

Northeast Pennsylvania Audubon Society

Eco~Notes

Spring 2012

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Photo by Georgette Pascotto

Our Neighbor, the Bald Eagle



Photo by John Goldman

When the white settlers came to the new world, there was an estimated population of a half-million bald eagles here. By the 1940s their numbers were so diminished that the Bald Eagle Act was passed to protect them. In the 1960s the use of DDT further threatened the birds by weakening the shells of their eggs. In 1967 the bald eagle was named an endangered species. Many dedicated people worked to make the conservation of the species a national issue. After the publication of Rachel Carson's book *Silent Spring*, DDT was banned in 1972. In 1995 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service downgraded the bald eagle's status to threatened. Now they are so common in many areas that we can go on field trips to observe them. We live in such an area.

In January the Northeast PA Audubon Society held

its annual bald eagle outing with the Eagle Institute. The day got off to a good start when a bald eagle showed up before the bus had even left the grounds. Then the group set off, accompanied by an Eagle Institute guide, for an exciting excursion to observe the eagles along the Delaware River and at one of the reservoirs in New York State. The participants were thrilled with the experience and praised the guide, John Lokuta, for the knowledge he shared about the eagles, the wildlife in the area, and the history of the area. The tally of birds sighted was four adolescent and ten adult bald eagles.

—Bob Campbell

Follow Northeast PA Audubon via Facebook and Twitter

Join us on Facebook and Twitter for the latest updates on events and local issues. Interesting bird or wildlife sighting? Share it with us!

 **Facebook:** Northeast Pennsylvania Audubon Society
<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Northeast-Pennsylvania-Audubon-Society/216438695118570>

(or search "Northeast Pennsylvania Audubon Society")

 **Twitter:** @AudubonNEPA

We are also in the process of redesigning our website in order to better serve you. Stay tuned!

—Chris Fischer

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, paper, or ink. Go to our website, nepa.audubon.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.

GLOBAL WARMING

Global warming is the accelerated increase in the earth's average surface temperature. There has been climate change in the past due to natural causes, but in the last century this change has sped up, and many believe it is because of man's burning of fossil fuels and, possibly, the loss of much of the world's forests.

In the U.S., greenhouse-gas emissions rose by more than 14 percent from 1990 to 2008. World-wide greenhouse-gas emissions rose 26 percent from 1999 to 2005. Almost all of these rises are attributable to human activity, and the last 10 five-year periods have been the warmest on record, according to the latest EPA reports. The International Panel on Climate Change, NASA, the National Academy of Sciences, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Union of Concerned Scientists, and many other scientific and environmental organizations state that climate change is real and is happening now.

The poles are getting warmer, the ice sheets are thinning, the glaciers are melting, and the oceans are rising. Global warming is happening and it is too late to stop it, but if we take immediate action, we can minimize the effects. We can all take steps to conserve energy by making our homes and businesses as energy efficient as possible. We can drive the most fuel-efficient cars we can afford as wisely as possible.

But the most important action we can take is to become activists. We must persuade our governments to take actions to stop global warming. We must call, write, and email to convince our senators, representatives, governors, and president to act now. And we must vote. Let all politicians know that if they don't act on global warming, we will kick them out of office. We must not be afraid to go out on the streets to demonstrate as the Occupy Wall Streeters have done. We must do whatever it takes to see that our government makes stopping global warming its first priority. Future generations depend on us.

—Bob Campbell, President

Scholarships Available

College Scholarship. The Northeast Pennsylvania Audubon Society offers a \$4000 scholarship to a graduating senior who will be pursuing a degree in an environmental field at an accredited two- or four-year college or university. The scholarship is awarded in increments of \$1000 per year for each year of the degree program. The application form for this scholarship is available on our website, www.nepaaudubon.org, and is due by April 30, 2012.

—Chris Weigand

Camp Scholarships. Three scholarships are available for students aged 14-17 for a week's stay on Maine's scenic Hog Island, June 17-22. The session will take place on beautiful Muscongus Bay and will be led by some of the nation's most respected naturalists and environmental educators. The program includes the special treat of landing on Eastern Egg Rock to observe puffins during the breeding season. You will find more information and an application form at www.nepaaudubon.org. Applications are due by April 1, 2012. Call MaryAnn at 570-226-4288 with questions.

—MaryAnn Lunnis

Welcome New Members

C. Alleborn	Susan Duffy	Dr. & Mrs. Elke Kastler	Anne Nieh	Marie Sherry
R. Allen	Carol M. Fells	Keystone College	James Peirce	Debra Spaulding
Gerald R. Arnold	Camille Gabriellini	Margaret Kohut	Kay Reafler	N. M. Stalker
E. Bergstraser	Victor Gagnon	Robin Lasher	Lou J. Rizzo	William Stickney
David Brojack	Anne M. Gainsback	Anne Lewis	Robin Ross	Richard Teneyck
P. W. Buchhart	Eileen Hacker	Kimberly Light	Marilyn Schlosser	Evan & Trevor Tochydlowski
John Buehl	Wilfred Henry	Roberta Lupo	Carlo Schneller	Jennifer Washicosky
Doris Cahill	Suzanne Hoats	Niki Mack	Sandra Schreck	
Sharon K. Davis	William Houser	B. K. May	Henry W. Schumacher	
Reba Dein	David Johnson	Lisa A. Mori	Kathryn Sheppard	

Celebrate Earth Day

The annual Pike-Wayne Earth Day celebration will be held Saturday, April 21, from 10 AM to 3 PM at the PPL Environmental Learning Center next to the dam at Lake Wallenpaupack. Now in its 14th year, this free event is open to all. Enjoy bird walks led by NEPA Audubon members throughout the day. Watch live web cams of nesting peregrines and ospreys, two species that have scientist and naturalist Rachel Carson and her book *Silent Spring* to thank for their existence.

This year's event focuses on volunteers. Many organizations will have volunteer opportunities listed at their stations. Our chapter will have requests for help with our annual Art & Craft Festival in July.

There'll be lots of fun activities and entertainment. We hope to see you there!

Tune Up Your Birding Skills

As the summer gets into full swing, knowing birds' songs is often the only way to know that there are birds in the woods around us. Birders need to be in tune with the songs and calls of a great many birds.

Kathy Dodge and Barbara Leo will give you tips and techniques for identifying birds and their songs through a multi-media presentation at the PPL Environmental Center on Route 6 in Hawley, PA, on Saturday, March 31, at 1 PM. Both Kathy and Barbara are experienced birders, having been involved in field surveys for the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, Audubon, and most recently, for the second Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas. They have spent many hours in the field documenting breeding activity and identifying birds. Come share their expert knowledge and become a better birder.

Volunteer for Spring Migration Bird Count

The 2012 Pennsylvania Migration Count will be held on Saturday, May 12, 2012. This is similar to a Christmas Bird Count, except that the PA Migration Count is county-based. We are seeking volunteers to help cover Wayne County. Birders of all skill levels are welcome. While observations can be made over a 24-hour period, it's up to you to decide how much time you will contribute. Results from the count are compiled across the state and published in *Pennsylvania Birds*, our state ornithological journal. If you are interested in participating, please contact Chris Fischer at cfischer17@gmail.com for more information.

Good exercise, good fellowship, good food, and a good feeling—what more could you ask? Join us to pick up litter along Route 191 near Lake Ariel, PA, on Saturday, April 28, at 9 a.m., and enjoy a delicious breakfast afterwards.

Call Marge at 570-253-9599 to sign up.

Results of Wildlife Survey

In our last newsletter, we asked people to report their wildlife observations to us. We received numerous replies from around our region. Most of you reported a sudden lack of birds and squirrels from June 2011 through the fall. Many of you said that no birds came to your feeders. One person in Lake Ariel saw a marked increase in migrants in the fall.

One couple from the Greentown/Newfoundland area reported on wildlife on their 27-acre property, where they have created diverse wildlife habitat through natural plantings. They say they saw a decline only in the number of rabbits, probably due to an increase in predators. They saw an increase in deer populations (and in antler size), as well as in coyote and toad populations, and in many species of birds, most notably robins. The lesson we might learn from their report is that creating natural habitat is vital for protecting healthy biodiversity.

Thank you to all those who reported their observations. This survey is too casual to qualify as sound science, but the official bird counts we hold provide valuable information to the scientific community. The next is the Spring Migration Bird Count. See the article at left for details on how to volunteer. If you are not confident in your birding skills, you can be paired with an experienced birder. We also encourage you to go to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology site, www.birds.cornell.edu, which is updated regularly with information based upon sound science. We hope you will continue to monitor the wildlife around you. It can tell us much about the state of the world.

—Kathy Dodge

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Phone: (570) 253-9250
E-mail: audubonworks@gmail.com
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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Mark Your Calendars

Saturday, March 31, 1 PM BIRDING TUNE-UP. Learn to identify bird species by their songs, appearance, and actions. For children and adults. PPL Environmental Learning Center, Route 6, Hawley, PA. Call Barbara at 570-253-2364 for information.

Saturday, April 21, 10 AM TO 3 PM EARTH DAY CELEBRATION. Programs for all ages, including short bird walks led by Audubon members. PPL Environmental Learning Center, Route 6, Hawley, PA. Call Audubon at 570-253-9250 or visit **www.pikewayneearthday.org** for more information.

Saturday, April 28, 9 AM NEPAS ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY. Join us in a clean-up along Route 191 near Lake Ariel, PA. Free breakfast afterwards. Call Marge at 570-253-9599 to sign up.

Saturday, May 12, 6 AM INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY. Join a team to look for returning migratory birds. No expertise needed. Contact Chris at 570-446-9597 or **cfischer17@gmail.com**

Sunday, May 13, 8-11 AM MOTHER'S DAY BIRDS AND BLOOMS. Take Mom for a birds-and-blooms walk on a beautiful private property outside Honesdale, PA. Call Barbara at 570-253-2364 for information.