

the osprey

Monmouth County Audubon Society

www.monmouthaudubon.org

Over **50 Years** of Birds and Conservation

Volume 54, #2 Winter 2018/2019

In this issue...

Volunteering will change your life 1

Items of Note 2

Volunteers needed

Christmas Bird Count 2018/19

Staying connected to MCAS

Special thanks

Focus on Conservation..... 5

Great Backyard Bird Count 2019

2019 Scholarship

Coming Up..... 6

amazonsmile

You shop. Amazon gives.

Every dollar you spend at Amazon.com can benefit MCAS!

Amazon has a program called AmazonSmile. Instead of logging in at www.amazon.com when you shop, enter smile.amazon.com. You will be asked which organization you want to benefit - just select us. This small change in your routine offers big benefits - 0.5% of every purchase you make goes back to MCAS in the form of a donation! It costs you nothing to participate, so why not Smile!

Visit our Facebook page



www.facebook.com/Monmouthaudubon

"Like" us for special messages and updates.

► *Volunteering will change your life*

by Dena Temple

John and I moved to Monmouth County in 1992. One of the reasons we chose our house was the spacious yard ringed by mature trees. We've recorded an astonishing 128 species of birds in our yard, including Rufous Hummingbird, Lincoln's Sparrow, Common Redpoll, Hooded Warbler, Mississippi Kite, and most recently a new visitor, Common Raven.

I've had a love affair with my house, which made it all the more difficult to put it up for sale recently. The house sold very quickly, and we're on our way. By the time you read this I'll be settled into a new home in Mississippi, far from the Jersey Shore and you, my Audubon friends.

I wanted to share with you my history with MCAS. We were not birders when we moved here and frankly paid little attention to birds. That all changed when a Northern Flicker landed on a stump in our back yard. That "awakening" sparked an interest that has brought me countless

hours of pleasure. First came a field guide, so we could identify our visitors, and then we stumbled upon Monmouth County Audubon.

We were excited to meet people with a shared interest in birds. I had never heard the term "birding," but it was about to change my life!

At our first meeting, Harden Fowler and Judy Harvey welcomed us. We started attending field trips, which led to a growing knowledge about our local parks and birds. The more we learned, the more involved we got. We were hooked!

Monmouth County Audubon was important to me, so it wasn't long before I was attending the board meetings and looking to volunteer. I started with publicity (sending out news releases about our programs and field trips) and gradually added the newsletter to my volunteer jobs. The website came next, as did a membership brochure, something MCAS never had. When we decided to send out a membership survey, I volunteered for that as well, to help find better ways to serve our membership.

These were labors of love. And once I



One of three young Red-tailed Hawks enjoying a little pool time in the yard.

(continued on Page 3)



Monmouth County Audubon Society

Officers 2018-2019

President

Colette Buchanan

Vice President

Robert Henschel

Treasurer

Howard Mason

Recording Secretary

(vacant)

Committees

Conservation

(vacant)

Education

JoAnn Molnar

Field Trips

Lisa Fanning, Chairman

Hospitality

Cathy Weich

Membership

Colette Buchanan, Chairman

Programs

(vacant)

Publicity

Dena Temple, Chairman

Social Media

Lisa Fanning, Chairman

Website

Dena Temple, Chairman

Elected Directors /

Directors at Large

Scott Barnes, Rob Fanning, Robert Henschel, Linda Mack, Nano Mardones, Janice Mason, Debra Stewart, John Temple, Dena Temple, Ken Thoman

Newsletter Staff

Editor.....Dena Temple

The Osprey is published 3x per year by the Monmouth County Audubon Society, local chapter of the National Audubon Society. Our mission is to promote the awareness, appreciation and conservation of natural resources through activism and educational outreach, and by representing the National Audubon Society in Monmouth County, NJ. Inquiries concerning the organization, newsletter, letters to the editor or material submitted for consideration are encouraged and may be sent to:
P.O. Box 542, Red Bank, NJ 07701
E-mail: info@monmouthaudubon.org

Printed on Recycled Paper



► *Items of note - local tidbits of interest*

Volunteers urgently needed! In the column to the left is a list of the people that power the Monmouth County Audubon Society by volunteering their time to run the many programs to benefit the community and our environment. Please note that there are several openings, and Newsletter, Website and Publicity will also soon be vacant as well. Please consider volunteering your time to keep MCAS a vital organization, and take pride in knowing that you've made a difference to the community - and the birds!

It's Audubon Christmas Bird Count season... the National Audubon Society and the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology sponsor the international Christmas Bird Count program. With count circles in the U.S., Canada, Mexico and a number of other countries, this "citizen science" project is the oldest and largest of its kind.

The event began, surprisingly, as the "Side Hunt." Hunters chose teams, and the team with the highest kill tally was declared the winner. In 1900 conservationist Frank M. Chapman, an officer of the fledgling National Audubon Society, organized a new event in answer to the sport killing tradition, calling it the "Holiday Census." The first census involved 27 counters and 25 count circles, and a total of 90 species of birds were counted. Today an estimated 71,000 people participate annually, tallying birds in over 2,300 15-mile-diameter count circles.[†] The event is funded entirely by Audubon and the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology.

There are three count circles in Monmouth County. Participation is fun, and free. Birders with intermediate or better identification skills are particularly welcome. Beginners are usually paired with a more experienced participant, so you don't need to be intimately familiar with your territory in order to enjoy the event.

If you would like more information, contact the compiler for one of our area counts:

- Sandy Hook, Sunday, December 16; Scott Barnes (not accepting new participants)
- Long Branch, Saturday, January 5; Tom Brown, tshrike19@gmail.com
- Assunpink, Sunday, December 16; Dan Brill, dbrill@ecolsciences.com

If you're too busy around the holidays... the Great Backyard Bird Count is just around the corner! See article on the next page for more information.

Reminder about our new GroupMe service... MCAS provides up-to-the-minute information through our GroupMe text alert service.

If you are interested in receiving up-to-date Monmouth County nature sightings and MCAS event information right to your phone, join our interactive GroupMe alert group. It's easy!

From your mobile device:

1. Download the GroupMe App from your app store.
2. Click on this link to join: https://groupme.com/join_group/42234230/QUOh0L

Many thanks... We are happy to have several people to thank in this issue for special donations. Special thanks go to Judith Bornemann, David Saidnawey of Wild Birds Unlimited, Patrice McCoy, Debra Stewart, and Jane Eigenrauch. We appreciate the special help provided by these individuals.

Please also keep MCAS in mind when planning your year-end giving. Your donations keep the newsletter and monthly programs alive and help us continue our scholarship program. See the next page for additional information on our annual scholarship campaign.

[†] Data taken from 2012-2013 Christmas Bird Count.

➤ Count birds for a good cause

Become a "citizen scientist" during the Great Backyard Bird Count 2019

The Great Backyard Bird Count is just around the corner! Held over President's weekend, this year's GBBC will be February 15-18. An estimated 180,000 checklists were submitted in 2018 documenting 6,455 species and over 28.8 million individual birds, an astounding effort across the United States, Canada, Mexico and countries around the globe.

Participation is easy! Tally the birds you see, including the quantities of each, then submit your data through the GBBC website. You can watch your feeders, wander your neighborhood, or visit a favorite park or birding hotspot. Count for an hour, a day or all weekend. The amount of effort is entirely up to you. For more information on how to participate on your own, visit gbc.birdcount.org.

As always, the Monmouth County Audubon Society will be staked out warm and cozy inside the Manaquan Reservoir Environmental Center, located on Georgia Tavern Road in Howell, between 10 am and 3 pm on all four days of the count. This winter is considered an "irruption year," meaning that winter finches are visiting our area due to a poor seed crop in the North. Lucky us! We hope to see some of these rarities, such as Purple Finch, Pine Siskin and maybe even an Evening Grosbeak, at the Reservoir's feeders. Stop by to see what's around!

The 2018 tote board shows 45 species including Bald Eagle and 16 species of waterfowl.

➤ Ted Engberg Wildlife Conservation Scholarship applications available March 15

For 14 years, Monmouth County Audubon Society has awarded scholarships of \$1,500 to qualified Monmouth County high school students continuing their education in a field related to wildlife conservation. The scholarship is awarded in memory of Ted Engberg, who was on the MCAS Board and a generous donor for decades. Since 2006 we have awarded 26 scholarships totaling \$36,500 to worthy students throughout the county. We are thankful to our members who have supported the scholarship through World Series of Birding donations.

Full information on the scholarships and applications will be available after March 15 through Monmouth County high school guidance offices, on our website, www.monmouthaudubon.org, or by contacting us at: MCAS, P.O. Box 542, Red Bank, NJ 07701. Applications must contain contact information, school grades, a letter of acceptance to a college majoring in the field of conservation, and an essay, "Why wildlife conservation is important to me," highlighting conservation activities and future goals. Completed applications must be mailed to MCAS and postmarked by May 1, 2019. The Scholarship Committee will make all final decisions and award the certificates along with the \$1,500 checks to the winners by June 15, 2019.

Change your life (continued)

learned a thing or two about birds and was pretty sure I wouldn't make a fool of myself, I volunteered to assist as a field trip co-leader. Later on John and I put together a team for the World Series of Birding, raising over \$30,000 over the past 20 years for our scholarship program.

MCAS and its members, particularly the Board, have given me ten times what I gave to the organization. I learned about birds and nature in general from arguably some of the most skilled naturalists in the world. I learned a little about how nonprofits work, and how important volunteers are to their success. I visited local birding hotspots and was privy to "insider" info. Dedicated conservationists like Linda Mack taught me about smart development, and picking my fights. And I learned about leadership when I was named MCAS president in 2000.

The two greatest gifts I received from MCAS were knowledge, and life-long friendships. Most of the friends I have now I met through MCAS. And time spent with members, at meetings and particularly on field trips, were the most fun and rewarding of my life. You are a great group of people!

So, as I put up my feeders and field guides in a new time zone, I encourage you (yes, you) to help fill the void. MCAS is going to need your help. If you're good with words, volunteer to write and distribute news releases. If you are a decent birder, volunteer to co-lead a field trip or two this year. You'll be paired with a more experienced leader, so don't be afraid of not being good enough – you only get good with experience! If you have a graphics background then perhaps the newsletter would be a fun challenge for you. Whatever your gift, I promise that your efforts will bring you much more in rewards. I thank my stars every day that I found MCAS, and I hope that I can motivate a few of you to take a chance, get involved, and help this worthy organization continue to thrive. The benefits are well worth the effort.



**Monmouth County
Audubon Society**
P.O. Box 542
Red Bank, NJ 07701

Non-Profit
Organization
U.S. Postage
PAID
Red Bank, NJ
Permit No. 212

CURRENT RESIDENT OR

➤ **Membership Application**

Please enroll me as a member of the Monmouth County Audubon Society. My check is enclosed for:

- Regular Chapter Membership \$10 (\$15 after 1/1/19)**
You get *The Osprey*, the newsletter of the Monmouth County Audubon Society, plus monthly meetings/programs featuring a wide range of speakers, exciting field trips, and volunteer opportunities to help make a difference in our community!
- Chapter Sustaining member \$20 (\$25 after 1/1/19)**
You get all the benefits listed above, but this level allows members to provide additional financial support to the Chapter.
- Please contact me regarding volunteer opportunities.
- Do not add my name to the mailing list; I will read the newsletter online.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____

E-mail _____

Q04

Please return your check along with this application to:
Monmouth County Audubon Society, P.O. Box 542, Red Bank, NJ 07701.

Membership questions? Email us at info@monmouthaudubon.org.

➤ **coming up**

- Sun., Dec. 9 10:00 am
Sandy Hook winter bird walk, meet in the parking lot by Visitor Center (1.8 mi. from park entrance)
- Wed., Dec. 12 8:00 pm
"Sparrows and Sparrow People," Rick Wright
- Wed., Jan. 9 8:00 pm
"A Year of Birding at Sandy Hook," Jason Denesevich
- Wed., Feb. 13 8:00 pm
"The Bog Turtle, New Jersey's State Reptile," Bill Pitts, NJ Fish & Wildlife
- Fri.-Mon., Feb. 15-19 10 am - 3 pm
MCAS Great Backyard Bird Count, Manasquan Reservoir Enviro. Center
- Sun., Feb. 24 10:00 am
Sandy Hook winter bird walk, meet in the parking lot by Visitor Center (1.8 mi. from park entrance)

*Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month September-May at the Tower Hill Church, 255 Harding Road, Red Bank. Meetings are always open to the public, and refreshments are served.

Check our website for updates on field trips, activities or cancellations due to weather.