round-up, the White Clay Creek Clean-up, Coast Day, Christina River Clean-up (White Clay Creek), and picked up at our Adopt-a-Highway location.



We presented or participated in a number of workshops, press conferences, presentations to groups, and conferences all over the state. Topics include – Energy Forum for Sound Energy Policy, Arctic Wildlife Refuge, Livable Delaware, Citizens Right-to-Know legislation, Delaware River dredging, Water -Total Maximum Daily Load, Inland Bays, Delaware Estuary, Water Resources, EPA Green Communities, St. Jones River Watershed Wild and Scenic River Advocacy, federal energy legislation, wetlands, storage tank legislation, biodiversity, nutrient management, land use, birding, horseshoe crab & shorebirds, environmental regulations, environmental advocacy and land acquisition.

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We testified and participated in public hearings in support of the environment on various issues, such as Connectiv power line vegetation clearing, Newark Community Action Program, water conservation, open space funding, DelDOT Capital Improvement Program, Federal Coastal Zone Management Program, Gordon's Pond, Americana Bayside, coastal development, and the Delaware River main channel dredging project.

Delaware Audubon was represented on the following regional and statewide boards and committees:

- Bi-State Advisory Council for White Clay Creek Preserve
- Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Horseshoe Crab Advisory Council
- Chronic Violators Regulatory Development Committee
- Recycling Public Advisory Council
- Coastal Zone Act Regulations Environmental Indicators Committee

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Hello Members,

Well, spring has been here and past; now for the days of the long hot summer. From time to time I reflect on what Delaware Audubon does, since this is the review edition of the journal.

I think of all those school children reading and soaking up the Audubon Adventures that we provide with helpful information about the outside world of nature. I think of all those selfless hours Grace Pierce-Beck has spent down in Dover at legislative hall, bringing voice to the species that have none. I think of all the years Dorothy Miller has fought for open space and her beloved White Clay Creek Valley. I think of Ann Rydgren and all the multi tasking she does to keep our chapter together. I think of all the board members who have, without any fanfare, sat on various state boards and committees doing the layman's work.

I also think of Lynne Frink and those others like her who have passed from this world, whose great deeds and hearts have given Delaware's natural world a chance, in an ever-demanding, resource driven world. I want to thank and remember all who still care for these things - the board members, the chapter members and everyone who makes the effort, thanks again.

Matt DelPizzo

SPECIAL MEMBERS MEETING 7PM, JULY 25

BY-LAWS NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the following amendment to the By-Laws of the Delaware Audubon Society, Inc.

ARTICLE XII

The relationship between this Society and the National Audubon Society shall be governed by the Chapter Policy.

which is required in order for the Society to comply with the new Chapter Policy of the National Audubon Society (Article XII) will be voted upon at a Special Members Meeting on July 25 at the home of Peggy Jahn, 17 Maureen Drive, Middletown, DE.

Directions to Peggy Jahn's home: from Rte. 13 turn west at Boyd's Corner onto Rte. 896. Turn right into Grand View Farms and proceed to street address. From Rte. 71/896 turn east at Mt. Pleasant intersection onto Rte. 896 and turn left into Grand View Farms.

VISIT DELAWARE AUDUBON'S WEBSITE

<http://www.delawareaudubon.org>

Sample educational, informative articles and features. Order books and other goodies from the Marketplace! Search the archive of past articles. Visit our photo gallery. Survey legislative updates and Action Alerts. Email policy makers.

DELAWARE AUDUBON SOCIETY 2001-2002 OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

If there are any issues you feel strongly about that you think Audubon should address, please write Issues, P.O. Box 1713, Wilmington, DE 19899, or call the office at (302) 428-3959. Chairpersons can always be reached through the office answering machine - (302) 428-3959.

Honorary Chairman of the Board

	Russell W. Peterson
<i>President</i>	Matthew DelPizzo
<i>Vice President</i>	Leslie Savage
<i>Secretary</i>	Annette Garofalo
<i>Corresponding Secretary</i>	Ellen Wright
<i>Treasurer</i>	Mark Martell

CONSERVATION COMMITTEES:

<i>Environmental Advocate</i>	Grace Pierce-Beck
<i>Recycling</i>	Albert DelPizzo
<i>Dredging</i>	Leslie Savage
<i>Proposal/policy Review</i>	Dave Chambers
<i>Nest Box Projects</i>	Peggy Jahn
<i>Armchair Activists</i>	Al DelPizzo
<i>Adopt-a-Wetland</i>	Peggy Jahn, Kathy Tidball
<i>White Clay Creek Adopt-a-Highway</i>	Dorothy Miller
<i>Important Bird Area Program</i>	Ann Rydgren
<i>Programs Committee</i>	Matthew DelPizzo
<i>Publicity Committee</i>	Internet-Fred Breukelman mail@delawareaudubon.org

<i>Membership Committee</i>	Annette Garofalo
<i>Education Committee</i>	Kathy Tidball
<i>Social Committee</i>	Annual Dinner-Nancy Frampton
<i>Field Trips Committee</i>	Peggy Jahn
<i>Publications Committee</i>	Ann Rydgren

FINANCE COMMITTEES

<i>Fundraising-Grants</i>	Andrew Urquhart
<i>Fundraising-Bird Seed Sale</i>	Mark and Susan Martell
<i>Fundraising Birdathon</i>	Ruth Holden, Maude Dayton
<i>Fundraising-Silent Auction</i>	Asha Iyengar
<i>Fundraising-Wildlife Sanctuary</i>	Open
<i>Fundraising-Piping Plover Suite</i>	Ann Rydgren
<i>Nominating Committee</i>	Matthew DelPizzo, Asha Iyengar, Leslie Savage

DIRECTORS FOR SERVICE UNTIL 2003

Dorothy Miller	Grace Pierce-Beck
Ann Rydgren	

DIRECTORS FOR SERVICE UNTIL 2004:

Fred Breukelman	David Chambers
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DIRECTORS FOR SERVICE UNTIL 2005:

Peggy Jahn	Leslie Savage
Andrew Urquhart	

REPRESENTATIVES

Sharon Burchenal, Dover; Kay Tebbens Greene, Milford; Till Pumell, Millsboro

“Preserve Our Natural State”

WHAT YOU CAN DO...



LAWN PESTICIDES: KICK THE HABIT!

According to the U.S. EPA, most wildlife pesticide poisonings result from home use. The chemicals we use to cultivate manicured lawns and exotic flower gardens pose serious dangers, not only to birds, but also to children and pets who play there and to the rest of us as they leach into our water systems.

Experts estimate that 672 million birds are exposed to pesticides every year; 67 million die. The most dangerous chemicals commonly used are diazinon, chlorpyrifos and brodifacoum.

What can you do?

✓ Go organic.

Organic rack fertilizers and limestone release their nutrients slowly. Or, better yet, go natural and use compost, mushroom manure or grass clippings instead of fertilizer.

✓ Mow right.

Mow high (3-4 inches of growth is best);

Mow often (don't remove more than 1/3 of the blade at one time); and mow with sharp blades.



✓ Water deeply and not too often.

✓ Weed by hand.

✓ Diversify your lawn.

Consider reducing the size of your lawn. Replace it with native grasses, trees, bushes and flowers. Don't plant exotics.

National Audubon has a chart:

“10 Commandments for a Healthy Yard” that you can request by e-mailing editor@audubon.org.



SITE SEEING

This column will suggest Internet websites that may be of interest to readers. If you have a favorite that you think will interest others, please send the address to us, mail@delawareaudubon.org or call us at (302) 428-3959.



<http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/cumulative>
Pesticide Cumulative Risk

EPA has posted a web site to provide background information and status on cumulative risk assessment of pesticides that have a common mechanism of toxicity (i.e., that act the same way in the body). This web site includes information about upcoming meetings related to cumulative risk assessment and documents that describe how EPA is planning to conduct the cumulative risk assessment for the organophosphate pesticides. It lists ways for the public to get involved in the process and has a page that will provide information on other groups of pesticides that are proposed for cumulative assessments.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Join the fun! Meet new people!
Do a great thing!

We need help in the following areas.
WE NEED YOU!

★ BLUEBIRDS

Bluebird Trail Captain needed for Buena Vista and other areas. Nice outdoor activity once a week from April through August. Training available.

★ BIRDSEED

Marketing Manager for our fundraising birdseed sale in October. We need more customers. One month a year.

★ NEWSLETTER

Assistant Editor to do standard features. Approximately one week a month.

If you are interested in helping, please call 428-3959 and leave a message.



1. Ceremony presenting certification of Delaware's Coastal Zone as an Important Bird Area of international significance.

Left to right: Robert Chipley, IBA Program Director, American Bird Conservancy; Governor Ruth Ann Minner; Matthew DelPizzo, President, Delaware Audubon Society

2. Ceremony for designation of White Clay Creek State Park and Preserve as an IBA of national significance.

Left to right: Howard Brokaw, Chairman of the Board, American Bird Conservancy; Matthew DelPizzo, President, Delaware Audubon Society; Daniel Niven, IBA Program Director, National Audubon Society

3. Ceremony for designation of Pea Patch Island as an IBA of continental significance.

Left to right: "Dee" Bennett, Mayor, Delaware City; Matthew DelPizzo, President, Delaware Audubon Society; John McDerby, Asst. Supervisor, Fort Delaware State Park; Clyde Shipman, DNREC, Park Operations Manager; Rob Line, DNREC, Natural Areas Program Manager; Susan Love, Delaware Coastal Management Program

4. Ceremony for designation of Pea Patch Island as an IBA of continental significance.

Left to right: Matthew DelPizzo, President, Delaware Audubon Society; Clyde Shipman, DNREC, Park Operations Manager; John McDerby, Asst. Supervisor, Fort Delaware State Park

5. Ceremony for designation of Pea Patch Island as an IBA of continental significance.

Ann Rydgren, Delaware Chairman, IBA Program.

6. Ceremony White Clay Creek

Left to right: Bill Morton, Supervisor WCC Preserve, PA; Matthew DelPizzo, President of Delaware Audubon Society ; Nick McFadden, Supervisor WCC State Park, DE; Howard Brokaw, Chairman of the Board of American Bird Conservancy, National Audubon Board member

7. Cake courtesy of Tri-State Bird Rescue & Research, Inc. and Coastal Management Program.

IBA

Important Bird Areas

Ceremonies





6

IBA
 Important Bird Areas
Ceremonies

continued



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7



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3

BUTTERFLIES IN YOUR BACKYARD



Developing backyard habitats suitable for butterflies is becoming more popular. Not only does it provide a

beautiful landscape, but it can also be an extension of butterfly photography, collecting and butterfly watching.

Unlike the collector or naturalist who seeks butterflies and caterpillars in natural habitats, the butterfly gardener attracts them into the backyard through knowledge and application of habitats, host plants, life cycles and the seasons.

Understanding the lives of numerous butterfly species will also allow gardeners to provide as many life-sustaining requirements as possible.

Some of the most important garden components are the flowers that will attract adults and the specific plants used as food by caterpillars.

Often, several species of butterflies will gorge on the blossoms of one plant species in the garden, while each of those species may require different caterpillar host plants - none of which supply nectar to adults. Although butterflies find many domesticated garden flowers suitable for sources of nectar, most caterpillars require native plants to successfully mature.

Some of the basic concepts of butterfly gardening include:

- **Size**

Gardens can occupy a few square meters or a five-acre meadow.

- **Caterpillars**

A complete garden includes the host plants upon which females will lay eggs and caterpillars can grow.

Highlights of Activities

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Coalition Opposed to Deepening the Delaware River
 Delaware Wastewater Facilities Advisory Council
 University of Delaware Sea Grant College Advisory Committee
 Water Resources Agency Citizen's Committee
 Governor's Water Supply Coordinating Council
 Delaware Water Resources Center Advisory Committee
 Coalition for Natural Stream Valleys
 Delaware Inland Bays Citizen's Advisory Committee
 Research monitoring for the Inland Bays
 Save Our Wetlands and Bays
 Delaware Partners in Flight
 Delaware Important Bird Area Nomination Committee
 Preservation Coalition for Open Space, Parks, and Farmland
 Christina Conservancy
 Christina River Clean-up Committee
 Russell W. Peterson Urban Wildlife Refuge Advisory Committee
 White Clay Creek Watershed Wild and Scenic River Management Committee
 Pea Patch Island Special Area Management Plan
 St. Jones River Greenway Commission

Delaware Audubon attained Important Bird Area designation of international significance for Delaware's Coastal Zone. Including the White Clay Creek State Park and Preserve, an IBA of national significance and Pea Patch Island, an IBA of continental significance, this brings the total acreage in IBA sites in Delaware to over 275,000 acres.



We offered field trips and environmental education for members, elected officials and the general public. In cooperation with the Division of Parks and Recreation, Delaware Audubon sponsored five performances of a two-act play, "A Sense of Wonder," an interpretation of the later life of the world-renowned ecologist, Rachel Carson.

Delaware Audubon continues to operate two nest box projects to re-establish the historical range of the purple martin and the bluebird in New Castle County.



The Delaware Audubon Journal was awarded first place in category 14D-Newsletters of the 2002 Delaware Press Association Statewide Communications Contest and second place in the National Audubon Society 2002 newsletter contest for large chapters.

Delaware Audubon maintains a web page at delawareaudubon.org.

- **Local species**

Learn the butterfly species in your area and provide for them.

- **Plant diversity**

The more species of adult and larval food plants, the more species of butterflies will use the habitat. Provide trees, shrubs and herbaceous plant species.

- **Design**

Low plants in front; shrubs and trees to the sides and rear to avoid too

much shade and obstruction of the view.

- **Sun, water & wind**

Sunny places are good for butterflies; windy ones are not. Provide a pool, puddle or wet soil. Large rocks in sunny places are used for basking.

- **Poisons**

Avoid using pesticides or other toxic compounds anywhere near the garden.

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News & Views

THANK YOU!



The Silent Auction this year offered a great variety of items and lots of fun. We appreciate the generosity of the following donors:

CORPORATE DONORS:

Cameras, Etc.
 Ensured Mail, Inc.
 Gallucio's
 Horizon Helicopters, Inc.
 M.R. Doc's
 Sprint Quality Printing, Inc.
 Wild Birds, Unlimited.

INDIVIDUAL DONORS:

Ned Mayne
 Olaine Becker
 Al Del Pizzo

INTRODUCTORY MEMBERSHIP OFFER
 For \$20.00 Receive Membership to
 National Audubon Society and Delaware Audubon Society
 Join NOW and receive a FREE navy blue backpack!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone () _____

Referred By _____ Date _____

Please make all checks payable to: National Audubon Society
 Send this application and your check to:
 Delaware Audubon Society
 P.O. Box 1713, Wilmington, DE 19899

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Butterflies in Your Backyard

continued from page 6

• **Moths**

Keep in mind that moths and other insects will use the garden, too. Check flowers at night; be on the lookout for moth caterpillars.

• **Nectar plants**

Asters, black-eyed susan, butterfly weed, dame's rocket, grass-leaved goldenrod, green-headed coneflower and honeysuckles.

Host plants for specific butterfly larvae:

- Violets: *fritillary butterflies*
- Milkweeds: *monarchs*
- Alfalfa, white sweetclover, clovers: orange sulphur
- Nettle family: *red admiral*
- Wild cherry, choke cherry, poplars and oaks: *red-spotted purple*
- Locust, wisterias: *silver-spotted skipper*
- Tulip tree, wild cherry, spicebush: *tiger swallowtail*
- Dwarf cinquefoil: *grizzled skipper*
- Pipevine: *pipevine swallowtail*
- Cranberry: *bog copper*
- Flat-topped white aster: *Harris checkerspot*



*Keystone Wild Notes
 Wild Resource Conservation Fund*

FINANCIAL SUMMARY, 2001

Cash & Savings 12/31/00	\$50,707
+/- Change to the General Fund	8,959
+/- Change to Restrictive Funds:	-7,829
Cash & Savings 12/31/01	\$51,837

General Fund Activity for 2001:

Contributions:	\$31,052
Expenses:	22,093
Net Contributions	\$ 8,959

Restricted Fund Changes for 2001:

Fund Change:	
Audubon Adventures Net Grants:	-\$7,779
Coastal Wetlands Reserve:	-\$ 50

Contributions:	\$25,951
Expenses:	21,630
Net Contributions	\$ 4,321

Restricted Fund Changes for 2000:

Fund Change:	
Audubon Adventures Net Grants:.....	\$22,197



According to the Knight-Ridder News Service, the inscription on the metal bands used by the U.S. Department of the Interior to tag migratory birds has been changed. The bands used to bear the address of the Washington Biological Survey, abbreviated: *Wash. Biol. Surv.* Then the agency received the following letter from an Arkansas camper:

"Dear Sirs: While camping last week I shot one of your birds. I think it was a crow. I followed the cooking instructions on the leg tag and I want to tell you it was horrible."

The bands are now marked "*Fish and Wildlife Service.*"

BOOKS OF INTEREST



Redesigning the American Lawn: A Search for Environmental Harmony:
Second Edition by Bormann, Balmori & Geballe. Yale Univ. Press, 2001, 178 p., \$16.95.

Every year one million acres of the United States are suburbanized and much of this land is converted into the quintessential lawn. However, people's obsession with the perfect lawn often comes at the expense of ecological systems. This completely revised and updated volume documents the progress of an alternative environmentally friendly landscape design known as the freedom lawn. Profiles of individuals, businesses and highway departments illustrate the successful implementation of the freedom lawn which is free of pesticides and fertilizers, seldom mowed, and sustainable. The book also offers a lesson in the history of the industrial lawn and how we came to covet it.

Science News



NATIONAL AUDUBON RECOGNIZES THE "JOURNAL"

The Delaware Audubon *Journal* won second place in the National Audubon Society 2002 newsletter contest for large chapters.

The *Audubon Journal* is published bi-monthly by the Delaware Audubon Society. Original articles may be reprinted without permission. Please give credit to the *Delaware Audubon Journal* and the author.

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Delaware Audubon Society, incorporated in 1977, is a state- wide chapter of the National Audubon Society.

- ▼ WEB SITE
<http://www.delawareaudubon.org>
- ▼ MAILING ADDRESS:
Delaware Audubon Society
P.O. Box 1713
Wilmington, DE 19899
- ▼ TELEPHONE:
(302) 428-3959
- ▼ DELAWARE AUDUBON SOCIETY E-MAIL:
mail@delawareaudubon.org



We can receive contributions through your United Way payroll deduction designation. Our United Way designation number is 9017.



BIRDSEED SALE OCTOBER 19

Tell your friends about Audubon's annual birdseed sale. Watch for Birdseed order forms in the September-October newsletter; copy them and give them to your friends. Mark October 19 to pick up your order at Delcastle County Park.

Bird Seed Day is Audubon's main fund-raiser. Proceeds from the sale enable us to continue vital programs and initiatives such as establishing an Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary.

