

the osprey

Monmouth County Audubon Society

www.monmouthaudubon.org

Over **50 Years** of Birds and Conservation

Volume 51, #5
April / May 2016

Visit our Facebook page



www.facebook.com/Monmouthaudubon

"Like" us for special messages and updates



We are happy to thank Marie

Coppinger for her recent donation. We would also like to thank our Board of Directors and other volunteers for another season of tireless devotion to keeping our organization running. We could not exist without your support!

In this issue...

The Messenger film screening.....	1
Special thanks.....	1
World Series of Birding.....	2
Focus on conservation	3
Ted Engberg Conservation Scholarship 2016	
Shorebird monitors needed at Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park	
Coming up	4

► Enjoy a private screening of the extraordinary film, *The Messenger*, on May 11

In ancient times humans looked to the flights and songs of birds to foretell the future. Today once again the birds have something to tell us.

We have something very special for our members at our meeting on May 11 at 8:00 pm. MCAS will host a private screening of the documentary film, *THE MESSENGER*.

Su Rynard's wide-ranging and contemplative documentary *THE MESSENGER* explores our deep-seated connection to birds and warns that the uncertain fate of songbirds might mirror our own. Moving from the northern reaches of the Boreal Forest to the base of Mount Ararat in Turkey to the streets of New York, *THE MESSENGER* brings us face-to-face with a remarkable variety of human-made perils that have devastated thrushes, warblers, orioles, tanagers, grosbeaks and many other airborne music-makers.

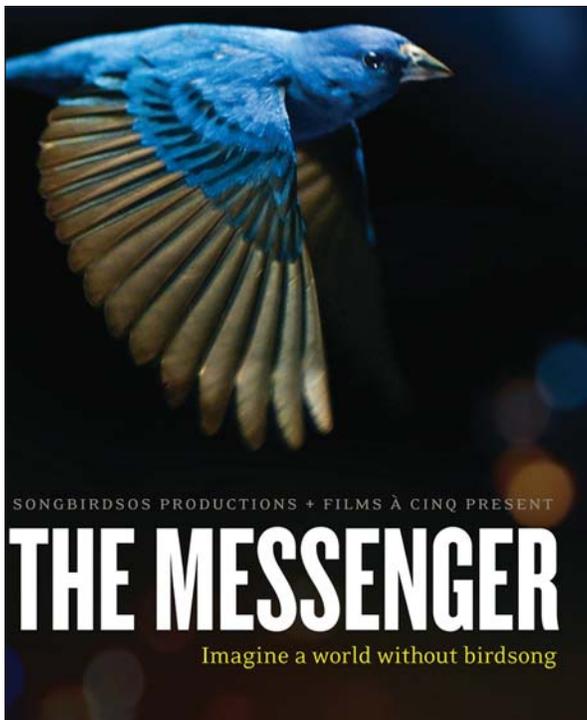
On one level, *THE MESSENGER* is an engaging, visually stunning, emotional journey, one that mixes its elegiac message with hopeful notes and unique glances into the influence of songbirds on our own expressions of the soul. On another level, *THE MESSENGER* is the artful story about the mass depletion of songbirds on multiple continents, and about those who are working to turn the tide.

THE MESSENGER has received nearly universal accolades and has garnered several film awards, including

Best Conservation Program at the Jackson Hole Wildlife Film Festival, Vimeo On Demand Top Ten Audience Favorite, and was recently nominated for a 2016 Canadian Screen Award.

The New York Times review said, in part: "The arguments are persuasive, the message from the birds powerful, and the film a rich and satisfying call to action that is presented with some novel ideas for how to restore the ecological balance."

We are proud to be the only group in New Jersey to offer this screening and look forward to seeing you there. Due to anticipated demand we suggest that you arrive early to ensure finding a seat.





Monmouth County Audubon Society

Officers 2015-2016

President

Robert Henschel

Vice President

Colette Buchanan

Treasurer

Howard Mason

Recording Secretary

Liz Doerning

Committees

Membership

Colette Buchanan, Chairman

Conservation

Harden Fowler, Chairman

Programs

Wendy Malmid, Chairman

Field Trips

Lisa Fanning, Chairman

Education

(vacant)

Publicity

Dena Temple, Chairman

Hospitality

Liz Doerning, Chairman

Social Media

Lisa Fanning, Chairman

Website

Dena Temple, Chairman

**Elected Directors /
Directors at Large**

Peter Bacinski, Scott Barnes, Michael Casper, Scott Elowitz, Rob Fanning, Robert Henschel, Donna Juettner, Linda Mack, Stuart Malmid, Wendy Malmid, Janice Mason, Debra Stewart, John Temple, Dena Temple, Ken Thoman, J. Randolph Walton

Newsletter Staff

EditorDena Temple

The Osprey is published 5x 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



➤ **It's not just "Cheep Trills" for our World Series of Birding team**

You may think it's all fun and games. But looking for birds for 24 straight hours to raise money for MCAS starts starts long before the World Series of Birding on May 14 and requires hours of planning, scouting, plotting and training. Okay, maybe it's a little fun, too.

Our World Series of Birding team, Cheep Trills, takes this challenge very seriously, and with good reason. MCAS uses the money the team raises in this annual fundraiser to supplement our scholarship program.

"The pressure is definitely felt by the whole team," says captain Dena Temple. "We all have full-time jobs, and some of us work crazy hours. Everyone does what they can to improve our results."

Before the event team members concentrate on scouting, finding those few lingering winter birds or rarities to improve the team's final score. Each taps into their own network of family and friends for pledges. And they all bring a high level of birding skill to the team, improving their odds for success.

"My primary contribution is logistics," continues Dena. "I plan the route and the timing, programming each stop into Google Maps so we can navigate most efficiently between stops. I know where we will be every minute of those 24 hours." That is, IF every bird is found quickly, which never quite happens. "Okay, I know where we're supposed to be, anyway."

The rest of the team lineup includes past and present MCAS Directors: John Temple; Lisa Ann Fanning; Rob Fanning; and Debbie Stewart.

For those new to the game, the World Series of Birding is an annual competition where teams scour the state of New Jersey looking for birds. The object is simple: find as many different species of birds within 24 hours, within the state, to raise money for an environmental charity. While the object may be simple, the strategy is tricky – teams must access beaches, bays, mud flats, fields, forests, lakes and swamps – swigging coffee all the way.

Our team competes in the Limited Geographic Area category, limiting their search to Monmouth County only

to highlight its amazing biodiversity.

If you would like to be part of this mad pursuit and support the team's hard work, please visit the team's pledge page on the MCAS website: http://www.monmouthaudubon.org/wsb_form.htm. Let's make this the team's most successful year ever!



John Temple scans a pond in Imlaystown hoping for a Wood Duck during the 2015 World Series of Birding.



American Golden Plover discovered in WSB 2014 by Debbie Stewart.

by Harden Fowler

► 2016 Ted Engberg Conservation Scholarships available March 15

For the eleventh year, the Monmouth County Audubon Society will award scholarships of \$1,500 to two qualified Monmouth County high school students who will graduate this year and continue their education in a field related to conservation this fall. Our Board of Directors has approved these scholarships as an important part of our mission “to promote the awareness, appreciation and conservation of natural resources through educational outreach.” The scholarship is awarded in memory of Ted Engberg, who was on the MCAS Board of Directors and a generous donor for decades. Since 2006 we have awarded 20 scholarships totaling \$27,500 to worthy students throughout Monmouth County. We are delighted to support their interest in a healthier ecosystem and cleaner environment for future generations to enjoy, and thankful to our members who have supported the scholarship through donations to our team in the World Series of Birding.



Applications must contain contact information, school grades, proof of acceptance to a college or university majoring in the field of conservation, and an essay, “Why wildlife conservation is important to me,” highlighting their conservation activities and future goals. The MCAS Scholarship Committee will review the applications, make their final choices and award the certificates along with checks for \$1,500 to the winners by June 15, 2016.

Full information on the scholarships is available on our website, www.monmouthaudubon.org, and the application will be available there after March 15. The application will also be available through Monmouth County high school Guidance offices or by requesting the form at: MCAS, P.O. Box 542, Red Bank, NJ 07701. Completed applications must be postmarked by May 1st.

Shorebird monitors needed at Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park

by Harden Fowler

Since 2008, the Monmouth County Park System has recruited volunteer shorebird monitors to monitor Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park nesting sites. Each spring the shorebirds return, presenting challenges at this very busy beach. The monitors observe the activity of beach nesting birds and act as an “educational buffer” to discourage actions which may have a negative impact on the birds and their chicks.

Volunteers are required to attend a brief training session in May held by Conserve Wildlife Foundation of NJ to learn more about beach nesting birds (Piping Plovers, Least Terns and American Oystercatchers) in order to provide information to beach users. At the training session techniques for monitoring, handing out information and suggested equipment will be discussed. Newer volunteers are paired with more experienced monitors until they become comfortable in their “educational buffer” role, the most effective enforcement. Volunteers monitor as their schedule permits May through August, but volunteers are especially needed during peak summer use and special events.

If you would like to volunteer as a shorebird monitor, please contact the Coordinator of Volunteers at 732-842-4000 ext. 4283, or via email at volunteer@monmouthcountyparks.com for registration and information about the May 1st training, 1-3PM at Seven Presidents Cody House.



In spite of heavy use by the public, Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park supports nesting shorebirds, notably the Federally Endangered Piping Plover, and more commonly, Least Terns and American Oystercatchers. A Piping Plover is shown above.



**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 (Q04) and/or the National Audubon Society. My check is enclosed for:

- \$10 **Regular Chapter** member
- \$20 **Chapter Sustaining member** - all funds stay in our area, helping us to support local efforts and provide services here in Monmouth County.
- \$20 **National Audubon Society** member - includes Chapter membership (rate for new members only; renewable at \$35)
- 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 _____

Please make checks payable to MCAS and return along with application to: Monmouth County Audubon Society, P.O. Box 542, Red Bank, NJ 07701.

C6ZQ040Z

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

Please check our website for updates on possible program cancellations due to weather.

➤ **coming up**

- Wednesday, April 13 8:00 pm
"Ospreys: Studies of Local Ecology & Migration," Rob Bierregaard; Knights of Columbus hall, 200 Fair Haven Rd., Fair Haven
- Saturday, April 16 10:00 am
Early spring migration at Sandy Hook with Linda Mack; meet in old Visitor Center parking lot
- Sunday, April 17 10:00 am
Shorebirds of 7 Presidents Oceanfront Park with Harden Fowler; meet in the skate park parking lot
- Saturday, May 7 8:15 am
Spring migration at Allaire State Park with Dena Temple; meet in main parking area (near historic area)
- Wednesday, May 11 8:00 pm
SPECIAL SCREENING of the award-winning film, **The Messenger**; Knights of Columbus hall, 200 Fair Haven Rd., Fair Haven

* Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month September-May at the Knights of Columbus hall, 200 Fair Haven Road, Fair Haven. Meetings are always open to the public, and refreshments are served.