

PRESERVING
OUR
NATURAL STATE

Delaware Audubon Journal



Black & White Warbler

Vol. XXIV No.5
May - June 2002

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WETLANDS BILL NEEDED

BILL NEEDED TO PROTECT DELMARVA BAYS, DUNE SWALE WETLANDS, ATLANTIC WHITE-CEDAR SWAMPS, BALD CYPRESS SWAMPS, AND SEA-LEVEL FENS

A wetlands bill – HB 340 – has been introduced in the Delaware General Assembly to protect some of the fresh-water wetlands which lost federal protection as a result of a Supreme Court decision early last year.

HB 340, sponsored by Rep. Richard Cathcart , has been assigned to the House Water Quality Committee. You can read a copy of the legislation, as well as track the progress of the bill, on the General Assembly's bill tracking website . Just click on <http://www.legis.state.de.us/billtracking> and type in the bill's type (House Bill) and number (340).

ACTION!

Be sure to let your State Representative know how you feel about this legislation. It's also helpful to express your opinion in letters to the editor and other public forums.

SYNOPSIS

The federal government administers a regulatory program pursuant to the Clean Water Act for protecting wetlands in Delaware. On January 9, 2001, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled the federal government had exceeded its statutory authority over isolated, freshwater wetlands. As a result of this Supreme Court decision Delaware's ecologically important isolated wetlands such as Delmarva bays, dune swale wetlands, Atlantic white-cedar swamps, bald cypress swamps, and sea-level fens no longer receive any federal protection. This Act is intended to address the recent decision by giving the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control the authority to designate up to 50,000 acres to protect Delaware's most unique wetlands such as Delmarva bays, dune-swale wetlands, Atlantic white-cedar swamps, bald cypress swamps, sea-level fens and certain ecologically important freshwater wetlands that are no longer under the jurisdiction of the federal government. The Secretary of the Department is required to adopt maps designating the location of, and procedures for, delineating these unique wetlands.

SPONSORS

Representative Cathcart and Senator Simpson, also Senator Sokola; Representatives Buckworth and Carey, DiPinto, Fallon, Lavelle, Reynolds, Valihura, Wagner, Gilligan, Houghton, Keeley, Viola; Senators Amick, Connor, Sorenson.



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello Members,



I have in the past written about a lot of serious subjects in this column. I think this could be a time to skip that. It is, after all, Spring, time for the renewal of many forms of nature and for our own spirit to press on.

I look out at the Mocking Bird that is fast making a nest in the Holly Tree. I watched a Cooper's hawk pounce on a Starling and carry it off to some cover. I watched two Ospreys circle and call to each other. All the trees around my house are budding. The Long Toothed Aspen is laying a carpet of snake-like seed packets on everything. The Hooded Mergansers are hastily moving around the marsh choosing their prospective mates. It seems such a grand spectacle for us to view as everyday we see something different. Soon the shorebird and horseshoe crab cycle will begin. This is a truly special time for the few eastern coastal states that host the crabs as they lay millions of eggs which the birds gobble up as fuel for their trip up north to their breeding grounds. I look forward to the warblers, thrushes, orioles and vireos as they come and I wish for a good year for them.

So I hope you move away from the TV and/or the computer and enjoy the beauty and wonder of the outside world.

Conservingly Yours,
Matt

"A SENSE OF WONDER"

In cooperation with the Division of Parks and Recreation, Delaware Audubon will be among the sponsors of performances of a two-act play, *A Sense of Wonder*."

The play is an interpretation of the later life of the world-renowned ecologist, Rachel Carson. Carson's influential 1962 work, *Silent Spring*, helped foster much of the contemporary conservation movement. It also led to the banning of domestic use of the pesticide DDT and encouraged ordinary citizens to get involved with essential quality of life issues for themselves, their communities and their country.

There will be two performances at the Polytech High School near Dover on May 14 at 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm. The Possum Point Theater in Georgetown will host one performance on May 15 at 7:00 pm. The final performance will be at University of Delaware Clayton Hall on May 16 at 2:00pm and 7:00 pm. There is no admission charge.

The production is written and performed by Kaiulani Lee, an award-winning actress for her work on and off Broadway.

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.

DELAWARE AUDUBON SOCIETY 2001-2002

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

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	White Clay Creek Adopt-a-Highway
	Dorothy Miller
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<i>Field Trips Committee</i>	Peggy Jahn
<i>Publications Committee</i>	Ann Rydgren

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<i>Fundraising-Bird Seed Sale</i>	Mark and Susan Martell
<i>Fundraising Birdathon</i>	Ruth Holden, Maude Dayton
<i>Fundraising-Silent Auction</i>	Asha Iyengar
<i>Fundraising-Wildlife Sanctuary</i>	Open
<i>Fundraising-Piping Plover Suite</i>	Ann Rydgren
<i>Nominating Committee</i>	Matthew DelPizzo, Asha Iyengar, Leslie Savage

DIRECTORS FOR SERVICE UNTIL 2002:

Beaty Broughton	Albert A. DelPizzo
Peggy Jahn	Kelli Martin
Leslie Savage	Andrew W. Urquhart

DIRECTORS FOR SERVICE UNTIL 2003

Dorothy Miller	Grace Pierce-Beck
Ann Rydgren	

DIRECTORS FOR SERVICE UNTIL 2004:

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Sheryl Myers	Charles Wortman

REPRESENTATIVES

Sharon Burchenal, Dover ; Kay Tebbens Greene, Milford; Till Purnell, Millsboro



BLUEBIRD TRAIL CAPTAIN TRAINING

Training for Bluebird Trail Captains is ready to begin. Training involves instruction and apprenticeship until you are ready to monitor a trail.

Available trails are in New Castle County. Please call the office (302) 428-3959 or email to mail@delawareaudubon.org if you are interested in becoming a Bluebird Trail Captain.

CALLING ALL COUCH POTATOES AND NET NERDS



For less than an hour a month and without leaving home, you can **A C H I E V E**

something! Through activities such as letter writing, email and phone calls, Auduboners affect critical legislation and policy.

Be a Net Neighbor. Receive information from Al DePizzo about environmental issues and respond by email.

You needn't get off the couch to become part of a growing network of individuals working to protect our natural world. Call the office, 428-3959, and leave a message for Al DePizzo that you want to "lift a finger" to protect our environment.



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://liftoff.msfc.nasa.gov/RealTime/JPass/20>

If you want to see the space station pass overhead follow these instructions: You may have to download one file – it is automatic. On the left side of the page click on the Location tab, click on Find by Zip then enter your zip code and click OK. Click on the Control tab. From the Satellite list choose Custom. Click on the Satellites tab. From Method choose Manual, from Choices choose STATION. Click the Add button. Click on the Control tab. Click Save Configuration. Now click Start on the Control page. You should get a new window showing the hours of the day with various colored areas. Dark blue – pre-dawn/twilight, light blue – daylight, small green patch – satellite is visible. Click on a green patch and a new window will pop up showing a sky map of the satellite's orbit. This map can be printed.

SUPPORT BIRDATHON 2002, 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.

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 I Team II

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Mail your check to: Birdathon, P.O. Box 1713, Wilmington, DE 19899

FIELD TRIPS AND EVENTS

MAY

1-31

Delaware Audubon
Birdathon

4 Field Trip
6:00 am – 2:00 pm Saturday
Great Cypress Swamp
Delmarva Ornithological
Society. Meet at Boyd's
Corner Park & Ride. Bring
boots, lunch and bug spray.
Kitt Heckscher
(302) 653-2880

4 Field Trip
7:30 am Saturday
White Clay Creek State Park
Friends of White Clay Creek
Spring Migrants Jeff Gordon.
Meet at Chambers House
Nature Center on Creek
Road north of Hopkins
Road.
For further information or to
reserve a pair of loaner
binoculars, call Friends of
White Clay Creek State
Park(302) 239-2471.

4 Field Trip
8:00 am - noon Saturday
White Clay Creek State Park
Warbler Migration.
Fee \$8 for museum
members/\$15 non-members.
Register by April 29.
Meet at park Nature center.
For more information call
Jean Woods at Delaware
Museum of Natural History
302-658-9111 x314.

11
Saturday
Delmarva Ornithological
Society
Spring Count
and International
Migratory Bird Day
John Janowski 834-9710

12 Field Trip
8:00 am Sunday
White Clay Creek Preserve
(PA) Warblers in the Valley
Meet at the Meeting House
at London Tract and
Sharpless Rd. (PA)
For information, please call
610-274-2471

14
2:00 pm & 7:00 pm Tuesday
"A Sense of Wonder"
Polytech High School in
Woodside. There is no
admission charge.

15
7:00 pm Wednesday
"A Sense of Wonder"
Possum Point Theater in
Georgetown. There is no
admission charge.

16
2:00 pm & 7:00 pm
Thursday
"A Sense of Wonder"
University of Delaware's
Clayton Hall. There is no
admission charge.

18
7:00-5:00 Saturday
International
Migratory Bird Day
Bombay Hook National
Wildlife Refuge
Bird walks, boat rides,
horseshoe crabs and more.
For schedule of events,
please call (302) 653-6872

18
Friends of White Clay Creek
Repair trails.
For information please
contact Wendel Cassel at
(302) 737-3319 or
wil1rog@aol.com.

19 Field Trip
1:00 pm Sunday
Vultures Roost Site
White Clay Creek Preserve
(PA). Meet at Lot # 1 on
London Tract Rd. Just below
Good Hope and London
Tract Rd. (610) 274-2471

25 Field Trip
7:00 am Saturday
Birding Grass Dale
Meet in the picnic area at
Grass Dale Center on
Polktown Rd., Delaware
City. Please call, time may
change.
Ann Rydgren 235-0242.

26 Field Trip
8:00 am Sunday
White Clay Creek Preserve (PA)
Breeding Birds
Meet at Parking Lot #2 on
Sharpless Rd. (PA)
Dorothy Miller
(610) 274-2471.

JUNE

1
National Trails Day
Friends of White Clay Creek
Repair trails.
For information please
contact Wendel Cassel at
(302) 737-3319 or
wil1rog@aol.com.

2 Field Trip
8:00 am Sunday
White Clay Creek Preserve (PA)
Breeding Birds & Summer
Residents
Meet at Parking Lot #2 on
Sharpless Rd. Marge Filman
(610) 274-2471.

23
1:00 pm Sunday
White Clay Creek Preserve
(PA)
How Streams Find Their
Way Dennis Newbold.
Some walking & driving.
Meet at the Meeting House
at London Tract and
Sharpless Rd. (PA)
For information, please call
(610) 274-2471.

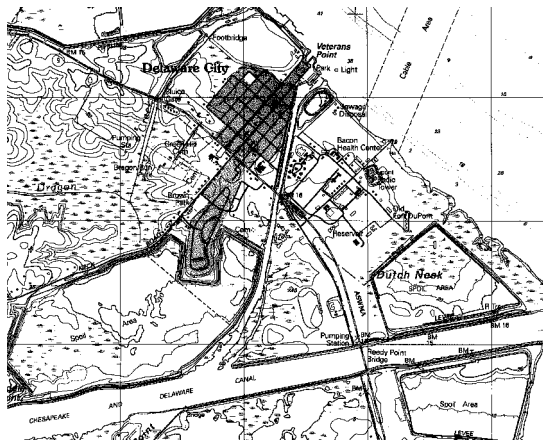
Please call Field Trip leaders
ahead of time and register. You
will be notified if any changes
arise. Most trips are half-day.
Dress according to the weather
and ask leader if waterproof
boots, etc. are needed.



News & Views

DELAWARE AUDUBON SOCIETY GRASS DALE SUMMARY 2001 HIGHLIGHTS 2001 GRASS DALE ACTIVITIES

Ann Rydgren



Delaware Audubon made 25 visits to Grass Dale for a total of 150 person-hours.

The catalog of flora and fauna now stands at 128 bird, 78 plant, 44 insect, 15 mammal, 7 amphibian, 1 minnow, and 1 crustacean specie/s.

The number of purple loosestrife plants seems to be declining. This needs careful watching.

Many more bayberry plants were discovered in the Sector 4 meadow. If this area is disturbed in any way, some plan to preserve these plants should be made. At \$30 each, it would cost \$2,760 to replace them.

Six reports have been generated from the data collected in 2001. The Field Data report lists the species noted on each visitation. The Species in Habitats' report lists the greatest number of individuals sighted on a specific day and the number of sightings of each species found in each habitat type. The Swamp Sparrow and Marsh Wren reports list dates and numbers of those species sighted. The Purple Loosestrife Progress report notes the number of plants seen over a period of five years. The Bayberry Locations report notes the number and location of Bayberry shrubs. These reports are given to appropriate personnel in DNREC.

Grass Dale is a unique area where at least six different habitats are found within a 100-yard radius. Woods, tidal marsh, fresh water pond, hedgerows, meadow and scrub habitats can be observed by walking around the existing track. In combination, the variety and richness of these habitats make Grass Dale very attractive to wildlife. Such easy access to an abundance of wildlife makes Grass Dale an ideal teaching tool. Wildlife continues to use this site at a very high level

The seventy-eight acres of Grass Dale are divided into seven sectors for data collecting purposes. A representative habitat type characterizes each sector, although there may be several different habitats in a sector. Some sectors were often inaccessible.

Special thanks to Peggy Jahn and Andy Urquhart for their time and perseverance during all kinds of weather to collect data for this project.

NOTABLE EVENTS:

January 3

Over 4,000 snow geese flew over between 7:30 & 8:30.

April 2

Eleven AmeriCorps young people participated in a field trip at Grass Dale and Pea Patch Island. This group of young people has made a significant contribution to the management of Fort DuPont State Park.

May 9

A female wood duck burst out of the marsh on the edge of the track. She pretended she couldn't fly. She hobbled 30 yards down the track away from us. We resisted chasing her and were rewarded when 12 chicks broke cover and scurried down the track after her where they were reunited.

September 18

Scat evidence indicated the fox is gorging him/herself on persimmons. Catching a glimpse of a Sora Rail was a real treat.

December 2

Snow Geese flying overhead actually glow in the morning sunlight. A Northern Harrier swoops back and forth over marsh.

Co-chairs:

Peggy Jahn

Ann Rydgren

Kathy Tidball



Wee specks
of emerald
and ruby, glistening.
supersonic hummingbirds seem
wingless.

Marcia Nelson, The Osprey, Southern Maryland Audubon Society

BOOKS OF INTEREST



Gaia's Garden:

A Guide to Home-Scale Permaculture
by Toby Hemenway. Chelsea Green,
2001, 222 p. \$24.95.

This author contends that today's typical backyard garden has deviated from what a natural, life-perpetuating garden should be. All the effort that people put into their gardens – weeding, tilling, spraying, fertilizing – is a waste, says the author. A garden that successfully combines elements of wildlife habitats, edible plants, and conventional flower and vegetable gardens will naturally do most of this work on its own. Hemenway explains how to connect the various parts of a garden – trees, plants, insects, birds, and the gardener him/her self- so that each builds upon the contributions of the other. With suggestions about plants that will provide diverse habitats for wildlife yet still yield the flowers, food, and herbs you seek, this book will help turn your garden into a functioning ecosystem.

Dr. Art's Guide to Planet Earth: For Earthlings 12 to 120 by Art Sussman
Chelsea Green, 2000, 122 p. \$14.95.

In an effort to underscore the interconnectedness of living and nonliving things on earth, Sussman introduces the scientific discipline known as Earth systems science. Its practitioners cull data from almost every other scientific field to try to understand how the world works. Sussman details what he considers the three primary concepts of Earth systems science: matter cycles, energy flows and life webs. Once a person grasps these, he or she can more easily understand how to contribute to the prosperity of all life, asserts Sussman. Colorfully illustrated and clearly written, Dr. Art's guide helps readers focus on big ideas rather than getting lost in details.

“JOURNAL” FIRST PLACE

The Delaware Audubon *Journal* was awarded first place in category 14D-Newsletters of the 2002 Delaware Press Association Statewide Communications Contest.

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.

Editor: Ann Rydgren
Assistant Editor: Barbara Roewe
Design & Layout : Maryellen F. Birk
Printing: Sprint Quality Printing, Inc.

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

- ▼ WEB SITE
<http://www.delawareaudubon.org>
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Wilmington, DE 19899
- ▼ TELEPHONE:
(302) 428-3959
- ▼ DELAWARE AUDUBON SOCIETY E-MAIL:
mail@delawareaudubon.org

We can receive contributions through your United Way payroll deduction designation.



Our United Way designation number is 9017.

**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