



IN MEMORIUM

Gaylord Nelson
1916 - 2005

Founder of Earth Day

GAYLORD NELSON, THE FOUNDER OF EARTH DAY AND A FORMER GOVERNOR AND U.S. SENATOR FROM WISCONSIN, DIED ON SUNDAY, JULY 3, 2005.

A CONSERVATIONIST LONG BEFORE IT BECAME FASHIONABLE, NELSON WAS RECOGNIZED AS ONE OF THE WORLD'S FOREMOST ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERS.

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Delaware Audubon Journal

Vol. XXVII No. 6
September-October 2005

NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY TURNS 100

Over one hundred years ago, a committed group of Americans came together to protect birds from slaughter at the hands of plume-hunters. Hats sporting feathers and even entire birds were the height of fashion, making the hunting of egrets and other birds a highly profitable enterprise. Fortunately, the bold and dedicated efforts of a far-sighted group of men and women were successful in saving the Great Egret and other birds from extinction. It was these early conservationists who founded the National Audubon Society, which still includes the Great Egret in its logo.

Today, Audubon is continuing its legacy of protecting birds and other wildlife through individual action. Citizen science programs, like the century-old Christmas Bird Count, the more recently launched Great Backyard Bird Count and the Important Bird Areas Program enlist thousands of volunteers for conservation. Audubon Centers from coast to coast introduce new generations to the wonders of nature and the importance of protecting it. Grassroots activists advocate for sound national, state, and local environmental policy through on-the-ground and web-based initiatives.

As Audubon enters its second century, the conservation challenges we face are no less urgent than those that confronted our founders. Our mission remains as vital as it was one hundred years ago. Birds have long served as barometers for the overall health of our environment, and of our own quality of life and health. By helping to protect them, each of us, like the men and women who worked to outlaw plume hunting, can make a conservation difference. That is the Audubon legacy.

For further information, including highlights of legislation passed, habitats preserved, and an exhibit of artwork by young artists (ages 8 to 17), see National Audubon's Centennial site at <http://www.audubon.org/centennial/index.php>.



PIPING PLOVER TO GO SYMPHONIC

Delaware Audubon has received a grant from the Laffey-McHugh Foundation to help make the *Piping Plover Suite* available to a broader audience. Composer Scott Roewe, a graduate

Symphonic continued on page 4



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



I am happy to report that the Delaware Audubon Society has contributed to and signed on with the petition to request emergency listing for the Red Knot. It was a pleasure for Nick DiPasquale and me to join with our friends at New Jersey Audubon, National Audubon, Defenders of Wildlife, Delaware Riverkeepers, Littoral Society, Delmarva Ornithological Society, Delaware Sierra Club, etc., in a collaborative fashion in signing on to such an important document.

This is a core strategy for our organization, and it is our intention to press forward in trying to recover the Red Knot to sustainable levels by leaning on our local and national government agencies to act on preserving a species that is in significant decline. There is no question that a major factor in this rapid decline toward extinction is the lack of horseshoe crab egg density on our Delaware Bay shoreline each spring. Even though the population of horseshoe crabs has leveled off after a long period of over-harvesting, the horseshoe crab has not recovered enough to stem the tide of Red Knot decline.

Please stay tuned to our website for further activities in this regard, and look for any action items to appear as needed. The petition now rests in the hands of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and can be found on our website at <www.delawareaudubon.org>.

Mark Martell

Delaware Audubon Society Officers & Committees

2005-2006

If there are any issues that you think Audubon should address that you feel strongly about, 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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Fundraising: Wildlife SanctuaryOpen
Fundraising: Piping Plover SuiteAnn Rydgren

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Please give credit to the Delaware Audubon Journal and the author.

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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.

“Preserve Our Natural State”

WHAT YOU CAN DO...



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.

NOMINATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BEFORE NOVEMBER 1, 2005.

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, Albert Matlack, Warren Lauder, and Lorraine and Richard Fleming.

What You Can Do:

Make a nomination, fill out the following form and return to:

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

2006 CONSERVATION AWARD NOMINATION FORM

Nominee Name _____

Phone Number _____

Title/Position _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Nominator _____

Phone Number _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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. This form may be copied if you need more forms.

JOIN THE FUN!

MEET NEW PEOPLE!

DO A GREAT THING!



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

We need help in the following areas.

WE NEED YOU!

- * Wildflowers: Wildflower enthusiast for special area in Dover.
- * Welcome Wagon: Fun-loving, creative person needed to recruit and integrate new members.
- * Needed: Someone with a “Type A” personality and marketing experience who is willing to help the environment in Delaware through member recruitment, targeted marketing and advertising for our annual birdseed sale, general member solicitation, and expanding our annual appeal.
- * Conservation Committee: Needs members to divide up the work. Please help!

What You Can Do:

Call 302-428-3959 today and leave a message if you are interested in helping.

Symphonic

continued from page 1

of Delaware public schools and the Berklee College of Music in Boston, is working on an arrangement of the *Piping Plover Suite* for symphony orchestras.

Commissioned by the Delaware Audubon Society, sponsored by the Brandywiners, Ltd., and composed by Scott Roewe, the *Piping Plover Suite* made its world debut at Coast Day 2004. The piece was presented at Coast Day by the Cape Henlopen Community Band under the direction of Barry Eli.

A premier performance of the *Piping Plover Suite* was also presented by the H. B. du Pont Middle School Honor Band under the direction of Pam Letts at their Spring Concert. The H. B. du Pont Honor Band is the first middle school band to perform this piece of music.



The *Piping Plover Suite* is a musical presentation based on the call of the Piping Plover, a threatened and endangered species nesting and raising its young on Delaware beaches. Once, they came to Delaware beaches in great numbers, now only a handful arrives in the spring. The goal of the *Piping Plover Suite* is to stimulate an emotional response and establish sensitivity to the preservation of beach ecology in Delaware. The five-note call of the Piping Plover is especially appealing and lends itself admirably to musical variation.

An even broader audience can be reached through community symphonic orchestras, and that is our next step. The symphonic arrangement is expected to be completed in the Fall of 2005.

The Piping Plover CD and Teacher Resource Packet is available FREE from the Delaware Audubon website, <www.delawareaudubon.org>.



CALENDAR



SEPTEMBER

4

18 Sunday 6:45 am

DELMARVA ORNITHOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Fall raptor and passerine migration, Cape May, NJ, Higbee Beach. Meet in the small parking lot on left before main lot at Higbee Beach. Full day. To RSVP and for directions, please call Jason Guerard, 813-951-0807.

OCTOBER

2 Sunday 11:00 am to 5:00 pm

COAST DAY

See you at our Delaware Audubon booth! University of Delaware College of Marine Studies, Lewes.

8 Saturday 9:00 am to 3:00 pm

4TH ANNUAL WATER FOWL FESTIVAL AT PRIME HOOK

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE near Milton

Free admission. Food, live music, guided canoe trips, guided walks, silent auction, demonstrations, and children's activities. The Festival will include an array of nonprofit environmental exhibitors, a wildlife photography contest, a children's poster contest and more. The festival is an opportunity to celebrate National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) Week and to become more informed about the NWR system.

9 Sunday 8:00 am

THE BIRDS OF GRASS DALE

Especially for beginning birders, a walk to look at fall migrants. Meet at picnic tables near Grass Dale parking lot, Fort DuPont State Park, Delaware City. Ann Rydgren, 302-235-0242.

23 Sunday 9:00 am

BOMBAY HOOK

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. This will be a half-day trip. Please call Peggy Jahn, 302-378-6474, if you intend to go.

NOVEMBER

13 Sunday 9:00 am

CONOWINGO DAM BALD EAGLES AND WATER BIRDS

Meet in the parking lot at the first overlook. This is a half-day trip. 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, 302-378-6474.

DECEMBER

11 Sunday 9:00 am

BOMBAY HOOK DUCKS AND GEESE

There is an entrance fee. Meet in the parking lot next to the Information Center. This is a half-day trip. Please call Peggy Jahn, 302-378-6474, if you intend to go.

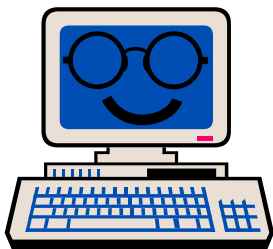


WEBSITE REPORT

Total visits in June	4,281
Total website "hits" in June	34,714
Visits from July 1-22 <i>(visits = unique individuals)</i>	3,215
Downloads of July-August newsletter	94
Average number of hits per hour	48
of hits per day	1,157
of downloaded files per day <i>(pictures, PDFs, documents)</i>	916
of unique visitors per day	142

Thanks to all Delaware Audubon members who have made Amazon.com orders through our website at <www.delawareaudubon.org>. Every purchase helps support the activities of Delaware Audubon. Please check the "Recommended Merchandise" column on our website frequently.

Fred Breukelman,
Website Master



SITE SEEING

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

For birders looking for overnight accommodations near the Assawoman Wildlife Area, check out this website:
<www.woodsoncountryinn.com>.



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



Bird Tales . . .

Mary Leah Christmas

"A Red-(White-and-Blue) Letter Day"

9/10/04: I have seen it all! I can retire my yard list, my life list, my grocery list, my laundry list, you name it! I am done! Finished! Nothing more to see! The End!

Around 2:30 this afternoon, armed with a bottle of Windex, I went out onto the patio to clean our sliding glass doors. Nice day, blue sky, a few, puffy clouds, gentle breeze. As I stood there wiping away and thinking about nothing in particular, I happened to glance into the sky. A pair of soaring adult Bald Eagles! The goosebumps shot straight up my arms to my scalp.

I watched them for about a minute until I could stand it no more and went in the house for the binoculars. Around and around they soared. One of the Eagles was slightly larger than the other; but "what's the diff" when you're speaking of mere degrees of enormity. They were low enough over our backyard and the adjoining field to be unmistakable, even without the aid of binoculars. Their white heads and tails were gorgeously illuminated by the sunshine. As I watched, they slowly gained in altitude until, after ten minutes, they were little more than two distant dashes spiraling lazily against the clouds.

How many times in the past have there been flying dashes out there and I failed to observe them? We live down the road from several bodies of water; one known in the past to have been a Bald Eagle nesting site. We are also not far from Dover Air Force Base, from whence large, flat-winged creatures come and go every day—but nothing like this. For all the times we've been out in our yard, for all the times we've craned our necks upriver and down as we've crossed the St. Jones, there has never been a day like this until today, truly a red-(white-and-blue) letter day!

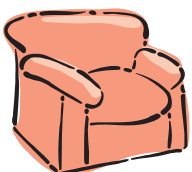


FROM THE CONSERVATION CHAIR NICK DiPASQUALE

The Red Knot

On July 28, 2005, Delaware Audubon joined with other leading conservation groups in filing an emergency petition with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (US FWS) to list the Red Knot as an endangered species under the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). Since the late 1980s, the Red Knot population has declined by nearly 90 percent. The listing request comes from an alliance of conservation and wildlife groups including Defenders of Wildlife, the National Audubon Society and the Delaware, Maryland-DC, New Jersey, New York and Virginia state chapters, the American Bird Conservancy, and the Citizens Campaign for the Environment. Based on model projections by leading international ornithologists, the Red Knot could be extinct in five years (by 2010). The petition identifies the decrease in availability of the Red Knot's main source of fuel, horseshoe crab eggs, as the primary reason for the dramatic decline in the Red Knot population. Crab egg densities have decreased due to the over-harvesting of horseshoe crabs for commercial purpose. The emergency listing petition comes after years of effort by the conservation organizations to convince state fisheries managers and the Atlantic State Marine Fisheries Commission to implement more aggressive conservation measures to reduce the take of horseshoe crabs. The petitioners also gave the US FWS notice of their intent to sue if the

department does not act expeditiously to list the Red Knot under the federal ESA.



The Delaware City Refinery

On July 18, 2005, Delaware Audubon and the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) filed a petition (Civil Action No. 88-263-SLR) in U.S. District Court of Delaware in Wilmington asking the Court to enforce judgment against Texaco Refining & Marketing (Delaware City Refinery). This motion represents the fourth time since 1988, when the original lawsuit was filed, that Delaware Audubon and NRDC have asked the Court to require Texaco to meet its legal obligations under the federal Clean Water Act and the terms of various orders of the Court.

Delaware Audubon and NRDC engaged their own expert who determined that Texaco and its consultants have obfuscated and misrepresented data from a study to determine the impacts of their illegal discharges to the Delaware River ecosystem. The expert analyzed the raw data and found a strong correlation between contaminated discharges from the refinery in deposited areas down river and adverse ecological impacts. The expert also determined that Texaco had failed to carry out certain experiments and field analyses required by the Court-ordered study plan.

Delaware Audubon and NRDC find no alternative but to request the Court to enforce judgment against Texaco for failing to meet its obligations under the Court's previous orders. The Motion to Enforce and supporting documents are located on our website, <www.delawareaudubon.org>.

Conservation continued on page 7

ELLEN WRIGHT'S BACKYARD WILDLIFE

Water Gardens

The two water gardens that I have were inspired by a water lily. My neighbor appeared one day and asked me if I wanted a hardy water lily. I put it in a 5 gallon bucket. She told me to get a goldfish to eat the mosquito larva deposited in the water. I now have two 50-gallon water gardens next to each other. By keeping the water fresh I haven't needed a pump and a filter. Weekly I replace one-third of the water with fresh water using my garden hose.



When the water-garden environment is balanced with the fish and plants, that's all you need. The water gardens have attracted various wildlife. The birds drink out of it and use the floating oxygenating plants to support them while they take a bath. One summer I had a Box Turtle who enjoyed swimming in the water. Once a small Garter Snake visited the garden by moving over the surface on the plants. Various frogs appear and disappear throughout the summer every year.

In the winter I use floating heaters to keep the water from freezing solid on the surface. The fish survive year after year, and this summer the two fish in one garden produced a baby, so now there are three fish in that garden.

These are definitely the easiest gardens to maintain. They are weed free!



News & Views

DELAWARE AUDUBON SOCIETY Financial Summary For 2004

	12/31/2004	
Balance Sheet:		<u>Balance</u>
Assets:		
Cash and Investments		28,374.87
Fund Liabilities:		
Unrestricted General Fund		25,866.54
Restricted Funds:		<u>2,508.33</u>
		28,374.87
Fund Activity Statement:		
General Fund - Beg Bal		31,160.98
+ Restricted Funds closed	0.00	
+ Contributions	19,051.40	
- Expenses	<u>24,345.84</u>	
Net Fund Change:		<u>(5,294.44)</u>
General Fund - End Bal		25,866.54
Restricted Funds - Beg Bal		3,637.45
+ Contributions		
- Expenses	(1,129.12)	
- Closed Funds to General	<u>0.00</u>	
Net Fund Change:		<u>1,129.12</u>
Restricted Funds - End Bal		2,508.33

We have examined the financial records of the Delaware Audubon Society for the year 2004 and find them to be in excellent condition and have no comments.

Dave Brannan, Fred Jahn

ORDER NOW FOR CHRISTMAS!

BLUEBIRD BOXES

To help you appreciate and understand nature, Delaware Audubon has available by order well-constructed pine nest-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 \$25, we are sure you will be pleased with this box. Order now for yourself and your friends. Please arrange for pick-up when you call Fred Jahn, 302-378-6474. For New Castle County only, home delivery is available for an additional \$5. Otherwise, nest boxes must be picked up at the Jahns' home in Middletown.

Conservation *continued from page 6*

The Proposed BP Crown Point LNG Import Facility

Both houses of Congress last week passed a fundamentally flawed Energy Bill supported by the Bush administration. Although some of the more egregious provisions were stripped out, such as protecting oil companies from liability for spills and releases of the gasoline additive MTBE, the bill still contains many offending items. Chief among these is a provision that gives the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, or FERC, the final say over the siting of Liquefied Natural Gas import facilities such as the one proposed by BP in Logan Township, New Jersey. BP was denied a state Coastal Zone status decision request by DNREC for the construction of a docking pier in the Delaware River. All three members of Delaware's congressional delegation voted against the Energy Bill and attempted to have this provision stricken from the legislation. Take a minute to thank them for their efforts on our behalf.

In addition to this blow to the state Coastal Zone Act, New Jersey has asked the U.S. Supreme Court to find that it has the right to control the development of its waterfront under a 1905 fishing compact it has with Delaware. In order to get the Court to take up this issue, New Jersey has agreed to build the docking pier and lease it to BP. It should be noted that there are over fifty proposals for the siting of LNG facilities in North America. Only 6 to 12 plants will actually need to be built to meet the most extreme demand scenarios. Delaware Audubon believes that FERC should establish siting criteria that give preference to expanding existing facilities such as the facility at Cove Point, Maryland, or the siting of new facilities away from population centers and sensitive ecological areas. Instead of demonstrating some leadership in this post-9/11 world, the administration encourages a free-for-all environment where siting will be based on a company's ability to exercise political influence, such as appears to be the case in New Jersey.

Things aren't looking so good from this conservation chair.

BOOKS OF INTEREST



John James Audubon: The Making of an American

by Richard Rhodes.

Hardcover. Alfred A. Knopf, 2004, 514 pp.

Pulitzer Prize-winning author Richard Rhodes has dedicated this new biography of John James Audubon to Don Boarman, the recently retired curator of the John James Audubon Museum in Henderson, Kentucky. (See *Delaware Audubon Journal*, March/April 2003.)

This book claims to be “the first major biography of John James Audubon in forty years,” a statement which dismisses Shirley Streshinsky’s scholarly *Audubon: Life and Art in the American Wilderness*. Rhodes deserves credit, however, for revisiting original source material and drawing upon “hundreds of letters” written in Audubon’s difficult handwriting and sometimes quirky English, not to mention those missives penned in his native French. In doing so, Rhodes has sought to add new grace-notes to the bravura that was John James Audubon, “a man who loved and triumphed.”

MLC

EDITOR’S CORNER

National Audubon considers birds to be the barometers of our environmental health (“National Audubon Society Turns 100”). As we fight to help the Red Knot (“Letter From the President,” “From the Conservation Chair”), we can take some comfort in the progress being made as a result of Bald Eagle preservation efforts (“Bird Tales”). According to the January 27, 2005, Rare Bird Alert of the Delaware Museum of Natural History and the Delmarva Ornithological Society: “In Delaware...in 1981, there were only 4 Bald Eagle nests.... Last year, in 2004, it’s up to 36 Bald Eagle nests...and they are throughout the state, in all 3 counties...” Keep your eyes to the skies...and on our shores!

MLC

THANK YOU

The Silent Auction this year offered a great variety of items and lots of fun! Please visit our donors and thank them for supporting Delaware Audubon. We appreciate the generosity of the following donors:

Brandywine YMCA • Concord Pet (Rt. 2) • Harry’s Savoy Grill • Jeenwong Thai Cuisine

Southern States (Middletown) • Tri-State Bird Rescue & Research, Inc.

Carolyn Becker • John Knox • Mark Martell • Ann Rydgren • Leslie Savage • Tom Shuey



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