

PRESERVING OUR
NATURAL STATE



Delaware Audubon Journal

Vol. XXV No.3
January-February 2003



TO OUR NEW & RENEWED MEMBERS* FOR THEIR SUPPORT...

- | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Glyn Alexander | Millard Gamble | Helen Papatinas |
| Marylyn Alicknavitch | Cathy Grieco | William Quillen |
| Dolores Allabashi | Jeff & Karen Hall | William Ranken |
| Paul Ames | Frances Harris | Roger Richardson |
| Lois Barth | Rosemary Herrman | Jeannette Rogers |
| Barry Bernstein | Gail Hill | Virginia Russell |
| Hazel Booth | Allan Ishler | Janet Rzewnicki |
| Wendy Bunce | Edward Jefferson | Esther Safran |
| Susan Burchenal | Maxine Johnson | Arthur Schuler |
| Ray Campbell, Jr. | Michele Johnson | Ernet Marion Schwab |
| Edmund Carpenter | Dorrie Kessinger | William Shellenberger |
| Hiromi Cheeseman | Joseph Klemas | Jeanne Otis Shields |
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| Willard Cobb, Jr. | Elaine Krakowski | Frank Sisk |
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| James H. Dawson, III | Cheryl McCann | Robin Taylor |
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| Mr./Mrs. John Dunn | Patricia Mehl | Robert Todd |
| Dorothy Eberly | Katherine Mifflin | Marenes Tripp |
| Carol Ellis | Esther Moffett | Cyntaya Welch |
| William Ettinger | Raymond Morrow | Audrey Whitby |
| Susan Fie | Linda O'Brian | William Williams |
| Richard Freytag | Sally O'Byrne | Joan Wood |
| Raymond Frndak | Barbara Pak | Kathleen Wright |

*June through September 2002

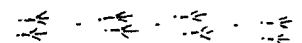
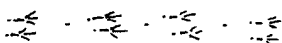
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& TO EVERYONE WHO PURCHASED BIRDSEED...

Our annual birdseed sale was a great success thanks to everyone who purchased birdseed. Special thanks to Mark and Susan Martell and their crew of bag handlers and paper shufflers: Asha Iyengar, Bret and Eric Martell, Ann Rydgren, Tom Shuey, Jeff Snook, Joe Solge and Mike Warner for all of their hard work.

Thank You!





Hello Members,
Let me say that living in the Northeast may be best in the autumn. We get the beauty of the changing of the leaves. As winter is now upon us in full force I still remember how nature prepared herself for the cold season as a couple of months ago I saw some signs from her brethren.

I started to hear the two Great Horned owls across the street serenade each other in their mating ritual. The Ruddy Ducks were here along the marshes in great numbers. At the Indian River Inlet the Sanderlings rushed just ahead of the incoming waves on their tiny little legs looking for worms in the sand. I saw two bald eagles chasing one another around Delaware Park doing an elegant flight with their great wings.

One day at my front door there appeared a tree frog looking for insects. When I opened the door to go in, there was another frog that hopped inside.

One night when the moon was full in an orange rage over the water, a button buck ran into the side of my truck chasing a doe. It was the start of their rutting season.

These special occurrences that we sometimes miss from our little gem of a state are great reasons for all of us to protect Delaware in all its splendor throughout the year.

Happy New Year,
Matt Del Pizzo

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.

Honorary Chairman of the Board

	Russell W. Peterson
<i>President</i>	Matthew Del Pizzo
<i>Vice President</i>	Leslie Savage
<i>Secretary</i>	Ellen Wright
<i>Treasurer</i>	Mark Martell

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

<i>Internet</i>	Fred Breukelman
	mail@delawareaudubon.org

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE	Open
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EDUCATION COMMITTEE	Kathy Tidball
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SOCIAL COMMITTEE

	Annual Dinner-Nancy Frampton
FIELD TRIPS COMMITTEE	Peggy Jahn

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE	Ann Rydgren
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FINANCE COMMITTEES

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

	Mark and Susan Martell
<i>Fundraising Birdathon</i>	

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



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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...



YOU CAN HELP DELAWARE AUDUBON AND HELP THE BLUEBIRDS COME BACK!

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. Priced at \$20 for a pine box and \$25 for cedar, we are sure you will be pleased with this nest box.

What You Can Do

Call Fred Jahn at (302) 378-6474 and order now for yourself and your friends.

REMEMBER: Nest boxes should go up in February before Bluebirds return to nest.

Downstate members can pick up their boxes from Dennis Foley near Milton, DE. Please arrange for pick-up when you call Fred Jahn.

MARKED GULLS

The Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) has banded several Great Black-backed Gulls (adults & chicks) at nesting colonies in the Great Lakes.

What You Can Do

If you should see a color marked gull please note as much information as possible:

Color Band (and leg that it is on)

Numbers and Letters on color band (including the color of the text)

Location and Date of Sighting

and any other pertinent details

Please notify Delaware Audubon via email at email@delawareaudubon.org or call (302) 428-3959. Let us know if you are able to obtain any part of the information listed above since any data is valuable.



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://home.bluemarble.net/~pqn/index.html>

For those of you who have never gotten around to reading A. C. Bent's Life History of North American Birds cover to cover, here it is on the web in downloadable files.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Join the fun! Meet new people!

Do a great thing!

We need help in the following areas.



WE NEED YOU!

* BLUEBIRDS

Bluebird Trail Captain needed for Buena Vista and other areas. Nice outdoor activity once a week from April through August. Training available.

* BIRDSEED

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

If you are interested in helping, please call 428-3959 and leave a message.

EVENTS

JANUARY

28 4-6:30 pm Tuesday

A workshop for teachers in New Castle County at Wallace Wallin School in Colonial School District.

FEBRUARY

14 - 17

Great Backyard Bird Count

Enter your sightings online through BirdSource at www.birdsource.org/gbbc, a joint National Audubon/ Cornell Lab of Ornithology project.

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

IN MEMORIAM

**HARRY E. EICHBAUM
1922-2002**

An expert model builder, Harry generously shared his talents with Audubon and the environmental community.

He carried out all kinds of tasks—preparing the newsletter for mailing, monitoring Bluebird Trails, lending a hand to feed baby birds for Tri-State Bird Rescue and Research.

He changed every home Audubon occupied from just a house to a functioning office and made an impressive gold-leaf "Audubon House" sign which he installed outside.

When we sit around the special beech wood table he made for the Audubon Board meetings, we will remember Harry.

**STAPLES ANNOUNCES
COMMITMENT TO
ENDANGERED
FORESTS AND
RECYCLED PAPER!**

Following a two-year campaign targeting Staples, the world's largest office supply store, the company has announced a commitment to phase out paper products originating from endangered forests and dramatically increase its sale of recycled paper products. Activists across the country are celebrating a grassroots victory!

Thanks to each of you that helped make this victory possible!

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

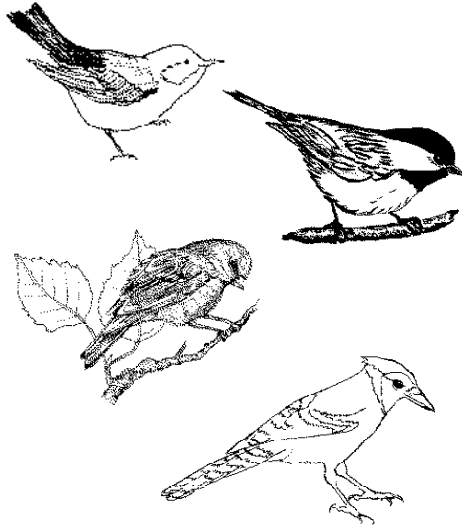
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“Preserve Our Natural State”

WHAT YOU CAN DO...



THE GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT!

FEBRUARY
14-17, 2003



ACT FOR BIRDS!



You're invited to participate in
The Great Backyard Bird Count 2003!

We want to know where the birds are. 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.

The Great Backyard Bird Count or GBBC (available at <http://www.birdsource.com/gbbc/>) will be 6 years old this February. Submitted entirely on-line, the approximately 50,000 checklists from every state and province provide a winter snapshot of the status of our birds on that count weekend. A monitoring project that is designed to allow beginners and experts alike to participate, GBBC aims to engage and educate families and individuals in the hopes that they will continue their involvement through other bird monitoring projects. As with other projects, GBBC data become more and more valuable with each year that the information is compiled. You can also explore the results from your state, a region of the continent, or all of North America.

On the weekend of February 14-17, 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 five 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.

Instructions for participating can be found at www.birdsource.org. There's no fee or registration. Those who would like to participate but aren't online can try their local library. Wild Birds Unlimited in Hockessin will also accept reports.

Enter your sightings online through BirdSource at www.birdsource.org/gbbc, 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—February 14-17—on your calendar now and participate in The Great Backyard Bird Count!



Updates

EDUCATION



The first workshop for teachers receiving the Audubon Adventures kit was held on November 21

at the Cape Henlopen School District office. Teachers from four school districts attended the session designed to allow them to become familiar with the content and activities in the kit and identify the curricular connections and the state standards which the kit addresses. The participants worked in four teams, one for each issue (wetlands, coasts, deserts and forests) and then shared their ideas with the other teams. On the evaluations, all of the teachers agreed that as a result of the workshop that they would definitely use Audubon Adventures in their classrooms. They cited these reasons:

"It correlates with the state standards."

"You can integrate the kit in all areas of the curriculum."

"The newspapers are short enough reads at a level that even struggling readers can handle."

"There are wonderful illustrations."

"Excellent extension to the 5th grade science kit, Ecosystems."

As to the best feature of the workshop, most teachers commented:

"Taking time to overview materials and sharing. There were awesome ideas!"

"The cross-curricular ideas were great!"

"Teacher/classroom oriented.

Sharing great ideas for implementation!"

Special thanks go to Linda Gregory, Science Coalition Specialist for Cape Henlopen, for her ideas and assistance in planning and presenting the workshop.

A workshop for teachers in New Castle County is tentatively planned for Tuesday, January 28, from 4:00-6:30 pm at Wallace Wallin School in the Colonial School District. A flyer with more details will be mailed to all Audubon Adventure teachers in northern Delaware.

Kathy Tidball,
Education Chair

ACOUSTIC IMPACT

The 15 beaked whales that beached themselves last October during a multinational Naval exercise suffered ear and brain trauma that may have been caused by high intensity sonar, according to preliminary analysis. Dr. Michel Andre, a veterinarian leading the investigation, says that necropsies showed the presence of unspecific lesions in the brain and hearing system consistent with acoustic impact. If final analysis confirms these findings, it will be the second time that scientists have direct evidence to link a mass stranding of whales to bursts of active sonar used by warships. A second set of tests

focusing on the inner ears, estimated to take several weeks, is expected to establish the cause of the beaching with greater certainty.

FIELD TRIP

Eagles, Eagles Everywhere!

The day started out foggy and overcast on the drive over from Middletown to Conowingo Dam. The group was eager and prepared with good scopes for viewing.



The Bald Eagles were everywhere! The rocks across from the viewing platform

were covered with young Eagles in various stages of feathering. The adults were also on the rocks, on the towers and in the trees. I never thought I could be bored looking at Eagles, but that became evident after an hour. We saw over 50 Bald Eagles. We had one adult Osprey and numerous Black and Turkey Vultures, several Mallards and about 20 Great Blue Heron. This was a great day!

Peggy Jahn
Field Trip Chair



News & Views

BLUEBIRD TRAILS “HAPPY TRAILS TO YOU!”

Put down those binoculars! This is your chance to get “up close and personal” with one of the sweethearts of the birding world. Known for their soft warbling and their winning ways, Bluebirds are making a comeback. (Who says nice birds finish last?)

Bluebirds were once dwindling due to loss of habitat. Considered “secondary cavity nesters,” they rely on hollows in dead trees or in fenceposts. As housing developments continue to replace natural habitats, the need for Bluebird nest boxes, and for people to tend them, increases. The numbers seem small, but are encouraging. According to Peggy Jahn, who started the first Bluebird Trail in Delaware, 70 Bluebirds fledged this year, compared to 65 last year and 63 the year before.

Trail volunteers have duties such as record keeping (how many nested, number and color of eggs, number of young, etc.) and light housekeeping (removing unhatched eggs, clearing unused nests between broods, etc.). Fringe benefits may include occasional spiders, flies, and ants (what are a few bugs between friends?) and—for those trails at golf

courses—even the chance to tool around in a golf cart.

Time-tested for many years, the nest box design devised by Warren H. Lauder of Pennsylvania, and as constructed by Fred Jahn, has all the proportions down to a science, including the proper depth to hinder raccoons in search of midnight snacks. Nest boxes are \$20/pine and \$25/cedar.

Want to help but have limited time? Consider purchasing a nest box or two for your backyard. Boxes should be placed by February for the nesting season.

Longing to wander those happy Bluebird Trails? This is a nice outdoor activity, once a week from April through August, and training is available. Contact Peggy Jahn at (302) 378-6474.

Mary Leah Christmas

GIVE A WILD GIFT NONGAME WILDLIFE TAX CHECK-OFF

Please support Delaware’s Nongame Wildlife program with a donation on your state tax return.

The nongame tax checkoff is the primary funding source for Delaware’s Nongame and Endangered Species Program and is Delaware’s likeliest source for matching funds. The larger the Nongame Wildlife Fund, the more money Delaware can garner from CARA for the benefit of nongame wildlife.

Let your tax preparer know that you want to contribute to the Nongame Wildlife Fund this tax season.



*Happy
New
Year!*



Bird Tales ...

*The appeal of the Canada Goose *Branta canadensis* is legendary. The spectacle of the birds migrating in long, honking, irregular “V” formations across spring or autumn skies is always thrilling. They are one of the most dramatic portents of the change of seasons.*

For more information and a color picture of the bird go to our website delawareaudubon.org.

HERE ARE BIRDS FOR YOU TO COLOR.





SILENT AUCTION ALERT

It's not too soon to start looking around for Silent Auction items. 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.

To make arrangements for your donations, please call Asha Iyengar, (302) 428-3959, and leave a message.

Every Drop For Sale:

Our Desperate Battle Over Water in a World About Ready to Run Out

by Jeffrey Rothfedder, Tarcher Putnam, 205pp., 2001, \$24.95.

As Rothfedder reports, the global consumption of water doubles about every 20 years, while the amount of potable water declines. These trends compound issues involving the privatization of the world's water supply, antiquation of water systems and our short-sighted and sometimes disastrous efforts to harness waterways. Rothfedder offers startling examples of problems in each of these areas.

The notion of water as a commodity or a privilege, rather than a right, troubles the author. He addresses this dilemma and the ways in which our water demands can be met through the rest of this century.

Excerpted from Science News



Thoughts for the New Year

"LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH,
AND LET IT BEGIN WITH ME."

Barbara Miller

THEY WHO DREAM BY DAY ARE
COGNIZANT OF MANY THINGS
WHICH ESCAPE THOSE WHO DREAM
ONLY BY NIGHT.

Edgar Allan Poe

TO THINK IS EASY. TO ACT IS HARD.
BUT THE HARDEST THING IN THE
WORLD IS TO ACT IN ACCORDANCE
WITH YOUR THINKING.

Johann von Goethe

THERE IS NOTHING WORTH MORE
THAN THIS DAY!

Goethe

FORGET NOT THAT THE EARTH
DELIGHTS TO FEEL YOUR BARE FEET
AND THE WINDS LONG TO PLAY
WITH YOUR HAIR.

Kahlil Gibran

"DON'T SPEND YOUR PRECIOUS
TIME ASKING 'WHY ISN'T THE
WORLD A BETTER PLACE?' IT WILL
ONLY BE TIME WASTED. THE
QUESTION TO ASK IS 'HOW CAN I
MAKE IT BETTER?' TO THAT THERE IS
AN ANSWER."

Leo F. Buscaglia