

PRESERVING OUR  
NATURAL STATE



**But for their cries,  
The herons would be lost  
Amidst the morning snow.**

Chiyo-Ni  
(1701-1775)

# Delaware Audubon Journal

Vol. XXV No.2  
November-December 2002

## CONTROL WEST NILE VIRUS WITH INTEGRATED APPROACH

Audubon Senior Vice President of Science, Dr. Frank Gill, has called on health and pest control authorities in affected states to employ an integrated approach to the management of mosquitoes carrying the West Nile Virus.

"Our experience with West Nile in the Northeast shows that an integrated approach to pest management is the most effective and safest method available. Audubon advises states to enact measures that will quickly effect this change."

"Aerial spraying of pesticides has been shown to be less effective than targeted, localized spraying. If pesticides are to be employed, a focused, limited, and timely response works best. Combining this approach with the use of highly effective bacterial larvicides and community and home cleanup of standing water is the most effective and efficient use of our states' energies and limited resources."

Gill also notes the effect of West Nile falls primarily on our nation's birdlife. "America's birds—especially crows and jays, and increasingly, it seems, our beloved hawks and owls—are the most common fatal victims of the disease," he stated. "This integrated approach to controlling mosquitoes will not only help people, but will also help our beleaguered birds to be more resistant to West Nile."

### What You Can Do

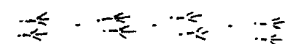
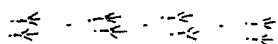
Integrated pest management calls for elimination of mosquito breeding habitat, the use of environmentally sound tools to combat the insects, and a more targeted approach to the use of pesticides.

Communities can greatly enhance their ability to eliminate the threat of disease-carrying mosquitoes by replacing chemical larvicides with bacteria-based products, which kill mosquitoes, but not beneficial insects, such as dragonflies; amphibians; and fish that prey upon mosquitoes. By eliminating pools of stagnant water in parks and at dumps, and by allowing some drainage of dammed areas, communities also decrease the available breeding ponds for mosquitoes.

Homeowners can help by cleaning out gutters and removing tarps, tires, and other objects where water can collect also prevents mosquitoes from reproducing.

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# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

## DE AUDUBON SOCIETY 2002-2003 OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

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Hello members,

As you probably all know, the Secretary of the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental control, Nick Di Pasquale, resigned some time ago. We at Delaware Audubon Society would like to thank him for the effort he put forth in trying to preserve our fragile natural state. It is probably as tough a job as one could have in Delaware government.

John A. Hughes has been nominated by Governor Ruth Ann Minner to fill the post. Hughes has worked at DNREC for 32 years. We can only hope that he will do as much good as Di Pasquale tried to do, and that he will vigorously go after Motiva, stop the Corps of Engineer's efforts to deepen the Delaware River, and protect our quality of life in Delaware.

Thanks for Caring,  
Matt Del Pizzo

### YOU'RE INVITED!

Members of Audubon are invited to a reception for elected officials on Monday, December 2, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., at the Terrace at Greenhill, 800 DuPont Road, Wilmington.

The reception is an opportunity for you to discuss ideas on numerous "quality of life" issues which are facing our elected officials.

There will be a cash bar and a \$3 admittance fee. Cheese, crackers, fruit, crudités/dip will be served. Please come.

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 DelPizzo
<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
<i>Programs Committee</i>	Open
<i>Publicity Committee</i>	

Internet-Fred Breukelman  
mail@delawareaudubon.org

<i>Membership Committee</i>	Open
<i>Education Committee</i>	Kathy Tidball
<i>Social Committee</i>	

	Annual Dinner-Nancy Frampton
<i>Field Trips Committee</i>	Peggy Jahn
<i>Publications Committee</i>	Ann Rydgren

#### FINANCE COMMITTEES

<i>Fundraising-Grants</i>	Andrew Urquhart
<i>Fundraising-Bird Seed Sale</i>	Mark and Susan Martell

<i>Fundraising Birdathon</i>	Ruth Holden, Maud 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 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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mail@delawareaudubon.org



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<http://www.delawareaudubon.org>

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# “Preserve Our Natural State”

WHAT YOU CAN DO...



## NOMINATE YOURSELF OR ANOTHER TO THE DELAWARE AUDUBON BOARD

We are seeking enthusiastic people to help guide Delaware Audubon’s activities and legislative actions by serving on the Board of Directors. Serving in this capacity entails about eight meetings a year as well as participation in a few telephone calls/e-mail sessions. This is a prime opportunity to directly and positively affect the environment in Delaware. Please submit the name of someone you would like to see on the Board. Self-nominations are also welcome, so don’t be shy!

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.

To maintain the mission of the Delaware Audubon Society, dedicated people must make it happen. This starts with a strong Board. Now is the time for Board nominations for the coming year.

As a Board member, you can take great pride in knowing that your downpayment of time and hard work will help secure the preservation of a healthy environment.

Please send your nominations for the Delaware Audubon Board to: Nominations, Delaware Audubon, P.O. Box 1713, Wilmington, DE 19899 or email@delawareaudubon.org.

Nominee’s name:.....

Nominee’s phone number: .....

Name of the person making the nomination: .....

## 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.

## 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.dnrec.state.de.us/DNRECeis/>  
Delaware Environmental Navigator (DEN). Use DEN to explore the many types of information collected by DNREC such as permitted facilities, enforcement actions and environmental monitoring.

## EVENTS

### NOVEMBER

3 Sunday 9:00 am  
 Adopt-a-Highway Pick-Up  
 Adopt-a-Highway pick-up  
 on Creek Rd., Newark.  
 Come lend a hand for a  
 couple of hours and enjoy  
 being outdoors with  
 congenial people. We will  
 be working on Creek Road  
 from Wedgewood Road to  
 White Clay Dr. Bring your  
 own work gloves. A  
 pointed stick for picking  
 up pieces of paper is a  
 handy thing to use. Dress  
 for the weather and bring a  
 lunch and binoculars for  
 birding afterwards, if you  
 wish. Any questions? Call  
 the Audubon office 428-  
 3959. Meet at the  
 Chambers House Visitor  
 Center north of Hopkins  
 Bridge Rd. on Creek Rd.

10 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, 378-6474.

### Christmas Bird Count Schedule

#### DECEMBER

15 Sunday, Middletown  
 Compiler-Bruce Lantz  
 378-8469

15 Sunday, Wilmington  
 Compiler-Howard  
 Brokaw  
 655-8076

22 Sunday, Bombay  
 Hook Compiler-Andy  
 Ednie  
 792-9591

28 Saturday, Rehoboth  
 Compiler-Joe Swertinski  
 292-1592

29 Sunday,  
 Cape Henlopen  
 Compiler-Frank  
 Rohrbacker  
 475-5771

#### JANUARY 2003

4 Saturday, Seaford  
 Compiler - Glen Lovelace  
 302-628-3978

5 Sunday, Milford  
 Compiler - Glen Lovelace  
 (302)-628-3978



## DEAR AUDREY

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From time to time we receive inquiries that we think are worth sharing for one reason or another. Email your bird question to Audrey Audubon at email@delawareaudubon.org. Some names have been changed to protect the innocent.

Dear Audrey

We have one baby cardinal with a black bill to go with his black face. He is just about five days old. My wife and I think he is unique. He is the only one we have ever seen. All the other baby cardinal babies have the light-colored bills. Please reply. Thank you,  
 Tom

*Tom - Congratulations on your cardinal nesting! I consulted with Chip Chipley of American Bird Conservancy among others and this is what his response is. I don't know which Birds of North America book he is referring to. It seems all the bird books use that title. Now the question is...what about those nestlings with already orange bills? Hmmm.*

*Audrey Audubon*

To: Audrey Audubon

According to the Birds of North America account of the cardinal, "bill of nestlings and juveniles is gray to black, but becomes orange by winter." Hope this helps! Best,  
 Chip

*Thank you for all your help. The little cardinal comes to the feeder with his mother and father. The female makes him stay in the bush and the female takes him seeds and the male stays on the ground and watches out for them both. If you would like to see him, contact me. I live in Delaware just below old New Castle.*

*Yours Truly,  
 Tom*

*Incidentally, I made a feeder from a bird magazine that said it would attract cardinals and it has!!!*

## 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.

# "Preserve Our Natural State"

WHAT YOU CAN DO...



## CONSERVATION AWARD NOMINATIONS

Delaware Audubon Society is accepting nominations of individuals who have made significant contributions to the environmental health of Delaware. The Audubon Conservation Award will be presented at our annual dinner.

The Award is granted to an individual for their significant contribution, or unusual volunteer 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 and Ann Rydgren.

To nominate, please fill out the following form and return to:

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

Nominations must be received before December 15, 2002.

## 2002 NOMINATION FORM

Nominee 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.

## FEDERAL WETLANDS BILL

Federal Senate Bill 2780 and House Bill 5194 propose legislation that will restore federal protection for millions of acres of wetlands that provide crucial habitat for birds and other wildlife.

These bills called the Clean Water Authority Restoration Act of 2002 seek to remedy a Supreme Court decision last year that removed federal protection for "isolated" wetlands across the United States. That decision said federal officials could not rely on the Migratory Bird Treaty Act—or the presence of migrating birds—as the sole factor when acting to protect wetlands that are separated from navigable waterways or other wetlands.

"These wetlands are not isolated from wildlife, they are a haven for birds, and the Supreme Court decision seriously undercuts their protections," said Bob Perciasepe, Audubon's Senior VP for Public Policy. "Millions of birds depend on isolated wetlands for their survival." More than half of the duck population produced each year in North America comes from breeding in isolated wetlands known as "prairie potholes," for example.

Other types of isolated wetlands, such as bogs and playas, provide crucial habitat for shore birds, raptors, cranes and other migratory birds. Isolated wetlands, which are connected hydrologically to navigable waters, also filter pollutants from surface run-off, removing pollutants before the water is taken up by animals, birds and plants.

The legislation was introduced in the Senate by Sen. Russ Feingold (D-Wis.) and in the House by Reps. James Oberstar (D-Minn.) and John Dingell (D-Mich.).

### What you can do

Please contact your legislators and ask them to co-sponsor and support the Clean Water Authority Restoration Act of 2002. In the Senate it is Senate Bill 2780. In the House it is House Bill 5194.

SENATOR JOSEPH R. BIDEN  
1105 N. Market Street, Suite 2000  
Wilmington, DE 19801-1233  
(302) 573-6345 (NCC)  
(302) 678-9483 (K)  
(302) 856-9275 (S)  
senator@biden.senate.gov

SENATOR THOMAS R. CARPER  
3021 Federal Building  
Wilmington, DE 19801  
(302) 573-6291 (NCC)  
(302) 674-3308 (K)  
(302) 856-7690 (S)  
<http://carper.senate.gov/email-form.html>

REP. MICHAEL N. CASTLE  
201 North Walnut Street, Suite 107  
Wilmington, DE 19801-3970  
(800) 292-9541  
(302) 428-1902 (NCC)  
(302) 736-1666 (K)  
(302) 856-3334 (S)  
Delaware@mail.house.gov



## Updates

### PURPLE MARTIN REPORT:

Fledgings increased at the University of Delaware Agriculture Campus with 36 young fledging. Last year the number was 20.

The Artesian Water Company boxes produced a whopping 70 young this year. A spectacular recovery from last year's ten birds.

The Purple Martins at my house are doing about the same as last year. Forty-eight young fledged.

*Peggy Jahn*

### BLUEBIRD REPORT:

The largest number of Bluebirds we have ever had at MBNA Deerfield Golf Course were fledged. Seventy birds fledged from 13 nest boxes. Last year there were 65 fledged.

The DuPont Golf Course produced 36 young.

*Peggy Jahn*

### PIPING PLOVER NESTING SEASON

"It looks like we will wrap up the season with seven chicks," according to Holly Niederriter, the Division of Fish and Wildlife's nongame and endangered species biologist. "No matter how hard DNREC and volunteers work to help the plovers recover, we always seem to be hanging by our fingertips. There is so

little piping plover habitat left that it is very difficult to turn things around."

Last year there were nine fledglings. In 2000, five chicks fledged and in 1999 six chicks fledged.

*DNREC News*

### EDUCATION REPORT

This month approximately 175 Audubon Adventure Kits are arriving in classrooms throughout the state. Cape Henlopen School District's Science Coalition Specialist, Linda Gregory reports, " My Audubon adventure Kit just arrived!!! It is a perfect fit for the 5th grade eco-systems kit!" This year's kit focuses on four biomes or ecosystems; North American wetlands, deserts, forests and coasts.


To assist Delaware teachers with the implementation of these four

newspapers, Delaware Audubon will be sponsoring workshops for teachers. The first workshop will be Nov. 21, from 4-6 pm at Cape Henlopen District Office, 1270 Kings Highway, Lewes.

To register, contact Linda Gregory at LGregory@cape.k12.de.us or call 302-645-6686 ext. 232. Please contact her by November 14 since Delaware Audubon Society will be providing pizza and beverages and we will need to know the number attending. Be sure to include your name, school, district and phone number (home and school) and e-mail address.

A second workshop is in the planning stages for Kent and New Castle County. An invitation to the workshops will be mailed to all Audubon Adventures Teachers.

*Kathy Tidball,  
Education Chair*



**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**  
**D 90**



## PROJECT TO DREDGE THE DELAWARE RIVER MAIN CHANNEL AN ADDITIONAL FIVE FEET

In the late spring, the General Accounting Office, the investigative arm of Congress, issued their findings concluding their investigation of the proposed project and its viability. They found a number of false assumptions and economic data errors by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that, when corrected, would change the cost/benefit ratio (which is required by Congress to be better than 1:1) to below the required threshold. The GAO concluded that the project was not economically justified and the Corps overstated the benefits of this project.

In Delaware, we are still waiting for the decision by the Secretary of DNREC whether or not to grant the Army Corps of Engineers a subaqueous lands permit. In May, a report and recommendation were made to DNREC by Economic Analysis, Inc., after a study of all the pertinent data submitted by both the Corps and all those opposing this project. Economic Analysis, Inc., is a group of consultants hired by DNREC to evaluate all the data pertaining to the deepening dredge proposal and to make a report and recommendation to DNREC as to

what course of action they find supported by the data.

Delaware Audubon is a member of the alliance of environmental/citizens groups who are opposed to the deepening. The report found there to be no clear benefit to the State of Delaware and that the economics of the project were not justified, and there remain environmental concerns. After the release of this report, DNREC gave the Corps 30 days in which to amend the Delaware permit request. The 30-day period ends September 30, 2002. The public will then have until October 30 to respond on the Corps's amendments. The final decision on the subaqueous lands permit will be made by the Secretary of DNREC sometime after October 30. Delaware Audubon and the Alliance strongly believe that the Secretary should deny the permit in total based on the unbiased, expert analysis done by Economic Analysis, Inc., and the General Accounting Office report.

*Leslie Savage*

Leslie Savage is the Delaware Audubon representative to the Alliance to Dump the Delaware Deepening.



## CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The Christmas Bird Count season is upon us! Every winter in late December and early January, for over 100 years, birders throughout the country have spent very enjoyable days surveying local winter bird populations for the Christmas Bird Count.

Started by the National Audubon Society as an option to the then common annual winter "Christmas Bird Hunt," the counts are now coordinated by BirdSource, a joint effort between National Audubon and Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. All the data collected over the years is now available at <[www.birdsource.cornell.edu](http://www.birdsource.cornell.edu)>.

There are a number of counts in Delaware sponsored by the Delmarva Ornithological Society. A list of counts appears in the Calendar. Find a date and count that suits your holiday schedule and call the leader to see how you can participate.



## Bird Tales ...

In the woods you may hear the Blue Jay screaming what sounds like, "Thief! Thief! Thief!" Its loud cries warn other birds and mammals of an approaching predator, whether animal or human. The Blue Jay's scientific name is derived from Greek and Latin words and means, in reverse, "crested, blue chattering bird," an apt designation.

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

## HERE IS A BIRD FOR YOU TO COLOR.





## BOOKS OF INTEREST & OTHER CHRISTMAS GIFTS



- ***The Sibley Guide to Birds***

by David Sibley. Knopf, 2000. 544pp. \$28.

Produced in conjunction with the National Audubon Society, this stunning guidebook provides 6,600 drawings by the author's hand, illustrating more than 800 species of birds indigenous to North America. Each entry depicts a bird in its various stages of maturity, while sitting and standing, and in flight.

in place and offers ideas for promoting conservation worldwide.

Any book ordered through the [DelawareAudubon.org](http://delawareaudubon.org) book store benefits Delaware Audubon. Please use <http://delawareaudubon.org/market.html>. Help support Delaware Audubon!

- ***West Nile Story***

by Dickson Despommier.

Apple Trees Productions, LLC, 2001. 133pp. (103pp. of text plus references and index.) \$14.99. Order from [ddd1@columbia.edu](mailto:ddd1@columbia.edu).

The author, a Columbia U. Professor of Public Health and Microbiology, describes the science and drama of identifying WNV, the foreign agent, and the link among dying humans, horses, and birds. This is a nice background source with references and without journalistic hype.

- Membership in Delaware Audubon (see page 6 for application).

- **Bluebird Nest Boxes**

Priced at \$20/pine and \$25/cedar. Order now for yourself and your friends. Please arrange for pick-up when you order from Fred Jahn, (302) 378-6474. 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.

- ***Vital Signs 2002: The Trends That Are Shaping Our Future.***

Norton, 2002. 215pp. \$14.95.

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, 2001. 352pp. \$15.

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

Happy  
Holidays!