Let's Do It for the Birds

Barbara Leo, Conservation Chair

Over the past 2 years, we have presented information on the effects of climate change on bird populations in the United States. Recent studies have presented more and conclusive evidence of the effects of carbon emissions into the atmosphere, such as the melting of the Antarctic ice shelf. We in the birding community have noticed various changes in our local bird populations and have called and posted queries on the pa listserv (email server for birders in PA run by Audubon PA) as to the causes of fluctuations in arrival and departure dates for our migratory species.

In our own back yard, the changes may be subtle but there are changes. We know in our erratic weather patterns that something is going on. While thinking about this article I read various pieces from the past and decided that a several succinct quotes would have a greater affect then reiterating things that we all might know. We've known since 1990 that emissions from coal-fired power plants are harming both people and birds. Loons, Ospreys, and Bald Eagles have been getting a heaping serving of mercury with their fish from streams tainted by power plants. Songbirds take the hit in their nervous systems. Mercury and metal poisoning disrupt bird mating, breeding, and parenting, and impact the health of hundreds of bird species across the Americas….David Yarnold, Pres. And CEO National Audubon

As a result of climate change, nearly 60 percent of the 305 species found in winter across North America have shifted their ranges northward by an average of 40 miles since 1966. These birds may soon find themselves fundamentally out of sync with the environment that sustains them….David Yarnold

Those are just some of the facts.

It is hoped that the Audubon Climate Initiative will bring the science and passion for birds as a force for change. Audubon is in unique position with data from 40 years of the citizen science of bird counts and the passion of birds lovers of all stripes to bring deniers of various political persuasions to invest in turning the carbon clock back. It will be a great challenge and will require that we do our part. There is no alternative. As David says, “Take a minute to look at your life list. Think about the songs you heard on your last bird walk.”….what if they are not there next year or the following, how dreary life would be…(My comments.)

Please look for announcements in the media and on our website and take part in helping to prevent future progression of climate change. We’re doing it FOR THE BIRDS!
Local Student Raises $475 for Northeast PA Audubon

Article & Photographs by Chris Fischer

Eleven-year-old Avery Kimble raised $475.00 for the Northeast Pennsylvania Audubon Society through an endangered species silent art auction that she coordinated as part of a combined program of homeschool and public school students earlier this year. A fifth grade student attending a home school co-op at The Stoneworks Learning Center in Honesdale, Avery organized the auction in response to a challenge issued to her by Dr. Rebecca Ballentine, MS Ed., MD, to identify and address an area of concern in her local community. “I wanted to research endangered animals, but wondered if they were really something I could consider a local concern”, says Avery. “While researching, I became aware of HB-1576, better known as The Endangered Species Coordination Act, which threatens to remove wildlife expert’s authority to decide which species are protected and hand that authority to the Independent Regulatory Review Commission”, she continues. “Did you know the rare Northern Flying Squirrel is an endangered species in PA whose habitat includes Wayne County? I didnt.” said Avery during her presentation on May 27th at the Cooperage on Main St. in Honesdale. Avery also took the opportunity to present her thoughts on supporting environmental causes on a biblical basis. "My thoughts about endangered species stem from my thoughts about the God who made them,” said Avery. “God gave us dominion over the earth and instructed us to care for it. He cares about the environment and holds us accountable for its sustained management.”Avery is the daughter of Ed and Nancy Kimble of Honesdale. Thank you, Avery!

2014-2015 Officers & Directors:

President—Sarah Hall-Bagdonas
Vice President—Jim Sanders
Treasurer—Nancy Savage
Secretary—Ronnie Fischer

Directors: Kathy Dodge, Lindsay George & Bob Campbell
New officers & directors were installed following a potluck picnic at Chris and Ronnie Fischer’s home.

Welcome, New and Returning Members

| Carlita Bird | Joan Cooley | Nancy J. Hillis | Gerald Manley | James Peirce | Donna Tompkins |
| Russell Bird | Thomas Cummings | Theresa Krempasky | Mary Matchulat | Lynne Reba | David Wenzel |
| James Bryan | Ralph Deloy | Betty Lange | Sylvia O. Montes | Catherine Sanders | Dr. Midori Yamanouchi-Rynn |
| Henry J. Burk | Nancy Firmstone | Eleanor Lewis | Kimball Mountjoy | Eileen J. Tice | |
| Mr. & Mrs. Jesse Colwell | Michael Forry | Ruth Makeloni | Maryann Mulfino | Richard Tierney | |
Touring an Organic Farm and Dining on Local Food with Audubon

By Kathy Dodge

Audubon sponsored a tour of Willow Wisp Farm in northern Wayne County on August 10th. Owner Greg Swartz gave a very informative tour of this certified organic farm. He pointed out the importance of proper soil preparation through cover crops such as rye followed by medium red clover which adds nitrogen to the soil. This preparation is followed by a careful rotation of a wide variety of crops. Flowers are used as attractants which encourage a diversity of insects—including pollinators—important to ecosystem health. Organic certification entails much record-keeping, but Greg feels strongly that the program is important to uphold the best land stewardship practices. The tour was followed by a farm-to-table four-course dinner on the terrace of the house of Andrea and Chuck Heyn, which overlooks Greg’s farm. Andrea used local produce (including from her own garden) to create a large array of delicious, creative dishes. We owe deep gratitude to Greg for the tour, and to Andrea for her time and skill in presenting a wonderful meal.

The 29th Northeast Pennsylvania Audubon Art and Craft Festival was held on July 19 and 20, and was another great success. In spite of a last minute change in location, attendance was good. Everyone enjoyed the many outstanding wildlife shows and displays, and the Audubon education exhibit was the best ever. Thanks to all of the volunteers who made this great event possible!—Jim Sanders

Left: John Porcino engaging youth at the Craft Festival.

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, nepaaudubon.org, to sign up.

Find lots more about birds and the environment and the latest information on upcoming programs at www.nepaaudubon.org. Join us on Facebook (search Northeast Pennsylvania Audubon Society) and follow us on Twitter: @AudubonNEPA.
Mark Your Calendars

(Check our website at nepaaudubon.org for the latest information)

**Sat., Sept. 13** – GUIDED BIRD WALK along the LACKAWANNA RIVER HERITAGE TRAIL. 9am. Led by Chris Fischer. Co-sponsored by the Lackawanna Heritage Valley Authority (LHVA). Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Laurel Street Trailhead, located at the southern terminus of Laurel Street in Archbald. Parking is available.

**Sat., Sept. 27** – FOREST HIKE. 11am. Join Sarah Hall, Forest Specialist from the Wayne Conservation District, on a hike through the forest at Shuman Point Natural Area at Lake Wallenpaupack. Meet at Shuman Point Natural Area on Rte 590. Call Sarah at (570) 253-0930 for information.

**Sat., Oct. 4, 2014** – TREES AND ME 1-2:30pm. Learn why we need trees and get up close and personal with the trees around us. Make a tree ID book to take home! Families are encouraged to attend this interactive workshop, which is being held at the Wayne County Public Library. Children over 8 can attend on their own.

**Sat., Oct. 11** – NATURE TREASURE HUNT at BROWNING BEAVER MEADOW SANCTUARY. 1pm. Learn some map and compass skills to help discover some of nature’s surprises. Great family activity! Call (570) 253-9250 to sign up.

**Sun., Oct. 19** – NEPAS HIKING CLUB. Browning Beaver Meadow Sanctuary. 2pm. Meet at Observation Platform parking area. See our Sanctuaries page for directions. Registration required. Call Sue at (570) 352-4997.

**Fri., Oct. 24** – SAW-WHET OWL BANDING. 8pm. Revel in the migration of the smallest nocturnal raptor in the eastern US. Witness its capture in mist nets, collection of data, and the release of this little 8-inch owl. A few lucky attendees may be able to hold and release one. Call Bob at (570) 676-9969 for further information and reservations.

**Sun., Nov. 9** – NATURE CRAFTING WITH SUE. 2-5pm. Spend a Sunday afternoon learning to make and take home a lovely seasonal nature craft. Chamber of Commerce Bldg. on Commercial St., Honesdale, PA. Donations toward cost of supplies accepted. Registration required. Call (570) 352-4997.