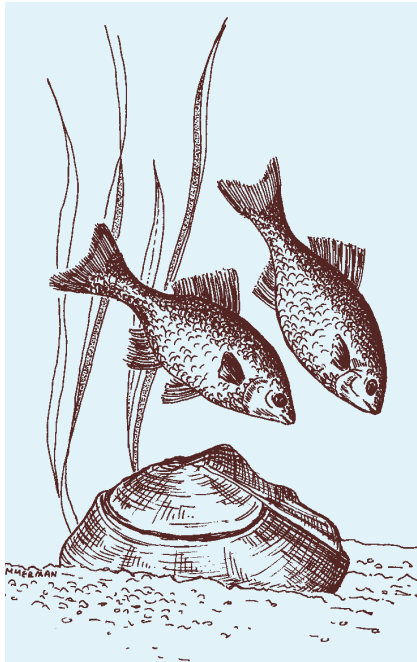


DELAWARE
AUDUBON

Delaware Audubon Journal

Vol. XXVI No.5
May-June 2004



PRESERVING OUR
NATURAL STATE

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CELLPHONES BY THE SEASHORE

A cellphone can be a dolphin's best friend. When whales, dolphins, and sea turtles become stranded on our beaches, well-intentioned citizens should not attempt their own rescues. Instead, a call to 302-228-5029, the Marine Education, Research and Rehabilitation (MERR) Institute hotline, in Milton, is in order. The situation will be assessed, and those creatures requiring medical attention will be transferred to one of several regional centers. In May 2004, MERR will be opening a new facility in Lewes for housing and stabilizing these injured animals prior to transport.

A less dramatic but equally important way to help is the proper disposal of litter—thereby preventing many injuries to begin with. Michael Remus, a volunteer for Tri-State Marine Mammal Rescue, tells the *Delaware Audubon Journal* that many strandings, especially of sea turtles, are the result of injury from boat propellers or from debris such as fishing gear or trash. To a Leatherback Turtle, a floating plastic grocery bag can look like an appetizing jellyfish—with tragic consequences.

Marine mammal emergencies are not strictly a "fair weather" problem. As the crowds leave the beaches for the season, other creatures appear in our waters. Remus points out. "Right now, we have Bottlenose Dolphins and Sea Turtles. Then the seals come in for the winter, as do Blue Dolphins, Striped Dolphins, and Porpoises."

Delawareans must be vigilant year 'round. Therefore, he and fellow volunteers try to raise community awareness by making presentations to schoolchildren and by talking to any individual willing to lend an ear or provide other support. For further information about Tri-State Marine Mammal Rescue, contact Michael Remus at 302-492-3628.

FUN AND STEWARDSHIP

Have some fun and support a great cause! It's not just "for the birds"—it's for protecting all wildlife through conservation, education, and research. Attend the Annual Meeting and participate in the Silent Auction on Monday, May 10. Some featured items this year are from Horizon Helicopters; Brandywine YMCA; Cameras Etc.; and Delaware Audubon's 2004 Conservation Award Winner, Warren Lauder ("Mr. Bluebird"), who has donated a personalized nestbox. Please bring cash or checks, as credit cards cannot be accepted for Silent Auction items.



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

2003-2004 OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

2



Hello Members,

As I finish my term as President of Delaware Audubon, I had some time to reflect. I think Delaware Audubon has had some impact on key issues in our state such as Horseshoe Crab harvests, public hearing rights, Metachem, Motiva, Cherry Island Dump, and the list goes on.

I would like to thank all those on the Board for their support on sometimes divisive issues. I would like to thank the members who are active and helping us with letters, phone calls to legislators, and donating funds.

I hope Delaware Audubon continues in its role as a strong chapter that is not afraid to take strong stances against any force that threatens to despoil our little state.

In closing, I hope that I have made some small difference to serve a better good for our health and our environment.

Matt DePizzo

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

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<i>Vice President</i>	Leslie Savage
<i>Secretary</i>	Ellen Wright
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<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
<i>White Clay Creek Adopt-a-Highway</i>	
	Dorothy Miller
<i>Important Bird Area Program</i>	Ann Rydgren

PROGRAMS COMMITTEE Open

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

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mail@delawareaudubon.org

MEMBERSHIP Open
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EDUCATION COMMITTEE Kathy Tidball

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Annual Dinner Nancy Frampton

FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE Peggy Jahn

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE Ann Rydgren

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<i>Fundraising-Bird Seed Sale</i>	
	Mark and Susan Martell
<i>Fundraising Birdathon</i>	Maud Dayton
	Ruth Holden
<i>Fundraising-Silent Auction</i>	Asha Iyengar
<i>Fundraising-Wildlife Sanctuary</i>	Open
<i>Fundraising-Piping Plover Suite</i>	Ann Rydgren

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DIRECTORS FOR SERVICE UNTIL 2005:

Peggy Jahn Leslie Savage

DIRECTORS FOR SERVICE UNTIL 2006:

Dorothy Miller

REPRESENTATIVES

Sharon Burchenal, Dover
Kay Tebbens, Milford
Till Purnell, Millsboro



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302-428-3959

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mail@delawareaudubon.org



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>

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“Preserve Our Natural State”

WHAT YOU CAN DO...

3



NATIONAL AUDUBON REACTS TO BUSH ADMINISTRATION 2005 BUDGET

The fiscal year 2005 budget released in February by the Bush Administration weakens environmental protections and cuts programs critical to protecting America's great natural heritage. Though there is some good news, it is outweighed by provisions that weaken environmental protections and reduce the security that our drinking water, air and natural habitats remain safe.

“This administration and some in Congress are out of touch with the American people on environmental issues, and this budget is part and parcel of that fundamental disconnect,” said Bob Perciasepe, chief operating officer for the National Audubon Society. “Drilling for oil in our natural treasures like the Arctic Refuge and slashing funding for the Environmental Protection Agency is no way to provide the environmental leadership this country needs.”

There is a small amount of good news: the administration's proposal offers modest increases for critical conservation programs in the states, including a \$28 million increase in funding for the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Project in Florida and an \$8 million increase for ongoing efforts to restore the Upper Mississippi River in Minnesota, Missouri, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Iowa.

However, this is outweighed by provisions that damage the environment, including slashes in funding for America's National Wildlife Refuge System—just one year after a 100th anniversary celebration in which the administration touted its commitment and pledged its support to protecting these bird and wildlife havens. The administration also cuts funding for implementing the Endangered Species Act by more than \$7 million.

National Reacts *continued on page 5*

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.

*** WELCOME WAGON**
Fun-loving, creative person needed to recruit and integrate new members.

WHAT YOU CAN DO!
Please call 302-428-3959 and leave a message if you are interested in helping.



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

Please call Field Trip leaders ahead of time and register. You will be notified if any changes arise. Most trips are half-day. Dress according to the weather and ask leader if waterproof boots, etc., are needed.

MAY

1-31
DELAWARE AUDUBON
BIRDATHON

1 Saturday 6am - 2pm
Great Cypress Swamp.
DELMARVA ORNITHOLOGICAL
SOCIETY. Meet at Boyd's
Corner Park & Ride. Bring
boots, lunch, and bug spray.
For information, call Donald
Ohlandt, 302-998-3247.

5 Wednesday 11pm
(Note time)
DELMARVA ORNITHOLOGICAL
SOCIETY.
Look for Rails. Meet at
Boyd's Corner Park & Ride,
Rte 13 & 301. Bring long
boots.
Andy Ednie, 302-792-9591.

8 Saturday.
DELMARVA ORNITHOLOGICAL
SOCIETY. Spring Count and
International Migratory Bird
Day.
Contact: John Janowski,
302-834-9710.

10 Monday 6pm
DELAWARE AUDUBON
SOCIETY ANNUAL DINNER
AND SILENT AUCTION

Delcastle Inn off of
McKenna's Church Road.
Justin Catanoso will speak
on the topic of "The Lewis
and Clark Expedition: The
Value of Keeping Journals."
For information, please call
302-428-3959.

12 Wednesday 7:30am
DELMARVA ORNITHOLOGICAL
SOCIETY.
Spring Migrants.
Brandywine Creek State
Park. Meet at the Park's
Hawk Watch parking lot.
Don Vasallo, 302-478-1733.

21 Friday 8am
White Clay Creek.
Meet at visitors parking lot
on Creek Road. A park fee is
required. Half day. A good
bit of walking along Creek
Road will be done.
Please call Peggy Jahn if
you wish to participate,
302-378-6474.

22 Saturday 7am-5pm
INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY
BIRD DAY. Bombay Hook
National Wildlife Refuge.
Bird walks, boat rides,
Horseshoe Crabs, and more.
For schedule of events,
please call 302-653-6872.

22 Saturday 8am
DELMARVA ORNITHOLOGICAL
SOCIETY. Delaware Bay
Shorebirds youth trip. Full
day. RSVP by May 19.
For information, call Donald
Ohlandt, 302-998-3247.

29 Saturday 7am
BIRDING AT GRASS DALE
Especially for beginners.
Meet in the picnic area at
Grass Dale Center on
Polktown Rd., Delaware
City. Please call as time may
change. Ann Rydgren,
302-235-0242.

AUDUBON AT HOME LAUNCHES WEBSITE

4

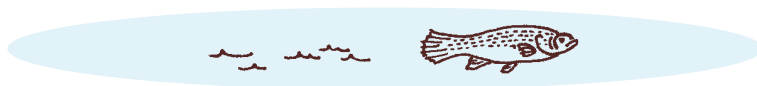


You know where
you live, but do
you know your
"ecological
address?"

Audubon At
Home, a new
program made possible in part by
the U.S. Department of
Agriculture's Natural Resources
Conservation Service (NRCS), is
bringing conservation home
through an exciting, interactive
website designed to give visitors
useful information on making
their backyards more bird-
friendly, and their homes
healthier and safer for their
families. The website helps users
identify the natural characteristics
of their property and its role in
local ecology.

Audubon is stressing the value of
backyard habitat and asks
participants to make their yard
not only bird-friendly but also
bird-safe. The new Audubon At
Home website,
<www.audubon.org/bird/at_home/index.html>, contains a
treasure trove of information that
gives users the tools to create
backyards that will attract birds
and safeguard them as well.

"Each yard, no matter the size,
has the potential to help birds,"
said Sally Conyne, director of the
Great Backyard Bird Count. "By
providing just a few necessities,
your home landscape will attract
birds, beneficial insects, and
other wildlife. You'll be rewarded
with a low-maintenance yard
bursting with the variety of colors
and textures you would find in
far wilder places." To find out
more, visit
<www.audubon.org/bird/at_home/index.html>.





National Reacts *continued from page 3*

When President Bush was elected in 2000, he pledged to fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund program. This budget fails to live up to his promises: Despite statements to the contrary, funding for LWCF land conservation projects is almost \$600 million shy of full funding—a huge shortfall.

The budget incorporates revenue generated from oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to give gifts back to election-year contributors, including big oil companies. This is also out of step with political reality, as the Senate has voted down drilling in the Arctic refuge twice in the past two years.

The budget continues to follow the administration precedent of slashing the Environmental Protection

Agency's budget, and it hamstringing the EPA from carrying out its responsibility of holding industry accountable for blatant Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act violations.

Lastly, the budget continues to fund the misleadingly labeled "Healthy Forests Initiative"—a program that offers far more for the health of timber companies and loggers than it does for the health and safety of neighboring communities and the forests.

The administration's proposal now moves to Congress where the U.S. House and Senate will review the President's funding requests and make the final determinations for the country.

John Bianci
National Audubon Society

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Contact

- Senator Biden 302-573-6345 (senator@biden.senate.gov)
- Senator Carper 302-573-6291 (carper.senate.gov/email-form.html)
- Representative Castle 302-428-1902 <<http://www.house.gov/castle>>

and ask them to: withdraw funding from the "Healthy Forests Initiative," to fully fund the EPA and LWCF, and to continue to protect the Arctic Wildlife Refuge.



MORE AWARDS FOR THE DELAWARE AUDUBON JOURNAL

The "Bird Tales" column written by co-editor and contributing writer Mary Leah Christmas has won first place in the "personal columns, specialized" category of the Delaware Press Association's 2004 Communications Contest. As a first-place winner, the entry now goes to the National Federation of Press Women for judging.

National winners will be announced at the NFPW's annual conference in September, which this year will be held in Lexington, Kentucky.

Mary also won a second place for "special articles, science, ecology, environment." Congratulations to Mary, and our thanks for adding to the luster of the *Delaware Audubon Journal*.

Mary Leah Christmas resides in Kent County and has been a member of the Delaware Audubon Society since 2002.

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 call us at 302-428-3959 or send the address to us at mail@delawareaudubon.org.

Cyber birdwatching!
Cornell Lab of Ornithology's bird feeder station features several feeders. You can move from one to another to see what's there.

<<http://www.birds.cornell.edu/pfw/news/feeder/cam/>>



BIRDLIFE ADOPTS TOUGH NEW STRATEGY

Durban, South Africa

On the final day of the BirdLife International world conference, delegates adopted a tough, new strategy committing the organisation to improve the status of the world's 10,000 bird species and their habitats by 2015. Bird populations will be the indicators of whether progress is being made in achieving these goals.

In a final rallying call to the 350 delegates, BirdLife Director Dr. Michael Rands said, "In ten years' time, I hope the world can look back at the 2004 BirdLife global conference in Durban and see it as a turning point in the way people around the world treat biodiversity and place local communities at the heart of future conservation efforts."

"The strategy we have adopted is a firm commitment by the BirdLife Partnership, in more than 100 countries, to protect the world's birds and biodiversity for the sake of future generations. These are not empty words—we must succeed."

"We must ensure that everyone from local people to government ministers knows what is happening to the world's biodiversity, why it is happening, and how through working with BirdLife and others we can start to put things right."

BirdLife was established in 1994. Since then the BirdLife Partnership has researched and identified conservation actions for each of the world's 1,211 Globally Threatened Bird species and identified more than 9,200 sites of vital importance for birds and other biodiversity through BirdLife's Important Bird Area (IBA) program, now widely regarded as the best initiative of its kind.

BirdLife has lobbied and facilitated legally binding protection for more than 2,000 of these IBAs, and in a major step forward for global conservation, has formally adopted the widespread formation of IBA-Site Support Groups (SSGs).

ELLEN WRIGHT'S BACKYARD WILDLIFE

For those of you who look at your woods and see clearing the exotic invasive plants as an impossible task, I wanted to let you know that it is not as bad as it looks. The 50-foot-wide strip of woods that borders the back of my property was full of Japanese Honeysuckle and Multiflora Rose. I started on the front of the woods and worked on it a little at a time. I would cut a section of the plants and then pull them off the trees and other plants. Because the vines grew so long, pulling on one section got rid of a lot of it. I was encouraged at how quickly I made progress.

There is still some Honeysuckle and Multiflora Rose, but I cleared quite a bit of it. It amazes me how much room was taken up by those two invasive plants. The woods look pretty bare right now. With some patience the tiny, native plant seedlings that were having trouble growing due to the invasive plants will fill in the bare spots. The variety of native plants will provide a varied food source for wildlife at different times of the year.

A word of caution: I encountered a lot of Poison Ivy mingled with the Honeysuckle and Multiflora Rose. Be on the lookout for Poison Ivy if you get the rash. You can get the rash from the vines even in winter.





Bird Tales ...

“TV’S FUNNIEST MOMENTS”

3/2/04

This morning, a Turkey Vulture was sitting in the middle of the field next to our house. He kept taking furtive glances in the direction of our birdfeeders, as if to make sure no one was watching, and would flap his enormous wings and move forward three feet, staying parallel to our yard. A pause. Then some more flapping, and another three feet. Another pause. Then some more flapping and an additional three feet. In other words, this was the TV’s idea of being stealthy. He finally gave up on whatever his project was, and flew away. It’s hard to be discreet when one has a six-foot wingspan.

3/5/04

While preparing an area of our backyard for a new garden, I heard a small plane in the immediate vicinity. Imagine the confused expression on my face when I looked up to see a Turkey Vulture circling in the clear afternoon sky! Funnier still, I craned my neck one way and then the other and never did see the passenger plane! That was quite a disconcerting audio/visual experience: A soaring Turkey Vulture “emitting” the steady thrum of a plane engine.

Mary Leah Christmas



JOKES & ANECDOTES

Q. Did you hear about the Tawny Owl who set off for the nature preserve to try to find a mate?

A. It was pouring rain on the way, so when he got there, he was too-wet-to-woo.

Q. Did you hear about the newly discovered red-phase owl?

A. It was found in San Francisco sittin’ on the dock of the bay. Scientists are not sure what the common name will be, but the scientific name is *Otus Redding*.

Have a joke or brief anecdote of interest to Delaware Audubon members? Send your submissions to <mail@delawareaudubon.org> for possible use in a future issue of the Journal. Be sure to include “Jokes & Anecdotes” in the subject line.

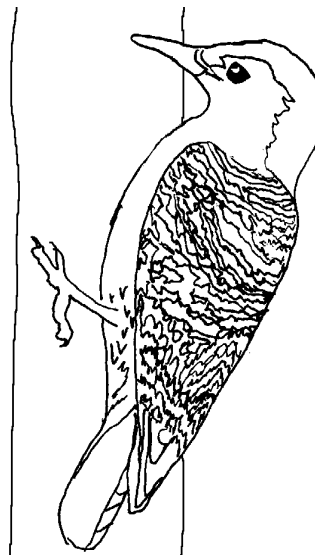


HERE IS A BIRD FOR YOU TO COLOR.

Bird Tales ...

*The Red-bellied Woodpecker *Melanerpes carolinus* gets its name from the small patch of pinkish wash on its belly that is difficult, if not impossible, to see under normal viewing conditions*

For more information and a color picture of this bird, go to our website <www.delawareaudubon.org>.



BOOKS OF INTEREST



Patriots, Stand Up! This is Our Land, Fight to Take It Back

\$9.95, Cedar Tree Press, 2003.
Check our website for availability,
<www.delawareaudubon.com>.

Patriots, Stand Up! is a new treatise from Delaware Audubon's honorary chair, former Gov. Russell W. Peterson.

Peterson writes, "The Bush Administration's record of marching in lock step with business to devastate the environment is the worst in history.... They have opened our treasures of national parks, refuges, forests and wilderness areas to exploitation; adopted an environmentally damaging energy plan as defined by oil, coal and nuclear industries...relaxed

provisions of the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act...and began the dismantlement of the National Environment Policy Act, America's Magna Carta for the environment, while pretending to be environmentalists."

"A simply marvelous piece of work. [The book] describes what has gone wrong with our country, and what needs to be done to bring it back on track, in an incredibly effective, convincing and readable way."
Robert, Washington, DC

"I have never been more troubled by the direction our political powers are taking us and I welcome the courage and inspiration shown in *Patriots, Stand Up!*"
Bill Moyers, New York, New York

BOARD ACTION

- The Delaware Audubon Society Board of Directors joins with owners of property, other concerned citizens, and organizations to petition the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control to establish a "NO WAKE ZONE" on the Mispillion River.

- The Board of Directors considered the attempt by the State to acquire several tracts of land on the western shore of Rehoboth Bay.

We view the offer of land by Delaware Wild Lands, Inc., in this area at a considerable discount—one-third the value of the land—to be too good an opportunity to ignore. We urge all the members of the Bond Bill Committee to take advantage of this opportunity and please find a way to acquire this land for public use.