

**PRESERVING
OUR
NATURAL STATE**

Delaware Audubon Journal

Happy New Year!



**Vol. XXIV No.3
January - February 2002**

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YOU'RE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT 2002!

WE WANT TO KNOW WHERE THE BIRDS ARE FEBRUARY 15-18

Now that winter has gripped much of the continent, where are the birds? Bird populations are dynamic. They are constantly in flux. We want to take a snapshot of North American bird populations, and you can help us.

On the weekend of February 15-18, anyone with an interest in birds and access to the Internet should watch their bird feeders and backyards, and count the maximum number of each of the different bird species he or she sees. For those without feeders, counts can be made in neighborhoods or local parks. Participants can spend as little or as much time as they want counting birds during the three-day period. They then submit their counts via BirdSource, which also offers assistance in bird identification, on an easy to use form.

EVERYONE'S CONTRIBUTION IS IMPORTANT.

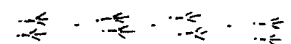
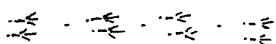
It doesn't matter whether you identify, count, and report the 5 species coming to your backyard feeder or the 75 species you see during a day's outing to a wildlife refuge. The data that you collect will be combined with Christmas Bird Count and Project FeederWatch data to give us an immense picture of our winter birds. Each year that these data are collected makes them more important and meaningful.

Enter your sightings online at <http://birdsource.cornell.edu/>, through BirdSource, a joint National Audubon/ Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology project.

Curriculum materials for teachers are offered on the web site from late October through the end of February. This is a great project for school children.

MARK THESE DATES

Mark **February 15-18** on your calendar now and participate in The Great Backyard Bird Count!



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Delaware Audubon members:

I would like to tell you that it has been a wonderful year to be president, but that wouldn't be truthful. It was a difficult year for all of us, but the good people and work of our chapter makes it easier for me.

The events of September 11 have had a dramatic and poignant effect on all of our lives and rightfully so. As these events have played themselves over the last months, we must also not forget the problems that were here before that fateful day.

I was in Washington, D.C. in February, 2001, lobbying for the Americas Redrock Wilderness Bill. It is for saving the last wildlands on the federal lands under the Bureau of Land Management in Southern Utah. I had gotten a feeling of the new direction the White House was going. It was away from sound policy based on science back to industrial lobbying policy. It is disappointing that so much effort and work has been compromised.

Another hot issue was the Roadless Rules policy that the Clinton Administration had put in place at the end of his term. The roadless policy would have protected the last truly wild unspoiled places that are on National Forest lands. The largest amount of comments ever received on a land issue, 1,300,000 comments, came during the public comment period. Eighty percent of these comments were for saving these lands. The Bush administration has stopped implementation of the new policy and has replaced the head of the Forest Service with a new chief who is pro industry. They are having a new comment period as they review every bit of the landmark policy.

On the global warming front, the rest of the free world has moved ahead on a pact to curb the emissions of pollutants that contribute to global warming. It is interesting to note that 164 nations were present except the nation that contributes the most to the problem to the tune of 25% of all the emissions. That's right folks; the United States abstained from being involved. The Bush Administration said more studies need to be done to find ways to curb it. Right now as I write there has not been a time when there is such a high level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. This is the highest record ever in hundreds and hundreds of years.

The Bush Administration has been doggedly pressing to open the National Arctic Refuge for drilling, which I gather would only exacerbate the problem.

We as environmentalists must ride out what is short sighted in our national environmental policy as we have done before. These sensitive issues we take on are long-term struggles. We must stay vigilant; we have come a long way and have further to go. Thanks for being with us through these trying times.

Giving thanks for all your support,
Matt Del Pizzo

Mission Statement: 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.

DE AUDUBON SOCIETY 2001-2002 OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

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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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<i>Nest Box Projects</i>	

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Milford; Till Purnell, Millsboro

ATTENTION:
PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS AND RENEWING MEMBERS
FOR THE FIRST TIME, YOU HAVE A CHOICE!

Individuals or families thinking about becoming new members of Audubon and current members planning to renew their membership may now choose the membership package that best suits them!

“National Audubon Society” Membership Package

Choose **IF YOU PREFER TO BECOME PART OF NATIONAL AUDUBON’S CLOUT ON ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES** and also be a member of the Delaware Audubon chapter.

When you join the National Audubon Society you automatically become a member of Delaware Audubon. The majority of your dues, however, support the National Audubon Society, with only a very small fraction allocated to Delaware Audubon to support local programs and initiatives. As a joint National and Delaware Audubon member you will receive:

- *AUDUBON* magazine published six times a year by National Audubon
- Priority registration for all National Audubon field trips, tours, and classes
- The privilege of voting for the officers of National Audubon
- The possibility to serve as a member of the Board of Directors and various committees of National Audubon
- *Delaware Audubon Journal* newsletter (6 issues per year).

“National Audubon” Package New Membership Form

- I am applying for **NEW** membership and have chosen the “National” membership package.
- I want a 1 year membership at the following level:
 (Please circle one)

• \$20	Individual/Family
• \$50	Contributing
• \$100	Sustaining
• \$250	Corporate
• \$500	Patron
- Enclosed is my check made payable to:
National Audubon Society, Inc.

Name(s)

.....

Phone (day)

Phone (evening)

Address

.....Apt #

CityStateZip

emailFax

Please mail this form, and your dues check to:
 Delaware Audubon Society
 P.O. Box 1713
 Wilmington, DE 19899



“Delaware Audubon Society” Membership Package

Choose **IF YOUR CONCERNS AND INTERESTS ARE LOCAL.**

Your \$20 membership dues enable you and your family to have a strong voice in local and state environmental issues. By choosing this option, 100% of your funds stay right here to support the programs and initiatives of Delaware Audubon throughout the state.

As a member of Delaware Audubon, you will receive:

- *Delaware Audubon Journal* newsletter (6 issues per year).

“Delaware Audubon” Package New Membership Form

YES! I want to take advantage of the new “Delaware Audubon” membership option!

- I am applying for **NEW** membership and have chosen the “Delaware Audubon” membership package.
- I am currently a member of Audubon and have chosen to **RENEW** my membership at the local level only.
- I want a 1 year membership:
 \$20 Individual/Family
- I am enclosing an additional donation to the Delaware Audubon Society in the amount of \$.....
- Enclosed is my check made payable to:
Delaware Audubon Society, Inc.

Name(s)

.....

Phone (day)

Phone (evening)

Address

.....Apt #

CityStateZip

emailFax

Please mail this form, and your dues check to:
 Delaware Audubon Society
 P.O. Box 1713
 Wilmington, DE 19899



SILENT AUCTION ALERT

All Delaware Audubon members are on the auction committee.

I need your help! In past years many of you have made this important and entertaining Audubon fundraiser a success. Please help by making a donation of merchandise or services for the auction. Merchants are usually happy to donate a gift certificate or an item to our auction. Restaurants, theaters, concerts, movies, food, art, crafts and plants are all popular. Be creative and donate your particular skills or a special guided field trip.

Please call Asha Iyengar, 428-3959 and leave a message to make arrangements for your donations.

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 \$20.00 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.

Please arrange for pick-up when you call Fred Jahn, 378-6474.

THANK YOU

Thanks to everyone who purchased birdseed! Our annual birdseed sale was a great success thanks to the hard work of Mark and Susan Martell and their crew of bag handlers and paper shufflers, Asha Iyengar, Ann Rydgren, Jeff Snook and Mike Warner.

Thanks to Vicki Vanneman, daughter of Bonnie Piekarski, for a donation to Delaware Audubon in celebration of her mother's seventieth birthday.



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.birdnature.com/index.html> "The Nutty Birdwatcher" is a very attractive and comprehensive web site for anyone interested in birds and birding.

<http://www.lib.washington.edu/sla/ref.htm> Natural History Reference Sources from the University of Washington Libraries. An extensive list of links to just about anything you can think of in the natural history field, including the collections of natural history museums.

NESTBOX REPORT

Peggy Jahn

According to information supplied by Harry Eichbaum:

- Winterthur - Barbara Fraser reports 80 blue birds fledged
- Oberod - Lisa Smith reports 50 blue birds fledged
- Methodist Country House and Delaware Museum of Natural History - 41 blue birds fledged
- the Arsht property - 7 bluebirds and 5 titmice fledged

Thank you to Harry, Barbara and Lisa for their dedication and time.



Ralph Magan reports from Killens Pond State Park, between April and the end of June 2001:



- Blue birds fledged 54
- Tree Swallows fledged 46
- Carolina Chickadees fledged 53
- House Wren fledged 10
- House Sparrow fledged 10
- Canada Geese fledged 18

A big thank you to Ralph for all his work.



A CONVOCATION OF EAGLES Jim White

EAGLE 1

Yesterday I decided to occupy my sons (5 and 7 yrs.) with some sort of outdoor activity. I needed something that sounded exciting so I came up with a quest - a quest for a Golden Eagle. Of course the odds were not with me, but it sounded good, and it did get them interested in taking a hike. So we walked up the hill behind my house (just north of Hockessin) around 1:00 PM and sat down in the beach chairs that remained from the Leonid meteor shower the night before. As we scanned the sky I explained to them all about

how it is possible to see Golden Eagles at this time of year and how weather conditions affect migration and that today seemed like a good day for such a quest. After 15 minutes of trying to get them excited about the Turkey Vultures soaring overhead I noticed a large bird coming out of the north, sure enough it was an immature Golden Eagle. It circled two times just above our heads giving us great views and soared south. Even though I have observed Golden Eagles before at this time of year in the Ashland/Burrows Run Preserve area near Hockessin I was still amazed at how lucky I was to get one for the boys. Of course I

told the boys it was all skill.

EAGLE(S) 2

Today I was driving down Route 301 just west of Middletown when I saw an immature Bald Eagle rising low above a field. I stopped and when I got out I saw 8 Bald Eagles soaring low over the field (6 adults, 2 immatures). They circled, rising high over the field, then headed west. I've seen a lot of Bald Eagles in the last 20 years but I have never seen a group this large soaring in one kettle.

DATED MATERIAL

BOOKS OF INTEREST



Vital Signs 2001: The Trends That Are Shaping Our Future.

Norton, 2001, 192 p. \$13.95

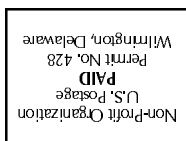
Produced annually by the Worldwatch Institute, a nonprofit, environmental and public policy research organization, this guide identifies trends marking social, economic and environmental progress - or the lack thereof. Topics span food and agriculture, energy, atmosphere, transportation, health, and the military.

Water: The Fate of Our Most Precious Resource

by Marq de Villiers. Mariner Books, 200, 352 p. \$15.00.

De Villiers provides a global perspective on potable water supplies and the impact that people have on them. He identifies effective water-management policies already in place and offers ideas for promoting conservation worldwide.

Excerpted from Science News



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