

DELAWARE  
AUDUBON



PRESERVING OUR  
NATURAL STATE

# Delaware Audubon Journal

Vol. XXVI No.4  
March-April 2004

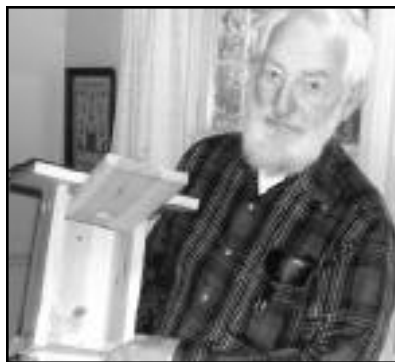
## WARREN LAUDER TO RECEIVE 2004 DELAWARE AUDUBON CONSERVATION AWARD

The recipient of this year's Delaware Audubon Conservation Award is Warren Lauder. Best known for his work with Bluebirds, he is a man of many talents. Lauder retired from DuPont in 1985, and though well into his retirement years, "he always has a project going on," according to a friend.

One such project is his interest in Chestnut trees. "About 1900, the blight began killing the American Chestnut trees. By 1935-1940, there wasn't a single living Chestnut tree in America." Hence Lauder's pride in the four blight-resistant Chestnut trees in his front yard. At Longwood Gardens, he added a grove of 350 Chestnut trees "which are flourishing," and a few trees at the Crosslands retirement community. Another interest, antique apples, blossomed with the approach of the U.S. Bicentennial. In honor of that historic event, he grafted 76 varieties.

His fascination with birds and nature began during his childhood on an old farm in New York State. In those days, Lauder reminisces, most people baked their own bread. Baking-powder boxes included, as a premium, little cards featuring different bird species. His mother gave him the cards because he was the "outdoor kid." He sought to find and study these birds in their natural habitat: from the familiar Bluebird of the farm on which he then lived, to the exotic Scissor-tailed Flycatcher which he would see years later in Texas. He "never lost interest in searching for the birds on the cards," though the cards became well-worn and were subsequently misplaced.

Around 1960, Lauder learned his Bluebirds of childhood memory were nearly extinct. "I was shocked! I couldn't believe it. My favorite bird extinct! I determined right there that I was going to try every possible way to reverse the situation." Inspiration came in the form of a brief magazine article about a man in the Adirondacks making Bluebird nest boxes.



"Way back when I got started with Bluebirds, very few people knew anything about them. I got in touch with that man up in the Adirondacks, who helped me get started." The nest box was crude by today's standards, and Lauder was convinced there was a better way. A sympathetic co-worker in the DuPont engineering department, according to Lauder, told him to "bring

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## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Hello members,  
We, the board of directors of Delaware Audubon, met with some staff members of National Audubon recently to get a better understanding of where National is going. National has, as reported, continued to cut chapter dues share, i.e., financial support. This year we, along with all other state chapters, were down to our last "safety net" payment. National Audubon staff informed us at this meeting that the "safety net" financial support will be extended for another year.

The meeting went pretty well but, as much as any meeting, the follow-up communication will tell if it will bear fruit. National is going through sweeping changes with the retirement of the Chairman of the Board, Donal O'Brien, replacing him with former EPA head, Carol Browner, laying off key people and slowing down their push for National State offices. It is doubtful that Delaware will need a state office.

The Take Back Audubon movement, which is being spearheaded by concerned chapters, has had great impact. We at Delaware Audubon have endorsed some of their message. The elections of the National Audubon board recently had 77 proxy votes from the Delaware chapter, which is very high. We thank those for supporting us. As far as where Delaware Audubon and National Audubon are jointly going to work on things, it is a work in progress. National has made some egregious mistakes. One thing is for sure; Delaware Audubon will continue to fight for our fragile environment.

Thanks  
Matt DelPizzo

Editor's Note: "Dues share" is that portion of your National Audubon dues that is returned to Delaware Audubon. "Safety net" is the bare minimum financial contribution, approximately \$2.00, that was to be distributed to each chapter over an original three-year period ending this fiscal year until a new, incentive-laden distribution model was to go into effect.



The Audubon Journal is published bi-monthly by the Delaware Audubon Society. Original articles may be reprinted without permission. Please give credit to the Delaware Audubon Journal and the author.

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Printing: . . . . . Sprint Quality Printing, Inc.

Delaware Audubon Society, incorporated in 1977, is a state-wide chapter of the National Audubon Society.

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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 2003-2004 OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

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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  
*President* Matthew DelPizzo  
*Vice President* Leslie Savage  
*Secretary* Ellen Wright  
*Treasurer* Mark Martell

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*Environmental Advocate* Grace Pierce-Beck  
*Dredging* Leslie Savage  
*Proposal/policy Review* Dave Chambers  
*Nest Box Projects* Peggy Jahn  
*Armchair Activists* Open  
*Adopt-a-Wetland* Peggy Jahn  
Kathy Tidball  
*White Clay Creek Adopt-a-Highway* Dorothy Miller  
*Important Bird Area Program* Ann Rydgren

PROGRAMS COMMITTEE Open

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE  
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PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE Ann Rydgren

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

DIRECTORS FOR SERVICE UNTIL 2004:  
Fred Breukelman David Chambers

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

# "Preserve Our Natural State"

WHAT YOU CAN DO...

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## START YOUR OWN BIRDATHON TEAM!



Competition is running strong between the two current Birdathon teams, but they welcome all comers. Get a couple of friends together and make a plan now. Contact the Co-chairs for suggestions.

Ruth Holden and her daughter, Maud Dayton, are the co-chairs for Birdathon 2004. They have contributed thousands of dollars to the Birdathon over the past three years. "The key," Ruth says, "is to get your friends and neighbors involved. Ten- and twenty-five-cent pledges per species add up to big bucks. You don't need many species if they are worth five or ten dollars each."

For information on how to start your own team, leave a message at 302-428-3959 and Ruth will give you a call. ■

## 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.

### \* 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.


## ANNUAL DINNER AND SILENT AUCTION

### IT'S OUR 28TH ANNIVERSARY!

The annual dinner of the Delaware Audubon Society will be held on Monday, May 10, 2004, at the Delcastle Inn, off McKennan's Church Road at Duncan Road. Social hour and Silent Auction viewing will begin at 6:00 pm with dinner at 7:00 pm. Justin Catanoso will be the guest speaker (see article on page 6). Invitations will be sent to all who receive the Audubon Journal. Meal selections can be made in reply.

### IT'S TIME TO MAKE YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE SILENT AUCTION

Help us celebrate our 28th anniversary! Be creative and donate your particular skills or a special guided field trip. Please call Asha Iyengar, 302-428-3959, to make arrangements for your Silent Auction donation. ■



## 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

Q: Remote-controlled Rallidae?

A: *Clapper Rail*

Q: Famous avian team of movie reviewers?

A: *Roger Egret and Gene Siskin*

**HAPPY APRIL FOOL'S DAY!**

## MARCH

13 6:30 am Saturday  
Delmarva Ornithological Society, Thousand Acre Marsh. Half day. Meet at Veteran's Park in Delaware City. John Janowski, 302-834-9710.

20 8:00 am Saturday  
Delmarva Ornithological Society, Gulls. Meet at Fox Point State Park. Half day. Mike Smith, 302-478-5918.

## APRIL

17 8:30 am Saturday  
Adopt-A-Highway. Pick-up on Creek Road. Meet at the Hopkins Road parking lot at the Visitor Center at 8:30 am. Bring your own gloves and dress appropriately. Call Dorothy Miller, 302-366-8059 & let her know you will be there.

17 8:30 am Saturday  
7th Annual Christina Watershed Clean-up (White Clay Creek). Meet at the Hopkins Road parking lot at the Visitor Center. Call Dorothy Miller, 302-366-8059 & let her know you will be there.

24 6:00 am Saturday  
Delmarva Ornithological Society, Spring Migrants, Nanticoke Watershed. All day. Meet at Boyd's corner Park & Ride, Rtes 13 and 301. Matt Homberg, 610-444-4738.



Q: Species of Picidae touched by an angel?  
A: *Roma Downy Woodpecker*

Q: Species of Hirundinidae on Saturday Night Live?  
A: *Purple Martin Short*

**HAPPY APRIL FOOL'S DAY!**

## MAY

1-31  
Delaware Audubon Birdathon.

8 Saturday  
Delmarva Ornithological Society Spring Count and International Migratory Bird Day. John Janowski, 302-834-9710.

10 6:00 pm Monday  
Our 28th Year! Annual Dinner and Silent Auction, Delcastle Inn off McKennan's Church Road. Author Justin Catanoso will speak about "The Lewis and Clark Expedition and the Value of Keeping Journals." Information, 302-428-3959.

22 8:00 am - 4:00 pm Saturday  
Delmarva Ornithological Society Youth Birding Delaware Shorebirds & informal Horseshoe Crab survey. Donald Ohlandt, DOS Field Trip Chair, 302-998-3247. RSVP by May 19.



Do you have a topic suggestion for an Audubon sponsored program?

Send your topic idea, name, zip code and daytime phone number to: [mail@delawareaudubon.org](mailto:mail@delawareaudubon.org) Be sure to include "Program Topic" in the Subject line.



Have a joke or brief anecdote of interest to Delaware Audubon members?

Send your submissions to [mail@delawareaudubon.org](mailto:mail@delawareaudubon.org) for possible use in a future issue of the *Journal*. Be sure to include "Jokes & Anecdotes" in the Subject line.

## BIRDATHON '04 MAY 1 - MAY 31

Support the team of your choice!

Team I: Ruth Holden and Maud Dayton, mother and daughter, all-time champions for collecting the most money with the least number of species. A sure winner again this year.

Team II: Ann Rydgren heads up a group of expert birders including Dorothy Miller, Peggy Jahn and Andy Urquhart, but their pledge numbers are dismal. Please help them out.

Let these people know you appreciate their efforts! They spend all day out in the field slogging around in any kind of weather to help maintain Delaware Audubon projects.

Mail a check or pledge, along with the form below, to: Birdathon, 99 Emerald Ridge Drive, Bear, DE 19701



### COUNT ME IN!

I'd like to pledge  
 \$.25    \$.50    \$1.00  
 per species to support Audubon and  
 Team I    Team II

I'd like to contribute a lump sum of \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 to support Audubon and:  
 Team    Team II

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_



Lauder  
continued from page 1

it in and let's see what we can do to improve it—so we did!" Almost 43 years later, Lauder is still finding ways to make improvements.



Peggy Jahn, Delaware Audubon's Nest Box Project Chair, can attest to the efficacy of Lauder's design, which has proven itself time

and again under field conditions. Peggy Jahn's husband, Fred, first met Warren Lauder back in their DuPont days. When the Jahns lived in Maine, they placed a stack of Lauder's instruction sheets at the public library there. The plans "went like hotcakes," says Peggy Jahn, so Lauder's nest box "has a presence in the Northeast." Known locations, in fact, criss-cross the continent: In the U.S. from Maine to California; in Canada from Nova Scotia to as far as Alberta; and from Hudson Bay down to the American Southwest.

Frances Hamilton, another associate, worked as a reporter and editor at the Wilmington paper for 27 years, and for 32 years had a column there. A resident of Chester County since 1967, Hamilton has written from time to time about Lauder in her weekly column for the *Avon Grove Sun*, resulting in thousands of requests for nest-box plans. Apart from such local publicity, Lauder's efforts have also been recognized on a national level in *Audubon* magazine and in a gardening magazine.

Over the past thirty years, Warren Lauder has given hundreds of

lectures and helped maintain a number of Bluebird trails in an effort "to move the Bluebirds safely away from that awful brink of extinction." He has done the very thing—by heeding the gentle call of the Bluebird and answering with a life of service.



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Past recipients of the Delaware Audubon Society Conservation Award are 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.

## UPDATE...

### TAKE BACK AUDUBON FALLS SHORT IN NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY PROXY CHALLENGE

Although Take Back Audubon (TBA) carried over 3,200 proxies to the Annual Meeting of Members on December 6th, 2003, in Erlanger, Kentucky, newly-appointed Chairman of the Board Carol Browner and CEO John Flicker possessed 37,000 proxies.

The TBA group agreed with Carol Browner's suggestion to refer current versions of the five resolutions proposed by TBA to the appropriate committees, rather than force an up-or-down proxy vote on each one with no hope of success. The motion for referral, with a guarantee of regular status reports, passed unanimously.

Reported by Darrel Whipple, TBA candidate for the NAS Board, 2003.

To read Darrel Whipple's complete report, please go to our web page, [www.delawareaudubon.org](http://www.delawareaudubon.org).

## 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](mailto:mail@delawareaudubon.org).

Magic Bird Cards. A nice set of magic cards for children, students, adults and their grandchildren to use online to test your knowledge of the birds.

<http://www.yankeegardener.com/birds/flashcar.htm>



## “Delaware Audubon Welcomes...”

Tell us about yourself! Whether you are a new or longtime Delaware Audubon member, let us hear from you!

Send YOUR answers to the questions below to [mail@delawareaudubon.org](mailto:mail@delawareaudubon.org) for possible use in a future issue of the *Journal*. Be sure to include “Delaware Audubon Welcomes” in the Subject line.

Name: Mary Leah Christmas

County of Residence: Kent

Delaware Audubon member since: 2002

Occupation: Freelance writer/editor with a background in book publishing

Current reading: Re-reading *Walden* after 25 years

Hobbies: Backyard bird watching, reading (non-fiction), photography

My environmental concerns: People need to be considerate of the living things with which they have been entrusted.

My philosophy is best described as: Part Emerson, part St. Francis, part Dave Barry

Earliest nature interest: As a toddler, I was fascinated by the Pigeons at 30th Street Station in Philadelphia. Had the pleasure of visiting them again in 2002. Whaddaya know, they're still there!

Most satisfying birding or nature moment: Stalking the Pileated Woodpecker but seeing a Brown Creeper. After all, which is more meaningful: Finding the bird you set out to see, or discovering one you didn't?



## JUSTIN CATANOSO ANNUAL DINNER SPEAKER

Justin Catanoso will speak at Delaware Audubon's annual dinner on the topic of “The Lewis and Clark Expedition and the Value of Keeping Journals.” Catanoso started keeping a journal in the fifth grade in Cape May County, NJ, and the discipline has been the foundation of his successful journalism career. While on a trip to Montana with a group of friends, following in the footsteps of Lewis and Clark, Catanoso discovered on a personal level the importance of journals. “Retracing the paddle strokes of one of America's great journal-keepers—Meriwether Lewis—I realized why I keep one.” Come hear what it was that Catanoso discovered when he makes his presentation to Delaware Audubon.

Catanoso is executive editor of *The Business Journal* of Greensboro, North Carolina. He is also a visiting lecturer in journalism at Wake Forest University. Catanoso has appeared on TV and radio and has written for such publications as *BusinessWeek*, *Ladies Home Journal*, and the *Philadelphia Inquirer*. His groundbreaking series of articles in 1994 about the tobacco industry, for the *Greensboro News & Record*, were nominated for the Pulitzer Prize.

## ELLEN WRIGHT'S BACKYARD WILDLIFE

I am very fortunate to have two neighbors that provide housing for Purple Martins. One neighbor has a Purple Martin house and the other neighbor has many gourds for them. The housing should be painted white to reflect the heat. Gourds are preferred housing because the swinging discourages starlings and sparrows from nesting in them and they provide lots of room for the Purple Martins.

East of the Rocky Mountains these birds are almost entirely dependent on us to provide them with housing. The Purple Martin spends its winters in the Amazon River basin and as far south as Sao Paulo, Brazil. These birds return to our area on the same date almost every year. Their housing should be available mid-March but should be closed until you see them arrive. They begin nesting when the weather warms and more insects are available to feed their young.

It is so much fun for me to watch these beautiful birds fly through the air eating insects. Their diet consists entirely of flying insects. They visit my property frequently since my horses attract flies. They have laid eggs by late June/early July. The young are constantly attended to until they are fledged. By August 20th most of them have left our area beginning their journey back to their winter habitats.

## NOMINATIONS FOR THE YEAR 2004-2005

President - Leslie Savage  
Vice-president - Vacant  
Treasurer - Mark Martell  
Secretary - Ellen Wright

Directors for service until 2007  
John Knox  
Tom Shuey  
Fred Breukelman



## Bird Tales ...

### “THE FINAL WORD ON IMMATURE HAWK IDENTIFICATION”

This shall lay to rest the saga of my immature hawk identification — or should that be “identification of immature hawks”? (Though, as they say, if the shoe fits....)

First, we thought we had a Cooper’s visit the yard. Then a Sharp-shinned. Then possibly both. *Peterson* states, “It can be very tricky separating small male Cooper’s Hawks from the large female Sharp-shins.” No kidding. So I hesitantly marked one each on our yard list and resolved to do better.

When another fellow landed, rather large, with a noticeable eyebrow, we thought Goshawk. The immature Goshawk’s lone field-mark, flagged on the color

plate, is that eyebrow. Case closed. Or was it? *Peterson* warns, “Identification by size is not always reliable, as young Cooper’s may be almost as large as a Goshawk.” Sure enough, the Cooper’s has a hint of eyebrow. Then we turned the page.

One plate away from the gloating accipiter triumvirate of Sharp-shinned, Cooper’s, and Goshawk lurk the buteos, with the immature Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks also sporting The Look. *Peterson* says of buteos, “There is considerable variation in individuals....” *Bird Studies at Old Cape May* seconds the motion, cautioning about the red-monikered chaps: “It is no easy matter to

distinguish between the immature birds of the two species....”

What is the beginning birder to do? Absolution comes from the renowned David Allen Sibley: “Distinguishing one accipiter species from another...can be very difficult.... Sightings of accipiters are often very distant or very brief, and many birds must go unidentified.” With those words may you bird in peace.

Mary Leah Christmas



HERE IS A BIRD FOR  
YOU TO COLOR.

## Bird Tales ...

The Eastern Bluebird breeds successfully in many nestboxes in Delaware.

For more information and a color picture of this bird, go to our website [www.delawareaudubon.org](http://www.delawareaudubon.org).



## BOOKS OF INTEREST



***The Earth Moved: On the Remarkable Achievements of Earthworms***  
by Amy Stewart, Algonquin, 2004, 223 p., \$23.95

Being blind, deaf and spineless, earthworms would seem to lack the tools to be high-impact players in life on Earth. Yet these creatures are pivotal for their role in cleaning and enriching the soil that sustains virtually every other animal on the planet. This point was not lost on Charles Darwin, who spent the last few years of his life studying earthworms. Stewart shares Darwin's fascination. She is an amateur oligochaetologist who keeps some 10,000 earthworms in a composting bin on her porch and has documented almost every worm-world activity. Blending her own observations with those of Darwin and his contemporaries, she offers a fascinating look at a truly unsung creature.

*Science News*

### THANKS FOR SUPPORTING DELAWARE AUDUBON

A special THANK YOU to all who responded to Delaware Audubon's Annual Appeal. Your generous support will benefit Delaware by enabling us to make a positive contribution toward preserving the environmental health and natural beauty of our State.

## ANNUAL DINNER AND SILENT AUCTION

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