

Newsletter of the

Monmouth County Audubon Society

www.monmouthaudubon.org

Volume 56, #1 Fall 2020

In this issue...

Message From the President...1

Items of Note.....2

Volunteers needed Ted Engberg Conservation Scholarship

From Alaska to Africa – Monmouth Native Has a Career For the Birds......3

Noteworthy Sightings.....4

Focus on Conservation.....5

Open Space Spotlight.....8

The Story of project.extinct....9

Coming Up.....11



Purple martin by Bob Henschel

Over 50 Years of Birds and Conservation

Message From the President

by Colette Buchanan

On behalf of the Monmouth County Audubon Society, I hope that you and your families have been healthy and well during these challenging times. The COVID19 pandemic has caused disruption and changes in all of our lives. The virus and the restrictions imposed to prevent and slow its spread caused us to cancel MCAS programs and field trips in April and May, and prevented us from holding our summer bird walks. We greatly missed those events and miss being able to share nature and birds with all of you.

The restrictions imposed in the Spring made it more difficult for all of us to enjoy Spring bird migration. I was particularly impacted by the closure of the County and State parks during a prime migration period. Birders rejoiced and hit the parks when they reopened in mid-May. We hope you were able to enjoy the last few weeks of Spring migration at favorite Monmouth County spots such as Sandy Hook, Big Brook and Thompson Park.

Back in the Spring, we were hopeful that the COVID19 pandemic would be receding and under control by September so that MCAS could resume our programs and trips. Unfortunately, the virus persists in New Jersey and around the United States. In July the MCAS Board met (virtually) and decided that there was too much uncertainty and risk to our and your safety to resume our monthly meetings and programs. However, while we will not be meeting in person indoors, MCAS does plan to present monthly programs online, via either our Facebook page or another virtual platform, such as Zoom or YouTube. We are working on lining up speakers and will be announcing them as the events are arranged.

Our September program will feature Board Member Rob Fanning discussing Fall Migration around Monmouth County through Facebook Live on the MCAS Facebook page. Rob will also be answering your questions about Fall migration and any questions you may have about birding in general. The program will be live on our usual night — Wednesday, September 9 at 8:00 p.m.

Monmouth County Audubon Society Officers 2019-2020

Pesident
Colette Buchanan

Vice President Robert Henschel

Treasurer Chris Vanderstad

Recording Secretary (vacant – volunteer needed)

Committees

Conservation
Mike Davenport, Chair

Education
JoAnn Molnar, Chair

Field Trips Lisa Fanning, Chair

Programs (vacant – volunteer needed)

Publicity (vacant – volunteer needed)

Social Media Lisa Fanning, Chair

Website Mike Davenport, Chair

Elected Directors / Directors at Large

Scott Barnes, Rob Fanning, Robert Henschel, Linda Mack, Nano Mardones, Janice Mason, Debra Stewart, John Temple, Dena Temple, Ken Thoman

Newsletter Staff

Mike Davenport, Editor

The Osprey is published 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

➤ Items of note – local tidbits of interest

Volunteers urgently needed! In the column to the left is a list of the people that power the Monmouth County Audubon Society by volunteering their time to run the many programs that benefit the community and our environment. Please note that there are several openings and consider volunteering your time to keep MCAS a vital organization, taking pride in knowing that you've made a difference to the community – and the birds!

Announcing the Winners of the 2020 Monmouth County Audubon's Ted Engberg Conservation Scholarships

Monmouth County Audubon Society is pleased to announce the winners of the 2020 Ted Engberg Wildlife Conservation
Scholarship. Bobby Hoye of Fair Haven and Gabrielle Leach of Allentown were selected from a pool of ten qualified candidates to receive a \$1500 scholarship to assist them in pursuing their college degrees. Both Bobby and Gabrielle demonstrated excellent academic work and community service, and an intent to pursue careers that will benefit wildlife conservation.

Bobby Hoye is graduating from Rumson-Fair Haven Regional High School with Honors. He has served as the Treasurer of the high school's Environmental Club. Bobby will be entering Roanoke College in Virginia in August to pursue a dual degree in Physics and Environmental Engineering.

Gabrielle is graduating Allentown High School, where she has maintained high grades while taking Advanced Placement classes in subjects including Environmental Science and Greenhouse Management. Gabrielle will be entering Pennsylvania State University in the Fall to pursue a degree in Environmental Resource Management.

MCAS congratulates Bobby and Gabrielle and wishes them success in their college careers!





Ted Engberg Conservation Scholarship winners Bobby Hoye and Gabrielle Leach.



Reagan with two young African penguins.

➤ From Alaska to Africa, Monmouth County Native Reagan Quarg Has Made a Career out of the Care & Conservation of Birds

by Mike Davenport

Monmouth County native Reagan Quarg has worked with a diverse array of bird species across 12 time zones throughout her career. From penguins to puffins, as well as murres, eiders, guillemots, auklets, macaws, cockatoos, and screech owls, she has cared for them all. As a result, she is a wealth of knowledge on bird biology, ecology, and conservation.

Over the years, Reagan's career has taken her to several animal facilities in basically three of the four corners of the US: Jenkinson's Aquarium here in NJ, the Alaska Sealife Center in Seward, Alaska, and Busch Gardens in Florida. In addition to that, she spent two months volunteering with a bird rescue and rehabilitation organization in South Africa.

Monmouth County Audubon reached out to Reagan for a quick Q&A for this edition of our newsletter.

How did you become involved in caring for birds:

Being a county park ranger's daughter, I learned early on to respect, appreciate and love all kinds of wildlife. But my early career aspirations began with a family trip to Florida and getting to swim with the dolphins at a facility in the Keys. Here is where I met the friendly and knowledgeable staff and keepers that made this their life's work and I was hooked and wanted to know more.

Being an aviculturist was never on my radar in my animal keeper journey. However, during college I started working as an environmental educator at Jenkinson's Aquarium in Point Pleasant Beach. This is where the avian focus began, when I was asked to be the assistant penguin supervisor for their colony of African penguins. Over the next decade, this new job title and the responsibilities that came with it would define my career.



Housekeeping for puffins at the Alaska Sealife Center.

What has been your most rewarding experience during your career:

Working with African penguins in their natural habitat in South Africa. I volunteered at SANCCOB, the South African Foundation for the Conservation of Coastal Birds. This organization handles the rescue and rehabilitation of African penguins after such events as oil spills. The skills and knowledge I acquired overseas became the basis of my success in bird breeding and enhancing their environment at home in New Jersey.

What has been the most challenging experience:

I challenged myself to move to Alaska to work at the Alaska Sealife Center in Seward in their aviculture department. This facility's focus is on the role of marine mammals, birds and fish in the arctic and subarctic marine ecosystems. Their aviculture department consists of an outdoor alcid (horned and tufted puffins, common murres, pigeon guillemots and rhinoceros auklets) and arctic waterfowl (long-tail ducks, eiders and smews) aviary complete with rocky cliffs and crevices for nesting and a natural dive environment that is fed by Resurrection Bay waters. The challenge was learning about the anatomy and physiology of each of these new bird species as well as adapting their habitat for breeding.

Favorite bird species & why:

My favorite is the interior design ability of the bowerbirds. It truly is a labor of love and a refined sense of color when it comes to selecting the proper materials to decorate the bower. They use everything from flowers to seeds, to beetles, sprouting fungus and deer dung and the results are quite imaginative.

Favorite NJ bird & why:

The American oystercatcher. It uses its beak to forage for small creatures within the intertidal zone, searching much like I did as a child and still do today.

What advice would you give to children interested in pursuing a career in bird care or conservation:

Take every opportunity to observe and experience as much time in the natural world as possible. I also would encourage you to find the courage to network with peers and industry professionals as much as possible, for this field is highly competitive.

➤ Noteworthy Sightings in Monmouth County

by Rob Fanning

- Least Bittern: one was at the pond at Freneau Woods on 5/26 (heard) and it stayed until the next day 5/27 (seen and heard).
- Brown Booby: a young bird was found at the Belmar fishing pier on 5/27 and it was also seen early the next morning 5/28.
- Blue Grosbeaks: great year for them; singing males May thru July at Freneau, Big Brook, Thompson, and Willowbrook Rd. and Dorbrook.



King eider at the Alaska Sealife Center by Reagan Quarg.

- Black-bellied Whistling Ducks: up to 9 seen/photographed at various locations, June-July, Little Silver, Bradley Beach, and Deal.
- Alder Flycatcher: singing bird at Boundary Rd section of Big Brook in early June, last heard on 7/18.
- Barred Owl: Hartshorne Woods 6/22.
- Early Royal Tern: 6/27, Monmouth Cultural Center.
- Imm Snow Goose: Big Brook 6/5.
- Spotted Sandpipers: 2 pairs fledged young in Colts neck (private prop).
- Sora: Union Beach 7/11.
- Roseate Tern: Belmar 5/27 and 7/2.
- Grasshopper Sparrow: Assunpink and Dorbrook June-July, probable nesting.
- Yellow-bellied Chat: up to 3 at Assunpink June-July.
- Dickcissel: female reported at Assunpink early July.
- Whipporrwill: up to three singing birds at Turkey Swamp park June-Jul y.
- Brown Pelican: 7/25 Port Monmouth. Several other reports from Belmar and Sandy Hook. June-July.
- Bobolinks: 3 at Dorbrook 7/29 likely early migrants.
- Marbled Godwit: Conaskonk Point 7/29.
- Swallow-tailed Kite: 2 at Sandy Hook 8/11.

focus on conservation



American painted lady on a purple coneflower. Photo by Mike Davenport.

> Creating Wildlife Habitat in Suburbia

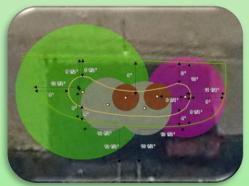
by Mike Davenport

When I purchased my home in 2015, I realized that the yard was going to need a lot of work - not only to get it looking the way I wanted it to, but to just simply get it under control. The yard had a lot of "problems". The vast majority of the plants were non-native, the front yard was a barren wasteland of manicured lawn, and the overgrown non-native hedges and shrubs were covered in several species of invasive vines such as Chinese wisteria (*Wisteria sinensis*) and porcelain berry (*Ampelopsis brevipedunculata*).

I got to work right away with the aim of creating a functional and aesthetically-pleasing yard while at the same time creating some wildlife habitat within my 1/3 acre – and to accomplish this without the use of any chemical fertilizers, pesticides, or weed killer. My "fertilizer" would consist of water from my fish tank and backyard pond. My "weed killer" would be my own hands – although not necessarily efficient, guilt-free.

I then spent several weeks pulling and digging-up the porcelain berry and wisteria, only to find out later that there was some poison ivy hiding amongst them – to which I had never had an allergic reaction to until now! The battle with the vines continues to this day, 5 years later! Both the porcelain berry and wisteria continue to sprout small shoots near our fence and near the trunks of several shrubs. So, every other week, I pull them out, hoping that at some point they will stop sprouting after weakening from all the pulling, before I do.

The most fun part of this yard rescue was the transformation of my boring front lawn into a small patch of wildlife habitat, planted with native trees, shrubs, and perennials. I began by sketching out what I wanted the beds to look like (this would evolve over time). Next, I began to select the plants which I was going to use. My criteria were that they be native, at least somewhat attractive, and deer resistant. For the trees, they could not be too large (due to proximity to utility lines) and could not drop berries or nuts (due to proximity to parked cars). I ended up selecting the following: river birch (*Betula nigra*), Eastern redbud (*Cercis canadensis*), highbush cranberry (*Viburnum trilobum*), purple coneflower (*Echinacea purpurea*), blackeyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*), bee balm (*Monarda didyma*), and butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*).



A first-draft sketch of the planned native plant bed – it would evolve from this into 2 beds.

I'm no purist when it comes to native vs. non-native. I planted plenty of perennials within my backyard which were not native. Some of those, such as phlox (*Phlox paniculata*), bearded iris (*Iris sp.*), tiger lily (*Lilium tigrinum*), and evening primrose (*Oenothera sp.*), were passed down to me from my grandmother. However, my goal was for the new beds I was planning to create in the front yard to be exclusively native.

During the first year of my new plantings (2019), I learned the hard lesson that deer resistant does not equate to deer-proof. Up until

(continued on Page 6)

this point, I had never seen any evidence of deer in my front yard. However, the new plant beds proved irresistible. The deer chomped on the coneflowers and blackeyed Susans, and decimated the highbush cranberry. When I planned to create wildlife habitat, it was birds and butterflies I had in mind, not deer. Rather than get upset and wage war against the deer, I adjusted my expectations – I was going to lose some flowers and the highbush cranberry was just too irresistible to the deer to survive in this location. On the bright side, the birch and redbud thrived.

Fast forward to 2020 and a lot of home time due to a global pandemic. I decided to tear-up more lawn and add another flower bed – this time, natives and non-natives, so long as they could survive deer, were welcome. To my surprise, deer love to dine on sedum and tiger lilies. Within this bed, the plants which stood-up to the deer were milkweed, bearded iris, blue flag iris (*Iris versicolor*), coreopsis (*Coreopsis verticillata*), lavender (*Lavandula angustifolia*), yucca (*Yucca filamentosa*), foxglove (*Digitalis purpurea*), and more bee balm. I added some annuals for some extra color and for the pollinators as well.

Despite my setbacks with foraging deer, I'm very happy with my new front yard. Not only is it more interesting and attractive than a grass lawn, but now I have butterflies and bumblebees were there once were none. Goldfinches perch on coneflowers and robins search through the mulch and under leaves for insects. Eastern cottontails, which I had not seen in the yard previously, now hop through my front yard, despite my dogs' vocal disapproval.

The following are several good resources which you might find helpful in creating wildlife habitat in your yard:

- Jersey-Friendly Yards website https://www.jerseyyards.org/
- NJ Audubon https://njaudubon.org/gardening-for-wildlife/
- National Wildlife Federation https://www.nwf.org/Garden-for-Wildlife
- "Bringing Nature Home: How You Can Sustain Wildlife with Native Plants" by Douglas W. Tallamy



The photo above is the project area in early 2019 - the "Before" photo. The photo to the right is the "After" photo, taken during July 2020.



State Completes an Updated Status Review of Birds

On March 18, 2020, the NJ Division of Fish & Wildlife (DFW) released their final report summarizing their most recent species status review of birds within New Jersey. This report, and the review upon which it is based, provide the background and justification for listing species within the state into one of several imperiled status designations, such as Endangered, Threatened, or Special Concern. Likewise, it also serves as the basis for de-listing species, such as for species whose populations have recovered.

During the Status Review, 185 bird species were reviewed by a panel of 24 experts in avian biology, ecology and/or conservation. Though New Jersey is home to a greater number of bird species than 185, the species chosen for review were "those species indigenous to New Jersey that are of conservation concern, especially those that might reasonably warrant consideration for formal listing as Endangered, Threatened, or Special Concern." Both species' breeding and non-breeding populations are reviewed separately, so a single species may receive two different status designations.

Once the Status Review was completed by the panel of experts, the results went before the staff of the state's Endangered and Nongame Species Program (ENSP) as well as the state's Endangered and Nongame Advisory Committee who make their own recommendations, particularly for those species for which the panel of experts could not reach consensus on.

According to the report, the review recommended that many bird species' conservation status should remain unchanged. However, there are some notable changes in status being recommended such as:

The " > " symbol indicates what the status is changing to.

- Bald Eagle (breeding) Endangered > Threatened
- Bald Eagle (non-breeding) Threatened > Secure/Stable
- Bank Swallow (breeding) Secure/Stable > Special Concern
- Barn Owl (breeding) Special Concern > Threatened
- Chimney Swift (breeding) Secure/Stable > Special Concern
- Eastern Meadowlark (breeding) Special Concern > Threatened
- Field Sparrow (breeding) Secure/Stable > Special Concern
- Green Heron (breeding) Secure/Stable > Special Concern
- Kentucky Warbler (breeding) Special Concern > Threatened
- Osprey (breeding) Threatened > Secure/Stable
- Peregrine Falcon (breeding) Endangered > Threatened
- Purple Martin (breeding) Secure/Stable > Special Concern
- Ruddy Turnstone (non-breeding) Secure/Stable > Special Concern
- Rusty Blackbird (non-breeding) Secure/Stable > Special Concern
- Saltmarsh Sparrow (breeding) Special Concern > Threatened
- Saltmarsh Sparrow (non-breeding) Secure/Stable > Special Concern



Barn owl by Bob Henschel

The full results of the review are available within the final report available on the DFW website at: https://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/ensp/pdf/land-water-birds-rprt.pdf

The recommendations of the Status Review do not automatically change a species' status, nor is it a given that the recommendations will be formalized. Before any species' status can officially be changed within New Jersey, it must go through a formal rule-making process which could take several years before it is completed. For more information, visit DFW's Species Status Assessment web page: https://www.state.nj.us/dep/fgw/ensp/species assessment.htm

MONMOUTH OPEN SPACE SPOTLIGHT

Joe Palaia Park

Location: Dow Avenue and Whalepond Road,

Oakhurst, NJ 07755

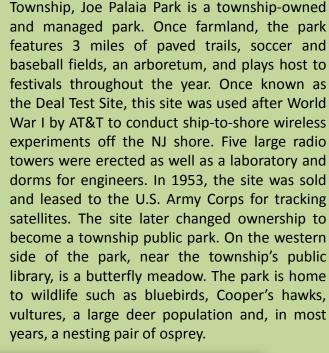
Acreage: 246

Habitat(s): Deciduous forest, wetland forest,

athletic fields, meadow.

E-Bird Stats*: 145 species & 236 checklists.

*as of August 2020

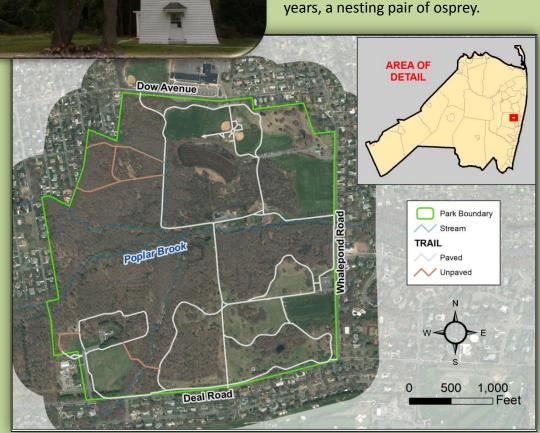


Road

in

Ocean

Located off Whalepond



Extinction, Conservation, Photography and a Rockstar The story of project.extinct by List

by Lisa Ann Fanning

I've never been known to just sit still. So when a bad case of Lyme Disease sidetracked me, I struggled with not being able to be out in the field, educating, leading bird walks, teaching others to appreciate nature. I felt like I just wasn't contributing to the greater cause. As if not having any energy wasn't bad enough, on those days I could muster up some energy to be out, I had to be careful because some of the medications I was on caused severe sun sensitivities. Soon, all the outdoor activities I loved so passionately were being replaced by things I could do while home, where I could rest. Movies and Music became my saving grace. As a child of the 70's and 80's, I was in my glory when the movie Bohemian Rhapsody was released, detailing the rise of one of my all-time favorite rock bands, Queen. My brother, who has a few years on me, saw them perform live in their heyday and frequently spoke of their guitarist. Little did I know that guitarist would start me on a quest to tell a tale I never would have imagined.

After I saw the movie Bohemian Rhapsody, I began to follow said guitarist, Dr. Brian May on Instagram. And I realized not only was he a brilliant guitarist, instrument maker, animal rights activist and astrophysicist (which I recalled hearing somewhere along the way,) but he was also a specialized photographer, in a genre of photography called Stereoscopy.

Stereoscopy is a method of photography where two similar (not same) photos are put side by side. The two images are offset slightly to simulate the way your own eyes see images, thereby making the image 3D by creating an illusion of depth. Think View-Master from our childhood days.

Through his website from the revived London Stereoscopic Company, Dr. May explains the background and makes it easy to learn how to make your own stereoscopic photos. One methodology, for a lucky few, allows the viewer to "free view" or by using a cross-eyed method. I preferred the old-fashioned method and purchased a viewer. Well, I could give this a shot, I thought, and I did.

As with anything else, there was a huge learning curve. I made many rookie mistakes, and some in the online stereoscopic community were very helpful and thoughtful, taking time to teach me how I could improve my work. And so I continued to practice on anything and everything that did not move.



Great auk Academy of Natural Sciences Philadelphia PA. Image courtesy of Lisa Ann Fanning.

Still longing to do what I love to do, I decided perhaps I was put on this journey to give a voice to the voiceless. With stereoscopic app and camera in hand, I headed to the New Jersey State Museum and took stereo photos of passenger pigeons and a Carolina parakeet two birds that were once so numerous they were considered "pests" but now, they are no more. And with those photos, @project.extinct on Instagram was born.

I realized that through the magic of stereo photos, I could bring these birds back to life to tell their stories and why conservation is important, a message we frequently hear, but now the viewer could hear it from subjects who know all too well. From that day forward, I went on a quest to find 8 of the major U.S. extinct bird species within a certain radius from home that I would be able to travel to. My husband, Rob, who incidentally, I met while birding during the Cape May Fall Birding Festival was on board from the minute I told him of my vision.

A friend suggested I reach out to the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia. One phone call later, I realized I had tracked down 2 publicly displayed Labrador ducks, 2 Eskimo curlews, a flock of passenger pigeons and a great auk (which would be the only one we would encounter in our journey).

We made our next journey further afield to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the Cornell University Museum of Vertebrates in Ithaca, NY. Their collection houses over 57,000 bird specimens from all over the world. We had to send a proposal of our project, and before we knew it, we were standing amongst specimens, some aged hundreds of years that have been used by students, researchers, artists and educators alike. To say this experience was overwhelming and emotional would be an understatement, but it was the moment we realized we were doing the work we were meant to be doing.

Subsequent weekends took us to various other places near home to photograph these special birds who deserve to have life given back to them. We visited the Richard W. DeKorte Environmental Center in Lyndhurst, NJ, the Staten Island Museum which has a wonderful exhibit called "Remember the Mastodon," which aims to tell "the hard facts of extinction," and the American Museum of Natural History in NYC, which also has a section dedicated to extinction. There, I encountered a short video program which talked about how a decrease in biodiversity is increasing the cases of Human Lyme Disease - once again, a sign I was doing the work I am supposed to be. A road trip to Scranton, PA brought us to a wonderful collection at the Everhart Museum of Natural History, Science & Art. Its founder, Dr. Isaiah Fawkes Everhart, was an MD, bird enthusiast and skilled taxidermist. There, we were granted access to photograph another Carolina parakeet and a beautifully mounted pair of ivory-billed woodpeckers, which would prove to be the most difficult to track down to photograph under the right conditions.

Our final journey to date felt like it was practically in our own backyard (given how far we'd traveled for some of the other birds). A beautifully mounted heath hen specimen presented in a Victorian-style glass globe at the historic Drake House in Plainfield, NJ. We did previously photograph a pair of heath hen at DeKorte, but this particular specimen was mounted as standing, and looking straight into the observer's eyes.

The specimen is also well documented. Finding this bird was quite serendipitous, as one night, I Googled extinct bird specimens displayed in New Jersey, and learned that our friends at hiddennj.com featured the bird as part of an article about the historic home and museum.



Eskimo curlew on display at Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia PA. Image courtesy of Lisa Ann Fanning.

As we continue to build our online gallery of images, we feature each species telling their own stories on what we call #tellthetaletuesday, as well as other facts and stories that serve to bring these species back to life. We also continue to partner with other organizations and share the word of conservation and help teach people what they can do to help preserve species at risk today. Artist d.k.cissel who loaned their talents to creating a logo for the project featuring the passenger pigeon describes our project as "a really creative intersection of #art and #scicomm!" That is our goal - to get people engaged in telling the story. We hope you will join us in this mission!



coming up

Wed., Sept. 9 8:00 pm
Fall Migration Update and
Ask Me Anything About
Birding. Rob Fanning.
Facebook Live, MCAS
Facebook Page.

Wed., Oct. 14 8:00 pm
The Real James Bond: A
True Story of Identity Theft,
Avian Intrigue, and Ian
Fleming. Jim Wright.
Check our Facebook page
and website for details on
how to tune in.

("Message From the President" continued from Page 1)

Our October program will feature author and naturalist Jim Wright discussing his new book about "The Real James Bond: A True Story of Identity Theft, Avian Intrigue, and Ian Fleming." James Bond was an ornithologist, marksman, and author of the landmark book "Birds of the West Indies" published in 1936. Jim will discuss highlights of the life of the real James Bond, a man described as a ruthless ornithologist whose real life was more adventurous than the fictional spy. We hope you will join us for that event on Wednesday October 14. Watch our Facebook page for more information on how to tune in.

MCAS is hoping to host an outdoor field trip in the Fall. Whether we do depends on the course of COVID19 in New Jersey, and our ability to have a physically distanced, safe event. MCAS would require participants to wear face coverings, keep distance between them, and not share optics. Check back on our website and Facebook page for announcements. You can also sign up for the MCAS GroupMe text alert group. Instructions for joining the group are on our website's home page.

Wishing you good health, happiness, and lots of birds this coming Fall.

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!