

Northeast Pennsylvania Audubon Society

Eco~Notes

Winter 2010

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Photo by Georgette Pascotto

Join the Great Backyard Bird Count February 18-21, 2011!



Photo by Nick Saunders, SK
2010 GBBC

The 14th annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is coming up February 18-21, 2011. The four-day event is free and open to bird watchers of all ages and skill levels. Participants may watch birds for any length of time on one or more days and enter their tallies at www.birdcount.org. The results provide a snapshot of the whereabouts of more

than 600 bird species, and your help is needed.

The 2010 GBBC was another record-breaker with more than 97,300 bird checklists submitted by an estimated 63,000 volunteers from across the United States and Canada. These volunteers found connecting with nature to be great fun. From reports of rare species to large-scale tracking of bird movements, the GBBC provides insight into the lives of bird populations.

On the www.birdcount.org website, participants can explore real-time maps and charts that show what others are reporting during the count. The site has tips to help identify birds and special materials for educators.

For more information about the GBBC, visit www.birdcount.org.

Browning Beaver Meadow Signs Ready

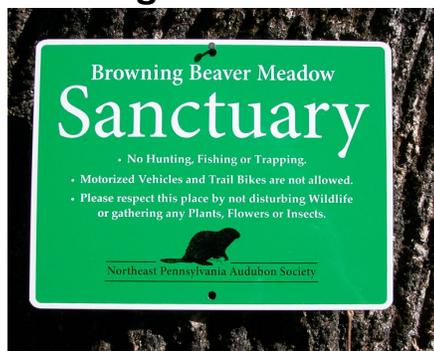


Photo by Georgette Pascotto

These attractive signs, designed by graphic designer Georgette Pascotto, will be posted along the boundaries of the Browning Beaver Meadow Sanctuary near Lookout, Pennsylvania, sixteen miles north of Honesdale. The text reads, *No Hunting, Fishing or Trapping.. Motorized Vehicles and Trail Bikes are not allowed.. Please respect this place by not disturbing Wildlife or gathering any Plants, Flowers, or Insects.* The land for this 78-acre sanctuary was deeded to NEPAS in 1980 by Mr. and Mrs. Mel Browning. Visitors walking the trails or looking from the observation deck may see resident and migrating birds and an active beaver population. The chapter's other sanctuary, the Price-Simpson Wetlands, can be seen along the side of Route 191, near Lake Ariel, Pennsylvania. Please call 570-253-9250 for directions.

Eco-Notes by E-mail

Eco-Notes is available by e-mail. It appears in the same colorful, easy-to-read format as the paper version, but without the cost, the paper, or the ink. Go to our Web site, nepaudubon.org, to sign up.

Our Mission Statement

Our goal is to conserve and restore our environment to benefit humanity as well as birds and other wildlife through education, action, and advocacy.

"Children Live What They Learn"

This is a phrase that has been a factor in the raising and educating of children. It is in the minds of parents and adults who deal with children of all ages. This phrase has never been truer than with the children in this area. They are becoming responsible citizens in regards to the environment. High schools have environmental programs that deal with the effects of all types of pollution. Elementary schools have recycling, butterfly gardens, and sustainable gardens. The children are doing it because they believe that they need to work in harmony with the world around them. Many city schools are required to recycle. Since my school is in a rural area, recycling is voluntary. I asked my students why we do it, and here are their responses: "It helps the environment." "Plastic does not get out in the fields and streets where birds can eat it and die." "Fewer trees will be cut down which means more trees for the squirrels, chipmunks, and birds." "There will be cleaner water in the ground for plants to grow and everyone to drink." "Smaller landfills will be needed to hold our garbage." All these responses show that our children are living what they learn. I did not get one response of "because I have to" or "because you are our teacher." So, parents and other adults, keep on doing what you are doing—the future generation is listening.

—Nancy Savage, NEPAS Board Treasurer



Audubon Conducts 111th Christmas Bird Count

It's that time of year when we ask you to get involved in the Annual Christmas Bird Count. This will be the 111th count, and we ask for help in scouring the 7.5-mile radius around White Mills, Pennsylvania, looking for as many early winter birds as you can find. You might get a chance to see late migrating birds, if the weather permits. The date is Saturday, December 18, 2010. The CBC captures a snapshot

of bird populations over many decades, and with the advancements in computer databases, the information has come to be used by many researchers studying population trends. The data has helped Congress to pass and fund the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and the CBC data is one of the 24 major indicators of climate change that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recognizes as important to this work. Please join a team. It's fun, and you don't need to be an expert—just someone who loves the outdoors and, most of all, the birds. Call Barbara at 570-253-2364 and get involved.

Welcome New Members

Laura Atkinson	Kathleen Dolan	Alice Hulihan	Martha Locey	Walter Schautz
Raymond Belaski	Regina Donovan	M. L. Jones	Ruth Martinez	Gertrude Schmitt
Claire Blum	Linda Dwyer	Lenny Kakareka	Hugh Mccammon	Rosann Schreiber
Anna Bound	Edward Dylewski	Jane Kazista	Tannis V. Mccammon	Linda Shupp
Patty Bryce	Evelyn Gasko	Alan and Kim Klein	Sadie McFadden	Susan Bush Stone
Fran Calafut	Marieanne Greaves	Kitty Kreitner	Mary Niederberger	Ernest Stover
Alice J. Carr	Emily Groner	Christine Lathrop	Makalin Raine-Hall	Barbara Vitaletti
Jean Case	Stephen Hall	Joann Layton	Rose Raub	Theresa Wano
Daniel Colon	Carole G. Homeyer	Brad Layton MD	Mary A.Rogan	Dawn Weikel
Patricia Delaney	Barbara Houlden	Marion Little	Lucetta Savinelli	

Audubon Members Invited to Help in Research Study

Dr. Jeffrey Rudski would like your help. He and his colleagues at Muhlenberg College, in Allentown, Pennsylvania, are conducting a research study this semester on how people perceive various human-made hazards to birds.

Many birds are killed each year by various forms of human technology and activity. Some of these human-made hazards attract much more attention than others. Professor Rudski's research team is interested in how various factors that have been shown to influence people's perceptions of the risks posed by nuclear power or sources of water pollution (e.g., is it a 'new' hazard, how "natural" does the hazard seem) contribute to peoples' perceptions

of various hazards to birds. This information will be useful in strategizing in campaigns to raise awareness about different kinds of threats to birds and other natural systems.

You can fill out the survey found at the following link:

<http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/WEB22BDFEUJWXT>

Your participation will remain anonymous and confidential. The survey takes about twenty-five minutes to complete. At the end of the survey, you will be re-directed to a separate page where you can request a summary of the findings of the survey. If you have any questions about the project, contact Dr. Jeffrey Rudski at rudski@muhlenberg.edu.



Some Earth-Friendly Gift Ideas

- Plant and adopt a new tree at the Lacawac Sanctuary in honor of a loved one. He or she will get an adoption certificate, and Lacawac will gain a tree. Call Lacawac at 570-689-9494 for a gift application.
 - Go to Greenamerica.org to see a wide variety of holiday gift ideas that are kind to Mother Nature. www.greenamerica.org/guides/holidaygifts.
 - Give the gift of saving energy: a wattage meter (about \$20 to \$25) that will help people find out how much electricity their appliances use. There are also more complicated and expensive (\$100 or so) gadgets (one is called the The Energy Detective or TED) that monitor electricity use around the house to help you make smart usage choices.
 - Give a gift membership to our own Northeast Pennsylvania Audubon Society chapter. Child and senior memberships are only \$6 a year. Adult memberships are \$12. What a good stocking stuffer!
 - Other useful ideas for gifts, including green cleaning supplies, can be found at <http://planetgreen.discovery.com/buying-guides>.
 - Give a gift membership to the Delaware Highlands Conservancy and help to preserve open space and farm lands. Call them at 570-226-3164.
 - Give a gift membership (\$10. per family) to SEEDS (Sustainable Energy Education & Development Support), whose mission is to promote sustainable energy and sustainable living in our local community. Call 570-224-0052.
 - Give fair-trade products that provide a living wage for those who produce them. A wide selection of fair-trade coffees, teas, and chocolate is available from Beach Lake United Methodist Church. Call Mark Terwilliger at 570-729-7011.
 - You can create a chore coupon listing a favor (like weeding), a load of fire wood, dinner at your house, or your favorite casserole delivered to your friend's door.
 - Shop locally for your gifts. It helps support your community, and saves gas.
 - Do you make pottery, grow things, sew things, weave, bake, or paint? Home-made or home-grown gifts are from the heart.
- Have a green holiday!*
—Katharine Dodge

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Web: www.nepaaudubon.org

The date on the address label is the date your national and/or local chapter Audubon membership expires. National Audubon will send you reminders well before your national membership expires.

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Contributors: Katharine Dodge, Pat Sanders, Nancy Savage,
Barbara Leo

Mark Your Calendars

Saturday, January 22 (snow date January 23): Annual Bald Eagle Field Trip. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Join us for the best bald eagle viewing in the Northeast with a guide from the Eagle Institute at Lackawaxen. Dress warmly in layers, and wear waterproof boots. Bring a bag lunch and binoculars. Call Joan at 570-228-1704 or e-mail jthirion@aol.com for reservations. There is a prepaid non-refundable \$10 fee for the bus unless both days' trips are canceled.

Fri, Sat, Sun, Mon, February 18-21: Great Backyard Bird Count—Everyone can have input in Cornell Lab of Ornithology's important National Bird Survey...and from your own backyard! Call Bob at 570-676-9969 for more information, or go to www.birdsource.org/gbbc to get started.

Sunday, February 6: Guided Snowshoe Hike. 10 a.m. to noon. Join Assistant Park Manager Brian Flores for a celebration of winter and learn "Leave No Trace" information for winter recreation. No experience needed. Brief instruction in snowshoeing will be provided. If snow cover is insufficient, plan on hiking instead. Bring plenty of water. A good pair of boots and gloves are recommended. At Varden Conservation Area, Wayne County. Bundle up and join us at the Mid-Valley Road access area for a day full of fun. Call 570-676-3428 to register.

Saturday, March 26: Backyard Butterflies. 2 p.m. Award-winning butterfly expert Rick Mikula will show you how to organically attract butterflies to your yard and nurture them once they are there. Rick's programs are fast-paced, energetic, and loaded with humorous anecdotes. Chamber of Commerce building, Honesdale. Call 570-253-9250 for more information.