

THE OSPREY



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Newsletter of the

Monmouth County Audubon Society

Message from the Board

by Dena Temple
Newsletter Editor



I happily agreed to do the World Series of Birding again this year with my team, Cheep Trills. We competed in NJ Audubon's World Series of Birding for 13 years on behalf of MCAS and were happy to return in 2011 to help fund the Ted Engberg Scholarship Fund. In my opinion, there is no mission more important to MCAS than continuing the appreciation of nature to the next and future generations. Our scholarship program serves this mission perfectly. But there is a personal "paying it forward" that took place on our team this year, also.

The three core team members were back: I, my husband John, and Debbie Stewart. At a family gathering in late winter, John and I mentioned that we were going to do the WSB. Our 21-year-old niece, Dale, seemed very interested. A senior at the University of New Hampshire with a major in forestry, Dale listened closely as we talked about our past WSB adventures. Knowing Dale's interest in nature and the environment we asked her to join us this year. To our delight, she agreed.

First we got Dale on her way learning bird songs. We sent her both *Birding by Ear* and *More Birding By Ear* CDs to study, which she did - right until left her house on the night of the event!

We also set up a Facebook page for the team. Another frontier of the next generation, we were hoping to attract the attention of our younger friends and hoped it would also help with fundrais-

ing. Then we started the daunting task of finding all those birds.

The week of the event we received a very special donation - John's employer, Tom's Ford of Keyport, donated a vehicle for us to use for the event! The vehicle, a Ford Taurus X, worked out perfectly for the team - plenty of room for us, a huge cooler, scopes, field guides, boots and clothes.

We were in position when the clock struck midnight. Near NWS Earle, we listened for Whip-poorwills. No luck. Undaunted, we hit our second spot near the Manasquan Wildlife Management Area and listened as a Barred Owl serenaded us. Not bad for the first bird of the day! The river here looked like a Thomas Kincaid painting - moonlit and serene. Dale was quiet, taking it all in.

Owls were very much in evidence this night. At Crosswicks Creek we listened as two screech owls serenaded one another with a beautiful tremolo, and near Assunpink we marveled as a nest full of Barn Owls screamed for attention from their parents. Dawn found us near Allentown listening to a Great Horned Owl in the distance.

The team spent most of the early morning listening. Since birds are easier to hear than see in many cases, we enlisted our ears to find the birds hiding in the western Monmouth grasslands such as Grasshopper and Savannah Sparrows. Many of the needed grassland birds were not in evidence, and we found this to be the case county-wide.

After eight or more grassland stops, we were still missing species like meadowlark and bobolink. As grassland habitat declines, so do grassland birds.

From the grasslands we moved to dense woodland for birds such as turkey, warblers, woodpeckers and tanagers. We visited Assunpink WMA, Turkey Swamp Park, the Manasquan Reservoir and Allaire State Park, tallying at every stop before heading southeast.

Along the way I noted that we hadn't seen a Black Vulture yet. "We can usually see them over this field here, on the right," I noted, pointing out the window. Then half-kidding I said, "Look right, everybody."

I couldn't believe it - a Black Vulture flew by at that exact moment!

"How did you do that?" asked Dale,

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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:

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**Here it is:
Programs and Field Trips
for 2011-12**

Field Trips 2011-2012

Sun., Sept. 25, 10:00 am
Bayshore Trail bird walk with Bob Henschel, meet at parking lot on Shore Drive, Highlands

Sat., Oct. 15, 10:00 am
Sandy Hook bird walk with Linda Mack, meet at Visitor Center

Sat., Nov. 12, 8:00 am
Bird banding on Sandy Hook with Tom Brown, meet at "K" lot

Sat., Dec. 10, 10:00 am
Sandy Hook bird walk with Stuart Malmid, meet at Visitor Center

Sat., Jan. 14
Part 1, noon: **Birds of Barnegat Light**, leader tbd; meet in parking area of Barnegat Light Park
Part 2, 4:00 pm: **Short-eared Owls at "Bridge to Nowhere"**; meet at Horizon Diner, 32 E. Bay Ave., Manahawkin

Sat., Feb. 18, 10 am
Sandy Hook bird walk with Linda Mack, meet at Visitor Center

March, date tba
Sandy Hook volunteer day: Plover Fencing with the National Park Service; details to follow

Sat., April 14, 10 am
Sandy Hook bird walk with Linda Mack, meet at Visitor Center

Sat., May 5, 8:15 am
Spring Migration at Allaire State Park with Dena Temple & friends; meet in main parking area (entrance on Atlantic Avenue)



Programs 2011-2012

Wed., September 14, 8:00 pm
"Birds of the Ancient and Modern Maya," Dr. Rob Ferguson

Wed., October 12, 8:00 pm
"Orchids of New Jersey," Rick Radis

Wed., November 9, 8:00 pm
"Wild NJ: Nature Adventures in the Garden State," David Wheeler

Wed., December 14, 8:00 pm
"Antarctica," Phil and Becky Witt

Wed., January 11, 8:00 pm
Nature Trivia Night, MCAS president Bob Henschel

Wed., February 8, 8:00 pm
"Past, Present and Future," Richard Crossley

Wed., March 14, 7:00 pm
"Family Night: Back Into Nature Wildlife," Dominic Rizzo (note early start time)

Wed., April 11, 8pm
"The Galapagos," David DesRochers

Wed., May 9, 8pm
"All About Bluebirds," Leo Hollein

Special Thanks

We would like to thank the following individuals for their donations to MCAS: George Hollerbach of Quantum Management Group made a donation in recognition of Margaret O'Meara having been in business for 10 years. Others include the Fair Haven Garden Club; Mr. Peters; Barbara Potter; and Katharine McCleary.

We appreciate your consideration.

Jane Bamberger, Caren Fitzgerald and Joseph Wojciechowski awarded 2011 Ted Engberg Conservation Scholarships

Ted Engberg Conservation Scholarship



by Harden Fowler

Monmouth County Audubon Society is delighted to announce that three Monmouth County high school graduates were awarded the Ted Engberg Conservation Scholarship this June. 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 scholarships are made possible and will continue in the future because of the generous support of not only Ted Engberg, but our members who pledged their financial support to our own World Series of Birding Team, Cheep Thrills.

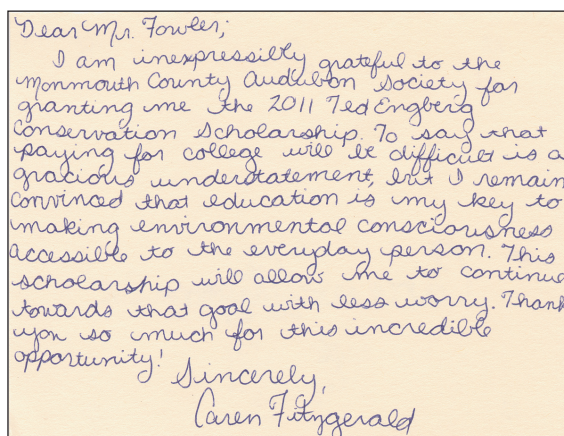
A total of 12 applications were received, and each was reviewed by all members of the Scholarship Committee. While the committee planned to award two scholarships, after reviewing the applications carefully they decided to offer a scholarship to a third highly qualified student who demonstrated a commitment to conservation through his community involvement and academic excellence. MCAS congratulates **Jane Bamberger** of Allenhurst; **Caren Fitzgerald** of Manalapan, and **Joseph Wojciechowski** of Freehold.

Jane Bamberger graduated from Ranney School and will be attending Cornell University’s College of Agriculture and Life Sciences in the fall. She has been involved in conservation with Clean Ocean Action and Environmental Students Taking Action at Ranney, where she took a leadership role.

Caren Fitzgerald graduated from Manalapan High School and will be attending the University of Delaware, majoring in environmental studies. She helped to lead a group in the renovation of a pond in her community and expressed her concern for the environment in her essay.

Joseph Wojciechowski graduated from Freehold Township High School and will be attending Roanoke College to study biology. He has had a life-long interest in nature and been a volunteer shorebird monitor at Monmouth County’s Seven Presidents Park for the last two summers.

Each winner received a scholarship certificate and a \$1,500 check from MCAS to be used for their education in conservation. MCAS hopes the enthusiasm of these three students, along with the knowledge they gain will protect our wildlife and natural environment in the years to come and continue a culture of conservation.



This heartfelt thank-you was received from Ted Engberg Conservation Scholarship winner Caren Fitzgerald.

(World Series of Birding, from Page 1)

obviously impressed.

By 11:00 am we were in Manasquan scanning mudflats. We then worked our way north along the coast, stopping at several North Shore ponds to look for ducks. We spent the rest of the day at Sandy Hook.

Sandy Hook never disappoints. We saw a flock of Common Eiders; found a calling Least Bittern; and discovered four very late White-throated Sparrows. A grueling walk out Fisherman’s Trail took us to the tip of Sandy Hook, where we were rewarded with a King Eider, Bonaparte’s Gull, and endangered Piping Plovers. Finally, we scanned the bay from Officers Row. To our delight we found two new birds here, a Common Loon and a Greater Scaup. Little by little the boxes on the checklist filled in.

Our last stop of the day turned out to be Natco Lake in Union Beach. We had much more planned, but two team members were not feeling well, so we ended our “game” around 8:15 pm. We visited Natco to find a Little Blue Heron that I’d scouted there two days earlier. As we emerged into the marsh, we saw a bird flying away in the distance... Was that the little blue? We’ll never know.

We returned to the house for a final tally - 130 species. With conditions as they were and migration low, this tally was not a complete surprise.

As we emptied the truck I asked our freshman, Dale, what she thought of this crazy event. “It - was - AWE-SOME!” she replied. “This is nothing like ornithology lab! I can’t believe you can identify so many birds. This was so great!”

Her response was doubly gratifying. We not only succeeded in raising funds to help perpetuate the next generation’s interest in birds and nature, we raised the excitement level of one young birder off the charts. And that’s what this is all about - paying it forward to the next generation, in more ways than one.



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., Sept. 14. 8:00 pm
"Birds of the Ancient and Modern Maya," Dr. Rob Fergus

Sun., Sept. 25 10:00 am
Bayshore Trail bird walk with Bob Henschel, meet at parking lot on Shore Drive, Highlands

Wed., Oct. 12. 8:00 pm
"Orchids of New Jersey," Rick

Radis

Sat., Oct. 15. 10:00 am
Sandy Hook bird walk with Linda Mack, meet at Visitor Center

** 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.