

QUITTAPAHILLA AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2011/2012

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

www.QASAudubon.org

Upcoming QAS Events

Join Us! Everyone is welcome

Stormy Weather Meeting Cancellations

When bad weather forces our chapter meetings to be cancelled, you can hear about it on CBS-21 or CW-15. These TV stations have agreed to broadcast cancellation announcements. They will also have this information available on their station websites: www.cbs21.com and www.cw15.com.

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.

January 25, 2012

Migration Ecology of North American Turkey Vultures

David Barber, Research Biologist for Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, will present this program on how, when, and where Turkey Vultures migrate using both high tech and not so high tech methods.

February 22, 2012

Managing Pennsylvania's Bats

White Nose Syndrome (WNS) causes bats to wake during hibernation when there is no food sources avail-

able. As a result, their mortality rate is more than 90%. *Aura Stauffer*, Wildlife Biologist for Pennsylvania DCNR, will update us on WNS and the latest research being done.

March 28, 2012

Timberdoodle Nesting/Foraging Habitat Selection

Eric Miller, Wildlife Biologist for PA Game Commission, will report the results of a two-year research project studying the relationship of invasive shrubs and American woodcock nesting selection in southeastern Pennsylvania.

April 25, 2012

Energy Development and the Associated Threats to Pennsylvania Wildlife – Kim Van Fleet



Peregrine Falcon by Fritz Heilman

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

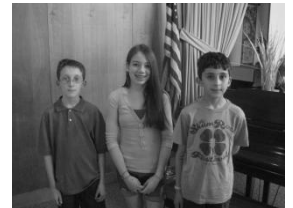
Rafael Abeleda, William Bender, Kathy Bishop, Gloria Brown, Dennis Clabaugh, Carol Flickinger, Pamela Foust, Lynn Galanos, Esther Gappa, Catherine Jones, Richard Jones, Margaret Kerr, Betty Light, Miriam Light, Jana Marderness, Michelle Marinkov, Dolores Miller, Lisa Myers, Connie Patrick, Doris Rose, Kathie Sanders, Carol Schiller, Clayton Shuey, Chris Templin, Helen Till, Francis Ulishney, Cathy Wetzel, Kay Zimmerman, Chester Zimolvak.

A Word from QAS President Gary Kinkley . . .

Prescription for Nature Deficit Disorder: Regular Doses of QAS

This fall, I believe the greatest strength of QAS was truly on display. Our first three meetings of the 2011-12 season really highlighted how we can reach out to the youth of our community. From our excellent Camper presentations in September, to the smiling faces at our family meeting at the Salvation Army building in October, to the Trout in the Classroom presentation at our regular October meeting – a lot of impressive young men and women displayed their personal passions for nature, and QAS was responsible for helping to give them opportunities to discover and build on those passions. QAS really is all about education. Our field trips, our monthly programs, our scholarships, and our Audubon Adventures program all provide educational experiences for members and non-members of all ages, but it is particularly critical to engage the youth of our community, and we are coming through.

One of the first meetings I attended when I became a member was a September “QAS Camper” meeting. I can still remember the enthusiasm with which each camper recounted their memories from Hog Island. I wanted to go there myself after listening to their stories – and not just for the fantastic food which was always a highlight! In the absence of an Education Committee Chair, Rosemary Spreha and I have split some of the responsibilities of the committee. While we would love to find an official chair and more committee members, I can say that it afforded me an even better perspective of the positive effect of these programs. I had the privilege of contacting each scholarship recipient to inform them that they had received the award, and I made the arrangements for their presentations. I cannot think of a more deserving group, and I believe that Alyssa, Alex, and Collin will remember their experiences for the rest of their lives. I also do not want to discount the multiplier effect that Middle Creek’s Bert Myers, our Educator Scholarship recipient, will have by passing on what he experienced to all of the youth who attend his programs.



We may not be able to reach all of the children in our community, but we can continue to inspire them - a few children at a time. Anyone who attended the ZooAmerica presentation that we hosted in Lebanon can tell you that the children in attendance lit up each time a new animal was introduced. That is the kind of inspiration that leads us to look to the skies, or under a rock, or to go splashing after a salamander. That is also the inspiration that later leads to a desire to protect the natural world, and I believe that we have inspired them. Perhaps, I believe it most because they have inspired me so much this fall. So thank you to all of the members that have contributed to our educational endeavors over the last 30 plus years!

QAS has the remedy for Nature Deficit Disorder and has been providing it for all of these years.

Field Trips at a Glance . . .

February 19, 2012

Union Canal Tunnel Park, Lebanon

Observation of flora and fauna, including data collecting for the "Great Backyard Bird Count" (GBBC). Meet Sunday 2pm at parking lot off 25th Street, Lebanon. Leader: Fritz Heilman 273-0487

March 17, 2012

Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area

Observation of migrating waterfowl in conjunction with the Lebanon Valley Conservancy. Meet Saturday 9am at the visitor center parking lot. Leader: Fritz Heilman 273-0487

March 25, 2012

Timberdoodle at Memorial Lake

Observation of "sky dance" of the woodcock. Meet 7pm at main parking lot (adjacent to boat rental). Leader: Gary Kinkley 503-4027

March 31, 2012

Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area

Trip details same as for the March 17 visit, except not a joint field trip with the Lebanon Valley Conservancy.

HersheyPark Fundraiser

-Rosemary Spreha

QAS has once again participated in the Food and Beverage volunteer fundraiser at HersheyPark. Volunteers worked at food stands throughout the park and QAS received a donation for their efforts. Thanks to all who worked this year: Pam and David Gray, Kay and Rachel Knepp, Carolyn Kreider, Ken Light, George Mentzer and Patty Van Scyoc. Volunteers received a voucher good for a day pass to the park for each shift they worked.

Lots of Happy Birds this Winter

The Wild Bird Seed Sale coordinators, Jim and Kitty Logan, want to thank all those who purchased QAS wild bird seed this year. We had a successful sale with QAS supporters and bird lovers purchasing over **15,000 pounds** of seed. The profits of the sale are used to support our local chapter's great programs in environmental education. Your job now is to feed those hungry birds this winter and we'll be ready to re-stock your seed supply next fall.

A special word of thanks goes out to those volunteers who helped to unload and distribute the seed.



Recycle Your Christmas Tree

After the holidays, consider turning your Christmas tree into a bird refuge. You can create a brush pile in your yard by your feeders to provide shelter from the winter elements for the birds. If you want to go a little further, prop your tree up. You can then decorate your tree with orange halves, suet, and peanut butter covered pine cones. Your feathered friends will appreciate your generous gift!

Over ONE THOUSAND Youth in Our Community . . .

...have benefited from QAS programs, scholarships, and the Audubon Adventures educational materials. 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 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, President Gary Kinkley would love to talk to you. You can contact him at 503-4027.

2012 Hog Island Audubon Camp, Maine

The National Audubon Society offers 6-day birding programs at the historic Audubon Camp on Hog Island, the 330-acre wildlife sanctuary located in mid-coast Maine, on Muscongus Bay. Immerse yourself in the joy of birding with expert-led workshops, lively evening presentations, saltwater birding tours and trips to diverse habitats on the Maine coast. A listing of available camps may be found at <http://hogisland.audubon.org>. This is one of the camps for which QAS offers scholarships.

Wanted: Campers for Summer 2012

-Rosemary Spreha

QAS is looking for qualified local students to attend nature-related summer camps. Scholarships are available for students in first through eleventh grade. Anyone interested in attending summer camp and applying for a QAS scholarship needs to choose a camp appropriate to their age group and submit a scholarship application to QAS. Applications are available online at www.QASAudubon.org. Applications must be completed and returned to QAS by **February 19, 2012**.

Suggested camps include Governor Dick Explorers' Camp, ZooAmerica Day Camp, Mass Audubon Camp, Teen Adventure Camp of Audubon Pennsylvania, and Hog Island Audubon Camp. Parents are responsible for a portion of the camp tuition and transportation to and from camp.

Youth Learning Opportunity

High school youth from across Pennsylvania are invited to join us for ECO Camp – Exploring Careers Outdoors – a week-long residential camp sponsored by the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR). Participate in action-packed, hands on activities and recreational adventures in Pennsylvania's state parks and forests that expose you to conservation, recreation and careers in natural resources.

ECO Camp is offered free of charge, but participants must provide their own transportation to and from ECO Camp at the start and end of camp. Two separate camp locations are offered: Kirby House near Wilkes-Barre, PA and Kings Gap Environmental Education Center near Carlisle, PA.

Go to www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/ecocamp/ for all the necessary details. Space is limited. Application deadline is April 1, 2012.

Marcellus Shale Update

-Gary Kinkley

As I write this article, both the Pennsylvania House and the Senate have passed bills which would impose impact fees on Marcellus Shale drilling, but both House Bill 1950 and Senate Bill 1100 raise some serious concerns. Among them are the lower than average fees, provisions which strip the ability of local governments to make rules for drilling, the placement of drilling sites near schools and environmentally sensitive areas, and inadequate bonding requirements.

The proposed impact fees would be capped at 1% which is lower than what many other states impose. A 5% fee is common among drilling states, and would be

more appropriate while still being a competitive rate. Even the 1% fee, in the proposed legislation, could be rescinded if a municipality attempted to put restrictions on drilling. Further, the PA Attorney General's Office would represent the drillers against the local municipality using taxpayer funds to defend the drillers. The local municipalities would be restricted from making any zoning ordinances even in consideration for general health or safety within their communities, and those concerns are more likely to arise with the proposed minimum setbacks. The legislation in its current form would allow for drilling to occur within 300 feet of waterways and wetlands and within 500 feet of homes and schools.

As lawmakers try to reconcile the House and Senate Bills, there are several proposed amendments which would address these concerns. In addition, there are amendments that would ensure that a substantial fund is created for environmental stewardship as well as the remediation of well sites which the current low bond requirements do not create much of an incentive for. Your QAS Board has supported strong drilling legislation from the beginning, and we hope that the final bill will realize those expectations. Again, please consider contacting your legislators to let them know how you feel – especially at this critical juncture.

Thank You Received

QAS received a thank you for our support of the Friends of Coleman Memorial Park. *"This year the Friends of Coleman Memorial Park worked hard at raising funds towards much needed new playground equipment. We will be able to take the funds raised this year and, through a matching grant from the State, realize new equipment to be installed next year. So thanks for your help!"*

Annual Rivers & Wildlife Celebration

Gather in Kearney, Nebraska with wildlife enthusiasts from around the world to celebrate the annual migration of 500,000 sandhill cranes and millions of waterfowl from March 15-18, 2012. This celebration includes keynote speakers, live raptor and snake shows, and a variety of field trips. Registration opens January 2012. Visit their website: www.nebraskacranefestival.org.



Participants in the field trip to State Gamelands 211 on September 25, 2011.

Photo by Fritz Heilman.



Adult Bald Eagle by Fritz Heilman

Day Trip to Conowingo Dam

-Frederick Heilman

I was part of a family trip to Conowingo Dam on December 10, 2011 that afforded us with many sightings and many photo ops. We saw about 30 bald eagles (one pictured above), young and adult mix. We also saw about 300 black vultures on the island. The vultures have relocated to the island after Conowingo Dam employees began chasing them away because of their annoying habit of damaging the vehicles in the parking lot. There were many great-blue herons on the island and numerous gulls. Also of note - a peregrine falcon sitting on the superstructure – see photo on page 1.

We were privy to plenty of interaction between the bald eagles as they grabbed fish from the river - quite a sight.

Rosetta Stone for Warblers

By day, warblers dazzle us with their colors and songs. By night, they migrate unseen, uttering calls lasting a fraction of a second. Using the "*Rosetta Stone for Warblers*," the Cornell Lab is creating tools to listen to the night sky and identify the birds passing overhead. Thanks to new grants and gifts, they're also developing a project called *BirdCast* to forecast migration using radar, sound, weather data, and observations from eBird. See the "*Rosetta Stone for Warblers*" by visiting Cornell Lab's website: <http://www.birds.cornell.edu>.

How Much Do You "like" QAS?

QAS is now on Facebook! Please stop by and "like" us. We do not have very much content up yet, but we will as we gain more followers. 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.

On the Web

Here are some more great links to check out if you are cooped up inside this winter ...

The Peregrine Fund features blog entries from working biologists all over the world on their website. You can read "Notes From The Field" by going to <http://blogs.peregrinefund.org/index.php>.

Have you ever wondered what that weird looking bug in your garden is? You can go to www.bugguide.net to submit a photo or to browse the photos from other contributors (you do have to register).

If you cannot get enough of owls (and really – who can?), you can always check out the "Owl Pages" at www.owlpages.com – it's a hoot!

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@qasaudubon.org. We may share one of your links in a future newsletter.



Seeking Tundra Swan Data Volunteers

Brian Byrnes reported on the Middle Creek Initiative at our September 28, 2011 QAS meeting. A key component of this work is documenting Tundra Swan use of feeding grounds outside the boundaries of Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area, so that farms can be prioritized for protection. Brian sent us a brief update of four ways QAS members can contribute to their knowledge of distribution of feeding Tundra Swans in Lebanon and Lancaster Counties, which will directly impact their ability to effectively conserve the Tundra Swans habitat.

1. Volunteers are needed to help carry out a standardized driving survey. The survey area is roughly centered on the intersection of Route 501 and Reistville Road. Volunteers record the number of swans eating on the ground, the location, date, time, and the field or crop type, if known. These surveys take place roughly Feb. 15th to March 15th, and individual volunteers (or pairs or teams) could run the surveys as many times as possible: once a week, twice a week, etc. Hopefully, with the help of several volunteers we will be able to work out a schedule that will get coverage most days during the migration.

(continued on page 6)

Tundra Swan *(continued from page 5)*

- We would also like to establish similar standardized surveys for other portions of Lebanon and Lancaster Counties that often host feeding Tundra Swans. If you know of areas where you have often seen feeding swans and would like to set up a survey route in that area, please let Brian know. Knowledge of feeding locations in Lancaster County is very limited right now and we hope to correct this starting in 2012.
- Another way to contribute is to report any observations of feeding swans to eBird (www.ebird.org or www.ebird.org/content/pa). If you are going to use this method to report feeding locations, it is VERY IMPORTANT that you write in the species notes section that the birds were observed on the ground and not just as flyovers (note: species comments are the ones that you enter directly next to the species name on the checklist by hitting the "Add details" button, not the comments that can be included on the effort page that relates to your entire checklist). Also, please provide as accurate a location as possible.
- Finally, you can submit any observations of feeding swans to Brian by email, phone, or regular mail. Please include the date and time, location, number of swans feeding (good estimates are acceptable!), and if possible, the type of field or crop.

Please contact Brian with any questions or to further discuss volunteer opportunities:

Brian J. Byrnes

Important Bird Area Coordinator, Audubon PA
1201 Pawlings Road, Audubon, PA 19403

bbyrnes@audubon.org 610-666-5593 ext. 106

Program and Field Trip Reports

Sept. 25, 2011 – State Game Lands 211 *Fritz Heilman*

Four persons spent about 3 hours visiting state game lands 211 via the railroad bed. A few of our best finds were an upland chorus frog, turtle-head wildflowers, and lycopodiums. The beaver pond survived the flood. The water flowed over the low-head dam they built.

Here are some pictures I took during our walk.



Upland Chorus Frog



Turtle-head Wildflower

Oct. 1, 2011 – Memorial Lake & Second Mountain

Rosemary Spreha

Five participants viewed 43 species during this field trip on a cloudy, rainy day.

Best birds: Black-throated Green Warblers, Black-burnian Warbler, N. Parula Warbler, Brown Thrashers, Osprey, Wood Duck (flyby), and Coopers Hawk.

Other items of interest: family of four deer seen on arrival at Memorial Lake parking lot below dam.

Comments: It was a cool cloudy morning and birds were pretty quiet. Most excitement was a small group of warblers in bushes near bridge on one-way road just before General's residence.

We arrived at Hawk Watch just as it began to rain. We did get to see an Osprey, Red-tailed Hawk and Sharp-shinned hawk before rain shut down the flight and we had to leave.

Oct. 22, 2011 – Native Pennsylvania Species by ZooAmerica

photos by *Gary Kinkley*



ZooAmerica presented an excellent, well received program to the 43 attendees, of which 10 were children, in the Salvation Army Gymnasium in Lebanon. Our thanks to everyone who helped out; especially Steve for setting up and Jo Ann for the great door prizes.

Nov 12, 2011 – Hawk Mt. Sanctuary *Fritz Heilman*

We had six participants arriving at Hawk Mountain Sanctuary around 9:30am. Half the group left around 1pm with the rest staying until 2:30pm.

First we gathered at the outdoor amphitheater for the presentation by the Shaver's Creek Environmental Center. They provided three birds of prey in a Show and Tell session: the golden eagle (as this was the annual Golden Eagle Saturday at Hawk Mountain), a bald eagle, and a short-eared owl.

Migration observation started slowly with a red-tailed hawk seen at the south lookout. At the north lookout we observed a couple turkey vultures. Finally at 1:37pm, an adult bald eagle passed by to the north, providing us a good look. Five minutes later a golden eagle passed by to the north side of the mountain as well.

A stop at the Port Clinton Peanut Shop capped the end to a visit on a notable Pennsylvania mountain top.

More information on Hawk Mountain Sanctuary can be viewed at www.hawkmountain.org.

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 1st to July 1st, 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

Rosemary Spreha (2012).....	657-0271
Art Schiavo (2012).....	533-1978
Fritz Heilman (2012).....	273-0487
Ruth Krebs (2012).....	867-4884
Stephanie Butler (2013).....	867-4377
Vera Freed (2013).....	507-0958
Jo Ann Yeagley (2013).....	865-4787

OFFICERS/CHAIRPERSONS for 2011-2012

President - Gary Kinkley.....	503-4027
Vice Pres. - Jim Fiorentino.....	274-2305
Secretary - Maggie Hummel.....	865-6232
Treasurer - Brenda Gish.....	367-1926
Conservation - Art Schiavo.....	533-1978
Education - Open	
Field Trips - Fritz Heilman.....	273-0487
Membership - Jim M. Logan.....	273-8438
Newsletter -	
Programs - Board Members	
Publicity - Ruth Krebs.....	867-4884
Hospitality - Open	

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

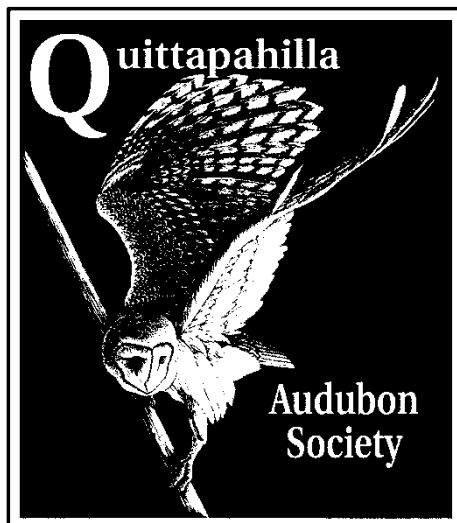
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Quittapahilla Audubon Society

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

Spring QAS Newsletter Deadline: Wednesday, March 21, 2012 E-mail material to be included to Dottie Leach at naftz78@aol.com and note QAS newsletter in the subject line or mail to her at 78 Naftzinger Rd., Annville, PA 17003.