

Delaware Audubon Journal

Vol. XXV No.7
September-October 2003

ATTENTION DELAWARE TEACHERS: THERE'S STILL TIME!

Subscriptions to receive a free Audubon Adventures Kit are still being accepted. Elementary teachers of grades 4-6 are invited to renew their subscriptions, or apply for this year's edition of the popular environmental science newspapers. The kit includes 4 sets of 32 newspapers each devoted to a specific habitat or topic. The newspapers are written on a 5th grade level and include a resource rich teacher's guide. The following comments about last year's newspapers are from Delaware teachers:

This is an excellent program! The materials are a wonderful addition to supplement our science kits, especially 4th grade topics " Land and Water" and "Structures of Life".

Debbie Claus, Brandywine Springs Elementary, Red Clay School District

I love using the newspapers to teach vocabulary and grammar skills as well as using the informational text to teach summarizing. This is a great extension to the 5th grade " Ecosystem"unit.

Linda Tonge, Showell Elementary, Indian River School District

I use Audubon Adventures as an extension to my 6th grade curriculum I find it indispensable. It is an excellent resource of high interest to my students.

Elma Page, Stanton Middle School, Red Clay School District

My special education students range in skills from Grade 1-5. It was easy to modify your materials to meet needs.

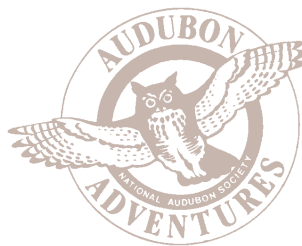
Claudia Hughes, Baltz Elementary, Red Clay School District

My class cheers when I say, "Today is Audubon Day."

Cindy Cunningham, Shields Elementary, Cape Henlopen School District

IN THIS ISSUE

Bird Tales	7
Books of Interest	8
Calendar	4
Letter From the President	2
News & Views.....	5,6,7
Officers & Committees.....	2
Site Seeing.....	3
Backyard Wildlife!.....	6
What You Can Do	3



To receive a subscription for your homeroom or science classes, either fax the renewal form that you received last spring to Kathy Tidball at 302-328-2532 or e-mail the following information to kmtidball@aol.com : Teacher's Name, Grade Number of students, School, School Address (no PO box numbers), School phone, fax, School district. Please share this information with new teachers in your building. Subscriptions will be filled as long as funding is available.



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Hello Members,
This has been an interesting time in Delaware as far as the environment goes. In an appeal made to the Coastal Zone Industrial Control Board in August a motion was made and passed to dismiss three appellants because they were not attorneys. Delaware Audubon was one of the groups dismissed. This is a dangerous first step that may spread throughout our government.

This means that individual citizens can attend and represent themselves but citizens' groups cannot appeal a coastal zone decision without legal representation. They say groups must have a lawyer to do so, this would make it cost prohibitive, and that's the whole idea to muzzle opposition.

Please contact your legislators and express your outrage that citizen organizations are no longer allowed to participate in public hearings of the Coastal Zone Industrial Control Board unless they are represented by an attorney.

Thanks,
Matt Del Pizzo

Editor's Note: *With the help of attorney John Kearney, an appeal by Delaware Audubon, Common Cause, and Green Delaware resulted in a ruling by Judge Jan Jurden on September 10 that said state law does NOT require that attorneys represent citizen groups before the Coastal Zone Industrial Control Board.*



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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

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.

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"Preserve Our Natural State"

WHAT YOU CAN DO...



REPORT "TAGGED" HORSESHOE CRABS

The Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control invites and encourages all Delaware Bay beach goers to help with an important horseshoe crab research project by reporting tagged horseshoe crabs.



A multi-year tagging study began this spring in the Delaware Bay. Scientists from DNREC Coastal Programs and Division of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Geological Survey, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Cornell University tagged and released thousands of horseshoe crabs throughout the Bay.

By recovering tagged horseshoe crabs as they come ashore to spawn, researchers can estimate the total number of horseshoe crabs that spawn in a given year, estimate survival from year to year, and study the migratory patterns of horseshoe crabs in the Bay.

WHAT YOU CAN DO!

You can help! Anyone who sees a tagged crab on the beach is asked to record the location, time, date and all tag numbers and tag types (some crabs may have more than one tag). It is also important to report its sex and whether it was found alive or dead. If unable to determine the sex, reports should just indicate "do not know".

Please report your information by calling: 1-888-LIMULUS or by contacting Dave Smith at david-r-smith@usgs.gov.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

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

We need help in the following areas.




WE NEED YOU!

- * ATTORNEY
Experienced in trust and corporation law who will give advice pro bono. This is a limited project, not litigation.
- * 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.
- * WILDFLOWER LOVER
Wildflower enthusiast needed for special area in Dover.

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

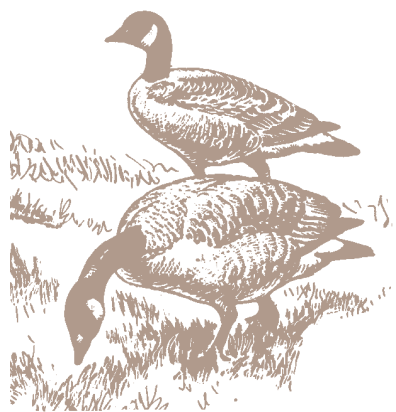
Send this application and your check to:
Delaware Audubon Society
P.O. Box 1713, Wilmington, DE 19899

7XCH
D90

SEPTEMBER

21 Sunday 7:00 am
 Delmarva Ornithological Society.
 FALL RAPTOR AND PASSERINE MIGRATION
 Cape May, NJ
 Higbee Beach
 Meet at the canal parking lot (dirt lane furthest lot at Higbee Beach.
 Full day trip.
 For directions please call Meta Little (302) 368-3472.

28 Sunday 8am
 White Clay Creek Preserve (PA)
 MIGRATING SONGBIRDS.
 Meet at Lot # 2 on Sharpless Road. Margi Filman.
 (610) 274-2471



OCTOBER

5 Sunday 11am to 4pm
 COAST DAY
 See you at our Audubon booth!
 College of Marine Studies in Lewes.

12 Sunday 8am
 THE BIRDS OF GRASS DALE
 Especially for Beginning Birders, a walk looking at fall migrants. Meet at picnic tables near Grass Dale parking lot, Fort DuPont State Park, Delaware City
 Ann Rydgren 235-0242.

18 Saturday 9am to 2pm
 BIRD SEED PICK-UP DAY
 Delcastle County Park
 Bird Seed orders must be picked up today.
 For information please call 428-3959.

19 Sunday 9am
 BOMBAY HOOK -half-day trip
 There is an entrance fee. Bombay Hook is an internationally known destination for birders, right in our 'backyard'!
 Meet in the parking lot next to the Information Center.
 Please call Peggy Jahn if you intend to go, 378-6474.

NOVEMBER

2 Sunday 9am
 ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY PICK-UP
 Adopt-a-Highway pick-up on Creek Road, Newark.
 Come lend a hand for a couple of hours and enjoy being outdoors with congenial people. We will be working on Creek Road from Wedgewood Road to White Clay Dr. Bring your own work gloves. A pointed stick for picking up pieces of paper is a handy thing to use. Dress for the weather and bring a lunch and binoculars for birding afterwards, if you wish.
 Any questions? Call the Audubon office 428-3959.
 Meet at the Chambers House Visitor Center north of Hopkins Bridge Road on Creek Road.

16 Sunday 9am
 Conowingo Dam
 BALD EAGLES AND WATER BIRDS - half-day trip
 Meet in the parking lot at the first overlook. Dress for the weather, as it is always colder near the water. You may want to bring your lunch and telescope.
 Please call Peggy Jahn if you intend to go, 378-6474.

DECEMBER

7 Sunday 9am
 Bombay Hook
 Ducks and Geese Plus ? - half day trip.
 There is an entrance fee. Meet in the parking lot next to the Information Center. Please call Peggy Jahn if you intend to go, 378-6474.



I want Audubon to sponsor a program on

.....
 (topic) in my area.

Name:

Phone: ().....

Zip Code:

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



News & Views

“NO BIRDS HERE!”

After living almost ten years in this house, in the company of several furry birders (indoor felines), for some reason we never installed birdfeeders until last fall. We now have four kinds. If challenged, we would have argued that we don't feed the birds in our yard because there aren't any to feed (a telltale comment); and besides, in winter don't most of them fly south?

Imagine our delight—and chagrin—when, over the past winter, a feathered parade came through our yard that would be the envy of the Mummies: Grackles! Starlings! Juncos! Cowbirds! Finches! Sparrows! Cardinals! Jays! O, the singing! O, the scuffling! O, them golden toesies making fragile footprints in the snow!

Another shock was the fact that the feeder area was looking exactly like the one depicted on the birdseed bag—the drawing dismissed by Yours Truly as some graphic artist's fantasy. I made the same mistake of sneering at a bag of thistle seed. Goldfinches? First, one would have to see Goldfinches in the area, and then put up the thistle feeder...right? But we hung one out, anyway, and the reader can guess what happened next..

The moral of the story is, “Better late than never.” We looked out one morning, during the Big Snow of February 2003, and perfectly positioned, directly beneath our window, was a small, bird-shaped snow angel. Well removed from the feeder area, it was as if the bird had hopped over on a mission to leave a little, fluttery gesture of thanks.

❖ *You can say thanks in return to our feathered friends, and help support crucial conservation efforts, by your generous participation in Delaware Audubon's 2003 birdseed fundraiser, October 18.*

CONSERVATION AWARD NOMINATIONS

It is that time of year for the Delaware Audubon Society to receive nominations of individuals who have made significant efforts and contributions in our environmental community. The Audubon Conservation Award will be presented at our annual dinner.

The Audubon Board wishes all Delaware Audubon members to have the opportunity to participate in the nominating process. To nominate, please fill out the following form and return to:

Award
Delaware Audubon Society
P.O. Box 1713
Wilmington, DE 19899



Nominations must be received before November 15, 2003.

2003 NOMINATION FORM

Nominee _____ Phone Number _____

Title/Position _____

Address _____

City State Zip _____

Nominator _____ Phone Number _____

Address _____

City State Zip _____

continued on page 6

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.



<http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/distr/lepid/bflyusa/bflyusa.htm>

Butterflies of North America - USGS site
This is an excellent site that provides state lists and pictures.



News & Views

Nominations continued from page 5

Please provide several brief sentences stating why the nominee should be considered for this award. Detailed information may be required at a later date if the Awards Committee accepts the nomination.

The Award may be granted to a volunteer for their significant contribution, or unusual service in environmental affairs, for a period of years. Past recipients have been Peggy Jahn, Lynne Frink, Gwynne Smith, Rick West, Jacob Kreshtool, Til Purnell, Don Sharpe, Barbara Lundberg, Leah Roedel, Ruth Ann Minner, Joseph Biden, Winston Wayne, Russell Peterson, Grace Pierce-Beck, Dorothy Miller, Edward W. Cooch, Jr., Lynn Williams, Thomas Sharp, Ann Rydgren and Albert Matlack.

This form may be copied if you need more forms.

SUMMER 2003

ELLEN WRIGHT'S BACKYARD WILDLIFE



This summer there were some great new discoveries in my backyard. I saw three box turtles in various areas of my property. Last year I saw one and before that had never seen any around my property. One turtle was hanging around a wet area in the corner of the horse pasture. There was a box turtle with beautiful bright orange markings around the hedgerow behind my house. The dogs discovered the third turtle. It was trying to climb the fence to get away from the dogs. Of course it fell on its back right in the poison ivy. I carefully picked it up and moved it outside of the backyard into the woods.

For the first time this year an adult Red-bellied Woodpecker has been bringing its fledglings to the woodpecker feeder. The adult feeds the young ones as they sit on top of the feeder. Soon the young woodpeckers were coming to eat from the feeder on their own.

I have many hummingbirds around my house in the wildflower gardens as I have every summer. I can hear them chattering in the hedgerow behind the house. They do their pendulum dance at the hummingbird feeders guarding their territory.

Praying mantis's are in the grass, gardens, hedgerow, and trees. It has been a great summer to enjoy nature in my own backyard!



ORDER NOW FOR CHRISTMAS
DOWNSTATE PICK-UP AVAILABLE

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, 378-6474.



News & Views



Bird Tales . . .

Did you know a hummingbird can drive a car, zipping from one gardening supply center to another? Or install edging? Or plant plants? A sentient bit of iridescence recently drove me around town in search of just the right shepherd's crook and bedding plants for a new hummingbird garden in our backyard.

On a trip to Indiana this spring, I had just made the acquaintance of hummingbirds with the observation of a bump on a high telephone wire. Thinking it was some sort of large, Midwestern beetle, I was shocked to see with the binoculars that this thing, not much larger than a toasted marshmallow, not only had a long beak but was grooming itself! I studied this dark figure over the course of several days. He always sat on the same section of wire, and he always faced the woods—except our last day there, when he faced

the house. (Did he know we were leaving and planned to wave a miniature handkerchief?)

What I had not yet determined was what sort of hummingbird this was. Every day brought severe thunderstorm watches or tornado warnings. Due to overcast conditions, I could only see him backlit, noting a tiny, black bird with whitish throat and white patches under his tail. Nothing like it in the field guide. Nothing like it at the Cornell or Patuxent websites. Then, one afternoon, a shaft of light broke through the gloom and my little friend lit up like a patio ornament at a tropical pool party.

Over lunch upon our return, I mentioned seeing him to our esteemed Audubon Journal Editor. She said, "Did you know in indirect light Ruby-throateds look black and white?" I almost blew iced tea out my nose.

Trying to laugh and swallow my drink at the same time, I admitted to having learned this the hard way. "Why don't you write something about hummingbirds," she suggested. And so here we are.

But the writer has one idea, and the hummer has another—just like this article, which started out only to be about observing a hummingbird in Indiana, but led to how a clerk with his name stitched on his pocket came to be loading multiple bags of mulch into my car. Beware of those "toasted marshmallows." They are powerful.

M. L. Christmas

SAVE THIS DATE!

Mark your calendar now for the Fall Birdseed Sale on October 18, 2003.

HERE IS A
BIRD FOR YOU
TO COLOR.

Bird Tales . . .

Wood Duck
Many naturalists and hunters consider the Wood Duck *Aix sponsa* to be the most beautiful duck in North America, if not the world.





***Front Yard Gardens:
Growing More than Grass***

by Liz Primeau, Firefly 2003,
232 p. \$24.95

If you're tired of humdrum grass as a sole ground cover, then take a look at this guide featuring 70 different garden designs suitable for front yards. Although some people shy away from the care they think a yard full of blooms, evergreens, and wild grasses requires, Primeau reports that she and her husband have more time since they turned away from time consuming mowing, seeding, and fertilizing.

According to Primeau, her garden requires some maintenance in spring but just irrigation throughout the summer. Opening chapters cover the history of lawns, then give step-by-step details of how to transform a yard of grass into a blossoming bounty of greenery that's both pretty and friendly to wildlife. Hundreds of color pictures and blueprints make replicating the

pictures easy. Styles and design are based on taste as well as climate conditions. Primeau also provides tips for maintaining these plants and landscapes.

Science News

