

QUITTAPAHILLA AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2014-2015

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 28, 2015

Adventures of a Bird Bander

Gain some insight into the life of a year-round bird bander. Learn about the responsibilities involved with bird banding and the surprises and fun that come along with it.

Sandy is a licensed bird bander and field ornithologist and is one of only six hummingbird banders in PA. She has been involved during the past two decades in several ongoing banding projects including the Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art's Northern Saw-whet Owl banding project which QAS supports. She works for Dauphin County as an environmental educator at Wildwood Park in Harrisburg.

February 25, 2015

Confessions of a Bad Birder

This program will explore the adventures of a local wildlife photographer as he follows his passion. The Bald Eagle pair nesting along the Swatara Creek in western Lebanon County will be discussed.

Bob Hench owns two photography-related businesses that sometimes keep him from doing what he enjoys most – wildlife photography. He has published a book, titled "Mary and Joseph: The Eagles of Lebanon County," with more than 50 photos of the birds as they nested, brought up their young, and taught them how to fly. He donated two copies of his book to QAS for fundraising.

March 25, 2015***Wonders of the Wilderness***

Discover the natural wonders of Saint Anthony's Wilderness in Dauphin, Lebanon, and Schuylkill Counties, including Boxcar Rocks north of Stony Valley, the flowering garden of Rattlesnake Shack in Clarks Valley, and highlights from the breathtaking mountainous terrain in between.

The event will also feature StonyValley.com's 3-D Model of Stony Valley and surrounds where you can discover the top ten natural features and top ten historic sites in the area.

Brandy M. Watts Martin, a native of Central Pennsylvania, has been studying the Schuylkill & Susquehanna Railroad (and Stony Valley / Saint Anthony's Wilderness) since 1997, when she was in third grade. Local history has always been an interest of hers, having studied other topics such as the Blue-Eyed Six, Samuel Strause Lumber Company and Mount Lebanon Cemetery's Memorial Chapel, among others. These all took a backseat to "the unique and wondrous history of Stony Valley" in her mind. In eighth grade, her continued love of local history assisted in her receiving the "Woodmen of the World" award for knowledge of American History. Brandy graduated in May 2012 from Penn State Harrisburg with a B.H. in American Studies, with a class focus on Museum Studies and Public Heritage. She presently lives with her husband Seth in Central Pennsylvania, and devotes her time to studying the Schuylkill & Susquehanna Railroad.

April 22, 2015***Pennsylvania Elk: A Reintroduction Success Story!***

When the first European settlers came to Pennsylvania, elk inhabited most of our state, even here in the Susquehanna valley. However, the rapid settlement of our state along with major habitat changes and market hunting decimated our elk population. By the mid 1800's there were few if any Eastern elk remaining in Pennsylvania. Now, over 100 hundred years later, Pennsylvania has a healthy, sustainable elk population. Join Theresa Alberici, Wildlife Education Specialist for the PA Game Commission, to capture the key moments in the restoration of majestic species and celebrate 101 years of Elk in PA!

Theresa Alberici has an MS in Ecology from Penn State University and a BS in Biology from Cabrini College. She is a Project WILD Coordinator and Wildlife Education Specialist for the Pennsylvania Game

Commission for 20 years. She has provided Elk education since the 1990's.

And Our Field Trips at a Glance . . .

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

February 15, 2015***Union Canal Tunnel Park, Lebanon***

Observation of flora and fauna (including data collecting for the 18th annual "Great Backyard Bird Count"). Meet Sunday 2 PM at the main parking lot off 25 Street. Leader Fritz Heilman, 273-0487.

March 21, 2015***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 22, 2015***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 6:45 PM at Trout Run Trailhead parking lot. Leader Gary Kinkley, 503-4027.

March 29, 2015***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 6:45 PM at the Middle Parking Lot. Leader Gary Kinkley, 503-4027.

April 18, 2015***Ferncliff (Benton Hollow) Spring Wildflowers***

Observation of spring wildflowers of a scenic lower Susquehanna River ravine along with other Lancaster County sites, by an easy walk. For car-polling details contact trip co-leaders Jim M. Logan, 273-8438 or Jim C. Logan, 865-5522.

April 25, 2015***John Heinz NWR***

Join us for a visit to the John Heinz NWR near Philadelphia to observe the early migrant and resident birds. This trip will be mostly walking the trails around the refuge - plan to leave Saturday from the Hess Station near the PA turnpike entrance on RT 72 at 7:00am and returning 3pm - dress for the weather and bring water, snacks and rain gear. Trip Leader is Jim Fiorentino - 717-269-0675 - there is a 10 person limit on this trip - please call me if you plan to attend - car pooling is recommended.



The Birds Will Feast This Winter!

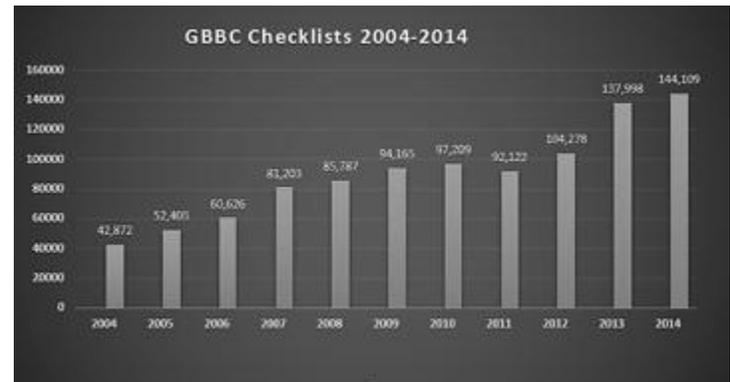
The Wild Bird Seed Sale coordinators, Jim and Kitty Logan, want to thank all those who purchased QAS wild bird seed and those volunteers who helped unload and distribute the seed. The profits from this year's sale of almost **22,000 pounds** of seed will go to support our local chapter's environmental education efforts as well as making a lot of local birds very happy this winter. Get out and feed those birds and we'll help you re-stock your supply next fall.

Mark Your Calendar! – from the November 2014 GBBC eNewsletter

Greetings from the Great Backyard Bird Count team at Audubon, the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and Bird Studies Canada! We want to remind you to mark your calendars for the next GBBC, being held **February 13 through 16, 2015**. This will be the 18th year of the count and the third event since the GBBC went global in 2013.

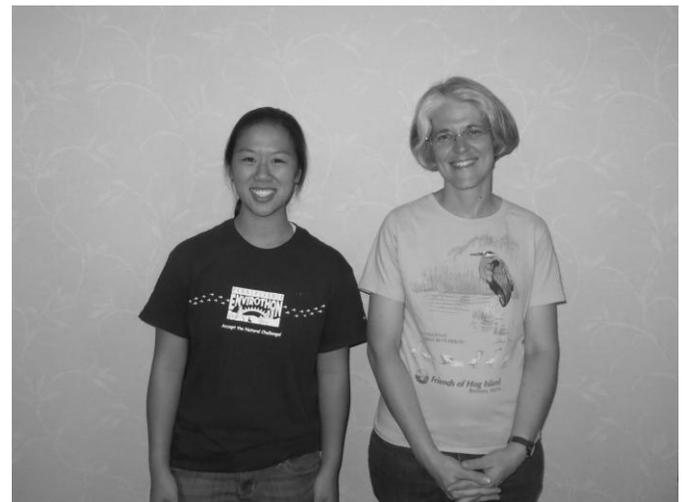
Participation in the GBBC has continued to grow in number of participants and number of checklists submitted. More than 144,000 bird lists were submitted online last year, a new record! As always, we hope to keep a good thing going in 2015. Check out the growth of the GBBC over the past 10 years in the chart below.

***Editor's Note: You can join QAS's GBBC effort on February 15th! See page 2 for more details.**



QAS Campers Scholarships for Summer 2015 – 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 2014 Scholarship Recipients, Briana Long and Paige Menton, from our September Membership Meeting)

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

Carol Anderson, Lenora Ettinger, Sheryl Gerberich, Judith Gordon, Winifred Keabnick, Ramesh Kodavatiganti, Carl Lehman, Bill Leonard, Dawn Moffett, Deanna Sanborn, Ginny Suhring, Mary Starry

A Word from QAS President Jim Fiorentino

It's October 30th (where has this year gone?), and a very quick summer seems a distant memory as I am again this year looking forward to the fall days and nights. Hopefully, our winter will be a little milder this year...I have always enjoyed winter...but not when I have to shovel as much snow as I did last year!

For the fall and winter, QAS has a varied program schedule that includes a presentation on Snowy Owls, Bird Banding, Eagles of Lebanon County, and a history of the Stony Valley. I hope to see many of you at one or more of these programs. In addition, there are also many field trips scheduled that include the December Christmas Bird Count, birding in the new year along the Lebanon Valley Rail Trail, and February and March field trips to Union Canal Tunnel Park, Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area, Swatara State Park, and Memorial Lake State Park! Please pick up a field trip brochure when you attend a program or go online to the QAS website and check the dates for each activity. I hope you will find time to attend at least one of the field trips.

Keep in mind that programs and field trips are set up to inform and educate our membership and the general public, but that can only happen if people attend the scheduled programs and field trips. If you haven't attended a QAS program or field trip recently, I hope you find some time in the coming year to attend at least one event – add it to your to-do list for 2015!



The Members Slides & Digitals program is one program that I have come to enjoy more and more over the years. It allows you, our QAS membership, to share your photos with the group – it is always a lot of fun. Last year's program saw many varied and interesting presentations. I look forward to many more this year. By the time you read this, the 2014 meeting will have passed, but start putting those slides together for next year – or just plan to come to enjoy the cookies, drinks, and socializing.

Lastly, QAS's 35th annual fall birdseed sale is being held this coming weekend and current orders look to total more overall sales than last year...and last year we totaled 15,000 lbs!!!! I again this year wish to thank all members and non-members that have continued supporting the QAS birdseed sale. Jim & Kitty Logan continued to chair the QAS birdseed sale for this year – if you see either of them, please take the time

to thank them for their efforts in making the QAS seed sale such a huge success .

Enjoy the fall and winter birding season and I 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. **Good Birding!** (Photo of Five Lined Skink by Fritz Heilman)

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 Hersheypark this year: Linda and Sandra Cober, Don and Virginia Covaleski, Lori Miller, Jerilyn and Pete Millvan, Len Neidig, Patty Van Scyoc, and to our organizer Rosemary Spreha!

Volunteers received a voucher good for a day pass to the park for each shift worked, and QAS received a donation from Hersheypark for their efforts!

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.

Here is a list of the teachers who have taken advantage of this excellent resource this year: Ellen Burgess, Denise Caton, Nicole Custer, Dianne Dilger, Tyler Frantz, Paula Gyomber, Beth Hartman, Maria Healy, Rachel Kennedy, Kim Kulina, Michele Light, Gregg Longenecker, Gina Mason, Tracey Maulfair, Gregory May, Melanie Monk, Kelly Neuin, Steph Paine, Wanda Perez, Michelle Rametta, Franci Reigert, Charlie Stevens, Patricia Valigorsky, Karen Westervelt, Beth Wolfe

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

Top 10 Victories for Birds, the Gulf, and a Strong Focus on Climate Change – from the December 2014 Audubon Advisory update

1. Climate Report Offers Compelling Forecast — and Hope —for Birds

Audubon's recent climate report offers a startling conclusion—more than half of our North American birds are at risk from global warming. The news reached tens of millions of people through newspapers, TV, and web coverage, demonstrating that birds matter to people on a personal level and offer a new entry point into the climate solutions discussion. Audubon's best-in-class network of chapters, activists, staff, centers are working for alternatives to extinction. Audubon scientists are identifying strongholds that will help birds make the transition, and we're working across the network and beyond to build support for reducing carbon pollution.

2. Tricolored Blackbirds Sing a Sweet Tune

Last May and June were difficult months for Tricolored Blackbirds in California's Central Valley. Nearly one third of the California Tricolored Blackbird population landed and nested on one parcel of land that was scheduled for harvest. Because of the birds' unique behavior, they will not flee from a combine machine and it's likely many of the birds would have been lost. Audubon California, the National Policy Office, and others worked together with the landowner, federal agencies, and the state to assist the producer in delaying the harvest, which both saved the birds as well as ensured the producer didn't have a monetary loss on his crops. Blackbirds win!

3. More Money for the Gulf

The Deepwater Horizon oil spill from nearly 5 years ago continues to impact birds, wildlife and habitat throughout the Gulf. The judge hearing the case against BP recently announced that he would seek to hold BP “grossly negligent,” and BP will be subject to the highest fines possible—likely topping \$17 to \$18 billion. Restoration projects are underway, with millions pouring in to create and restore wetlands, renew barrier islands, monitor impacts on birds, and more.

4. Ballot Box Produces Big Wins for Birds

On Election Day, Florida voters passed a measure that designates nearly a billion dollars a year to conservation efforts for the next 20 years, perhaps the biggest environmental victory in the history of the state. Audubon chapters gathered more than 35,000 signatures to put Florida's Water and Legacy Amendment on the ballot.

In California, voters passed a \$7.2 billion water bond that includes a number of major elements that will directly benefit birds in California. Audubon California made sure birds were considered as the legislation was debated, providing data on the lack of water for wildlife

and the impacts on bird populations.

5. Farm Bill Includes Conservation

In February, Congress passed a reauthorization of the Farm Bill. This current version has significant funding for conservation and also aims to focus resources where they're needed most. The Regional Conservation Partnership Program will target conservation spending in key areas like the Colorado River Basin, the Great Lakes, the Chesapeake Bay, and the Mississippi River, all important habitats for birds and wildlife.

6. Yellow-billed Cuckoos and Red Knots Gain Much-Needed Protections

In October, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) listed the western population of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo as a "threatened" species under the Endangered Species Act. To go hand-in-hand with the listing, FWS has also proposed protecting more than 500,000 acres in nine western states as critical habitat for the bird, a decision that is expected to be finalized next year. The Yellow-billed Cuckoo lives along banks of rivers in the American Southwest, which is currently in the midst of a historic drought, placing this iconic bird under a lot of pressure.

Earlier this week, FWS listed the Atlantic population of Red Knots as threatened. The shorebird, which migrates between northern Canada and southern South America each year, has declined as much as 75 percent since the 1980s. Audubon activists submitted comments in support of both listings.

7. Izembek Refuge Stays Roadless

Late last year, migratory birds received a fantastic holiday gift—Secretary of Interior Sally Jewell signed the final decision to keep Izembek National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska intact, denying a damaging proposed road that would have cut through Izembek's protected Wilderness. Izembek is one of the world's most critically important wetlands for migrating birds. In some years, virtually all of the world's Pacific Black Brant use Izembek. In addition, up to 70 percent of the world's population of Steller's Eiders, listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act, use Izembek Lagoon. Long-distance shorebird migrants such as Pacific Golden-Plovers and Bar-tailed Godwits also depend on Izembek to fuel up for migration.

8. Rooftop Solar Gets a Boost

2014 proved to be a busy year policy-wise on issues affecting small-scale solar power. Dramatic price drops, unease among utilities, and growing interest in consumer-owned, clean power have jump-started the solar market. Proposed bills and regulatory hearings were on the calendar in two dozen states or more. Audubon is supporting state-level policy reforms where needed, and defending against rollbacks that could undermine sustained growth of rooftop solar elsewhere.

9. Pebble Mine in Bristol Bay Hits a Hurdle

Earlier this year, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced it would identify the options for protecting Bristol Bay from the potential dangers of the proposed Pebble Mine. The proposed mine, which would be one of the world's largest open pit copper mines, threatens the world's largest sockeye salmon fishery. Bristol Bay is home to 27 globally significant Important Birds Areas, from coastal areas to seabird nesting colonies. Some key species that rely on the bay include Steller's Eiders, King Eiders, Black Scoters, Emperor Geese, and Bar-tailed Godwits.

10. Water Flows in the Everglades

Bipartisan progress has been made to reconnect freshwater flows to the Central Everglades—a region that has been starved of water for decades to the detriment of vital habitat—with the introduction of a new bill that will fast-track this critical project.

Honorable Mention

In late May, President Barack Obama used his authorities under the Antiquities Act to permanently preserve nearly half a million acres near Las Cruces, New Mexico by establishing the **Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks National Monument**. The biodiversity-rich Organ Mountains-Desert Peaks area includes sky islands and critical grasslands that support more than 210 species of birds. The White House believes the designation could spur \$7.4 million in new economic activity each year in the area around the monument.

September 28th – 30th

QAS Cape May Weekend Trip – Jim Fiorentino

As I stated last year, Cape May is an amazing place to go birding. If you have never been there, you should go at least once in your birding lifetime. This year we had three participants on the trip which occurred from September 28 to 30. We left Cornwall at around 9 am Saturday morning traveling to our first stop — Brigantine NWR near Atlantic City. We toured the Visitors Center and then began our trip around the tour road, and again this year, there was an abundance of birds and waterfowl to be observed. We had several species of herons, egrets, many different species of shore birds, raptors, ducks, and "land birds." We made several stops along the tour road loop. Some of the highlights included Ospreys and Yellow-crowned and Black-crowned Night Herons. We spent almost 5 hours doing the tour loop before driving to Cape May for the evening.

On Monday morning we arrived at the Higbee Beach overlook by 7 am. However, because of the winds, there wasn't much of a flight and we only had 5 species of warblers and a total of 10 species. We left there and

traveled to Cape May Lighthouse State Park and the hawk watch and spent the rest of the day in and around CMSP. We ended the day with 65 species.

Tuesday morning we traveled to the Meadows at CMSP for an early morning walk with Pete Dunne sponsored by the Cape May Bird observatory. There were 65 people on the walk, not including guides, but we did get to see 61 species and I would recommend this walk to anyone. Some of 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 shore line in and around Cape May Inlet and had close up views of many species — including American Oystercatcher, Ruddy Turnstones, Seaside and Saltmarsh Sparrows, Black & Yellow Crowned Night Herons. We also saw several species of raptors — including a Peregrine Falcon! We ended the tour with 56 species. After the boat tour we headed to the Higbee meadows. We walked the trails and ended the walk with 45 species. The highlight being some very quick looks at a Connecticut Warbler (a life bird for me)!

In the evening, while sitting on the deck of our rental condo, we also heard clapper rails and observed several flights of night herons crossing the marsh in both the evenings and the mornings. For the three-day trip we ended up with 112 species — all in all, a very good birding trip!

September 21st

Walkingstick Walk – Fritz Heilman

Here are some highlights of the (9-21-14) field trip to PA State Game Land 156 (the old fire tower site) for the observation of flora and fauna.

We had five participants on this approximately two hour walk along the old service road at the top of the



mountain – elevation about 1150 feet. Upon just exiting the parking lot – as I was about to point

out the unusual species of oak planted by the PA Game Commission: the Sawtooth Oak – we came upon our first observation of a walkingstick insect. We saw

several more of these insects, including the mated pair depicted in the photo.

Regarding other plants, we also had observations of several specimens of the Black Gum (also called Black Tupelo) tree with the leaves just starting to turn the characteristic scarlet color. An American Chestnut tree (see

photo) was also observed adjacent to the road – the leaves are similar to the Sawtooth Oak leaves.



The fragrant non-native mint, perilla, was found along the pathway as well as invasive plants such as mile-a-minute and a honeysuckle – perhaps tartarian.

Several hawks were observed above our pathway – including a red-shouldered hawk, a sharp-shinned hawk, a couple of red-tailed hawks, and a broad-winged hawk. Turkey and black vultures were in the sky as well, and one turkey vulture was perched on a communication tower. (Photos by Fritz Heilman)

October 12th

Middle Creek Conservation Trail – Jim Fiorentino

Our group had 56 species on the Middle Creek field trip today. There was an Orange-crowned Warbler seen, but I didn't get really good looks at it. Some other birders identified it and had photos!

I was a good day for raptors as we had 10 species including a Merlin chasing a flock of goldfinch over the meadow near the visitors centers!

Here is the eBird checklist (you can make your own by entering observations at <http://ebird.org/>):

Middle Creek WMA (IBA), Lancaster, US-PA
Oct 12, 2014 7:45 AM - 12:55 PM
Protocol: Traveling
2.0 mile(s)
56 species (+1 other taxa)

Snow Goose 5
Canada Goose X
Wood Duck 8
American Black Duck 1

Mallard 11
 Northern Shoveler 2
 Ruddy Duck 2
 Pied-billed Grebe 1
 Double-crested Cormorant 8
 Great Blue Heron 2
 Black Vulture 15
 Turkey Vulture X
 Osprey 1
 Northern Harrier 2
 Sharp-shinned Hawk 2
 Cooper's Hawk 3
 Bald Eagle 3
 Red-tailed Hawk 5
 Ring-billed Gull 1
 Mourning Dove 2
 Belted Kingfisher 1
 Red-bellied Woodpecker 3
 Downy Woodpecker 1
 Northern Flicker 5
 Pileated Woodpecker 2
 American Kestrel 1
 Merlin 1
 Eastern Phoebe 1
 Blue Jay X
 American Crow 21
 Tree Swallow X
 Carolina/Black-capped Chickadee 2
 Tufted Titmouse 1
 White-breasted Nuthatch 2
 Carolina Wren 1
 Eastern Bluebird 2
 American Robin X
 Gray Catbird 1
 Northern Mockingbird 2
 European Starling X
 Cedar Waxwing 8
 Common Yellowthroat 1
 Palm Warbler 2
 Yellow-rumped Warbler 8
 Eastern Towhee 1
 Field Sparrow 2
 Savannah Sparrow 1
 Song Sparrow X
 Swamp Sparrow 2
 White-throated Sparrow 1
 Dark-eyed Junco 1
 Northern Cardinal 2
 Red-winged Blackbird X
 Brown-headed Cowbird X
 House Finch 2
 Pine Siskin 5
 American Goldfinch 24

November 9th

Stoever's Dam Park Arboretum – Fritz Heilman

Here are the highlights of our Stoever's Dam Park Arboretum (11-9-14) field trip. We had 10 participants on this roughly two hours visit to Stoever's Dam Park Arboretum. After a brief review of some examples of seeds and nuts from trees in the arboretum and adjacent lands, we proceeded on a walk around the grounds, paying particular attention to about fifteen examples of the various species of trees present.

Included among the trees observed were Bald Cypress, Honey-Locust, Sassafras, Kentucky Coffeetree, Dawn Redwood, Chinese Cedar (Chinese Toon), Shagbark Hickory, Yellow Buckeye, Persimmon and Eastern White Pine. Prominent identification characteristics were pointed out. For example, the diagnostic bark of Kentucky Coffeetree and Honey-Locust; and the remnant fruit capsules of Chinese Cedar.



A recent buck rub on a significant section of the Yellow Buckeye trunk was observed (see photo). Also, numerous songbirds were present throughout the arboretum and the adjacent woodlot, including White-throated Sparrows giving their "O Sweet Canada, Canada" song! (Photo by Fritz Heilman).

Corbett approves bills on stream buffers and carbon plan – Marie Cusick from

<http://stateimpact.npr.org/pennsylvania/>

**Editor's Note: QAS has supported the stream buffer requirements that Governor Corbett and the State Legislature removed.*

Governor Corbett signed a pair of bills dealing with two hot-button environmental issues. The first would eliminate stream buffer requirements for the state's cleanest waterways. The second measure gives legislators a role in crafting a federally-mandated carbon reduction plan—a top priority for the state's coal industry.

The stream bill removes the 150 foot buffer requirement between new developments and Pennsylvania's cleanest streams. It was supported by the Pennsylvania Builder's Association. The law only applies [to] projects that need stormwater discharge permits and are adjacent to the state's "high quality" or "exceptional value" streams – a small percentage of waterways. Supporters have said the buffers amounted to eminent domain that restricted landowners. Environmental groups criticized the measure as a step backwards.

A separate bill approved by Corbett requires legislative approval of a federally-mandated carbon pollution plan. Under proposed rules recently put forth by the federal Environmental Protection Agency, Pennsylvania will have to cut its carbon emissions by 32 percent over the next 15 years. The new climate policy will mean major changes for the state's energy industries.

The new law gives the state House and Senate 20 days to consider the carbon plan crafted by the state Department of Environmental Protection. Legislators can either approve it or ask for changes. If neither chamber votes on a final plan in time, it will be automatically approved and submitted to the federal government.

The coal industry lobbied heavily in favor of the measure, arguing the carbon plan will significantly impact its business. A coalition of environmental groups opposed it saying that it will create an extra bureaucratic hurdle for cutting carbon pollution.

**Editor's Note: Many QAS members are familiar with our stellar Field Trip Committee Chair Person, Fritz Heilman. However, unless you have attended one of his field trips, you may not know about the many handouts he has prepared to enhance the field trip experience for all in attendance. What follows is a copy of the information from his handout for the Walkingstick Walk which he reported on in the article on page 7. As QAS President Jim Fiorentino noted in his article, we have some really great trips in store for the coming months – so try to catch one with Fritz!*

Walkingstick Walk – State Game Lands 156 – Furnace Hills, elevation approx. 1150 feet – by Fritz Heilman

1. Northern Walkingstick (*Diapheromera femorata*) order Phasmatodea – vegetarian; metamorphosis simple, nymphs resemble adults; young may be able to grow back a lost leg; some tropical species can be 12 inches long; eggs dropped from higher vegetation onto ground leaf litter; about 33 species in N.A.

2. Sawtooth Oak (*Quercus acutissima*) Beech family – native of Japan, Korea, China; planted by Pa. Game Commission as source of mast (crop of nuts) for wildlife; pith star shaped; occasionally naturalized in old fields; leaves alternate, toothed and shaped like American Chestnut

3. Blackgum, Sourgum, Tupelo (*Nyssa sylvatica*) Tupelo family – twigs alternate; glossy toothless (entire) leaves turn brilliant red in fall; thought that this is a signal to migrating birds to land and consume fruit which has over 14 % fat content; one of longest lived trees – 500-700 years; can grow in low wet areas or on dry ridge tops; wood tough, resistant to splitting – was used for making pipes that carried salt water to salt works of Syracuse, NY –ends of logs could be fitted together without iron bands (which would have rusted); faintly chambered pith

4. Tartarian Honeysuckle (*Lonicera tatarica*) Honeysuckle family – leaves opposite, nearly hairless, entire; berries red in fall; pith hollow; introduced from Eurasia to the U. S. as ornamental in the late 1700's; berries eaten by birds which disperse seeds

5. Perilla, Beefsteak (*Perilla frutescens*) Mint family (square stem)– native to India; leaves fragrant, long-petioled (stemmed), generally purple below; moist or shaded roadsides; cultivated and occasionally naturalized

6. Black Birch, Sweet Birch (*Betula lenta*) Birch family – twigs aromatic; wintergreen oil (methyl salicylate) extracted by small distilleries of mid to late 1800's; about 100 saplings required to produce a quart of oil; grows along streams and rocky slopes; aromatic oil was used to protect leather and furs from insect damage

7. Mile-A-Minute Vine, Asiatic tearthumb (*Persicaria perfoliata*) Smartweed family (Polygonaceae – many jointed) – grows up to six inches a day; metallic blue fruit; spiny stems and triangular shaped leaves; native to India, China, Japan and east Asia; arrived in Pa. in the 1930's with a shipment of rhododendron

8. Painted Lady (*Vanessa cardui*) Brushfoot family – the most cosmopolitan butterfly in the world; food plant thistles and others (over 100 species from about 10 plant families); on occasion can have migratory swarms of this species; four roughly equal sized eye spots on underside of hind wing; family called brushfoot as first pair of legs much reduced into brush like appendages for sensory function

9. Low Smartweed (*Persicaria longiseta*) Smartweed family – slender annual with weakly ascending stems; leaves on very short petioles (stems); terminal spike of pink to rose-purple flowers; common in woods, fields, waste ground; native to Asia; node (leaf junction to stem) swollen with tubular, sheathed stipule (leaf-like structure at leaf base) with long bristles

References:

The Plants Of Pennsylvania, Second Edition by A. F. Rhoads and T. A. Block
 Invasive Plants by S. R. Kaufman and W. Kaufman
 Field Guide To Insects Of North America by E. R. Eaton and K. Kaufman
 Trees Of The Eastern And Central United States And Canada by W. M. Harlow
 Butterflies Through Binoculars The East by J. Glassberg
 Weeds Of The Northeast by R. H. Uva, J. C. Neal and J. M. DiTomaso



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).

Presentation to the Sertoma Club – Jim Fiorentino

On November 13, QAS President Jim Fiorentino made a lunch time presentation about QAS to the Lebanon Sertoma Club. There were 19 Sertoma club members in attendance for the 20 minute presentation. Brochures on upcoming programs and trips were distributed to all in attendance. QAS's project and grant programs were also reviewed, and there was a question and answer period following the presentation. If anyone needs a speaker for a meeting — please let one of the Board members know and we will try and make arrangements for someone to attend. This is a great way to inform other organizations and the public about what QAS and Audubon are all about!

Winter Finches and Other Boreal Bird Forecast – Missing Great Birds? – from <http://ebird.org/content/pa/> on November 30, 2014

Well before the snow flies, state birders stick their heads out their windows to listen for the wheezy call notes of flying Pine Siskins and other “winter finches.” Some already have been reported far south into the state. When they move into the state, they really move. The days have already grown agonizingly short and snow has piled up on doorsteps of many birders in the snowbelt.

This winter's selection of northern birds is predicted to be better than last year, so dust off your binoculars and study up on the sights and sounds of northern visitors.

The famous Ron Pittaway Winter Finch Forecast is often cited for good reason. Any birder should check it out at <http://www.jeaniron.ca/2014/forecast14.htm> or the general eBird story at <http://ebird.org/content/ebird/news/wf1415/>.

However, there is nothing like checking out the cone and other natural food crops, yourself, for real information about the bird possibilities this winter. So far, Pine Siskins are the most reported “winter finch” this season with a few tantalizing reports of Evening Grosbeaks, but more may be coming.

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, 2015. Articles may be emailed to cathartessaura@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 (2016) 657-0271
- Art Schiavo (2016) 533-1978
- Fritz Heilman (2016) 273-0487
- Ruth Krebs (2016) 867-4884
- Jim C. Logan (2016).....865-5522
- Gary Kinkley (2015)..... 503-4027
- Vera Freed (2015)..... 507-0958
- Jo Ann Yeagley (2015)..... 865-4787

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- President - Jim Fiorentino..... 274-2305
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- 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:

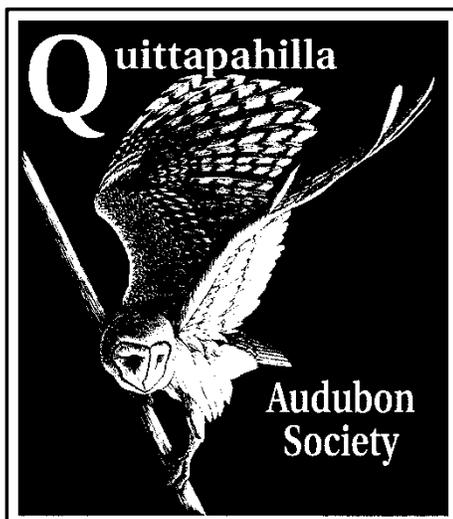
National Audubon Society
PO Box 422250
PALM COAST FL 32142-2250
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QUITTAPAHILLA AUDUBON SOCIETY
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Your local Audubon chapter,
working to
preserve nature and the environment,
invites you to join us for
our programs and field trips.