

# QUITTAPAHILLA AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2012

P. O. Box 123, Palmyra, PA 17078-0123

[www.QASAudubon.org](http://www.QASAudubon.org)

## Upcoming QAS Events

Join Us! Everyone Is Welcome!

### Upcoming Programs . . .

The Quittapahilla Audubon Society holds its programs in the Chapel of the Lebanon Valley Home at 7:30pm every fourth Wednesday of the month from September through April (with the exception of November and December). Due to the holidays, the programs are held another week in these two months. Programs are free and open to the public. They are designed for a general audience and children are welcome when accompanied by an adult.

Lebanon Valley Home is located one half mile east of the intersection of Routes 422 and 934 at 550 East Main Street, Annville, PA. There is limited parking in front of the Home with additional parking available on the adjacent streets. Please use the main entrance at the end of the covered walkway in the front of the Home. The Chapel is handicap accessible.

**April 25, 2012**

#### *Energy Development and the Associated Threats to Pennsylvania Wildlife*

*Kim Van Fleet* will discuss natural gas drilling, industrial wind turbines, and the siting of power transmission and gas pipelines within our state. She'll also speak on the implications that these developments are having and potentially will have on the birds, other wildlife, their habitats and water resources.

**May 23, 2012**

#### *Annual Banquet – eat at 6:30pm*

*Fred Habegger* tells us: “**Slow down! You’re going too fast!**” All the details for the banquet, including the menu and registration form, are given on page 7. Registration deadline is *May 9, 2012*, but hurry and register right now so you won’t forget to do it!

### And Our Field Trips at a Glance . . .

Please join us for as many of our field trips as your calendar will allow.

**April 29, 2012**

#### *Swatara State Park*

Observation of resident and migrating songbirds. Meet Sunday at 2pm at intersection of Routes 72 and 443 to walk the abandoned road area from the State Park Drive parking lot. Leader: Gary Kinkley, 503-4027

**May 5, 2012**

#### *Walnut Run*

Observation of spring wildflowers and ferns by a woodland path. Meet 9am at pumping station parking lot off Route 322. Co-leaders: Jim M. Logan, 273-8438 and Tom Powers, 273-4512

**May 12, 2012**

#### *21<sup>st</sup> Pennsylvania Migration Count*

A count of migrating birds in Lebanon County. Contact: Randy Miller, 664-3778, for more information.

**May 2012**

#### *Birdathon*

Refer to the article on page 2 for details about this annual fundraiser for QAS. Contact Fritz Heilman, 273-0487, to volunteer or to make a pledge for this event.

**June 2, 2012**

#### *Wildwood Lake (raindate: June 9)*

Observation of flora and fauna by walking the tow path trail and around the lake. Meet Saturday 9am at Wildwood Lake Nature Center parking lot. Leader: Art Schiavo, 533-1978.

*(Field Trips continued on page 2)*

## Field Trips (continued from page 1)

**July 15, 2012**

### ***Butterflies, Dragonflies, and Their Habitat***

Identify common butterflies and dragonflies near the Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area visitor center. Meet Sunday 2pm at the Middle Creek visitor center parking lot. Binoculars, hat, and sunscreen suggested. Leader: Fritz Heilman, 273-0487

**July 28, 2012**

### ***Amphibian Amble (in conjunction with the Lebanon Valley Conservancy)***

Observation of amphibians and their habitat by an easy shaded walk via the State Game Lands 211 railroad/trail bed. Meet Saturday 9:00am at the west parking lot off Gold Mine Road. Leader: Fritz Heilman, 273-0487

**August 12, 2012**

### ***Butterflies, Dragonflies, and Their Habitat***

Details the same as for the July 15<sup>th</sup> trip except this one is in conjunction with the Lebanon Valley Conservancy.

## **Birdathon to be Conducted in May 2012**

The Quittapahilla Audubon Society's annual fundraiser, the Birdathon, is an effort to count as many species of birds as possible in a 24 hour period. Anyone can form their own team of at least two members. Birds can be tallied by sight or call (if the call is unmistakable). The Birdathon date chosen is up to the individual team, but must be conducted prior to the QAS banquet on Wednesday, May 23. Teams should get their tallies to Fritz Heilman, 273-0487, in enough time for him to be able to share the results with the banquet attendees.

Persons may pledge funds towards this effort on a per species or lump sum basis. Funds may be pledged to any person you know who is participating in the Birdathon or by contacting Fritz. All funds raised will go towards our educational efforts. Checks should be made payable to QAS.

## **Thank You Received**

Governor Dick Environmental Center thanks the Quittapahilla Audubon Society for last year's donation of field guides, binoculars, and nets. Everything was put to good use between the Boy Scouts, home-schoolers, and families out for bird walks.

## **Swatara State Park Is a Friendly Place**

There is a new organization in our area. *The Friends of Swatara State Park* was organized last year, and habitat days, field trips, and other activities have already begun. More information on the Friends group and upcoming activities can be found at [www.friendsofswatara.org](http://www.friendsofswatara.org). Gary Kinkley, QAS President, will be leading a joint field trip with the Friends of Swatara State Park on April 29<sup>th</sup> at the park. So please come out to enjoy one of our two great state parks!

## **HersheyPark Fundraiser**

-Rosemary Spreha

QAS will once again participate in the HersheyPark Food Service fundraiser. Volunteers work at food booths in the Park, Stadium, or Giant Center. HersheyPark makes a donation to QAS for every hour worked and the volunteer receives a voucher good for a day pass at the park. Shifts are from 5 to 8 hours in length. If you are interested in helping with this fundraiser, please contact Rosemary Spreha at [rspreha@excite.com](mailto:rspreha@excite.com) or 717-657-0271.



## **Peregrine Prints**

Two signed and numbered copies of Mark Anderson's "Return to Penn's Woods" prints are available for sale. They feature a Peregrine Falcon next to a rock cliff overlooking a stream far below. We had offered these prints for sale a couple years ago and they sold out quickly. You have another chance to purchase this print for \$50. If interested, contact Rosemary Spreha at 657-0271 or [rspreha@gmail.com](mailto:rspreha@gmail.com).

## **How Much Do You "like" QAS?**

QAS is now on Facebook! Please stop by and "like" us. We are starting to add content about meetings and field trips as well as links which may interest QAS members. In addition, you can still sign up for the **QAS-Announce** mailing list to receive e-mail reminders for our public meetings, field trips, and other announcements of interest. Just go to our website at [www.qasaudubon.org](http://www.qasaudubon.org)!

## Welcome to our new QAS members . . . Hope to see you at many of our events!

Margaret Aaron, Mitchell Alva, Oren Bachman, Hanna Bakalorz, Lorraine Becker, Charles Book, Carole Bowman, Charles Boyd, Suzanne Bray, Joanne Cerulli, Judith Coble, Jacob Cramer, Kim Credito, Anne Dall, Robert Derr, Linda Dubois, Nancy Eisenhauer, Regina Engler, Lorraine Fake, James Fiorentino Jr., Robert Hearson, Earl Hehnly, Robert Hench, Michael Houser, Deborah Hurst, Patti & Todd Hutchinson, Patricia Jones, William Kantor, Carol Knackstedt, Mike Kneasel, Rosanne Lamoreaux, Charles Long, Rosemary Long, Gregg Longenecker, Karen Mills, John Nantz, Amylea Nicastro, Norma Pantelich, Diane Paul, Dorothy Pharmer, Ruth Ruggles, Betty Schlupp, Kenneth Shearer, Kathy Siegrist, Carol Smith, Michael Stanilla, Elliot Vesell, Dale Waybright, Joan Weaver, Shirley Witmer, Tracy Zimmaro.

## A Word from QAS President Gary Kinkley

### You Must Believe In Spring ...



I spent some time searching and thinking about a title or a quote for this article, and nothing seemed to fit the sentiment that I was trying to convey. Then I opened up the current issue of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's *Living Bird* magazine, and I found the words I had been searching for. It is the title of an article by Peter Cashwell, and it is now the title of this article as well. The article itself was not completely in the same vein as mine, but the title is exactly the sentiment that I want to express. The idea for the subject matter of this article actually came from my wife. She is taking a class on how environmental factors affect health as she pursues her nursing BSN, and she has had a lot of difficulty with the material.

Her difficulties are not of an academic nature – she has simply lost a degree of hope. She recently asked me how I can still believe that we can make a difference when the obstacles are so numerous and daunting? The answer is that you must believe in spring.

It is hard to deny the pull of spring. There is no time of year that better illustrates why we belong to an organization like Audubon. In spring, you simply cannot avoid the glory of our natural world – even if you try. It is everywhere and incredibly pervasive. After months of brown, we see green, and red, and blue, and orange. One morning, on the drive to work, you hear a familiar sound and crack the car window to hear Spring Peepers! Robins inhabit our lawns, seemingly out of nowhere, and mornings are filled with song – be they amphibian, insect, or avian. Even the most threatened and endangered of our co-inhabitants on this earth start the ritual of renewal that comes with spring. They still claim their territory, seek their mates, make their preparations, and raise their young – regardless of the shrinking habitat and the ever increasing pressures brought upon them. We, likewise, usher our children out into a world that offers them equal measures of joy and danger. Our threats may be less imminent, as well as far more within our control, but we all press on regardless of the degree of obstacle or our ability to change our circumstances.



Spring is another chance. Life goes on throughout the year, but spring is when the vast majority of living things in our little part of the world strike out anew. When I see the first buds on the maple in my yard, or I stand out at Memorial Lake in mid-March to see the Timberdoodles display, I feel recharged. Regardless of the laundry list of ills we have visited on this earth, we keep getting another chance. Every plant and creature on this earth keeps trying to survive, and we have the ability and responsibility to help them do so. There will be more gas wells, more wind turbines, more sprawl, and new problems we haven't even thought of yet, but spring will give us another chance to set things right. We may run out of springs someday, but until then – you must believe in spring.

*(both photos on this page were taken by Gary Kinkley)*

## Sponsors Always Appreciated for Audubon Adventures for Classrooms

Each year, students in classrooms in Lebanon County and the Hershey/Hummelstown area benefit from reading *Audubon Adventures*. This activity helps them to improve their informational reading skills and broadens their awareness of the environment. The classroom kits are provided by our local Quittapahilla Audubon Society and are sponsored through donations.

If you would like to continue making this valuable resource available to local children, please complete the form below and mail it to QAS. A label indicating your sponsorship will be placed on the *Audubon Adventures* kit.



### AUDUBON ADVENTURE SPONSORSHIP FORM

Yes, I wish to sponsor an *Audubon Adventures* classroom for a donation of \$45. I understand a label indicating my sponsorship will be placed on the kit.

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

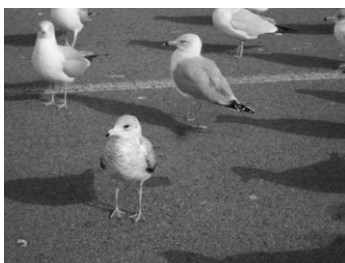
City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Quittapahilla Audubon Society  
PO Box 123  
Palmyra, PA 17078

## Teachers Need Birding Help

QAS has received a message from one of our *Audubon Adventures* teachers. Diane Dilger and another 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Ebenezer Elementary School are working to make their courtyard “critter friendly” and hope to get it National Wildlife certified. They would like someone to come to their school and talk about the birds in their area. If you or someone you know could do this for these teachers, please contact Rosemary Spreha at 717-657-0271 or [rspreha@excite.com](mailto:rspreha@excite.com). Rosemary is willing to help sometime after Easter.



Ring-billed gulls seen in Lebanon, 2/15/12 – photo by Fritz Heilman

## Campers for 2012 Season

QAS is proud to report the issuance of camp scholarships to five persons for this year. *Nicolas Silvis*, 11, a 5<sup>th</sup> grader at Hershey Derry Township School will attend Hog Island Family Camp August 19-24. *Lizzie St. Clair*, 14, an 8<sup>th</sup> grader at Palmyra Area School District will attend Hog Island Audubon Camp June 17-22. *Cecilia Martin*, 15; *Michaela Wolf*, 14; and *Alyssa Cole*, 14, all 9<sup>th</sup> grade students at Palmyra Area High School will attend the Earth Explore Costa Rica Adventure Camp either the first or second week of August.

Come meet and greet these campers at QAS’s program on Wednesday, April 25, at 7:30pm.



## Over ONE THOUSAND Youth in Our Community ...

... have benefited from QAS programs, scholarships, and the *Audubon Adventures* educational materials over the last two years. Wouldn’t you like to become a part of it? We are still looking for a Chairperson for our Education Committee. Our Education Chair position is responsible for coordinating our *Audubon Adventures* program with local schools as well as our Nature Camp Scholarship Program. These duties would include contacting teachers, ordering education materials, delivering education materials, reviewing scholarship applications, and contacting scholarship applicants. The position can be filled by co-chairs, and you can seek out committee members or helpers from the QAS membership. Chairpersons may also decide whether they would like to be voting Board members or simply work within their respective committees. If you are interested or want more information on the Education Committee position, any other Board position, or if you want to help out in some other way – I would love to talk to you. You can contact me, Gary Kinkley, at 503-4027.



## QAS Candidates Needed

Our annual elections will be upon us before we know it. Currently the following nominations have been made:

President – Jim Fiorentino  
 Vice President and Newsletter Editor – Gary Kinkley  
 Treasurer – Brenda Gish  
 Secretary – Maggie Hummel  
 Conservation Chair and a Director – Art Schiavo  
 Membership Chair – Jim M. Logan  
 Publicity Chair and a Director – Ruth Krebs  
 Field Trip Chair and a Director – Fritz Heilman  
 Director – Rosemary Spreha

We still have a number of positions to fill. Open positions are Education Chair, Program Chair, and Hospitality Chair, and assistance is always welcome by current committee chairs. If you are interested in serving QAS in some capacity, please contact President Gary Kinkley at 503-4027 for details.

## Beeing a Good Landlord

-Gary Kinkley



Photo by Gary Kinkley

Last year I made fifteen bee blocks following the instructions from the web page I referenced in an article in the 2011 QAS Spring Newsletter. You can still find the article at <http://umaine.edu/publications/7153e/>. The only addition that I made was to add a roof from some scrap 1x4s. All fifteen houses came from one 2 x 6 x 8 board.

I ended up installing them a little later than I intended. I had all of the blocks that I used at my house up by the first week of July, and I installed the one at my cabin on the day of the QAS Board Meeting Picnic the following week. Many of the remaining houses went to friends, family, and some other QAS members who asked me about them.

Within three days, all of the smaller holes were filled in the block that I installed at my cabin. I do not know whether there were several active females or if it was just one very productive bee! At home, I was able to watch the progress of a leafcutter bee as she made tiny little green egg packets in the block on the corner of my

house. Three of my friends also reported successful blocks – so five of the first ten blocks were used even with the late start! I also noticed, while skulking around my yard after dark with a flashlight, that the blocks served as overnight shelter for several other bees as well as a small spider.

I now find myself peeking in the blocks again everyday as I wait for the new bees to emerge. The block at my cabin was visited by a predator, presumably by a woodpecker, but some females may still emerge. One of the more fascinating facts that I learned through this project is that the female can control the sex of the eggs. She lays the females toward the back of each chamber while laying male eggs closer to the entrance. The female eggs are more valuable for reproduction so a few males may be sacrificed to predators. Hopefully, the rest have survived the winter safe and sound.

I still have a few bee blocks left – let me know, 503-4027, if you are interested in “beeing” a bee landlord.



## On the Web

If it is a rainy day, and you don't want to check for potential fallout (which means you must have a cold!) – check out these great websites...

At <http://birdingonthe.net/maillinglists/PENN.html> you can read the latest bird sightings from around thestate. This website displays the latest posts to the PABirds listserv. If you have heard about PABirds, and you wondered what it was like, this site is a great introduction.

Type in <http://thebugchicks.com> for another cool website for all of you insect enthusiasts out there – or “Bug Dorks” (you will get it after you check out the site). This site has a lot of great videos and other information for children of all ages.

Have you strained through your spotting scope to catch a glimpse of the Bald Eagle nest at Middle Creek? You can get a close-up view of a pair of Bald Eagles right in your home. You can see the Decorah Bald Eagle Nestcam at <http://www.ustream.tv/decoraheagles>.

Whether you are a birder, an amateur entomologist, or just a *naturally* curious person, there are new websites waiting out there to be explored. Share some of your favorites with us by emailing your links to [gas@gasaudubon.org](mailto:gas@gasaudubon.org). We may share one of your links in a future newsletter.

## Program Meeting Rewind

Did you enjoy our January and February meetings so much that you had to know more? Did you miss the meetings – leaving you inconsolable ever since? Our speakers have suggested a few great websites to check out related to their topics.

If you want to know more about the movement ecology of Turkey Vultures as well as more about all of Hawk Mountain's scavenger research, check at [http://www.vulturemovements.org/hms/HMS\\_TV.htm](http://www.vulturemovements.org/hms/HMS_TV.htm) for the very latest updates. Hawk Mountain also has a blog devoted to the topic: *The Vulture Chronicles*. You can learn more at <http://hawkmountain.wordpress.com/>. If you missed February's meeting on bats, Aura Stauffer suggested the following sites for more information. First, check out Bat Conservation International at <http://www.batcon.org/> to learn more about bats and bat conservation. Find the latest news on White-nose Syndrome at <http://www.whitenosesyndrome.org/>.

... and don't miss the next QAS Meeting!



Photo by Kim Hubbard

## Sandhill Cranes at Platte River, Nebraska

-Audubon Wingspan, March 15, 2012

A single Sandhill Crane is a majestic sight. Half a million of them is an awe-inspiring spectacle of sight and sound. Aldo Leopold wrote that when we hear a crane, "we hear the trumpet in the orchestra of evolution." This month watch cranes converge in vast numbers along Nebraska's Platte River. Experience it for yourself via Audubon Rowe Wildlife Sanctuary crane cam. Watch and hear birds gather at dusk and disperse at dawn at [www.rowsanctuary.org/crane%20cam.htm](http://www.rowsanctuary.org/crane%20cam.htm).

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## Conservation and Ducks Unlimited

As the Conservation Chairperson, I belong to numerous nature based organizations. One of my favorites is Ducks Unlimited. This organization is celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year and has been a valuable ally in creating and preserving wetlands for waterfowl throughout their history.

Pennsylvania is one of Ducks Unlimited's most valuable states because we are part of the Atlantic Flyway, an important migration and wintering spot for species such as American black ducks, mallards, canvasbacks, and Canada geese to name a few.

In 2005 alone, working with a variety of partners, DU's Pennsylvania conservation program restored, enhanced, and conserved 997 acres of wetlands and adjacent habitat.

In 2009, DU received a grant from the PA Game Commission and the PA Fish and Game Commission for wetland restoration and enhancement at the Pymatuning Wildlife Area, a 5,400-acre complex of wetland and upland habitat located in western Crawford County between Geneva Swamp and Pymatuning Reservoir in northwestern Pennsylvania. This well-known WMA contains some of Pennsylvania's largest and most productive wetlands, which provide important habitat for migratory birds and other wildlife, including several endangered, threatened, and special concern plant and animal species, as well as important educational and recreational opportunities.

Ducks Unlimited also did conservation work recently in Cherry Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Cherry Valley is a 30,000-acre natural area located in Monroe and Northampton counties. The valley contains several nationally significant ecosystems, including mid-Atlantic calcareous fens, portions of the Kittatinny Ridge, pitch pine/scrub oak barrens, kettle hole bogs, caves, and Cherry Creek itself. Many protected plants and animals reside in the Valley including federally listed threatened or endangered species. Cherry Valley is also a major avenue for migrating birds of prey, songbirds, waterfowl, and bats. The Service has established an acquisition boundary for the refuge, encompassing 20,466 acres, within which the Service is authorized to acquire property from willing landowners for incorporation into the refuge.

If you are interested in supporting this organization and would like to become a member, apply at this link: <https://www.ducks.org/support/donateonlinesecure.aspx?promokey=JoinDU-AdultMembership-Vest&ID=1033&responsecode=ZAZ22222>

Yours in Conservation,  
Art Schiavo

Quittapahilla Audubon Society

# Annual Banquet

**Wednesday, May 23, 2012 -- Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m.**

Friendship Fire Hall, 610 South Second Street, Lebanon, PA 17042

**Reservations Required**

Menu

*Baked Fish and Turkey  
Potato Filling, Two Hot Vegetables, and Coleslaw  
Fruit Cup, Dessert, and Beverage*



*"Slow Down! You're Going Too Fast!"*

Fred Habegger will go through each of the four seasons by way of a video presentation. The seasons will be shown in a way that makes the ordinary seem a bit more than ordinary. Slow motion footage will reveal nuances easily missed in the field. Fred's presentation will invite you to appreciate the little things in our world as well as the dramatic.

**Travel Directions**

From 422 East, travel west on Cumberland Street and turn left onto Lincoln Avenue. Continue on Lincoln Avenue to the third traffic light and turn right onto Poplar Street. Go one block and turn left onto Second Street. The Friendship Fire Company is on the left – parking lot is on the right.

From 422 West, travel east on Walnut Street to Lincoln Avenue. Turn right onto Lincoln Avenue. Continue to the second traffic light and turn right onto Poplar Street. Go one block and turn left onto Second Street. The Friendship Fire Company is on the left – parking lot is on the right.

THE COST OF THE EVENING IS: **\$18.50 for Adults / \$8.00 for Children 4 through 9** (*under 4 are Free*)

YOUR NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF ADULTS: \_\_\_\_\_ NUMBER OF CHILDREN: \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please send this slip and your check, payable to **The Quittapahilla Audubon Society** or **(QAS)** to:

Karen R. Light  
186 Old State Road  
Jonestown, PA 17038-8500  
Telephone: 717-865-2818

**MUST HAVE RESERVATIONS MADE BY MAY 9, 2012**

*– refunds cannot be made after the deadline –*

If you need information after May 9<sup>th</sup>, please call our president, Gary Kinkley at 717-503-4027.

## QAS Fall Newsletter Deadline

Any persons who have information to be included in the next issue of the Quittapahilla Audubon Society Newsletter are invited to send them to Gary Kinkley by July 18, 2011. Articles may be emailed to [cathartesaura@live.com](mailto:cathartesaura@live.com) or mailed to him at 3 Clark Road, Annville, PA 17003.



A scene close to Swatara Creek north of Annville showing some destruction caused by the September 2011 flood as seen by participants in QAS's Christmas Bird Count on 12/17/11. Photo by Fritz Heilman

## Recounts of Several of Our Field Trips

### December 17, 2011 – Christmas Bird Count

December 17, 2011 marked the 112<sup>th</sup> Christmas Bird Count (CBC) for the National Audubon Society and the 32<sup>nd</sup> for the Quittapahilla Audubon Society. We had 38 observers in the field in 12 parties and 4 feeder watchers. The total species count was 70 (record is 83, recorded in 2007) and the total individual count was 14,675 (record is 30,684, recorded in 2008).

We had five species with the highest counts since QAS began holding CBCs in 1980: 46 black vultures, 108 wild turkeys, 86 American coots, 13 hairy woodpeckers, and 10 common ravens. Also of note were these rarities: the fifth observation of chipping sparrows since 1980, the sixth of eastern towhee, and the second of red-breasted mergansers. Additionally for count week we had one northern shrike seen by Dave McNaughton's group, and 11 bald and 3 golden eagles seen by Dave Schwenk at Second Mt. Finally, Rosemary Spreha added a new species to our historical records with one rufous hummingbird (thanks to Tim Becker for luring this migrant to his yard).

Listed on the right above are the section leaders, location in the count circle, and species highlights:

1. *Randy Miller* (NW) - 18 species: 11 common mergansers, 71 American coots, 1 red-breasted merganser
  2. *Gerry Boltz* (NC) - 31 species: 1 ring-necked duck, 1 golden-crowned kinglet, 51 dark-eyed juncos
  3. *Dave McNaughton* (NC restrict areas) - 42 species: 3 great-horned owls, 2 red-breasted nuthatches, 44 American tree sparrows
  4. *Dennis Wingle* (E) - 24 species: 2 mute swans, 2 kestrels, 2 northern mockingbirds
  5. *Rosemary Spreha* (WC) - 43 species: 2 bald eagles, 2 yellow-bellied sapsuckers, 43 American pipits
  6. *Greg Burgdorf* (WC) - 48 species: 2 cackling geese, 1 yellow-rumped warbler, 3 chipping sparrows
  7. *Stephanie Butler* (S) - 29 species: 14 black vultures, 2 brown creepers, 1 white-crowned sparrow
  8. *Fritz Heilman* (SC) - 32 species: 1 pileated woodpecker, 2 winter wrens, 1 hermit thrush
  9. *Steve Rannels* (W) - 46 species: 1 gadwall, 1 killdeer, 3 swamp sparrows
  10. *Dave Schwenk* (2<sup>nd</sup> Mt. Hawk Watch) - 11 species: 1 hairy woodpecker, 2 pileated woodpeckers, 8 common ravens
- Thanks again to all participants in conducting AND contributing to the 32<sup>nd</sup> QAS CBC for Lebanon County.

### February 19, 2012 – Great Backyard Bird Count

Nine persons visited Union Canal Tunnel Park, Lebanon, to observe flora and fauna while collecting data for the Great Backyard Bird Count. The GBBC is a specified period of time when tens of thousands of fellow bird watchers count the numbers and species of birds they observe in a particular area. They record this information on a checklist which is submitted to [www.birdcount.org](http://www.birdcount.org). Check out this site for an overview of birds throughout North America.

Great weather provided an enjoyable walk on both the south and north portal areas of the park. We observed 18 species which included a kingfisher, red-tailed hawks, a mockingbird, and a half dozen gadwall ducks. Also of note: 137 common grackles mixed in with crows that were constantly flying overhead.



Union Canal Field Trip Participants

Photo by Fritz Heilman



**Field Trip Recounts** (continued from page 8)



Spotted salamander seen at Swatara State Park photo by Fritz

**March 10, 2012 – Swatara State Park**

Richard Light served as guide for a trip to the vernal pool at Swatara State Park. The participants had an educational visit and observed much flora and fauna. Among some of the things observed were a spotted salamander, skunk cabbage, and a promethia silk moth found hanging on a shrub by the parking lot. The caterpillar wraps some silk around the branch, then encloses itself within the leaf.



Some of Middle Creek Field Trip participants photo Fritz Heilman

**March 17, 2012 – Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area**

Eight persons enjoyed temperatures that were warmer than any time for this trip in past years. A high percentage of waterfowl seemed to have already moved on, but we did see many species (in low numbers). There were still several thousand snow geese present.

Birds of note included: eastern phoebe, common flicker, pied-billed grebe, gadwall, bufflehead, ring-necked duck, double-crested cormorant, shoveler ducks, and red-tailed hawk.

While checking the bald eagle nest at stop 4, one of the adults flew in and landed near the nest allowing us all a good look via the spotting scope.

At stop 3 we saw the tree swallows, cabbage white butterflies, and heard a male pheasant calling. We also observed five active nests at the great blue heron rookery on the east side of Hopeland Road and four turkeys walking along the far shore of the north pond. The Sandhill crane was seen to the right of the south pond.

The small non-native plant, purple dead nettle (*Lamium purpureum*), was growing profusely in the fields. This plant is in the mint family (*Lamiaceae*) – plants that have square stems. In some literature the flowers are suggested to resemble snapdragons; in others, stinging nettles. However, this is a “tame dragon” and has no sting, so it is a dead nettle.



Young Ruby-throated Hummingbird Photo by Sid Hostetter

**Attract Hummingbirds**

Our Ruby-throated Hummingbirds will be flying in shortly, if they haven’t already arrived. Following are suggestions to help you attract these beauties to your backyard.

1. Hang feeders on thin branches near a wire or line. I try to position my feeders in such a way that a hummingbird cannot watch all of them at the same time. Some do tend to get very territorial. To make hummingbird food, mix 1 part sugar to 4 parts of boiling water. No red food dye is needed
2. Purchase a mister attachment for your garden hose and watch them take a “shower”, then sit and preen themselves!
3. Plant flowers such as coral bells, bee balm, fuchsia, and cardinal flower. They also like the mimosa tree blossoms. Plan for a continuous blooming cycle from mid-April through mid-September. Deadhead flowers to give them a longer blooming life.

## Lawsuit Filed Against PA Governor

*Pa. Forest Coalition, March 7, 2012*

The Pennsylvania Environmental Defense Foundation (PEDF) has filed a lawsuit against Governor Tom Corbett in Commonwealth Court in Harrisburg.

The suit alleges that the Governor, along with his Budget Secretary, Charles Zogby, and the State Treasurer, Tom McCord, have violated their fiduciary duties under Article I Section 27 of Pennsylvania's Constitution, and are continuing to endanger our State Forests and Parks as a result.

PEDF had sent several letters to the Governor and the Legislature during the past year urging them not lease any more State Forests, and to stop diverting all the monies that have come from the Marcellus drilling activities on our State Forests. PEDF had made clear that a law suit would be filed if the Governor continued to use the lease money to go to the State's General Fund or for projects that were not specifically used for restoring and preserving our State Parks and Forest System.

When the Governor committed approximately \$70,000,000 of the lease money to replace Fund DCNR's Operational Budget, and another \$20,000,000 to Funds that are not concerned with conserving and maintaining our State Parks and Forest systems PEDF decided to take action.

The suit alleges that the Governor, in both the Rendell and Current Administrations, wrongfully entered into leasing some of our most pristine State Forests, without considering his fiduciary duties; wrongfully took DCNR's financial ability to deal with the impacts from the Martello drilling process on our State Forests, and wrongfully uses the funds for purposes that are beyond the Trust established under our Constitution.

**To see the entire lawsuit go to PEDF's web site at: [www.pedf.org](http://www.pedf.org).**



Pileated woodpecker's handiwork in a tree at Coleman Memorial Park, Lebanon. Photo taken 12/31/2011 by Fritz Heilman



## New Federal Bird-Friendly Wind Development Guidelines Released

*-email from Mike Daulton, Audubon, March 23, 2012*

National Audubon Society happily announced that the Department of the Interior took an important step toward bird-friendly wind development in the U.S. by releasing new federal guidelines on March 23, 2012. The purpose of these new guidelines is to minimize bird and wildlife impacts from land-based development.

The guidelines were developed with the assistance of a 22-member Wind Turbine Guidelines Advisory Committee (of which National Audubon is a member).

Audubon was instrumental in including in the guidelines measures to address habitat fragmentation, one of the significant potential impacts of wind development on birds. As a result, wind developers who cooperate with the guidelines will be expected to thoroughly analyze the impacts of their projects on habitat values and avoid and minimize approaches that cut up and divide important habitats like forests and grasslands making them less suitable for wildlife.

The guidelines also give the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service a place at the table for siting decisions and a sound basis for recommending measures needed to avoid, minimize, and mitigate impacts of wind projects. Importantly, wind developers that fail to incorporate Fish and Wildlife Service recommendations risk prosecution under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, and other applicable wildlife laws.

Now, Audubon is calling for the Department of the Interior to implement these guidelines in the same collaborative spirit in which they were created and with the same respect for practical, science-based solutions to wildlife conflicts. QAS, your local Audubon chapter, has affirmed our support of strong protections for birds, wildlife, and their habitats by requesting our chapter's name and state be added as a signatory on a letter National Audubon is sending to Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar.

For more detailed information on this issue, please log on to: <http://www.audubon.org/newsroom/press-releases/2012/federal-guidelines-step-forward-bird-friendly-wind-development>.

**LEAVE A LEGACY FOR QAS**

You, as a member or friend of QAS, can leave a legacy that will help save the special areas you have explored and loved long after you are gone. Remember Quittapahilla Audubon Society, your LOCAL Audubon connection, through a bequest in your Will or through a gift annuity that will specifically support QAS programs while paying you a monthly income for life.

To learn more about how you can make a bequest and create a permanent legacy in your name or in someone's memory, as well as tax benefits for planned giving options, please contact your attorney or financial advisor.

In supporting a cause that you hold dear, you can have peace of mind that your time on this planet has mattered.

**Chapter-Only Membership Application Information**

Quittapahilla Audubon Society offers a local Chapter-Only membership that differs from the current National Audubon membership in these ways:

1. The annual fee of \$20.00 will go directly for QAS activities only.
2. The membership period runs from July 1<sup>st</sup> to July 1<sup>st</sup>, regardless of when you join.
3. You will receive the chapter newsletter informing you of upcoming events, but you will not receive the *Audubon* magazine.

If you are interested, please issue a check to QAS for \$20 and mail to: Chapter-Only Membership, c/o Jim M. Logan, Chairman, 810 Hill St., Lebanon, PA 17046. Do not mail to the National membership address in Palm Coast, FL.

**QAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Programs - Board Members	
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The QAS Board meets at 7:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday in January, March, May, July, September, and November at the Lebanon Valley UCC Home, Annville, PA. Meetings are open to interested persons. If you would like to attend a meeting or are interested in finding out about any of the open positions listed here, please contact Gary Kinkley, President.

Please send **ADDRESS changes and corrections** to Jim M. Logan, 810 Hill St., Lebanon, PA 17046.

**National Audubon Society  
CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

*Local Chapter Quittapahilla Audubon (C0ZU16OZ)*

**Yes, I would like to join.** Please enroll me as a member of the National Audubon Society and my local chapter at the **INTRODUCTORY MEMBERSHIP** cost of \$20. Please send **AUDUBON** magazine, my membership card, and the chapter newsletter to the address below.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Introductory Membership \$20.00

My check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

Please make all checks payable to: **National Audubon Society**  
PO Box 422250  
PALM COAST FL 32142-2250

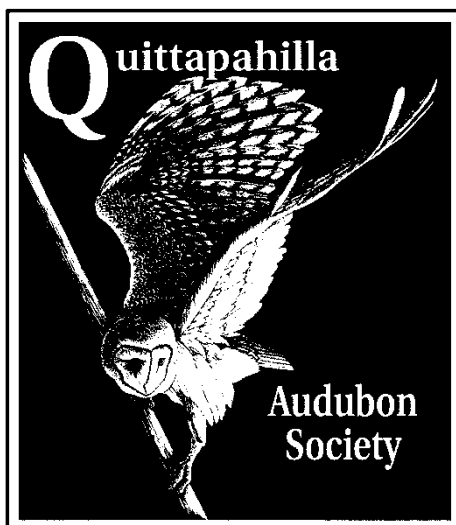
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## Quittapahilla Audubon Society

Your local Audubon chapter,  
working to  
preserve nature and the environment,  
invites you to join us for  
our programs and field trips.