



# The Osprey

Our 45th Year!

Newsletter of the Monmouth County

Audubon Society

Volume 45, Issue 1

August / September 2009

## Message from the President

by Bob Henschel

On behalf of the officers and committee members who make my job about as easy as it can get, I'd like to welcome you to our 46th year of Monmouth County Audubon Society programs and activities. I hope you've been enjoying the "warm weather" months of summer 2009. For me they've been absolutely great. Cool, damp springs and summers, you'll have to admit, do have their up sides. No forest fires, no droughts - a time when green, in more shades than you'll find along a Home Depot paint aisle, becomes the color du jour.

In June, for instance, I took myself on a little photo expedition to Warren and Sussex Counties, where I finally found the waterfalls flowing at a rate that justified shooting them. Later in the month at Ocean County's Webb's Mills bog, I was delighted to discover Calopogon and Rose Pogonia orchids and diminutive curly grass ferns once again flourishing. And had I not been obligated on Aug 2nd to attend our annual planning meeting, I might have joined the mycological group exploring the Manasquan Reservoir woodland that day. Thanks to this year's unusually wet weather they were able to find more mushrooms (that's what mycologists do) than ever, and that afternoon they certainly had a lot of fun(gus).  
*(Editor's Note: Groan!)*

On my damp day at Webb's Mills a small group of endangered Pine Barrens

tree frogs, who also appreciate wet summers, seemed to making the most of the situation. Throughout the afternoon their goose-like calls emanated from the perimeter shrubbery of their equally endangered habitat. These little green amphibians are among multitudes of "Animals in Peril" throughout the world. As you will see on our program schedule, the plights of these creatures and their environments will be a recurring theme in our Wednesday evening presentations.

For our September meeting we'll venture to Madagascar, fourth largest island in the world (it's 25 times larger than New Jersey) and home to scores of exotic, endemic and endangered wildlife. Later in the season we'll get closer to home with presentations on beneficial wildlife including Purple Martins, Chimney Swifts and bats. In May we'll get the latest tips on how to attract butterflies and hummingbirds.

There's a particular contingent of birds that come to New Jersey that you'll never attract to your feeders or gardens - murrelets, guillemots, razorbills and the ever popular puffins among them. Come in February and meet Jeffrey Hall, who will tell us everything we ever wanted to know about "Birds on the Rocks."

Not long ago it was fairly difficult and expensive for the casual photographer to take decent photos of wildlife. That's all changed with the introduction

of digital photography. Compact cameras with long lenses are much more affordable now, and you'll learn more about how to use them during our November program, "Bird Photography Tips and Techniques."

Cape May nature experts Clay and Pat Sutton will pay us a visit in December. They've devoted their lives helping people discover and appreciate wildlife and are recognized experts on all things South Jersey. Put it on your calendar.

Finally, don't forget our traditional March Family Night presentation, when Diane Nickerson from the Mercer County Wildlife Center will arrive at 7pm (all other meetings begin at 8pm) with an entourage of feathered friends.

Speaking of an entourage of friends, bring yours along to any or all of our programs and field trips. They're free of charge, and membership in Monmouth County Audubon is not required.

See you in September.

### In this issue...

2009 - 2010 Programs .....	2
Bird blind completed with help from MCAS .....	2
<i>Conservation Report:</i>	
Ted Engberg Scholarships.....	3
Where are the butterflies? .....	3
Join the eList.....	3



**MONMOUTH COUNTY AUDUBON SOCIETY**

*President*  
Robert Henschel

*Vice President*  
Scott Elowitz

*Treasurer*  
Howard Mason

*Recording Secretary*  
Cathy Weich

**COMMITTEES**

*Membership*  
Colette Buchanan, Chairman

*Conservation*  
Harden Fowler, Chairman

*Programs*  
Wendy Malmid, Chairman

*Field Trips*  
Laura Hardy, Chairman

*Education*  
Laura Hardy, Chairman

*Publicity*  
Dena Temple, Chairman

*Hospitality*  
Cathy Weich, Chairman

*Electronic Communications / Website*  
Dena Temple, Chairman

*USA-BIRD Hotline*  
Howard Mason

**ELECTED DIRECTORS /  
DIRECTORS AT LARGE**

Peter Bacinski, Scott Barnes, Michael Casper,  
Susan Draxler, Robert Henschel, Stuart Malmid,  
Wendy Malmid, Janice Mason, Linda Mack,  
John Temple, Dena Temple, Ken Thoman

**NEWSLETTER STAFF**

*Editor* .....Dena Temple  
*Distribution* .....Janice & Howard Mason

*The Osprey* is published bi-monthly 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. Inquiries concerning the organization, the newsletter, letters to the editor or material submitted for consideration are encouraged and may be sent to:

Monmouth County Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 542, Red Bank, NJ 07701  
(732) USA-BIRD  
E-mail: info@monmouthaudubon.org

Printed on Recycled Paper



2009-2010 Programs

September 9, 8:00 pm      **“Madagascar: Imperiled Paradise,”** Bonnie Tillery

A magical island off the coast of Africa, Madagascar is home to plants and animals found nowhere else on Earth. Find out what the people of Madagascar are doing to protect their lemurs, chameleons and resources in this environmental hotspot.

October 14, 8:00 pm      **“Chimney Swift Conservation,”** Giselle Chalzotte Smisko

A small, fast-flying bird, the Chimney Swift adapted to nesting in chimneys when our country was first settled. Today their numbers are declining precipitously due to changes in chimney design. Find out what can be done to reverse this trend.

November 11, 8:00 pm      **“Bird Photography Techniques and Tips,”** Art Peslak

Whether you are a birder with a camera, a dabbler or a serious shooter, everyone can benefit from learning how to take better bird photos. A professional nature photographer, Art will discuss image composition, the use of light, and issues uniquely related to photographing birds.

December 9, 8:00 pm      **“Birds and Birding at Cape May,”** Pat & Clay Sutton

The Suttons, true celebrities of the birding world, will present a program based on their book by the same name. The program will take a walk through time and cover the history of birding in Cape May, from John James Audubon to Roger Tory Peterson to the area today. Over 444 species of birds have been found in the greater Cape May area - and if anyone can bring the magic of Cape May to life, it's the Suttons. This is not to be missed.

January 13, 8:00 pm      **“Bats: Denizens of the Night,”** Mackenzie Hall

February 10, 8:00 pm      **“Birds on the Rocks,”** Jeff Hall

March 10, 7:00 pm      **Family Night: “Native Wildlife,”** Diane Nickerson,  
Mercer County Avian Wildlife Center

April 14, 8:00 pm      **“Purple Martin Madness,”** Tim Shaheen

May 12, 8:00 pm      **“Backyard Habitat for Butterflies and Hummingbirds,”**  
Michael Pollack

Sandy Hook bird blind project complete

Plans to rebuild the bird blind at the Nike Pond, just north of the Visitor Center on Sandy Hook, are complete.

Originally completed in September 2005 with funding from the Sandy Hook Foundation and constructed by the National Park Service, the bird blind overlooking Nike Pond off the Old Dune Trail was burned down during the summer of 2008. MCAS was approached in late spring for a donation to help offset the cost of the rebuild. With the help of our members, we were able to donate \$1,000 toward completion of the project.

After visiting the finished blind, Scott Barnes, senior naturalist at NJ Audubon's Sandy Hook Bird Observatory, said, “It looks great, has nice viewing ports, and doesn't have a roof so you won't miss birds flying overhead. I think this will stop folks from accidentally flushing birds from the pond, keep your feet dry, and revive interest in birding this part of the Hook. In general, the blind will reduce disturbance to resting and feeding birds while providing an opportunity for people to enjoy them.”



by Harden Fowler

## Two students awarded 2009 Ted Engberg \$1,500 Conservation Scholarships

We are delighted to announce that two Monmouth County high school graduates were awarded the Ted Engberg Conservation Scholarship in June. MCAS congratulates Safya O'Rourke-Amer from Highlands and Jonathan Bartlett from Keyport, this year's scholarship winners.

The scholarship is possible due to the generosity of board member Ted Engberg, who passed away this year after decades of supporting MCAS in various capacities.

This ongoing scholarship in the memory of Ted is an excellent way for MCAS to carry out our mission, "to promote the awareness, appreciation and conservation of natural resources through activism and educational outreach." The scholarship was offered to high school graduates who will be continuing their education at college, studying conservation. Each applicant submitted their school transcript and wrote an essay entitled, "Why I am majoring in the field of conservation."

Our Scholarship Committee reviewed the applications and agreed on two highly qualified students who demonstrated a commitment to conservation through their involvement and academic excellence.

Our first recipient, Safya O'Rourke-Amer, graduated from Henry Hudson Regional High School and will be majoring in environmental science this fall at Temple University. She has been involved in the high school science club and environmental projects since middle school. Safya has demonstrated leadership with Clean Ocean Action's Monmouth County Student Ocean Advocates and New Jersey Governor's School on the Environment. In her essay she states, "I have a vision of directing my own environmental agency, writing laws enforced by government, and inspiring and persuading large corporations to make business decisions that would benefit themselves and the land as a whole."

Our second winner, Jonathan Bartlett, graduated from Matawan Regional High School and will be majoring in marine biology this fall at the University of Rhode Island. His ongoing concern for a healthy ecosystem along the Raritan Bay where he lives has inspired him to study marine biology. In his essay he states that after completing college, "I can take this passion I have for the understanding of marine environments and apply the skills I have obtained (to) maintaining the health of an environment."

Safya and Jonathan each received a Ted Engberg Conservation Scholarship certificate and a \$1,500 check to be used toward their education. MCAS hopes the enthusiasm of these two students, along with the knowledge they gain will aid conservation and protect our environment in the years to come.

After receiving their scholarships, both Safya and Jonathan sent MCAS a thank you note. Safya's note said, in part, "I greatly appreciate the Monmouth County Audubon Society's support of my pursuit of a higher education in the field of environmental conservation at Temple University."

In his note Jonathan said, "It is an absolute honor to exemplify the requirements to receive your scholarship, and I am extremely thankful for your consideration. Whether it is for books or tuition you have no idea how much you have helped my expenses for paying for my college. I promise to succeed and further my aspiration and continue my community service activities."

## Did you miss butterflies?

Do you enjoy watching butterflies in the summer? Did you notice a shortage or absence of butterflies in your yard this summer? You're not alone. The story below is excerpted from the Bergen Record of July 27.

### **Chill, rain factors in butterfly decline**

A wretchedly wet June has wreaked havoc on the summer's butterfly population, causing a decline throughout our area, according to experts.

They say a range of factors could have contributed to the decline, from deer eating the favorite plants of butterflies to a lack of snow cover last winter, leaving butterfly caterpillars exposed to predators. The principal culprit, however, was the chilly, cloudy June weather that destroyed eggs, caterpillars and chrysalides and delayed the blooming of wildflowers that provide food for adults.

"The numbers are down very dramatically," said Jeffrey Glassberg, president of the North American Butterfly Association, which sponsors hundreds of counts across the country.

While butterfly counts can spike and dip, this year's decline seems more widespread, experts said.

Only 69 individual butterflies turned up in a count on Garret Mountain and in Rifle Camp Park in Woodland Park this month, compared with 82 last year, said Pete Both, a count volunteer.



## Join the MCAS eGroup!

An eGroup is a bulletin board just for MCAS members. You will receive information on upcoming trips, local conservation news, bird sightings, etc. We also use this system to announce the availability of the newsletter online.

To subscribe, send an e-mail to [mcas\\_newslet-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:mcas_newslet-subscribe@yahoo.com).



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

## 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.

*Membership questions? Call us at 732-USA-BIRD.*

C9ZQ040Z

coming up

Wed., Sept. 9 . . . . . 8:00 - 9:30 pm  
**“Madagascar: Imperiled Wildlife Paradise,”** Bonnie Tillery

Sat., Sept. 12 . . . 9:00 am - noon  
**Bird walk: Hartshorne Woods: Rocky Point Section** for early migrants, meet in Rocky Point parking lot (see website for directions)

Wed., Oct. 14 . . . . . 8:00 - 9:30 pm  
**“Chimney Swift Conservation,”**  
 Giselle Chatzotte Smisko

Sat., Oct. date TBA . . 10:00 am - noon  
**Bird Walk: Sandy Hook**, meet in parking lot at Visitor Center

*(All ending times are approximate.)*

\* Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month Sept.- May at Trinity Episcopal Church, White Street, Red Bank. Meetings are open to the public, and refreshments are served.

Call (732) USA-BIRD for details on field trips, activities or cancellations due to weather. This is a 24-hour message line.