

the osprey

Monmouth County Audubon Society

www.monmouthaudubon.org

Over **50 Years** of Birds and Conservation

Volume 51, #1
August / September 2015

► In this issue...

2015-16: A great year for programs..... 1

Of note 2
World Series of Birding; late summer birds; Hummingbirds @Home; special thanks

New meeting location..... 2

Focus on conservation 3
Scholarship winners announced

Coming up 4

Special Insert:
Programs and Field Trips 2015-2016

Visit our Facebook page



www.facebook.com/
Monmouthaudubon

"Like" us for special messages and updates

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!



CONFUSING FALL WARBLERS: So colorful in the spring, these beautiful birds look fairly nondescript in the fall. Join one of our field trips to learn how to tell an Orange-crowned Warbler (left) from a Palm Warbler (right).

► 2015-16: A great year for programs by Bob Henschel

Working at the Manasquan Reservoir Environmental Center often allows me to chat with people visiting NJ for the first time. Now and then, as we gaze over the lake or watch our eagles through the scope, I'll ask them what they think of the view. Their typical response, often delivered with a wide-eyed, sheepish grin, is, "I didn't know New Jersey looked like this!"

The other day, a fifth grader came into my son's store; he was here in NJ to visit his grandparents. "What do you think of Belmar?" I asked. "It's great," he said. "The ocean's warm and you don't have to climb down the rocks to get to the beach." He lives in Sonoma, California. "And here the kids are lucky, they get snow days!" he added.

No doubt, you've heard about the national survey proclaiming New Jersey the "least liked" state in the USA. The popular perception of our home state, promoted by the media (think "Jersey Shore" and "Sopranos") as well as anyone who has only seen it from the Turnpike (especially Exits 11 to 18), is of a blighted landscape populated by a preponderance of undesirables.

You and I, naturally, realize those generalizations are either totally untrue

or vastly exaggerated. Driving through Jersey shore towns this past very busy summer I noticed more vehicles with New York or Pennsylvania plates than ever before. Tell me, were these people forced against their will to come here? Did some unseen power drag them to the edge of the sea? And, by chance, did you try to get to the Belmar Seafood Festival in June? They had to close the town. Total gridlock! Kind of reminds you of a Yogi Berra quote: "Nobody goes there any more, it's too crowded."

While it's true that we live in the most densely populated state, wonderfully interesting natural events take place here 24/7/366 (2016 is a leap year). And there are still innumerable picturesque, serene places where you can "get away from it all." No offense to residents of the upper Midwest, but do you think more than half the people in America would rather be in North Dakota?

As you'll see on this year's schedule of MCAS programs, all but one of them shed light on the real New Jersey.

We'll begin with the most up to the minute look at the "Garden" state's most valuable insect resident, the honey bee, and what's being done to ensure the

(continued on Page 3)



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



► *Items of note - local tidbits of interest*

World Series of Birding results... Our official team, Cheep Trills, competed in the 32nd annual World Series of Birding back in May, and the winner is... Monmouth County Audubon Society! Our team spotted a disappointing 113 species of birds in the foggy 24-hour competition. While not a great total, they still managed to raise over \$1,500 for our scholarship fund. Way to go!

Late summer birding... August and September see shorebirds start to move south. By the end of August some songbirds are also on the move, including the first push of "confusing fall warblers," as illustrated on the cover of this issue of *The Osprey*. Raptors will start migrating in September as well. Hummingbirds will be all but gone from our area by mid-September, too. If you see a hummingbird after this date look at it closely — it may be a Western vagrant!

Many thanks... We are happy to have several people to thank this month for special donations. Our thanks go to: Barbara Potter, the Garden Club of Fair Haven, Katharine McCleary, Linda Miller, John Middleton, and Cheryl & Barry Fulmer. Thanks one and all — we appreciate your ongoing support!

Hummingbirds@Home... The National Audubon Society has a new "citizen science" project available. Called Hummingbirds@Home, this smartphone-based research study allows users of all experience levels to perform hummingbird surveys in their favorite park, garden, or even at home in your yard. Download the Hummingbirds@Home app to your Smartphone or tablet, then set up an account. Identify the patch or patches you want to survey; you can input from one to six locations. You then do periodic "patch surveys," on the schedule that you determine. For the survey period (from 5 to 60 minutes each), you watch and identify the hummingbirds you see in your patch. Photos in the app help you identify the bird as to species. If you can identify the nectar plant the bird is feeding upon, you can enter that info as well. A database of plants native to your area helps you identify them. Your sightings are entered directly into the smartphone app in real time, while you are doing the survey, so there is no data entry later. You can also enter single sightings outside a survey period, or outside your survey area. You can also "nectar watch" — monitor a particular nectar source (plant or feeder) and record how often birds visit that source. This program can be started at any season, so don't think you missed the boat because the summer is almost over. If you leave feeders up or have late-flowering nectar plants, vagrant hummers may visit at any time! You can download the free Hummingbirds@Home app from the Google Play store or Apple iTunes.



► *New meeting site*

Because of a scheduling conflict at the Church of the Nativity in Fair Haven, we've had to find a new place for our monthly programs. Through the hard work of MCAS Treasurer Howard Mason, we have a new "home" — the Knights of Columbus hall, located at 200 Fair Haven Road in Fair Haven. It's just about one mile from our old meeting site, so it should be convenient for our members. See the website for a map, or follow River Road from Red Bank into Fair Haven and turn right onto Fair Haven Road. See you there!



Icon made by Freepik from www.flaticon.com

MCAS Programs 2015-2016

September 9, 2015, 8:00 pm
"Life with a Jersey Girl: The Worker Bee," Dennis Rittenhouse

October 14, 2015, 8:00 pm
"Snowy Owls: The Ultimate Nomads," Dr. Jean-Francoise Therrien

November 11, 2015, 8:00 pm
"The Physics of Flight," Tom Reider

December 9, 2015, 8:00 pm
"When Good Birds Go Bad: Human/ Bird Conflict in Residential Landscapes," Rob Fergus, Ph.D.

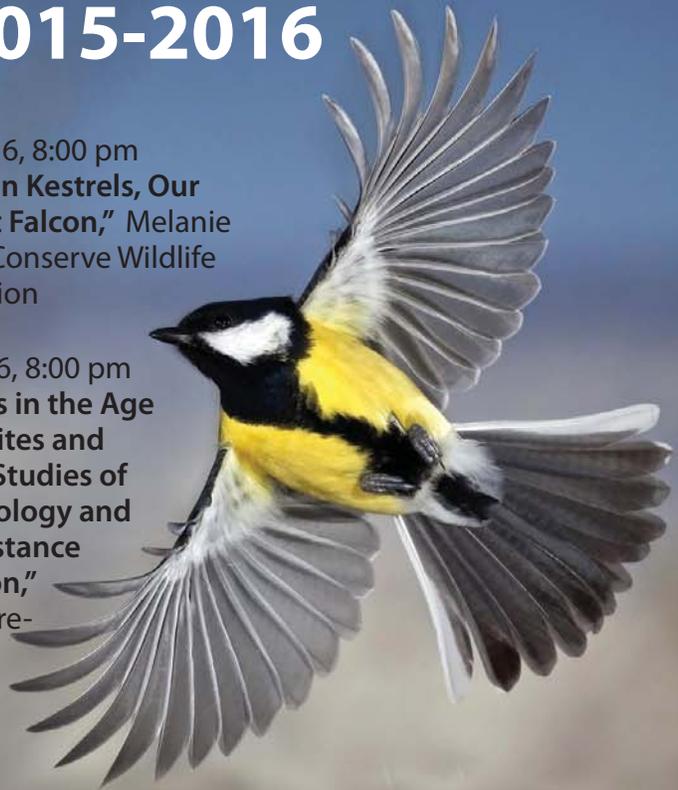
January 13, 2016, 8:00 pm
"Iceland," Phil and Becky Witt

February 10, 2016, 8:00 pm
"Winter Pelagics in the Mid-Atlantic: Putting the BRRR in Birding," Paul Guris

March 9, 2016, 7:00 pm
Family Night: "Hawks: The Wind Masters," Giselle Chazotte Smisko
(note early start time)

April 13, 2016, 8:00 pm
"American Kestrels, Our Smallest Falcon," Melanie Mason, Conserve Wildlife Foundation

May 11, 2016, 8:00 pm
"Ospreys in the Age of Satellites and Silicon: Studies of Local Ecology and Long Distance Migration," Rob Bierregaard



Osprey telemetry



Pelagic birding



American Kestrel

MCAS Field Trips 2015-2016

Sunday, September 13 8:00 am
Late summer birding with Allison Coffin at Joe Palaia Park, 240 Whalepond Rd, Oakhurst; meet in small lot off Whalepond Rd.



oceanwtp.org

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 lot

Sunday, October 18 10:00 am
Fall birding on Sandy Hook with Linda Mack; meet in old Visitor Center parking lot

Saturday, November 14 8:00 am
Bird Banding on Sandy Hook with Tom Brown; meet at Lot M (Fisherman's Pavilion lot)

Saturday, December 5 10:00 am
Late fall birding on Sandy Hook with Stuart Malmid; meet in old Visitor Center parking lot

Saturday, February 13 10:00 am
Winter birding on Sandy Hook with Linda Mack; meet in old Visitor Center parking lot

Saturday, March 12 5:00 pm
Evening Woodcock walk at Big Brook Park with Rob & Lisa Fanning; meet in main parking lot



John Temple



Carolyn Arnesen

John Temple



by Harden Fowler

➤ **Hannah Haugenes, Kayla Laraia awarded 2015 wildlife conservation scholarships**

Two Monmouth County high school graduates were recently awarded the Ted Engberg Wildlife Conservation Scholarship for their commitment to conservation and academic success.

Hannah Haugenes of Red Bank Regional High school and Kayla Laraia of Marlboro High School demonstrated an outstanding commitment to conservation through activities, goals and academic excellence, putting them at the top of the applicants this year. Each has received a scholarship certificate and a \$1,500 check to be used toward their college education.

Hannah Haugenes will attend the University of California, Berkley this fall to study natural resources. In her essay, she wrote about her volunteer work with the Mississippi Audubon Society preserving wetlands and the importance of wildlife conservation. While in high school, she planted dune grass and cleaned up Sandy Hook beaches.

Kayla Laraia will attend the University of Miami to study marine biology. In her essay, Kayla wrote about how attending the Dolphin Research Center sparked her desire to pursue a career as a marine veterinarian. While in high school, she participated in the Science League and was an officer in her environmental club.

Since 2006 MCAS has awarded a total of twenty scholarships totaling \$27,500 to incoming college freshmen majoring in the area of conservation. Thanks to member donations to our World Series of Birding team, MCAS will continue the scholarship in 2016.

MCAS hopes the enthusiasm of these two students, along with the knowledge they gain, will protect our wildlife and the environment in the years to come. The Board wishes Hannah and Kayla continued academic success pursuing a college degree and looks forward to receiving an update on their conservation education and accomplishments.

Kayla Laraia
Marlboro, New Jersey 07746

June 18, 2015

Dear Mr. Fowler,

I would like to thank the Monmouth County Audubon Society for granting me the honor of receiving the 2015 Ted Engberg Wildlife Conservation Scholarship. I am looking forward to utilizing the scholarship to fund my education at the University of Miami this coming fall.

By receiving this scholarship, I am able to concentrate on what is most important to me—pursuing my education and forming a rewarding career. Your generosity has allowed me to get one step closer to my goal of protecting and revitalizing the world's oceans.

Sincerely,



Kayla Laraia

Recap (continued)

species' survival in the face of both known and unknown threats.

In October we'll find out more about one bird that's near the top of every new birder's wish list: Will Snowy Owls be "invading" New Jersey and the lower 48 any time soon, or was the winter of 2013-14 a once-in-a-lifetime event?



In November we'll learn why and how all wild birds in Monmouth County can do it, but we can't. Fly, that is.

The rest of our programs and dates can be found here in this issue of the Osprey. If you're entertaining out-of-town visitors who might be around on a second Wednesday, please bring them along to one of our evening get-togethers. Field trips, of course, provide great first-hand experiences; and here again, non-members are always invited to participate. Who knows, if all of us spread the word about the REAL New Jersey, maybe on the next survey we won't finish in last place.





**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.

C5ZQ040Z

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

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

➤ **coming up**

Wednesday, Sept. 9 8:00 pm
"Life with a Jersey Girl: The Worker Bee," Dennis Rittenhouse

Sunday, Sept. 13 8:00 am
Late summer birding at Joe Palaia Park, 240 Whalepond Rd, Oakhurst; meet in small lot off Whalepond Rd.

Wednesday, Oct. 14 8:00 pm
"Snowy Owls: The Ultimate Nomads," Dr. Jean-Francoise Therrien

Sunday, Oct. 18 10:00 am
Fall birding on Sandy Hook; meet in old Visitor Center parking lot

* 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.

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