



Message from the President

by Bob Henschel

A new era begins at 8:00 pm on Wednesday, February 10, when we convene for the first time at our new meeting place, Church of the Nativity in Fair Haven. At the corner of Hance and Ridge Roads, it's a mere two miles from Red Bank, has an ample, well-lit parking lot, and offers easy access to its large meeting hall.

From my vantage point this is a win-win situation. Trinity Episcopal Church can now expand its church-based programming, while Monmouth County Audubon can relocate to a meeting place with none of the inconveniences mid-town Red Bank occasionally threw our way.

As you may recall in the last *Osprey*, I told you about my most forgettable MCAS program. This month, I'd like to balance things by noting some of the more uplifting moments we've enjoyed over the past three and a half decades in Red Bank. Providing much-appreciated assistance in this trip down memory lane were Harden Fowler, Dena Temple and Stuart and Wendy Malmid.

Generally speaking, all of our favorites featured one or all of the following: great photography, enlightening graphics, a captivating and interesting story, or what I like to call "edu-tainment" value.

Wendy and Stuart especially remember 2004's program with Sandy Komito, a great storyteller with a fun and compelling tale of how he saw so many birds in one "Big Year." He was

very entertaining. Another of their favorite evenings was spent with Beverly Dezan, who presented "Flight of the Monarch." She was a very educational speaker with great graphics and handouts. The live chrysalis was great! Among more recent presenters, Wendy and Stuart were fascinated by Prof. Martin Wikelski of Princeton University who spoke to us in 2008 about songbird migration and tracking individual birds between continents. They remember him as being "very interesting and different, especially when covering research done in New Jersey."

For Harden, Clay and Pat Sutton have been exceptional on their two visits. December's program "was a great talk about all that Cape May offers," and their program about ten years ago, "How to Spot an Owl," was particularly memorable. Two great photographers were also among Harden's favorites. "Any time Art Morris showed his photographs and took us to distant places was special, and Kevin Karlson's program on the Dry Tortugas several years ago still sticks in my mind."

Dena is also in the Sutton-Morris-Karlson fan club. Another favorite of hers was "How to Mis-Identify Birds like an Expert" presented by Don Friday. She and I found it "hysterical." Bill Scholtz was on her list of bests with his program, "Birds of Midway Atoll," that combined both still and motion pictures. And of course, nothing was more memorable than the penguin

walking around the meeting hall when Jenkinson's Aquarium provided a Family Night program some years back.

As for myself, there are many presentations that left lasting impressions. Of my top experiences at Trinity I would have to include, along with Dena, the program by the representative from RARE. His photos weren't particularly remarkable, but his ability to capture our interest and involve us with his organization's mission was exceptional. Dena remembers that night she "joined RARE to help save the St. Lucia parrot, years before we'd get to visit St. Lucia."

In 2006 I was captivated by Richard Crossley whose program, "The Making of a Shorebird Book - The Trials and Tribulations," was among the best programs I'd seen anywhere over the past 40 years. He's also on Wendy and Stuart's list, who remember him

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New meeting site announced

After many years at Trinity Episcopal Church in Red Bank, MCAS meetings and programs will now be held at the Church of the Nativity in Fair Haven.

For a high-resolution map that you can download and print, please visit our Website at www.monmouthaudubon.org and click on the “new meeting site” link.



“BirdsEye” guides you to the birds

“BirdsEye is like having thousands of local birding experts in your pocket,” says Kenn Kaufman, author of the Kaufman Field Guide to Birds of North America and team member of a partnership that has created BirdsEye, a new birding app for the iPhone® and iPod touch®. The application brings together content from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, the Academy of Natural Sciences, and Kaufman.

If you are in search of a particular bird, BirdsEye will show you where it has been observed, and even give you directions. If you are new to birding or an experienced birder who is on the road, BirdsEye will give you a list of birds seen nearby and a map of birding hotspots for any location in North America (the contiguous 48 states, Canada, and Alaska). The application includes images and audio for the 470 species most frequently observed in North America. Additional content is available for more elusive birds, for a total of 847 species. Bird sounds come from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology’s Macaulay Library archive, the largest collection of bird and animal sounds in the world. Images are from the VIREO collection at the Academy of Natural Sciences. Acclaimed birder and author Kenn Kaufman wrote text for each species account. “Even when you’re in the right location, it helps to know something about the bird’s behavior and habitat in order to find it,” says Kaufman.

BirdsEye provides real-time access to bird observations submitted to the eBird database at the Cornell Lab. eBird, a joint project of the Cornell Lab and Audubon, receives 1.5 to 2 million bird observation reports each month from birders all over North America.

Portions of BirdsEye sales go back to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and to the Academy of Natural Sciences.

For more information, visit www.getbirdseye.com.

Special Thanks

We are happy to have several people who have earned our thanks this issue. Thomas Matulewicz, Carol Perkins and Greg Hartman have all made donations to MCAS, and for this we are very grateful. Thanks!



by Harden Fowler

2010 Ted Engberg Conservation Scholarships

The Monmouth County Audubon Society is pleased to announce that for the fifth year we will sponsor the Ted Engberg Conservation Scholarship. This year a total of \$3,000 will be offered to worthy students. MCAS hopes to award scholarships of \$1,500 to two qualified Monmouth County high school graduates who will continue their education this fall in a field related to conservation. The Board 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 was a generous donor for decades.

Full information on the scholarships and applications are available after March 15 on our website, www.monmouthaudubon.org, or by contacting us at MCAS, P.O. Box 542, Red Bank, NJ 07701. Students graduating from a Monmouth County high school can also get them through their guidance office.

The one-page application requires name and contact information; high school transcript with current GPA; a letter of acceptance from a four-year college or university, and a 250-500 word essay, "Why I am majoring in conservation." Applicants must be residents of Monmouth County. The deadline for application is May 1, 2010. The Scholarship Committee will review the applications (supplemental information will not be considered) and contact the winners by June 15, 2010.

Previous awardees are: Katherine Houg (High Technology High School) in 2006; Jessica Krug (Wall High School) and Lauren Gretzula (Middletown High School North) in 2007; Adam Rice (Manalapan High School), Allison Linnell (Marine Academy of Science and Technology) and Brett Thompson (Rumson-Fair Haven Regional High School) in 2008; and Safya O'Rourke-Amer (Henry Hudson Regional High School) and Jonathon Bartlett (Matawan Regional High School) in 2009.

Monmouth County Audubon Society looks forward to awarding the 2010 scholarships to worthy students with an interest in conservation. We are delighted to support their interest in a healthier ecosystem and cleaner environment for future generations to enjoy.

Monmouth County Park System volunteer shorebird monitors

The coastal properties within the Park System provide habitat for Threatened and Endangered species, especially beach nesting birds. The Park System has opportunities for volunteers to serve as Beach Nesting Bird Monitors at Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park nesting sites in Long Branch. They will monitor the activity of Piping Plovers and Least Terns, and interact with the public to educate them and discourage actions which may have a negative impact on the birds and their chicks.

Volunteers will be required to attend a brief training session by NJ Fish and Wildlife experts on beach nesting birds. After completing training the monitors will participate between April and July to assure monitoring coverage, especially during peak summer use and special events. Techniques for monitoring, suggested equipment, volunteer t-shirts and educational materials will be provided.

Please contact Karen Livingstone, Volunteer Coordinator at 732-842-4000 ext. 4283 or klivings@monmouthcountyparks.com to register for the training workshop at Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park on April 18.

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"starting the program by singing, which was certainly an attention-grabber - an engrossing and entertaining program."

Again, they and I agree that Family Night with the Lizard Guys and Silly Billy stands out for Billy's "great command of information and control of a large group of youngsters." I too was impressed by how he had those kids - some quite young - totally enthralled for a very long time; a remarkable feat in this era of short attention spans.

To round out my list of top MCAS presentations we'll need to go back a few years to when we first started meeting at Trinity Episcopal Church. On her list of bests, Dena included the excellent Raptor Trust program in 2004. But Dena's too young to have been around for our introduction to the then less-well-known bird rehabilitation program. In the 1970s, Len Soucy, its founder, accompanied by a bevy of feathered assistants, paid us a visit. In my memory, no guest at Monmouth County Audubon has yet matched the energy, enthusiasm and dedication he shared with us that evening.

So what's on your "Best Of" list? Ahead lays the continuing opportunity to collect even more memorable experiences. See you in Fair Haven.

Great Backyard Bird Count

MCAS members will be counting birds Feb. 12-15 at the Manasquan Reservoir Environmental Center in Howell for the 2010 Great Backyard Bird Count. You can participate by spending time with the counters, adding your sightings to the "tote board," and sharing your appreciation of nature with casual observers. Members can also participate individually by counting birds in their own back yards or at their favorite birding hotspot.

For more information about the GBBC, see the last issue of *The Osprey* or visit GBBC website at www.birdcount.org.



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
- \$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.

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coming up

Wed., Feb. 10 8:00 - 9:30 pm
"Birds on the Rocks," Jeffrey Hall

Sat., Feb. 20 10:00 am - noon
Bird Walk: Sandy Hook, meet in parking lot at Visitor Center

Wed., Mar. 10 7:00 - 8:30 pm
Family Night: "Sea Creatures with Amazing Features,"
 Wetlands Institute
(please note early start time)

Sun., Mar. 28 8:30 - 11:30 am
Bird Walk: Monmouth Battlefield State Park; meet in main parking area
(All ending times are approximate.)

* Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month Sept.- May at Church of the Nativity, Ridge Road, Fair Haven. Meetings are open to the public, and refreshments are served.

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