

DELAWARE AUDUBON

27th Anniversary

1976-2003

PRESERVING OUR NATURAL STATE



# Delaware Audubon Journal

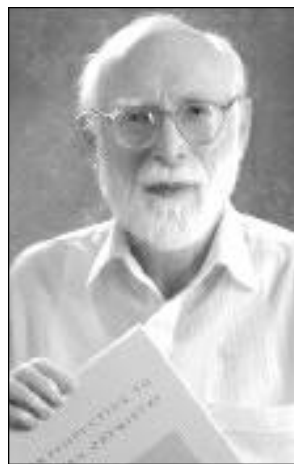
Vol. XXV No.4  
March-April 2003

## DR. ALBERT S. MATLACK TO RECEIVE 2003 DELAWARE AUDUBON CONSERVATION AWARD

Dr. Albert S. Matlack is the longtime president of the Society of Natural History of Delaware. In this capacity he has organized monthly trips to educate the public about environmental issues. He has arranged trips to explore such phenomena as superfund sites, invasive plant species in Delaware, landscaping with native plants, the advantages of cluster housing, sustainable sources of energy, the pitfalls of beach replenishment and visits to the varied habitats of Delaware. Dr. Matlack will receive the award at the annual dinner of the Society on May 1.

To many people, the words "green" and "chemistry" would seem to be at odds with each other. Dr. Matlack not only finds nothing contradictory in the term, but is one of a growing number of the field's formidable and vocal proponents.

Dr. Matlack is an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry at the University of Delaware. He is also a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and a member of the American Chemical Society. Originally from Virginia, he moved to Delaware after graduate school.



Dr. Matlack, reflecting on a lifetime of work and service which includes more than 130 U.S. and foreign patents, regards the publication of *Introduction to Green Chemistry* as his greatest achievement. He wrote the textbook for his students at the University of Delaware.

Green Chemistry had its start in 1990 with the passing of the Pollution Prevention Act. The American Chemical Society website calls this, "the first environmental law to focus on preventing pollution at the source rather than dealing with remediation or capture of pollutants at the end-of-the-pipe." Rachel Carson had already awoken the public in the 1960s, but her vindication in scientific circles was long in coming. "They called her all sorts of names," Dr. Matlack replied when asked about *Silent Spring*. "Then they decided she was right!"

*Introduction to Green Chemistry* states, "In the glorious days of the 1950s and 1960s chemists envisioned chemistry as a solution to a host of society's needs." Dr. Matlack feels their scientific work was "done innocently, for the betterment

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# LETTER FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

Dear fellow members,

Delaware Audubon, along with the environmental community, is again revisiting two concerns we have spent much time and energy working to resolve in the past.

The fact that Delaware Audubon and others are again fighting to make the Motiva Refinery in Delaware City comply with a court-overseen agreement comes as no surprise. What is different this time is that this time we are also fighting the office of the Governor. Concerned citizens and environmentalists, along with Delaware Audubon, endeavor to hold Motiva to the terms of the original federal consent decree that they signed in good faith in March of 2001. That consent decree required Motiva to build and operate a regenerative scrubber to reduce air pollution emissions from their operation. Currently, they are asking to substitute a non-regenerative scrubber that will remove air pollution emissions to a lesser degree; will dump large quantities of sodium sulfate along with mercury, nickel and other contaminants into the Delaware River in its wastewater stream; and allow them a cost savings of approximately \$60 million. We do not support compromising our water quality for cleaner air. The citizens of Delaware deserve both clean air and water and we demand Motiva operate as a respectful corporate citizen.

The second concern revisited is the health of the population of the horseshoe crabs. We have long been concerned about declining populations of this ancient species. Not only does the horseshoe crab offer us important medical advances, it is vital to the health of migratory birds as they must feast on the horseshoe crab eggs in the spring as they make their way north. Recent data has been acquired that shows drastic declines in the horseshoe crab population that places the viability of the horseshoe crab population in jeopardy and therefore places the viability of migratory birds in jeopardy as well. To that end, Delaware Audubon has joined other concerned environmental groups in calling for a moratorium on the harvesting of horseshoe crabs.

As always, we are grateful for your continued support.

Sincerely,  
Leslie G. Savage, Vice President



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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Barbara Roewe  
Design & Layout : ..... Maryellen F. Birk  
Printing: ..... Sprint Quality Printing, Inc.

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

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

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 2002-2003 OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

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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
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Vice President	Leslie Savage
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### CONSERVATION COMMITTEES:

<i>Environmental Advocate</i>	Grace Pierce-Beck
<i>Recycling</i>	Open
<i>Dredging</i>	Leslie Savage
<i>Proposal/policy Review</i>	Dave Chambers
<i>Nest Box Projects</i>	Peggy Jahn
<i>Armchair Activists</i>	Open
<i>Adopt-a-Wetland</i>	

Peggy Jahn, Kathy Tidball

### White Clay Creek Adopt-a-Highway

	Dorothy Miller
<i>Important Bird Area Program</i>	Ann Rydgren

### PROGRAMS COMMITTEE

Open

### PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

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	<a href="mailto:mail@delawareaudubon.org">mail@delawareaudubon.org</a>

MEMBERSHIP RECORDS	David Brannan
EDUCATION COMMITTEE	Kathy Tidball

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FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE	Peggy Jahn
PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE	Ann Rydgren

### FINANCE COMMITTEES

<i>Fundraising-Grants</i>	Andrew Urquhart
<i>Fundraising-Bird Seed Sale</i>	

Mark and Susan Martell

### Fundraising Birdathon

	Ruth Holden, Maud Dayton
<i>Fundraising-Silent Auction</i>	Asha Iyengar
<i>Fundraising-Wildlife Sanctuary</i>	Open
<i>Fundraising-Piping Plover Suite</i>	Ann Rydgren

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

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 Purnell, Millsboro

# “Preserve Our Natural State”

WHAT YOU CAN DO...



## SUPPORT THE BIRDATHON 2003 MAY 1 – MAY 31

Support the team of your choice!

Team I: Ruth Holden and Maud Dayton, mother and daughter, all-time champions for collecting the most money with the least number of species. A sure winner again this year.

Team II: Ann Rydgren heads up a group of expert birders including Dorothy Miller, Peggy Jahn and Andy Urquhart, but their pledge numbers are dismal. Please help them out.

Let these people know you appreciate their efforts! They spend all day out in the field slogging around in any kind of weather to help maintain Delaware Audubon projects.

I'd like to pledge  (\$0.25)  (\$0.50)  (\$1.00) per species to support Audubon and

- Team I
- Team II

I'd like to contribute a lump sum of \$ ..... to support Audubon and:

- Team I
- Team II

Name: .....

Address: .....

Phone: .....

Mail a check or pledge to: Birdathon, P.O. Box 1713, Wilmington, DE 19899

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

We need help in the following areas.



### WE NEED YOU!

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

\* ATTORNEY  
An attorney experienced in trust and corporation law who will help pro bono. This is a limited project, not litigation.

Please call 302-428-3959 and leave a message if you are interested in helping.

## 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](mailto:mail@delawareaudubon.org) or call us at 302- 428-3959.

<http://www.delawareaudubon.org/birding/shorebirdrpt.html>  
Delaware's Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) have issued the Delaware Shorebird Monitoring Team Annual Report 2002, which is available on this site in portable document format (.pdf)

**MARCH**

- 8 Saturday 8:00 am  
DELMARVA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, *Gulls*.  
Meet at Fox Point State Park. Half day. Please call Mike Smith 302-478-5918 for information.
- 15 Saturday 6:30 am  
DELMARVA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, Thousand Acre Marsh.  
Half day. Meet John Janowski 302-834-9710 at Veteran's Park in Delaware City.
- 22 Saturday 8:00 am – 6:00 pm  
SOCIETY OF NATURAL HISTORY OF DELAWARE, *Free Bus Trip on the Poultry Waste Problem*. Please call Al Matlack for information 302-239-5383.
- 24 Monday 7:30 pm  
FRIENDS OF WHITE CLAY CREEK STATE PARK, *Reptiles and Amphibians of the White Clay Valley*, Jim White. George Wilson Center on Route 896 (New London Road) north of Newark (opposite the University's Clayton Hall). For further information, call 302-239-2471.
- 29 Saturday 8:30 am  
*Adopt-A-Highway Pick-up on Creek Rd*. Meet at Hopkins Rd. Visitor Center Dorothy Miller 302-366-8059
- 29 Saturday 8:30 am  
*Seventh Annual Christina Watershed Clean-up* (White Clay Creek) Meet at Hopkins Rd. Visitor Center Dorothy Miller 302-366-8059

**APRIL**

- 19 Saturday 6:30 am  
DELMARVA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, *Early Spring Migrants*, Lums Pond State Park. Half day. Meet Meta Little at Glasgow High School Rte 896. 302-368-3472.
- 26 Saturday 6:00 am  
DELMARVA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY, *Spring Migrants*, Nanticoke Watershed. All day. Meet at Boyd's corner Park & Ride, Rtes 13 and 301.  
Please call Matt Homberg 610-444-4738.

**MAY**

- 1 Thursday 6:00 pm  
*DE Audubon Annual Dinner and Silent Auction*  
Delcastle Inn off McKennan's Church Road. Dr. Carolyn Thoroughgood will speak about Marine Studies at the University of Delaware. Join us as we celebrate our 27th Anniversary! For more information please call 302-428-3959.
- 1 –31  
*Delaware Audubon Birdathon*
- 3 Saturday 7:30 am  
FRIENDS OF WHITE CLAY CREEK, White Clay Creek State Park *Spring Migrants*, Jeff Gordon.  
Meet at Chambers House Nature Center on Creek Road north of Hopkins Road. Bird watching experience is not necessary, just bring binoculars. For further information or to reserve a pair of loaner binoculars, call Friends of White Clay Creek State Park 302-239-2471.
- 10 Saturday  
DELMARVA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
*Spring Count and International Migratory Bird Day*  
John Janowski, 302-834-9710

**IT'S OUR 27TH ANNIVERSARY!****ANNUAL DINNER & SILENT AUCTION**

The annual dinner of the Delaware Audubon Society will be held on Thursday, May 1, 2003, at the Delcastle Inn, off McKennan's Church Road at Duncan Road. Social hour and Silent Auction viewing will begin at 6:00 pm; dinner at 7:00 pm. Dr. Carolyn Thoroughgood will be the speaker. Invitations will be sent to all who receive the Audubon Journal. Meal selections can be made in reply.

# "Preserve Our Natural State"

WHAT YOU CAN DO...

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## ■ BLUEBIRD BOXES

To help you appreciate and understand nature, Delaware Audubon has available by order well-constructed pine boxes with a shingle roof, a wire mesh insert for insect protection and an easy front opening. Designed by Warren Lauder, this box has proven to be one of the best. Nest boxes should go up in February before Bluebirds return to nest.

Help Delaware Audubon and help the Bluebirds come back. Priced at \$20 for a pine box and \$25 for cedar, we are sure you will be pleased with this box. Order now for yourself and your friends! Downstate members can pick up their boxes from Dennis Foley near Milton, DE. Please arrange for pick-up when you call Fred Jahn at 302-378-6474.

### CORRECTION:

In the previous *Audubon Journal* the article about bluebird boxes and caring for them stated Peggy Jahn had the first Bluebird Trail in Delaware. It should have stated that she had the first Bluebird Trail in White Clay Creek State Park.

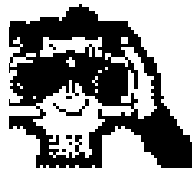
## ■ SILENT AUCTION

Now is the time to make your contribution to the 2003 Silent Auction which will be held on May 1st!

HELP US CELEBRATE OUR  
27TH ANNIVERSARY!

Be creative and donate your particular skills or a special guided field trip.

To make arrangements for your Silent Auction donation, please call Asha Iyengar, 302-428-3959.



## ■ START YOUR OWN BIRDATHON TEAM!

Competition is running strong between the two current Birdathon teams but they welcome all comers. Get a couple of friends together and make a plan now. Contact the Co-chairs for suggestions.

Ruth Holden and her daughter, Maud Dayton are the co-chairs for Birdathon 2003. They have contributed thousands of dollars to the Birdathon over the past three years. "The key," Ruth says, "is to get your friends and neighbors involved. Ten and twenty-five cent pledges per species add up to big bucks. You don't need many species if they are worth five or ten dollars each."

For information on how to start your own Birdathon team leave a message at 302-428-3959 and Ruth will give you a call.

## ■ BIRDFEEDING

What do you do to attract birds to your neighborhood? Do you have a fun way to feed the birds? Share your experience with others. Please send bird feeding tips to:

TIPS

P.O. Box 1713


Wilmington, DE 19899

or email@delawareaudubon.org. Here is what one member did to attract birds.

"When I lived in my townhouse neighborhood, one early spring I sprinkled black oil sunflower seeds (bird seed) along my fence line. Many sunflowers grew along my fence that summer. I came home from work one day and my neighbor came over and said, 'Did you know that you had canaries all over your sunflowers today? My son really enjoyed seeing the canaries!'"

The "canaries," of course, were cleverly disguised as goldfinches....

Ellen Wright



### JOIN DELAWARE AUDUBON NOW!

**INTRODUCTORY MEMBERSHIP OFFER**  
For \$20.00 Receive Membership to  
National Audubon Society and Delaware Audubon Society

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

**7XCH**  
D90



## ■ ANNUAL DINNER SPEAKER WILL BE DR. CAROLYN THOROUGHGOOD

"Is there any resource that is more fundamental to life, more inspiring, more mysterious than the ocean? This vast sea that covers more than 70% of the Earth holds many of the keys to our planet's health and the welfare of all living creatures."

The voice behind those words is that of Dr. Carolyn Thoroughgood, Dean of the Graduate College of Marine Studies. She will speak on the topic of "Marine Studies at the University of Delaware" at the Annual Dinner of the Society on May 1.

Dr. Thoroughgood has been Dean of the Graduate College of Marine Studies and Director of the Delaware Sea Grant College Program, University of Delaware, since 1985. The University of Delaware Graduate College of Marine Studies is ranked among the top marine education institutions in the nation. The college also is the administrative base of the University of Delaware Sea Grant College Program, a partnership between the federal government, the state, and the University.

The annual dinner of the Delaware Audubon Society will be held on Thursday, May 1, 2003, at the Delcastle Inn, off McKennan's Church Road at Duncan Road. Invitations will be sent to all who receive the Audubon Journal. Meal selections can be made in response.



## ■ NOMINATIONS FOR YEAR 2003-2004

Matthew DelPizzo - President  
Leslie Savage - Vice President  
Secretary - Ellen J. Wright  
Treasurer - Mark Martell

Board of Directors

Directors for service until 2006:  
Nicholas DiPasquale  
Dorothy Miller

Submitted by the Nominating  
Committee:  
Asha Iyengar  
Leslie Savage  
Matthew DelPizzo

*Dr. Albert S. Matlack To Receive 2003 Delaware Audubon Conservation Award  
continued from page 1*

of society, but they didn't realize [the harm of] DDT and such things as egg-shell thinning and the resistance of insecticides." Today, he says, "Many people are looking for ways to reduce toxicity, reduce hazardous waste, and do so with a minimum of energy." The biggest challenge, he says, is "getting people to use this information after it is found."

His facility with facts and figures does not preclude his having an artist's appreciation for the beauties of nature and a preservationist's heart. Dr. Matlack advocates the idea of "collecting by camera," especially in the botanical realm, since "few wildflower fields remain"—a

practical solution in lieu of physical specimens.

This sensitivity to nature has been an awareness he has had since his early years as a Boy Scout. Through scouting, he was inspired by the outdoors and saw "the need for conservation in action." His concern has only deepened over a lifetime of "watching the urban sprawl."

The blending of science and nature has been a tradition in the Matlack family. Dr. Matlack's late father, also a chemist, had an extensive personal library of chemistry, gardening, and natural history books. That intellectual environment provided the

perfect medium in which to nurture the budding Boy-Scout-cum-scientist, and also explains the following: Dr. Matlack has two sons. One is a plant ecologist and the other a cell biologist.

Thanks to Dr. Matlack's efforts, and those of others, the next generation of peacemakers has arisen in what Rachel Carson called "man's war against nature."

MLC



## ■ AT HOME WITH JOHN JAMES AUDUBON IN HENDERSON, KENTUCKY

On a gray December day in Henderson, Kentucky, at the end of a long road into the woods, an inviting Norman chateau emerges from the mist. This is the home built in the 1930s by the CCC/WPA to memorialize John James Audubon. The imposing edifice is a far cry from the modest, log dwelling where the Audubons once lived in Henderson.

In the Museum can be found priceless Audubon artifacts, personal belongings, and original artwork, all bathed in a low, reverent archival light. Most of the Museum's holdings were acquired from an Audubon descendant. The additions have not stopped, however. A recent acquisition is an original Havell copper plate for Birds of America, one of the few rescued from being melted as scrap in the 1800s. "No. 308, The Tell-Tale God-Wit" sits quietly on display. Limited edition reprints have been made from this original plate, as a fundraiser, and a few are still available.

Don Boarman, the curator, is capable of weaving, in a well-paced narrative, all of Audubon's life and work. In the final analysis, he feels

John James Audubon was "just a guy trying to get by" against life's circumstances.

Boarman notes that the Museum has original drawings from every period in Audubon's life, in addition to examples of all of his published work. The double elephant folio Birds of America is on display, each volume sitting open in its own case. The pages, we are told, are turned every day by the Museum staff.

Standing amidst the personal effects of the Audubons, one feels reassured. John James Audubon may have been "just a guy trying to get by," but he has returned in triumph to Henderson. The home fires are burning, the papers are rustling, and the welcome mat is out. John James Audubon is at home and is receiving guests.

WHEN (NOT IF) YOU GO:  
John James Audubon State Park  
3100 U.S. Highway 41 North  
P.O. Box 576  
Henderson, KY 42419-0576  
Go to the following website for further information:  
<[www.kystateparks.com/audubon2.htm](http://www.kystateparks.com/audubon2.htm)>



## ■ CELEBRATE EARTH DAY!

Help make Delaware more beautiful!

On Saturday, March 29, we will be picking up along Creek Road for Adopt-A-Highway. Bring your own gloves and dress appropriately. Meet at the Hopkins Road parking lot at the Visitor Center at 8:30 am.

Also on March 29, join us at 8:30 am for the Christina Watershed Clean-up. We will be working on the White Clay Creek. Meet at the Hopkins Road parking lot at the Visitor Center. It is important for Dorothy Miller to know you will be there. Please call her at 302-366-8059.

Get Outdoors!

Help us protect our environment!



## Bird Tales ...

About 140 years ago, English-speaking settlers in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains came across a beautiful big-beaked bird that appeared mysteriously from somewhere in the distant west. They named it Evening Grosbeak (*Coccothraustes vespertinus*) in the mistaken belief that it came out of the woods to sing only after sundown. French-speakers named this bird more appropriately *le gros-bec errant*, the wandering grosbeak.

For more information and a color picture of the bird go to our website [delawareaudubon.org](http://delawareaudubon.org).

## HERE IS A BIRD FOR YOU TO COLOR.



BOOKS OF INTEREST



*Amphibians and Reptiles of Delmarva.*

James F. White, Jr., and Amy Wendt White  
Tidewater Publishers and Delaware Nature Society.  
\$14.95.

“From skinks to snakes, from turtles to frogs,” 73 species are scrupulously detailed in this “first field guide to amphibians and reptiles of the Delmarva Peninsula.” Backed by 15 years of research, this handy guidebook includes range maps and color photos of the creatures and their habitats. Tips are given for examination of specimens in the field, including ethical and regulatory guidelines. A “History of Delmarva Herpetology,” a chart of species of conservation concern, a glossary, a bibliography, and an index round out this invaluable reference.

The book would make a lovely gift for anyone interested in the

outdoors—from the casual reader to the professional herpetologist—and be sure to buy one for yourself. Tuck it into your birding backpack when going forth to explore the woods, fields, streams, dunes, and marshes of the peninsula.

Jim White is the Associate Director of Land and Biodiversity Management for the Delaware Nature Society and teaches a course in herpetology at the University of Delaware. Amy Wendt White is a Teacher-Naturalist at DNS with an undergraduate degree in geology and a graduate degree in environmental engineering. The husband-and-wife authors are graduates of the University of Delaware and members of the Delaware Ornithological Society and the Delaware Audubon Society.

MLC

I want Delaware Audubon to sponsor a program on

.....  
(list topic here)

in my area.

Name:.....

Phone: (     ).....

Zip Code: .....

Send to:  
Program, Delaware Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 1713, Wilmington DE 19899

