



Mark Your Calendar:

Tuesday, November 7, 2006

Election Day! Vote Yes for NJ ballot question #2.

Thursday, November 9, 2006 10:00am

Saddler's Woods Tree Planting. Volunteers needed.

Sunday, November 12, 2006 8:45am

Field trip to Atlantic County Park lead by Lloyd Shaw.

Monday, November 13, 2006 7:30pm

Meeting and Program on Sea Turtles by James Spotila, The Leatherback Trust.

Friday, November 17, 2006 7pm-10pm

Night Sky Tour. View the Leonid meteor shower at the Franklin Parker Preserve, Chatsworth, NJ.

November Meeting: Sea Turtles by James Spotila

On Monday, November 13, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. Audubon Wildlife Society will hold its monthly meeting at the Audubon Senior Center, Oak Street and Oakland Ave. Refreshment volunteers are: David and Janet Goehner-Jacobs and Cheryl and Dan Alexander. This month's meeting will feature a presentation by James Spotila on Sea Turtles.

The Palmyra Cove Challenge

The Second Annual Palmyra Challenge was held on Saturday, Oct. 7. We began the day in the rain and wind right at sunrise, and were not sure how well we'd do. As soon as we started out on the trails though, it was clear that the birds were there and were very active. One of our first sightings was two male black-throated blue warblers, a beautiful sight.

We continued well into the afternoon, hoping for a few more species, and while watching a flock of palm warblers, were pleased to see a little green heron on the ground, right out in the open! We were fortunate

to see a great variety and huge number of birds, a total of 74 species, 13 of which were warblers! We had only one butterfly species this year, a Monarch. The full list of species seen can be seen on our website, <http://www.audubonwildlifesociety.org>

We are grateful to our dedicated team members: Denise Bittle, Joe Costanza, Jean Gutschuth, Kellagher, Chip Krilowicz, Alice Palermo and Joe Heffron. Thank you to all our AWS members for their very generous pledges which made this year's challenge a success!

Mark your calendars - next year's Palmyra Challenge will be held on Saturday, October 6, 2007. Come join the fun!

Field Trip: Sunday, November 12, 2006

November's field trip is to Atlantic County Park for Waterfowl. Meet promptly at 8:45am. Trip lead by Lloyd Shaw.

Directions to Atlantic County Park

Take the Atlantic City Expressway to exit 17, Route 50. Take Route 50 South 6 miles to Mays Landing, where Route 50 and Route 40 are one for ½ mile. When Routes 40 and 50 diverge, turn left onto Route 50 and continue 3.7 miles to the Atlantic County Park entrance. Meet in the nature center parking lot directly ahead at 8:45am prompt. Additional information about where we're going and what we'll be seeing can be found in "A Guide to Bird Finding in New Jersey" by William Boyle Jr. Pgs. 350-356. You can read all about his wonderful place before you go. Also Delormes "New Jersey Atlas" has a more detailed map on Pg. 70 for alternate routes.

***Note field trip reports are now posted on our website.** visit <http://www.audubonwildlifesociety.org> for a listing of species sited in September and October.

DECEMBER MEETING

This is your chance to take center stage! AWS members will present their own nature stories!

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

Please send news items to Janet Goehner-Jacobs at awspublicity@aol.com

<http://www.audubonwildlifesociety.org>



"A female Purple finch is always a welcome bird at a feeder" – photo by Chip Krilowicz.

AWS Represented in Alaska Press Conference

On Wednesday, October 25, I represented AWS in a press teleconference held by US Representative Robert Andrews (D-NJ) to discuss the Chabot/Andrews Subsidy Amendment to the Department of Interior's appropriations budget. The amendment is designed to eliminate Forest Service subsidies to timber companies logging Alaska's Tongass National Forest. The Tongass, "America's Rain Forest", encompasses 16.8 million acres on Alaska's southeastern panhandle. It's our largest National Forest and the largest temperate rain forest in the world. Since 1982, the Forest Service has built roads using public funds to give timber companies access to logging sites. The Tongass is the only national forest where this practice is followed and the cost to US taxpayers is estimated at \$1 billion to date. The measure has passed the House with bipartisan support but a tougher fight is expected in the Senate.

The teleconference was moderated by Aurah Landau of the Alaska Coalition and included Congressman Andrews, who made the opening remarks, the Legislative Director of the League of Conservation Voters, the President of the NJ chapter of the Sierra Club, the owner of Alaska Boat & Marine in Juneau and I. We all spoke for 2-3 minutes in favor of the amendment. There were 4 other parties on the conference call, only one of whom was identified (by virtue of asking a question), Alaska Public Radio. Unfortunately, the teleconference wasn't recorded but if you want a good idea of what I said, my notes will be available through Pat Brundage, 856-858-0431, patbrundage@comcast.net, and Aurah Landau will

forward me any press write-ups.

Following are other reference sources:

Bill Caruso, US Rep. Andrews' office 856-546-6438

For more information on the Tongass National

Forest: <http://www.akrain.org>

Alaska Coalition: <http://www.alaskacoalition.org>

Julia Millan Shaw who spoke at our last meeting:

Julia@alaskawild.org

John Maret
October, 2006

Two Centuries, Side by Side

This was the perfect early autumn day, dry and clement. As I looked up at the blue sky, two turkey vultures appeared, lazily gliding in slow circles, completely lacking in menace. A small flock of pigeons executed a wide circle that took them out of sight behind some tall trees. They emerged to begin the circle again, close to home, in no hurry. The top branches of nearby dogwoods bobbed as robins and a red-bellied woodpecker pulled off the red berries. The woodpecker hung upside down for a second revealing the faint blush on his underside that gives him his name. I was perfectly content to stand there and watch but I'd offered to do some work this weekend.

A woman I know has two stout northern red oaks at the top of her bluff overlooking the Delaware River. One of the trees shed a huge limb recently and it was lying on the slope, heavy and hard to reach. My job was to get rid of it but the beauty of the day had held me back as firmly as a rope. I paused as I climbed down her rickety wooden steps to look into the clear, shallow river as it mirrored and dimpled over a large stone. An overhanging branch blocked the larger scene from view and in the small patch of water holding a single ray of sun I saw, not the often muddy Delaware, but a jungle pool. Enough daydreaming! I hefted my ax. As I did, the congested snore of a power saw began to intrude on my perfect afternoon.

The branches held to the ground by the weight of the fallen limb were as bent and taut as drawn bows. One smack of the ax cleaved them cleanly away, causing the limb to settle slightly. Branch by branch I formed piles then carried them up the steep steps and deposited them at the roadside. Each time my head popped above the top of the bluff my ears were assaulted by the growling saw. When the closest branches were cut, I started to section the main trunk. The beauty of the weather and the flowing river had lulled me into a reverie. I imagined the sound of my ax carrying into Pennsylvania from where I could

hear the distant strokes of others similarly at work. Time receded; I was working in the nineteenth century, gathering wood to warm my house over the coming winter. At the same time the sound of the saw down the road became more steady and insistent.

Eventually, I was faced with my main problem, a massive, heavy log, stripped of branches, lying diagonally on a 60-degree slope that provided very little firm footing from which to swing an ax. Unable to get the log to roll downhill, my one solution was to cut it in half and hope the smaller pieces could be put in motion. However, I could only hope to keep my balance by standing below the log. This put me in a position analogous to the cartoon character who sits on a tree branch and then saws it off: as soon as the cut was completed I'd risk being rolled out like pie dough. Nevertheless, I found a spot where I could get a foothold and prepared for my first swing. The saw down the bluff gargled and whined. I smugly dismissed it as useless, not to mention dangerous, for the task now facing me.

The ax came down at an angle into the gray bark. I made the next hit more than a foot to the right, setting the width of the gap, then struck several times in between sending playing card size chips cart-wheeling into the air. Through the pale beige outer layer of wood into the reddish heart I pressed on, the air suffused with the sour smell of green oak, until I reached the point where a few more strokes would finish the job. That's when I paused to consider my escape should the two halves of my adversary succumb to the pull of gravity. There was no good solution. I brought the ax head down three times and was through. The lower portion started to roll but the upper, heavier part was slower to get going and I was able, not ungracefully, to sidestep it. The two logs flew over a bulkhead, splashed into the river and quickly ran aground about twenty feet downstream. Again, I was transported back in time, imagining I had just cleared a plot of ground in which to plant my crops. That illusion quickly passed as I slowly climbed the steps into a new blizzard of noise. The man down the way was finished with the chain saw but had strapped on a huge gas-powered blower and was chasing leaves and dust off the road, an absurd fastidiousness in light of the racket which he had imposed for hours on this beautiful, now fading, day. In my century, we wouldn't have bothered. In my century we would have let the wind do the job.

John Maret
November, 2006

Rancocas State Park - fall migration report

September and October proved to be extremely "birdy" months around the State Park. Of course in fall migration, movement is weather dependent, but birds would linger around the area for a couple days after the cold fronts passed by. The trail around that successional field area behind the nature center is always a good bet. Try for the mornings with NW winds the night before, but even mornings with NE winds and some with south components were productive this fall. With the combination of young trees, tall grasses, weedy areas, and various fruiting bushes and vines, the area is perfect for birds. I found that walking the loop counterclockwise was better because I was walking against the sun when I hit the more birdy parts, but I did find birds all along the loop. Other areas were good too like the Marsh Trail - that area was best in late morning for the feeding flocks that had moved into the woods a bit, the area behind the leaf dump and that school - here again late morning is best for the sparrows, and Rancocas Ave. - that area by the pond and across from it, were good late morning for the feeding flocks.

I had a lot of new stuff for these two months - everything from BLACK VULTURE because of its range expansion to RING-BILLED, HERRING, and GREAT BLACK-BACKED GULLS just because I don't think anyone has bothered to report the gulls. I found some of the THRUSHES and FLYCATCHERS to be quite common here in the fall, just no reports of them for these months. Some of the WARBLERS are around in Oct. so they were new for that month.

Here is a list of some of the species I had and the best spot for them:

EMPI FLYCATCHERS - the pond and dike along Rancocas Ave - much more wooded which is what these birds like.

GRAY-CHEEKED, SWAINSON'S, and HERMIT THRUSHES and VEERY were quite common along the dike area at Rancocas Ave. The open understory made it easy to see them here.

YELLOW-THROATED VIREO - Rancocas Ave. Quite possibly even breeding here so please keep on the lookout for nesting behavior next spring for those who bird this area.

WARBLING VIREO - This species breeds along a branch of the creek, but I had them in the fall along Rancocas Ave.

PHILADELPIA VIREO - the loop trail around the field. This species prefers edges and hedgerows.

Most of the WARBLER species I have had throughout the place. No one good area for most. I would recommend a start at dawn or as early as possible and walk the loop trail for a couple hours, then hit the pond and dike area along Rancocas Ave.

MOURNING WARBLER - the pond area along Rancocas Ave. I was disappointed I didn't track down any Connecticut Warblers this fall here, but I think this pond and dike area and also the weedy fields behind the leaf dump would be the best areas to try next fall.

SCARLET TANAGERS - were all over the place along the field edge behind the school feeding in the fruiting trees.

SAVANAH SPARROW - the crop area behind the leaf dump. Walk the fields and the dirt roads near the brushy area. If they flush, they can land there.

LINCOLN'S SPARROW - the wet, weedy areas along the loop trail.

WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW - throughout.

Migrating raptors were non-existent. I am a bit surprised. I was there a few times on Northerly winds in the afternoon. I was hoping to catch some migrants on the thermals.

I hope I have conveyed some of the possibilities for fall birding here at Rancocas and as always I am happy to answer and questions. Just email me at the address below.

Sandra Keller
Barrington, NJ
sandrakeller@verizon.net

For more information and directions to Rancocas Nature Center visit:
<http://www.njaudubon.org/Centers/Rancocas/>

Other Clubs Events:

Saddler's Woods Tree Planting Thursday, November 9, 10:00am

Volunteers needed to help plant 48 small trees for a restoration grant project. We will meet at the two pump buildings on MacArthur Boulevard to divide up the plant order and then plant them in restoration zones. We will plant rain or shine so please dress appropriately. Contact Janet at 856-869-7372 or janet@saddlerswoods.org to sign up or for more information.

Burlington County Natural Sciences Club, BCNSC presents, "The Strange World of Reptiles" by Bill Boesenberg. November 8, 2006. BCNSC Meets the second Wednesday of the month, September through May at 7:45pm in Lumberton Leas Meeting Room, Lumberton, NJ. For more information on BCNSC go visit: <http://oldsquaw.tripod.com/index.html>

Night Sky Tour

At the Franklin Parker Preserve, Chatsworth, NJ
Friday, November 17, 2006 7 - 10pm (or overnight!) Experience the dramatic darkness of the night sky in the Pine Barrens with the Franklin Institute's chief astronomer Derrick Pitts. Telescopes will be on hand, but bring your binoculars too. Stay late for hot chocolate while watching the Leonid Meteor shower! Overnight tent campers are welcome for this program. Pre-registration is required and space is limited. For more information, please contact Lauren Ramos at 908-234-1225 or Lauren@njconservation.org. Fee: \$10.

Nature Programs on TV:

Nature: Chimpanzees an Unnatural History

Airs on WHYY Sunday, November 5 at 8:00pm. CHIMPANZEES: AN UNNATURAL HISTORY will introduce you to the rescuers at sanctuaries like Fauna Foundation, Save the Chimps, Center for Great Apes. And they are determined to see that the traumatized residents they have saved from a life of confinement and suffering can finally be allowed to feel like chimps.

To view a preview go to:

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/nature/preview.html>