

PRESERVING OUR
NATURAL STATE

**HORSESHOE CRAB
LIMULUS POLYPHEMUS
ODD CYCLOPS**



Clumsily coupled
horseshoes ascend Delaware's
sandy shores to spawn.

Far flown from below
equator, greedy turnstones
feast on green-pearled eggs.

(Ancient unique crab
chemistry - opening doors
to truth, new healing.)

Odd cyclops, signet
of our coast - let it renew
itself, feed fleet-winged
travelers, unlock riddles -
safe in primordial niche.

Mary Lou McCabe

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Delaware Audubon Journal

Vol. XXV No.1
September-October 2002

HORSESHOE CRAB DECLARED DELAWARE'S OFFICIAL MARINE ANIMAL

Governor Ruth Ann Minner has signed legislation in July declaring the horseshoe crab as Delaware's official marine animal. The law is the result of effort by Abigail Bradley of Lewes. As a junior in high school Bradley won first place honors in the Sussex County Science Fair for her research paper on horseshoe crab nest site selection. She also won the President's Environmental Youth Award and a DuPont Science Challenge Award for her horseshoe crab research.

After contacting the governor and her state representative, John Schroeder, Abigail convinced the legislator of the importance of the horseshoe crab and legislation was written to name the horseshoe crab as Delaware's marine animal. Delaware was the first government body in the world to create legislation protecting the horseshoe crab and is now the first state to have the horseshoe crab as its official marine animal.

The legislation reads as follows:

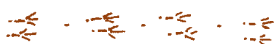
WHEREAS, horseshoe crabs are 500 million year old creatures; and
 WHEREAS, horseshoe crabs contain a compound, limulus amebocyte lysate (LAL) that is used to detect bacterial poisons in certain medications, vaccines and medical devices; and
 WHEREAS, chitin from the shell of the horseshoe crab is used to make bandages; and
 WHEREAS, the horseshoe crab is used in vision studies because their complex eye structure is similar to the human eye; and
 WHEREAS, the horseshoe crab is the principal food source for over a million shore birds; and
 WHEREAS, these wonderful marine animals are becoming extremely scarce in Delaware, experiencing a drop in population from 1,200,000 in 1990 to 200,000 in 1995; and
 WHEREAS, the Delaware Bay remains the home to more horseshoe crabs than any other place in the world; and
 WHEREAS, Delaware is proud to be the home of such important marine animals.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE:

Section 1. Amend Chapter 3, Title 29 of the Delaware Code by adding a new §318 thereto to read as follows:

“§318. State marine animal.

The official State marine animal is the horseshoe crab.”



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Hello Members,

I can't imagine a year with more ups and downs. We saw some good things and bad things. We helped stop the Arctic refuge from becoming another drilling area for oil. We helped stymie the efforts of the Army Corps of Engineers from deepening the Delaware River. The state now has an above ground tank inspection law in response to the terrible explosion at Motiva that cost the life of a man and a massive amount of acid lost into the river. We also had a positive impact on the nation's energy policy by meeting with our senators and sharing our views on a responsible balanced approach to our energy needs.

There also were the things that didn't happen, like Delaware's isolated wetlands bill that didn't get voted on. It is upsetting because it is part of Governor Ruth Ann Minner's "Livable Delaware" legislation. We have also been constantly disappointed by the federal administrations' treatment of environmental issues that seems to take us down a destructive path.

But we have ridden out of rough patches before and produced positive results. We all have a responsibility in caring for the Earth. I don't know what will be ahead of us but I hope we can continue to count on you. I am comforted in the fact we are a remarkable chapter with caring members.

As always, thanks for taking time to care.
Matt Del Pizzo



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We can receive contributions through your United Way payroll deduction designation. Our United Way designation number is 9017.

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DE 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 DelPizzo
<i>Vice President</i>	Leslie Savage
<i>Secretary</i>	Annette Garofalo
<i>Corresponding Secretary</i>	Ellen Wright
<i>Treasurer</i>	Mark Martell

CONSERVATION COMMITTEES:

<i>Environmental Advocate</i>	Grace Pierce-Beck
<i>Recycling</i>	Albert DelPizzo
<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>	Matthew DelPizzo
<i>Publicity Committee</i>	

Internet-Fred Breukelman
mail@delawareaudubon.org

<i>Membership Committee</i>	Annette Garofalo
<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>	Open
<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

"Preserve Our Natural State"

WHAT YOU CAN DO...



BLUEBIRD BOXES



ORDER NOW FOR CHRISTMAS

To help you appreciate and understand nature, Delaware Audubon has available by order, some 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.

DOWNSTATE PICK-UP AVAILABLE

Downstate members can pick up their boxes from Dennis Foley near Milton, DE.

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

WEST NILE VIRUS

Reporting sick or dead birds to DNREC's Mosquito Control Section is an integral part of the state's West Nile surveillance program. Current birds of interest for reporting are crows, blue jays, hawks and owls. The public is asked to limit their reporting to specimens that are alive and sick or that appear to have been dead for less than 24 hours. If such birds are seen or found, they should be reported to the following Mosquito Control Section offices:

New Castle County
(weekdays, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.)
(302) 323-4492

Kent/Sussex counties
(weekdays, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.)
(302) 422-1512

Evenings/weekends/holidays
(statewide) 1-800-523-3336

Sick or dead birds can be covered or protected until state officials arrive. For health-related reasons, people should avoid direct contact with sick or dead birds. Do not handle specimens without gloves.

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.

* NEWSLETTER

Assistant Editor to do standard features. Approximately one week a month.

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.



www.geocities.com/mpH767/Delbirds.html

Matt Hoberg's Delaware Birding Homepage

Find out about the most recent sightings of birds in Delaware and follow Matt Hoberg in his quest for 300 birds in one year. As of June he had 271.

Will he make it?

SEPTEMBER

7 Saturday
7:30 am
Bird and Bike
around Thousand Acre
Marsh and Port Penn nature
trail. Please email if
interested in going
mattdelpizzo@aol.com

8 Sunday
9:00 am
Early Fall Migrants
White Clay Creek Preserve
(DE) with Delmarva
Ornithological Society
Meet at the Chambers
House Visitor Center north
of Hopkins Bridge Rd. on
Creek Rd.
Dorothy Miller, 366-8059.

14 Saturday
9:00 am – Noon
Delmarva Coastal Cleanup
2002.
Volunteers are needed to
help at any one of 37
locations from the
Brandywine River in
Wilmington to as far south
as Fenwick Island. For more
information call Donald
White or Jason Gleockler,
(302) 739-4506 or go to
registration forms at
www.dnrec.state.de.us

22 Sunday
7:00 am
Fall raptor and passerine
migration
Cape May, NJ, Higbee
Beach. Meet at the canal
parking lot (dirt lane furthest
lot at Higbee Beach. Full
day. Delmarva
Ornithological Society. For
directions please call
Meta Little, (302) 368-3472.

22 Sunday
8:00 am
Migrating Songbirds
White Clay Creek Preserve
(PA) London Tract
Meetinghouse at the

intersection of London Tract,
South Bank and Sharpless
Rds.
Margi Filman.
(610) 274-2471

OCTOBER

6 Sunday
11:00am to 4:00pm
Coast Day
See you at our Audubon
booth! College of Marine
Studies in Lewes.

14 Sunday
8:00 am
The Birds of Grass Dale
*Especially for Beginning
Birders*, a walk looking at
fall migrants. Meet at picnic
tables near Grass Dale
parking lot, Fort DuPont
State Park, Delaware City,
Ann Rydgren, 235-0242.

19 Saturday
9:00 am to 2:00pm
Bird Seed Pick-up Day
Delcastle County Park. Bird
Seed orders must be picked
up today. For information
please call 428-3959.

20 Sunday
8:00 am
Birding at Bombay Hook
Meet in parking lot. There is
an entrance fee. Bombay
Hook is an internationally
known destination for
birders, right in our
'backyard'! Meet in the
parking lot next to the
Information Center. This will
be a half-day trip. Please
call Peggy Jahn if you intend
to go, 378-6474.

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
Bald Eagles and Water Birds
Conowingo Dam. 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.

DECEMBER

8 Sunday
9:00 am
Ducks and Geese Plus ?
Bombay Hook. There is an
entrance fee. Meet in the
parking lot next to the
Information Center. This is a
half day trip. Please call
Peggy Jahn if you intend to
go, 378-6474.





❖ JUNE 2002 ON THE ONE HAND...

Navy Owns Up to Whale Deaths

Almost two years after a mysterious mass stranding of 17 cetaceans in the Bahamas, a joint report issued by the United States Navy and the National Marine Fisheries Service marks the first admission that sonar tests caused fatal trauma in the marine mammals. Earthwatch scientists Ken Balcomb and Diane Claridge (Center for Whale Research), were largely responsible for revealing the physical causes of the strandings, including hemorrhaging in the inner ear and part of the brain. The Navy is now planning policies to prevent such injuries and increasing annual funding for marine mammal research to \$ 9 million.

Earthwatch Institute

❖ JULY 2002 ON THE OTHER HAND...

New Navy Sonar Gets OK
to Harass Whales

The Bush administration on Monday, July 15, cleared the way for Navy use of a powerful low-frequency sonar to identify enemy submarines, a move environmentalists say will lead to increased strandings and deaths of whales. The Commerce Department's National Marine Fisheries Service granted the Navy a five year exemption from the Marine Mammal Protection Act. The exemption allows "harassment" of marine mammals by the Navy with its intense low-frequency sonar.

from Associated Press reports

Ed. Note: I have worked with Ken Balcomb and Diane Claridge in the Bahamas searching for dolphins and with Ken in Washington recording the passages of orca

whales. They are both careful scientists, highly regarded in their field.

AR

❖ BIRDATHON

The 2002 Birdathon has migrated happily into the past. It was a Record! Two teams brought into our fold a record \$2796.00.

A word from these two teams...

The Holden-Dayton Team chose Monday, May 13th for their "bird day".

"As far as the weather goes, it was the pits. We left Wilmington in a fog (my local hummingbirds and my nuthatch failed to arise). We drove south, out of the fog, to Bombay Hook and Port Mahon where the wind was blowing like a mad thing. In the afternoon the trees were bent double. We saw only a couple of warblers! The sky was absolutely superb! We ended in a tornado watch for Kent County. It was a very special sky!

We did find a hummingbird at Bombay Hook. Nice, but no nuthatch. The big events of the day were the multitude of turtles that were out walking, including two huge snappers. And, some red foxes in fine shape. One was with her child, rather well grown to be called a kit. Beautiful!!

We had a wonderful time, as always, and were delighted with our count of 71 species (a record for us!)."

Ruth Holden

Ann Rydgren's Team II members this year were Dorothy Miller, Andy Urquhart and Peggy Jahm.

"I was up at 4:00 am on May 11, anxious about what kind of day we would have. I needn't have worried. It turned out to be an absolutely, spectacularly gorgeous day for the Birdathon. It wasn't raining! The temperature was ideal!

We reached 77 species at White Clay Creek by noon. I picked up Peggy after lunch and we headed downstate. The Laughing Gulls, Dunlin and Ruddy Turnstones were splendid in their spring plumage at Port Mahon. There were so many! And we were so close to them! Some were just ten yards away! It was hard to leave Port Mahon, but we wanted to get through Bombay Hook and back to Thousand Acre Marsh before dark.

Our total for the day was 116, one species less than last year.

I can't tell you how much we appreciate the support of friends and members of Audubon. We could not continue to sponsor educational programs, protect the environment and remain a source of reliable information for the public without you!

Ann Rydgren





News & Views

Updates

AUDUBON ADVENTURES



In 2002-2003, Audubon Adventures will feature four all-new issues on North American bioregions including deserts, freshwater wetlands, temperate deciduous forests, and coastal environments. So far we have about 140 kits being ordered. If teachers haven't sent in their evaluations, I am still accepting them as part of their renewal of the subscription.

Education Chair
Kathy Tidball

CONSERVATION

We are dismayed that the legislature did not enact legislation to protect Delaware's ecologically important isolated wetlands such as Delmarva bays, dune swale wetlands, Atlantic white-cedar swamps, bald cypress swamps, and sea-level fens, certain ecologically important freshwater wetlands that are no longer under the jurisdiction of the federal government.

Hopefully, a new legislature will reconsider protecting these significant recharging resources for our watersheds in Delaware. Your support for such legislation is vital to getting protection for these areas.

Environmental Advocate
Grace Pierce-Beck

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

We welcome these new members and members who have renewed in April and May.

Robert Barry, Mr. & Mrs. John Boettger, Robert Bolling, Jr., Wayne Coe, Glen Collard, Kenneth Corrin, Jr., Beth Haslett, Melba Haynes, James Harty, III, Ray & Fran Lewis, Gail McDermott, Anne Prang, Oakland Remus, Mr. & Mrs. Charles Seaver, Olive Walsh, Dan Webster, Carlton Williams, Jack Williams, Danielle Apice, Mike Christopher, Annice B. Correll, Andrew Kelleher, Marie Parisi, Barbara Roewe, Anna Soloman, Charles Zingo, Donne Beth Anderson, Edmond Dubbs, William Holman, Bernard Petrosky, Joseph Reed, Deborah Wat, William F. Cecil, Jr., Peter Cook, Patricia J. Jones, Lindsay Mullet.

Membership Chair
Annette Garofalo


CHRONIC VIOLATORS



After an extensive series of meetings over an eight-month period, the Chronic Violators

Regulatory Development Committee at a meeting on June 19 approved by a vote of 10 - 1 a set of recommended regulations to implement the chronic violator legislation. These regulations must now go through a public hearing where changes may be recommended and then will be considered for adoption by DNREC. The result will be a process for identifying companies, agencies, or persons who have repeatedly violated environmental regulations in Delaware and who will then be potentially subject to additional penalties as chronic violators.

Andy Urquhart



INTRODUCTORY MEMBERSHIP OFFER
For \$20.00 Receive Membership to
National Audubon Society and Delaware Audubon Society
Join NOW and receive a FREE navy blue bag pack!

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

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News & Views

FROM THE EDITOR

We are all very pleased with the honors the Audubon Journal has received this year - a first place award from the Delaware Press Association and second place in the category for large chapters from National Audubon.

The production of the Journal is a team effort and you, the members, are an integral part of the team. The National Audubon Society judges seemed pleased that members shared their expertise and bird stories. We want to continue to address members' concerns and issues.

We want to know what features in the Journal you like and what you think we are lacking. Don't make a big deal out of it. Just give us a phone call at (302) 428-3959, send us an email at mail@delawareaudubon.org or fill out the form on the right and mail to PO Box 1713, Wilmington, DE 19899.

Thank you to everyone who has contributed ideas, articles or information, and special thanks to Maryellen Birk who makes us look so good!

Here are some comments from the National Audubon Newsletter Contest judges. Do you agree or disagree with their comments? Please let us hear from you.

Ann Rydgren, Editor

Agree Disagree

"I think the even-handed approach to reporting the news meets the needs of a statewide organization very well. There didn't seem to be emphasis on one portion of the state while lacking in other areas."

Agree Disagree

"I would have like to see more Delaware specific articles in all your issues."

Agree Disagree

"This is an impressive journal. ...this is probably the most professional in presentation, style and content."

Agree Disagree

"I guess one thing is the font. It's slightly hard to read on the felt-finish paper."

Agree Disagree

"I love the clean, appealing look and feel of this newsletter. I think it communicates, even before reading a word, who you are and what you are about. That is particularly important when you use it as a communications tool for many people beyond your membership."

Agree Disagree

"There was not much information about local events, bird walks, meetings, and the like. This is very

different from all the other newsletters I reviewed."

Agree Disagree

"The "Masthead" is interesting...I like that it's not static, but changes each time as the seasons change. The text and headline interaction design is legible and easy on the eye. The sections are easy to find and somewhat consistent from issue to issue. The writing is done by experts as much as possible, which says a lot for the planning ahead mentioned in the statement. There were many small sections and articles designed to get people thinking or active, which is good."

Agree Disagree

"I think I like the News & Views section best, which covers an environmental topic, but not necessarily birds, each time. I really like the writing styles, open and inviting but not too much pushing to become involved, etc. I like the Calendar all on one page, so people can pull it out if they want to. I like the open space and the illustrative section heads. I really like the tag-line "Preserving Our Natural State," plays on words like that are great."

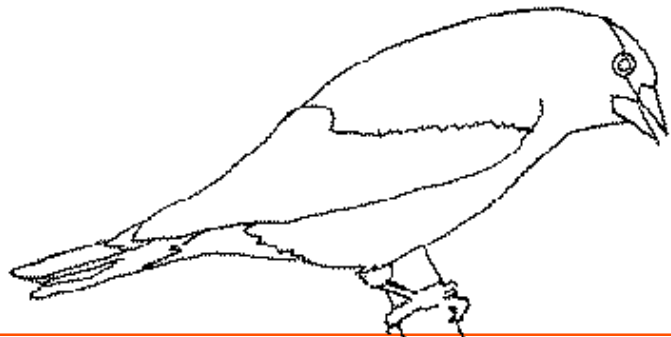
Additional Comments:
.....



Bird Tales ...

The American Goldfinch *Carduelis tristis* is easily seen in the spring or summer as a flash of yellow. It dips as it flies, flying in a rising and falling motion, and calls "po-ta-to chip! po-ta-to chip!" That should be easy to remember. Potato chips go with dip. With its short, heavy, conical beak, the American Goldfinch is typical of North American seed-eating birds that are members of the finch (*Fringillidae*) family. For more information and a color picture of the bird go to our website delawareaudubon.org.

HERE IS A BIRD FOR YOU TO COLOR.



BOOKS OF INTEREST



Eye Of The Albatross: Visions of Hope and Survival

by Carl Safina
Henry Holt & Co.,
400 p., 2002, \$27.50

"In this dazzling volume, Safina, a MacArthur award recipient, recounts his travels to remote portions of the northwest Hawaiian Islands to witness albatross breeding season.

By turns rhapsodic, scolding and mystical, the book discusses issues that affect other seabirds, seals, sharks and sea turtles. But the albatross remains its primary focus. Safina's encyclopedic knowledge and spirited prose provide a stunningly intimate portrait of an environment."

Publishers Weekly

Carl Safina is the founder of the Living Oceans Program at the National Audubon Society.

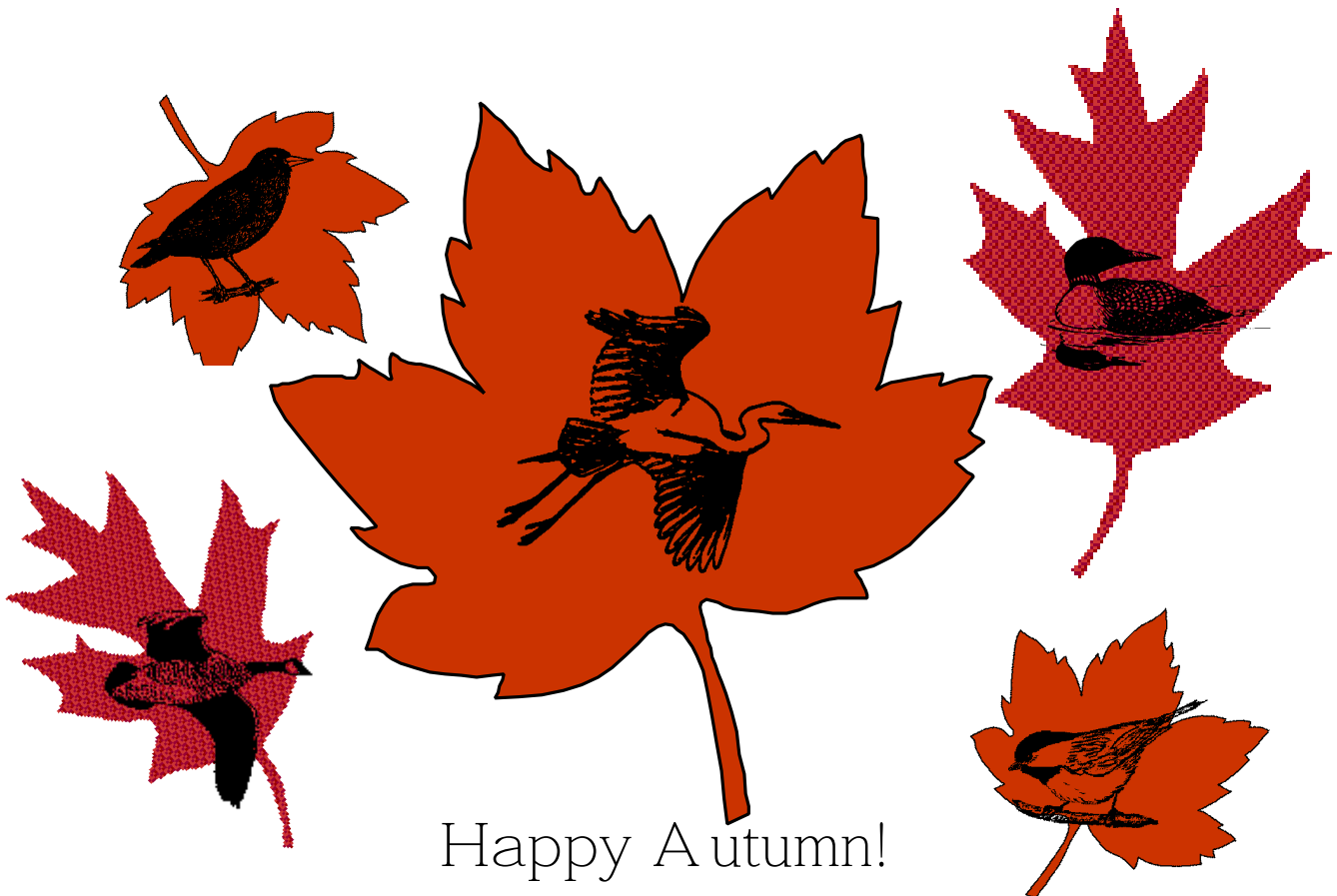
BIRD WATCHING IS TOP ACTIVITY

Bird watching tops the list of the fastest-growing outdoor activities in the United States, outpacing hiking, backpacking, snowmobiling and walking.



About 70.4 million people reported some level of birding in the last year according to the National Survey

on Recreation and the Environment by the U.S. Forest Service. That's about one-third of the 16 and older population of the United States.



Happy Autumn!

