

the osprey

Monmouth County Audubon Society

www.monmouthaudubon.org

Over 50 Years of Birds and Conservation

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NJ Audubon's World Series of Birding:

Making a difference for conservation and the future

by Dena Temple

It's early March. Snow threatens to dust the parking lot as we brace against the cold and embrace the comfort of the diner. Waiting inside are our teammates, Lisa Ann and Rob Fanning and Debbie Stewart, ready to start the first meeting of Cheep Trills, our World Series of Birding team for 2018.

I open my big folder and pull out spreadsheets, forms and a meeting agenda. We go down the to-do list: entry forms, check. Release forms, check. Permit applications, check. We review the spreadsheet from 2017 to remind us of long-forgotten battles won and lost: Sandy Hook, Allaire, Manasquan.

As much fun as the World Series of Birding can be, the Monmouth County team, Cheep Trills, takes the effort very seriously, because a lot rides on their success. The money raised by the team helps fund the Ted Engberg Conservation Scholarships we award every year (see article in

the last issue of *The Osprey*). And truly, nothing is more important to the environmental movement than inspiring the next generation's environmental advocates.

The NJ Audubon World Series

of Birding will begin on Saturday, May 12, at the stroke of midnight. More than 70 teams from all over the US and several foreign countries will comb the state from High Point to Cape May Point looking to identify as many species of birds as possible in 24 hours, each team hoping to raise money for their environmental charity. Cheep Trills, of course, will raise money to benefit MCAS and will double down on the challenge by limiting their search to Monmouth County only.

This is our team's 19th competition. Starting as an amateur team, we "turned pro" in 2004 and won the LGA (limited geographic area) category, finding 167 species of birds in Monmouth County in one day. Since that incredible year we won the category one more time (2006) and have had our ups and downs, but we always finish feeling proud, regardless of our species tally.

(continued on Page 3)

A	B	C	D	E	F
	Time	Duration	Time to Next Spot	Target	Notes
	2:55 - 3:10	15 min.	18 min.	Chucks, Barred Owl, whips, chat maybe	
4 Marsh	3:30 - 3:40	10 min.	9 min.	Sora, VA Rail, Marsh Wren, Barred Owl	
4 Marsh		10 min.		Whatever	
4 Lake	3:50 - 4:00	10 min.	11 min.	Owls, ambit, sora	Moonset 3:56 am
4 Marsh	4:11 - 4:25	14 min.	10 min.	Sora, Ambit, Marsh Wren	Sora spot
4 Creek	4:35 - 4:45	10 min.	4 min.	Barred Owl, Screech	New spot
4 Marsh	4:50 - 4:55	5 min.	4 min.	Barn Owl	
4 Spot	5:00 - 5:10	10 min.	1 min.	Screech Owls	
4 Spot	5:11 - 5:17	6 min.	2 min.	Barn, Screech Owl Lots	

Route detail from 2017 showing how the day is planned minute by minute to find as many birds as possible. Last year's route included 80 stops.



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➤ **In The News...**



The legacy of Brendan Byrne

Forty years ago, then-Governor Brendan Byrne stood before the NJ Legislature to champion a cause that would win him no political points: the preservation of the Pine Barrens. "It's a politically unpopular issue - trees don't vote," he said in 1978. However, Governor Byrne could not be dissuaded by the pressures to develop the Pine Barrens. Over one million acres of ecologically sensitive land were safeguarded in 1979 by the Pinelands Protection Act, which also established the Pinelands Commission and a comprehensive management plan.

Brendan Byrne passed away in January at the age of 93, but his legacy will live on in perhaps the most important NJ environmental legislation of the 20th century.

Wildlife watching by the numbers

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has released a preliminary version of their "2016 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation." The report finds that Over 86 million people 16 years old and older fed, photographed and observed wildlife in 2016. They spent an astounding \$75.9 billion on their activities. The report further notes that 69% of all people who watch wildlife also feed wildlife, including the 45.1 million Americans who specifically watch birds. You have a lot of company in your interest!

For a complete copy of the 24-page report, visit https://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/subpages/nationalsurvey/nat_survey2016.pdf.

Optics sale at CMBO / Goshen

The Cape May Bird Observatory's Center for Research and Education will host their annual optics sale on April 14-15, 9 am - 5 pm. The center is located at 600 Route 47 North in Goshen, NJ.

The sale will include both new and gently used binoculars and spotting scopes, plus some demos and factory closeouts, while supplies last. Representatives from most major manufacturers will also be on hand to answer questions and demonstrate their equipment.

For more information please visit their website, www.njaudubon.org.

Special thanks

We are happy to have several generous donors to thank this issue! Special thanks go to the following donors: John Luthin, John Gabrielson, Wayne Peiser and Judy Blair. As always, we are grateful for your help.

by Harden Fowler

➤ **Shorebird monitor training May 6 at Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park**

Since 2008, the Monmouth County Park System has engaged volunteer shorebird monitors at Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park nesting sites. Each summer, the shorebirds return from migration and present new challenges at this very busy beach. The monitors will observe the activity of beach nesting birds and act as an “educational buffer,” to discourage actions which may have a negative impact on the nesting birds and their offspring.



American Oystercatcher and chick.

Volunteers will attend a brief mandatory training session in May with New Jersey Fish & Wildlife 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, handout information and suggested equipment will be discussed. Newer volunteers can be paired with experienced monitors until they become more comfortable in their “educational buffer” role, the most effective enforcement. You may monitor as your schedule permits from May through August, but monitors are especially needed during peak summer use and special events.

Please contact the Coordinator of Volunteers at 732-842-4000, ext. 4283, or email volunteer@monmouthcountyparks.com for registration and information about the training, which will be held May 6th, 1-3 pm, at the Cody House in Seven Presidents Park.

➤ **Earth Day, 48 years later**

As we celebrate Earth Day on April 22, we need to think about climate change. Climate scientists theorize that climate change is disrupting weather patterns, flooding coastal areas, affecting wildlife and reducing crop yields, all at a time of population growth. Former Vice President Al Gore stated, “We have the means to secure our future. The question is whether or not we have the political will.”

Earth Day is even more significant today than at the first Earth Day in 1970, but its goal remains the same: to bring attention to environmental issues, and to work toward solutions before it is too late.

Americans should lead by getting involved at all levels with our political and economic decision-makers and supporting protection of the environment. The political climate in Washington makes it more important than ever to join with others and voice your concerns. Small changes at home can mean a positive impact on climate change as well.

On this Earth Day and every day, we must work for a better environment, conservation of resources and expanded use of clean energy.

World Series (continued)

Since the team’s inception, I’m proud to say that we have raised over \$33,000 to benefit MCAS, NJ Audubon and other environmental organizations. We are happy to support the MCAS scholarship program again in 2018.

The team’s strategy

The key to success in this event is twofold: First, we need to visit as many different types of habitat as possible; and second, we need to scout to find locations of nesting species, so they are easy to find on the “big day.” All team members will scout likely locations around the county, including Sandy Hook, Manasquan Reservoir and Allaire State Park. Since MCAS has a field trip at Allaire one week before the World Series, all participants will be helping to scout that location!

We need your help!

No matter how many hours we scout, or how clever we are in crafting our route, if we don’t have your support, we will not succeed in funding our scholarship program. We will dash through parks and wade through wetlands - but we need you to open your hearts and wallets. All donations are tax-deductible, and supporters will receive a diary of the day’s highlights and trevails, which is always a laugh.

Please visit the website or our Facebook page to pledge or donate for the team. Thank you - and wish us luck!



Team Cheep Trills (L-R): John Temple, Rob Fanning, Lisa Ann Fanning, Dena Temple, Debbie Stewart.



**Monmouth County
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➤ **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 (*payable to MCAS*)
- \$20 **Chapter Sustaining member** - all funds stay in our area, helping us to support local efforts and provide services here in Monmouth County. (*payable to MCAS*)
- \$20 **National Audubon Society** member - includes Chapter membership (rate for new members only; renewable at \$35; *check payable to National Audubon Society*)
- Please contact me regarding volunteer opportunities.
- Do not add my name to the mailing list; I will read the newsletter online.

Name _____

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

Q04

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

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

➤ **coming up**

- Wed., April 11 8:00 pm
"My Journey with a Pair of Great Horned Owls," Pamela Dimelere
- Sat., April 14 10:00 am
Spring migration at Sandy Hook, meet in old Visitor Center parking lot, 1.8 miles north of park entrance
- Sat., May 5 8:15 am
Spring migration-palooza at Allaire State Park, meet in main parking area (by historic village)
- Wed., May 9 8:00 pm
"Return of the Raven," Rick Radis

NOTE: Please check our Facebook page in May for the schedule of summer evening walks at Sandy Hook.

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

Check our website for updates on events or cancellations due to weather.