

Audubon turns to Pinelands for brochure

■ The group is accepting nominations for locations that are deserving of inclusion in its fourth wildlife guide.

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The state Audubon Society is looking for public input to find the best spots in the Pinelands to watch birds and other wildlife.

Approved sites will be included on a brochure and Web site directing people to those areas as a way to promote ecotourism, said Lillian Armstrong, the Audubon Society's director of birding and wildlife trails.

"Nature-based tourism remains growing and is an important part of our whole package in the state of New Jersey," Armstrong said.

The society is spearheading a project to map the best public and private wildlife sites in Atlantic, Burlington, Gloucester and Camden counties for its upcoming Pinelands Birding and Wildlife Trail guide.

"Pinelands are certainly a unique habitat," Armstrong said. "It will be about much, much more than the birds. It



Staff file photo by Anthony Smedile

Locations such as the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge in Galloway Township are among those in Atlantic, Burlington, Camden and Gloucester counties that may be considered for a New Jersey Audubon guide to hot nature spots in the Pinelands.

will be a lot about snakes and turtles and plants."

The project is funded by the state Department of Transportation through a federal grant.

This is the fourth time Audubon has set out to identify prime wildlife spots and advertise them. Others include the Delaware Bayshore Birding and Wildlife Program, which provides information on sites in Cape May, Cum-

berland and Salem counties; the Hackensack River watershed; as well as sites in the northern tip of the state.

The first three projects resulted in 24 driving routes to more than 200 locations.

For the Pinelands map, officials have received about 25 nominations but are looking for about 100, Armstrong said.

When the nominations are in, they will be assessed based

on their wildlife viewing, accessibility and safety, Armstrong said.

Nominations will be accepted through the end of June, and assessments of the nominated sites will continue into the early fall.

The sites should be listed on brochures and on the Web site by spring 2010, Armstrong said.

For more information, visit: www.njwildlifetrails.org



Staff photo by Danny Drake

Joan Sharp and David Garbutt, of Linwood, won best-dressed couple in Sunday's Easter fashion parade in Ocean City.

Easter

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favorite," Sharp wore the mint-green outfit she had worn to church.

"We just thought, 'Why not?' We'll stroll down and take part, since we look nice," Sharp said.

Others who used what they had included Alana Youssefian — Gail's 16-year-old granddaughter — who decked out her bonnet with a closet's worth of stuffed animals.

"I didn't have to buy a thing for this," Alana explained

was quite the Beanie Babies fan back in the day." Gail, for her part, said her hat's centerpiece, the wooden rooster, had been specially picked out for the occasion by her family.

Meanwhile, at Atlantic City's Easter event, Michelle Washington Wilson, winner of the best-dressed woman category, said her outfit, too, was a gift — in this case, a birthday gift from her fiancé.

"He didn't get to see me up there," she said later. "He's at home making mac 'n' cheese."

And for Connie Early, 59, who traveled from Columbus,

Best-dressed senior female: Elizabeth Moss

Best-dressed teen male: Michael Harvey

Best-dressed teen female: Amber Davis-Thornton

Best-dressed couple: Mr. and Mrs. Frank Nortomaso

Best-dressed female: Michelle Washington Wilson

Ocean City:

Best bonnet: Mary Miles

Most unusual bonnet: Gloria Gail

Best-dressed family: The Curran family

Best-dressed teen male: Robert Draham

Best-dressed teen female: Emily Wici

Best-dressed male: John Curran

Best-dressed female: Mary Miles

Best-dressed couple: David Garbutt and Joan Sharp

Note: Cape May did not supply a list of its contest winners by press time.

"This hat was given to me by my adopted mother," she said, looking up at her vibrant black-and-yellow hat, which won her the title of best bonnet among contestants older than 55.

"I love it," she said. "And it's new to me."

Photo galleries

See more photos from the Easter fashion shows in Atlantic City, Ocean City and Cape May.

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