

QUITTAPAHILLA AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2013-2014

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

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.



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.

January 22, 2014, 7:30 pm

The Speedwell Wolves, a Treasure Awaits

In the heart of the Pennsylvania Dutch country, quietly secured on 20 plus acres of natural woodland, you will find the home of the Speedwell Wolves. For over 30 years the Darlington Family has offered refuge to Wolves who have found themselves without a place in the natural world. It has been over a hundred years since the last wild wolf was known to exist in Pennsylvania.

Originally created as a private rescue, the Wolf Sanctuary of PA has grown into an educational facility. We are devoted to assuring the most comfortable and stimulating environments for our wolves.

At the Wolf Sanctuary of PA wolves and wolf hybrids are given back their dignity. The Wolves of Speedwell hold a unique position as Ambassadors to the wild. It has been said that "the best wolf habitat resides in the human heart." Perhaps it is also that the best habitat for our own wildness resides in the heart of the wolf. Hear the story of the Speedwell wolves presented by Denny Binkley.

February 26, 2014, 7:30 pm

Three Days in the Everglades

This program explores the connection of the Everglades with wading birds from Pennsylvania. Their feeding habits and natural history are explored during their winter stay in the Everglades. Viewers will recognize why the Everglades are important to Pennsylvania and why we should encourage any conservation efforts to reclaim the river of grass.

Presenter, Gene Wingert, is a noted naturalist and biologist from Dickinson College.

March 26, 2014, 7:30 pm

Native Thistles for Lepidoptera and Pollinator Projects

While commonly overlooked and removed as noxious weeds, our native thistles are some of the most attractive and rich nectar sources for native pollinators like butterflies, moths, and bees. Misunderstood and mistreated, the flower beautiful enough to be the symbol of Scotland is commonly discarded as a pasture killer and an aggressive colonizer. Yet our native thistles are more solitary than most wildflowers and attract all varieties of pollinating insects necessary for our cash crops. Their brilliant purples and pinks provide crucial mid-summer and late-season nectar sources when other nectaries wilt and seed. Their seeds and seed heads are also nutritionally available for wildlife such as American Goldfinches. Come and learn the differences between our favorite thistles from the good (pasture!), the bad (nodding!), and the tasty (artichokes!) and the beauty and potential they have for our landscapes.

David McNaughton is the Wildlife Assistant Program Manager with the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs at Fort Indiantown Gap National Guard Training.

And Our Field Trips at a Glance . . .

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

January 1, 2014 – Lebanon Valley Expo Center & Fair Grounds

Start the New Year off Birding! Observation of the local wintering birds while walking along the rail trail. The entire trip will be around 2 miles in length and 2 hours in duration (weather permitting). Come dressed for the weather and meet at the Sheetz parking lot on Rt. 72 (Quentin Road) at 12 noon. Leader Jim Fiorentino, 269-0675.

February 16, 2014 – Union Canal Tunnel Park, Lebanon

Observation of flora and fauna (including data collecting for the 17th annual “Great Backyard Bird Count”). Meet Sunday 2 PM at the main parking lot off 25 Street. Leader Fritz Heilman, 273-0487.

March 8, 2014 – Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area

Observation of migrating waterfowl and resident birds. Meet Saturday 9:00 AM at the visitor center parking lot. Leader Fritz Heilman, 273-0487.

March 23, 2014 – Timberdoodle at Swatara State Park

The first of two trips to observe the “sky dance” of the crepuscular woodcock in our two beautiful state parks. This trip will be held in conjunction with the Friends of Swatara State Park. Meet Sunday 6:30 PM at Trout Run Trailhead parking lot. Leader Gary Kinkley, 503-4027.

March 30, 2014 – Timberdoodle at Memorial Lake State Park

The second of two trips to observe the “sky dance” of the crepuscular woodcock in our two beautiful state parks. Meet Sunday 6:30 PM at the Middle Parking Lot. Leader Gary Kinkley, 503-4027.

April 19, 2014– Monroe Valley Spring Wildflowers

Hike along and see the beautiful variety of spring wildflowers of the Monroe Valley. This 1-2 hour, easy-to-moderate hike, does involve walking over some uneven terrain. Meet Saturday 10 AM at Lickdale Campground’s General Store parking lot. For details contact trip co-leaders Jim M. Logan, 273-8438 or Jim C. Logan, 865-5522.



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 very successful sale this year with QAS supporters and bird lovers purchasing almost **18,000 pounds** of seed. The profits of the sale are used to support our local chapter’s great programs in environmental education. A special word of thanks goes out to those volunteers who helped to unload and distribute the seed. Your job now is to feed those hungry birds this winter and we’ll be ready to re-stock your seed supply next fall.

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

Linda Beniston, Marcia Bicher, Mary Conrad, Robert Davies, Sandra Dissinger, Cindy Donahue, Steve Eggert, Marilyn Fortney, Fred Goudy, Sarah Hamm, Rob Hershey, Shirley Jackson, Margaret Kerr, Alan Kintzer, Barbara Kreiser, Shelley Lockwood, Anne Miller, Sandy Miller, Debra Ohl, Sandra Sandhouse, Raymond Soliday, Michael Valle, Barbara & Charles Wagner, Terry & Karen Weaver, Susan Winward

A Word from QAS President Jim Fiorentino

It's October 15th and Summer is losing its grip to Fall and I'm again this year personally looking forward to the cool fall days and nights. As fall approaches I'm also in the process of cleaning, replacing and mounting my feeders for the season. I do keep several of my feeders up year round, but add a few extra for the fall and winter. I don't know about all of you, but for me watching the birds, chipmunks, and yes even the pesky squirrels can be relaxing and entertaining. I only recently began keeping a life list of 'yard' birds and it's always enjoyable to see a 'new' yard bird to add to my list. I keep my list on eBird and I hope you all utilize eBird to record your observations. It's a wonderful way to keep not only your yard bird list but also your entire life list and observations. Using eBird, you can also see recent & historical observation for any area of the USA or the World for that matter. You can also set up a needs list for any state and/or county – check it out...I'm sure you will find something of interest.

Getting back to creating a bird yard list – in order to add a new or for that matter any species to your life yard list, you will need to attract them to your yard. There are several ways to do this. Planting native flowers and shrubs, adding a water source and several types of feeders, and keeping them cleaned and filled are good starting points. I hope you all ordered ALL of your seed during QAS's 35th annual fall birdseed sale fundraiser which will have ended by the time you read this. Thanks to everyone that again this year helped and supported this important QAS fundraiser – your efforts are truly appreciated.

Speaking of efforts, I hope you all had a chance to look over our schedule of programs and field trips during the upcoming year...there should be a trip of interest for everyone...from beginning birding, to wildflower ID, to New Year's Day birding, to observing the Timberdoodle – not one, but two trips have been added. We have also added several trips to Middle Creek and Swatara State Park...and it doesn't stop there...we have many interesting monthly programs scheduled that will enrich your learning and wildlife observations. Come and join us – ALL are welcome!

In closing, I am looking forward to the fall/winter birding season and hope to see all of you on a future QAS field trip, at a QAS program, or along a birding trail sometime this fall or winter.

Enjoy the fall migration and have a wonderful holiday season and a wonderful winter of birding!



On the Web

If you are stuck indoors on a cold winter day, check out these links:

There are two feederwatch cams online from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. One is setup at the Lab's Wild Birds Unlimited store at Sapsucker Woods you can watch at http://cams.allaboutbirds.org/channel/40/Cornell_Lab_F

[FeederWatch_Cam/?utm_source=Cornell+Lab+eNews&utm_campaign=326caba02e-Cornell_Lab_eNews_2013_11_05&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_47588b5758-326caba02e-278054565](http://cams.allaboutbirds.org/channel/38/FeederWatch_Cam/?utm_source=Cornell+Lab+eNews&utm_campaign=326caba02e-Cornell_Lab_eNews_2013_11_05&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_47588b5758-326caba02e-278054565). There is a second cam setup in Ontario, Canada – Ruffed Grouse, Pine Grosbeaks, and Evening Grosbeaks! You can see them all at this link: http://cams.allaboutbirds.org/channel/38/FeederWatch_Cam/?utm_source=Cornell+Lab+eNews&utm_campaign=326caba02e-Cornell_Lab_eNews_2013_11_05&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_47588b5758-326caba02e-278054565

Last for this issue, we featured our former speaker, Alex Surcică's, Facebook page *Bees, Wasps, and other Beneficials* in a past newsletter. As he expanded his

insect photography, he decided to create a new page entitled the *Digital Museum of Natural History* it can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/Digital.Museum.of.Natural.History> - enjoy!

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

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!

Hersheypark Fundraiser

Thanks to all who worked at food stands at Hersheypark this year: David Gray, Kay Knepp, Ken Light, George Mentzer and Lori Miller, and our organizer – Rosemary Spreha. Volunteers receive a voucher good for a day pass at the park for each shift worked, and QAS receives a donation from Hersheypark for their efforts.

Great Backyard Bird Count 2014 – from <http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/>

The 2014 GBBC will take place Friday, February 14, through Monday, February 17. Please join us for the 17th annual count!

The Great Backyard Bird Count is an annual four-day event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where the birds are. GBBC checklists can be accepted from anywhere in the world! Everyone is welcome—from beginning bird watchers to experts. It takes as little as 15 minutes on one day, or you can count for as long as you like each day of the event. It’s free, fun, and easy—and it helps the birds. Participants tally the number of individual birds of each species they see during their count period. They enter these numbers on the GBBC website (<http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/>).

New participants must set up a free GBBC account to submit their checklists or use login information from an existing account for any other Cornell Lab citizen-

science project. You’ll only need to do this once to participate in all future GBBC events. As the count progresses, anyone with Internet access can explore what is being reported. Participants may also send in photographs of the birds they see for the GBBC photo contest. A selection of images is posted in the online photo gallery.



Why count birds? Scientists and bird enthusiasts can learn a lot by knowing where the birds are. Bird populations are dynamic; they are constantly in flux. No single scientist or team of scientists could hope to document and understand the complex distribution and movements of so many species in such a short time. Scientists use the GBBC information, along with observations from other citizen-science projects, such as the Christmas Bird Count, Project FeederWatch, and eBird, to get the “big picture” about what is happening to bird populations. The longer these data are collected, the more meaningful they become in helping scientists investigate far-reaching questions, like these:

- How will the weather influence bird populations?
- Where are winter finches and other “irruptive” species that appear in large numbers during some years but not others?
- How will the timing of birds’ migrations compare with past years?
- How are bird diseases, such as West Nile virus, affecting birds in different regions?
- What kinds of differences in bird diversity are apparent in cities versus suburban, rural, and natural areas?

*****See page 2 for details about QAS’s GBBC effort!** (Photo by Rejean Turgeon from GBBC website)

Check out the QAS Grant Program!

The grant applications are online. We highlighted several past recipients in our last newsletter, and we are waiting for new applications this year! Check out the QAS website if you or someone you know has a project that may qualify for a QAS Grant!

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

QAS Campers Scholarships for Summer 2014

— Rosemary Spreha

QAS is looking for qualified local students to attend nature-related summer camps. Scholarships are available for students in first through twelfth grade. Scholarships are also available for Educators. 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. Updated applications and the criteria are available online at www.QASAudubon.org.

Suggested camps include ZooAmerica Day Camp, Wildwood Way Day Camp, and Hog Island Audubon Camp. Parents are responsible for a portion of the camp tuition and transportation to and from camp. (Photo by Ruth Krebs of 2013 Scholarship Recipient, Nick Silvis,

from our September Membership Meeting with two props from his excellent presentation)

Victory! Getting the Lead Out

– Nation Audubon Society, November *Audubon Advisory* Newsletter

Audubon heralded a major conservation victory that will have repercussions throughout the country when California Governor Jerry Brown signed historic legislation last month that will require hunters to use non-lead ammunition. The bill, championed by Audubon California, Defenders of Wildlife, and the Humane Society of the United States, will eliminate what nationally-renowned scientists say is the number one source of unregulated lead left in our environment.

The danger of lead from ammunition has been known to conservationists at least since 1894, when Audubon founder George Bird Grinnell noted that waterfowl could be poisoned by lead shot left behind by hunters. That prediction proved true, but it wasn't until 1991 that the federal government banned the use of lead shot for waterfowl hunting.

Audubon California was initially drawn into the fight over lead ammunition in the mid-2000s as research

emerged showing that lead poisoning was the greatest threat to the recovery of the endangered California Condor. In 2007, Audubon was successful in banning the use of lead ammunition



in the condor's range. Nevertheless, lead from ammunition continued to poison the great birds—and additional research showed that the risk of poisoning extended to more than 130 species of birds and other wildlife.

The issue took on an even greater urgency as research emerged showing the risk of lead ammunition to human health. A joint study by the Centers for Disease Control and the North Dakota Department of Public Health found that people who consumed meat hunted with lead ammunition had significantly higher levels of lead in their blood.

Although polling conducted by Audubon California and its partners earlier in the year showed that voters favored requiring nonlead ammunition for hunting by a 2:1 margin, the bill nonetheless faced heated opposition from gun advocates. Assembly Bill 711 calls for a gradual phase-out of lead ammunition through 2019.

Audubon hopes this victory can become a model for other state efforts across the country. (Photo by Scott Frier / USFWS)

Swatara State Park Field Trip – Gary Kinkley

Five participants decided to brave the predicted rain storms for our afternoon walk in the park on September 21st. We started in the newly created Trout Run parking lot, and proceeded along the Trout Run paved trail. Warblers and other small song birds were in short supply, but that may have been due to the abundance of low flying raptors! Sharp-shinned, Cooper's, and Broad-winged hawks all provided great looks just above the



treetops, but an Osprey stole the show. The large raptor crossed over the parking lot at treetop level and continued to fly at low altitude above our group for several minutes - perhaps investigating the Swatara Creek below us for an afternoon snack? We also had a nice view of a Pileated Woodpecker flying low past our attendees, and a trio of Chimney Swifts seemed to be ever present during the walk.

I have Richard Light to thank for my non-avian highlights as he more than compensated for my deficiencies in that area. He identified a wide variety of trees, shrubs, and wildflowers along the way. Perhaps most interesting was the round goldenrod gall (see photos). These galls are often created by the Goldenrod Gall Fly (*Eurosta solidaginis*). Richard opened one of the many round galls present to expose the larva for us. After further research at home, I wondered if the larva pictured was that of the fly or one of the two species of parasitic wasps that prey on the fly. I do not know which larva we were looking at, but you can learn more at

http://www.fcps.edu/isl andcreekes/ecology/goldenrod_gall_fly.htm. I do know it looked plump and juicy for any Downy Woodpeckers in the area. It is



interesting to think that the fly was living off of the goldenrod, a wasp may have been living off of the fly larva, and a woodpecker may have enjoyed the larva of the wasp - it really illustrates the importance of every living thing.

Just as we got to the bottom of the new paved trail and started checking the meadow below, the skies opened up and ushered a quick ending to what was still an enjoyable trip to one of our two great state parks. (Photos by Gary Kinkley)

Swatara State Park Beginning Birders Field Trip – Fritz Heilman

Here are some highlights of this past Sunday's (10-27-13) field trip to Swatara State Park for beginning birders and all others interested. We had fourteen participants on this approximately two hour visit. We met at the Trout Run Trailhead parking lot, and then followed the path down into the park, making a circular route to return to our starting point. Among the bird sightings were: ruby-crowned and golden-crowned kinglet; a yellow-rumped warbler feasting on poison-ivy berries; a red-tailed hawk and other unidentified hawks circling overhead; and what appeared to be old evidence of Pileated woodpecker activity on some decaying trees.

Plants of note included spice bush (with red fruit still attached); wild cucumber (*Echinocystis lobata*) with the characteristic two chambered spiny pods; and many examples of virgin's bower (*Clematis virginiana*), our native clematis, climbing over low growing shrubs.

We also found the woolly bear caterpillar; one green stink bug (by the way, there are 250 species of stink bugs in the US, according to Kenn Kaufman's field guide to insects); and one of the last of the season's bumble bee.

Cape May Weekend Field Trip – Jim Fiorentino

Let me begin by saying that Cape May is an amazing place to go birding – so much to see and so little time! If you have never been there, you should go at least once in your birding lifetime. We had five participants on the trip which occurred from September 28th to 30th. We left Cornwall at around 9am Saturday morning traveling to our first stop – Brigantine NWR near Atlantic City. Once we found the entrance (that's another story entirely), we checked out the Visitor Center and started our tour. I've heard stories about the number of birds and waterfowl that can be seen here, and we were not disappointed. We hadn't even gone 1/2 mile on the 6 mile loop when we began spotting many herons, egrets, different species of shore birds, raptors, and various species of ducks. We made many, many stops while

doing the tour road loop. Some of the highlights included: Glossy Ibis, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Black-crowned Night Herons, 100's of Green-winged Teal, Short-billed Dowitchers, Dunlin, and various species of egrets. There was a Godwit reported there, but we did not find it. We spent almost 5 hours doing the tour loop before driving to Cape May for the evening.

On Sunday morning, we arrived at the Higbee Beach overlook by 6:00am to catch the morning flight across the bay that I had heard so much about. However, because of the winds there was not much of a flight and we only had 4 species of warblers and a total of 12 species. We left there and traveled to Cape May Lighthouse State Park and the hawk watch. We spent the rest of the day in and around Cape May State Park. Several members of the group attended both raptor and hummingbird bird banding demonstrations. We also walked several of the nature trails in the area. Some of the highlights included: American Bittern, Eurasian Widgeon, Parasitic Jaeger, and many raptors. In the late afternoon, we drove to the Avalon sea watch but arrived a little too late to see anything worthwhile – I will be adding this to the list for the next trip. We

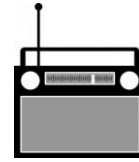


ended the day with 62 species!

Monday morning we traveled to the Meadows at Cape May State Park for an early morning walk with Pete Dunne sponsored by the Cape May Bird observatory. There were 58 people on the walk, not including guides, but we did get to see 59 species, and I would recommend this walk to anyone. Some the highlights included: Blue-winged Teal, Lesser Black-backed Gulls, and several species of warblers. After the walk we traveled to the Cape May Marina for a 3 hour boat tour on the Osprey. We traveled along the shoreline in and around Cape May and Avalon and had many close-up views of various species including: American Oystercatcher, skimmers, Black & Yellow-Crowned Night Herons and several species of raptors including a Peregrine Falcon.

After the boat trip, we all packed up and headed for home. We ended up with a total species count of 96 – not including the species that we could not fully identify – including those we had 113 species! QAS will be running another overnight trip next fall. Watch for the

announcement and hopefully you can join us! (Photo by Gary Kinkley)



Tune In...

If you enjoy listening to nature-oriented programs, you may want to consider tuning in to Jack's Backyard, a call-in talk show about nature and birding with a general focus on the great outdoors and creatures in our local environment. Tune into Reading radio station WEEU AM 830 on Saturday mornings from 8 to 10 AM or call (610) 374-8800 or 1-800-323-8800 to participate (note: each Saturday's broadcast is repeated the following Sunday from 10 PM to 12 AM).

Tick City! – by Kate St. John from her *Outside My Window* blog at <http://www.wqed.org/birdblog/>

I remember these little red fruits from my childhood. I used to pick the berries along my walk to elementary school and roll them between my fingers. Firm, shiny, and somehow soothing.

Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*) is a pretty plant which forms a thorny border that discourages kids and dogs from entering one's yard. For this and other reasons it was introduced to the U.S. in 1875. Unfortunately by now *Berberis thunbergii* and its European cousin (*Berberis vulgaris*) have overtaken our native barberry (*Berberis canadensis*) and become invasive.

Japanese barberry has a secret advantage over Pennsylvania's native plants. Deer won't eat it so it easily forms dense, thorny thickets. But don't plant it! It's a tick magnet.

Studies by the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station in Lyme, Connecticut discovered a strong link between dense Japanese barberry thickets and Lyme disease. Deer ticks prefer these thickets for their cool, moist microclimate. White-footed mice hang out in the



thickets because the larger predators can't reach them there. White-footed mice are the main carriers of Lyme disease bacteria. The ticks bite the mice and voilà! Lots of Lyme disease.

The *Adirondack Daily Enterprise* wrote of this study: "Deer ticks are 67 percent more likely to be in areas infested with barberry than those areas that have native plants, and a higher percentage of ticks in infested areas carry the Lyme bacteria than those in areas that are barberry-free – 126 infected ticks per acre versus 10 per acre. When managers removed barberry plants, the number of ticks dropped up to 80 percent – a compelling outcome."

So if you want to find deer ticks and Lyme disease, bushwhack through a barberry thicket. The plant in this photograph was alone, growing by the side of a rail trail, but I found a tick on my pants after I took the photo.

Tick City! (Photo by Kate St. John)

The Case Against HB 1576 – Gary Kinkley

House Bill 1576 relates to the administration of endangered species within our state. According to the PA Environmental Digest it "would make fundamental changes in the way threatened and endangered species are listed and considered during the environmental permit review process as well as changes to the process for listing wild trout streams." A previous version of the bill was roundly criticized, but an amended version was voted out of committee on November 13th. The newly amended bill has raised many of the same serious concerns among environmental groups throughout the Commonwealth. Among the groups which have opposed HB 1576 are Audubon Pennsylvania and your own Quittapahilla Audubon Society. The bill has not yet come to a floor vote, and there is still time to contact your State Representative and State Senator to voice your opposition. Please take a look and consider taking action on this issue.

Audubon PA's Director of Conservation, Paul Zeph, highlighted a few of the key problems with the amended bill:

- Species status changes would have to go through the Independent Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC). The IRRC process is slow, politicized and redundant to Commission Boards! As a result, it would delay protections for species that need them most. Although other agencies go through IRRC, no others have to go through an independent Board and then ALSO the IRRC.

- The bill still calls for creation of a new database of endangered and threatened species information. This would put sensitive species information at risk, and also is redundant to the existing database (PNDI). Why create a new database? Even the "Right to Know Act" understood that threatened and endangered species information should not be released!
- A new provision is proposed: agencies would be "prohibited from using or transferring to another state agency revenues generated through the sale of hunting or fishing licenses or federal funds for the administration of this act" -- This is unrelated to the issue at hand. Added administrative burdens would be put on state agencies by this bill, and this provision seems to prohibit the very resources needed to complete this work! This new provision seems designed to tie the hands of species protection!
- Language still jeopardizes the Fish and Boat's ability to designate "wild trout streams." Sensitive headwater streams receive important protection by this designation – don't undermine it!

For more information and to take action, you can go to
<https://secure2.convio.net/penn/site/Advocacy?cmd=display&page=UserAction&id=959#TopOfPage>

QAS Needs You!

If you can give a little bit of your time to QAS, please consider becoming a board member, an officer, or a committee chairperson. Your help will be welcome in any capacity – even if you only have a little bit of time to help. The reach of QAS is only limited by the abilities and contributions of our members. Our nominating committee will be forming soon, but you can talk to any officer or board member anytime about your interest in volunteering. **We would love to welcome you to the QAS team!**

QAS Spring Newsletter Deadline

If you have an item or article you would like to submit for inclusion in the next issue of the QAS Newsletter, please send them to Gary Kinkley by March 17, 2014. Articles may be emailed to cathartesaura@live.com or mailed to him at 3 Clark Road, Annville, PA 17003. Comments are also welcome. This is your chapter and your newsletter, and we want to hear from you!

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 (2014) 657-0271
- Art Schiavo (2014) 533-1978
- Fritz Heilman (2014) 273-0487
- Ruth Krebs (2014) 867-4884
- Jim C. Logan (2014).....865-5522
- Gary Kinkley (2015)..... 503-4027
- Vera Freed (2015)..... 507-0958
- Jo Ann Yeagley (2015)..... 865-4787

OFFICERS/CHAIRPERSONS for 2013-2014

- President - Jim Fiorentino..... 274-2305
- Vice Pres. - Open
- Secretary - Maggie Hummel..... 865-6232
- Treasurer - Brenda Gish..... 367-1926
- Conservation - Art Schiavo 533-1978
- Education - Chris Silvis.....533-2448
- Field Trips - Fritz Heilman 273-0487
- Membership - Jim M. Logan 273-8438
- Newsletter - Gary Kinkley..... 503-4027
- Programs - Board Members
- Publicity - Ruth Krebs 867-4884

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:

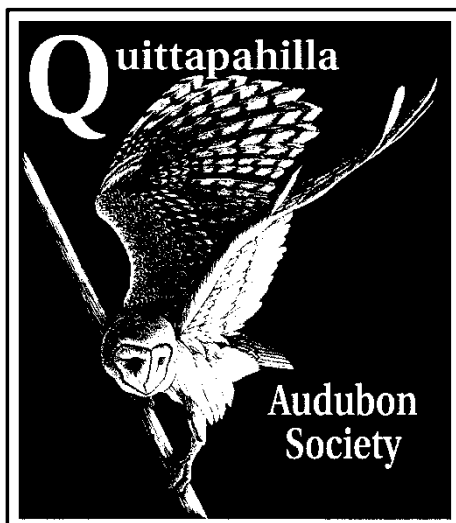
National Audubon Society
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Your local Audubon chapter,
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preserve nature and the environment,
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