



## Saw-Whet Owl Banding

Northeast PA Audubon Society has been taking adults and children to watch Darryl and Jackie Speicher of Pocono Avian Research Center catch, band, and release Saw-whet Owls for a number of years. During that time they have captured and released as many as 9 or as few as 1 owl. On the night of October 16, 2015 we had a record of nearly 30 people at the Monroe County Conservation Building to observe the banding, and a record number of 0 owls captured and released.

The conservancy building is a big beautiful building out in the woods and the room we used had windows looking out to the trail to where they were trying to catch the little owls. We could watch the crooked line of flashlights coming down the trail toward us as they came back from checking to see if they had any owls. Time after time they came back empty handed.

Darryl still did his usual marvelous job of explaining what they were trying to do and why. He also told us about the Saw-whets. He is a great speaker and always entertaining.

Please join us on October 14, 2016 as we once again watch the Saw-whet Owl banding! -Bob Campbell



These members of Scranton's Laurel Garden Club were turned into trees at Northeast PA Audubon's October 2015 Backyard Habitat program: tall trees, medium trees, and shrubs. One person was designated as a dead or dying den tree which brought laughs as she held up one arm and opened her mouth as a denning site for wildlife. They had to arrange themselves to provide as much habitat variety as possible—different density, spacing, and heights, and corridors along which wildlife might safely travel.

Board members David Trently and Katharine Dodge presented the program to about 70 members of the club. They discussed the vital role of species biodiversity, the reasons for using native plant species over exotic ones, and the misuse of pesticides by many homeowners.

They provided tips on how to make one's yard into better habitat for biological diversity. The finale was a very funny conversation between God and St. Francis on the subject of lawns—how ridiculous it is to encourage vast, pristine lawns to grow so that we can spend our time and fossil fuels to cut them—an activity found to be very puzzling to God. -Kathy Dodge

### 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.

## NEPAS Art and Craft Festival

Thanks to all of you who helped make the 2015 Art and Craft Festival a success and to all of you who attended, once again funding our scholarships for young people to study the natural sciences. Attendance at the festival was up from 2014, and we had some great wildlife shows in addition to the art, crafts, and educational displays.

We're beginning to plan for the 2016 Festival, which will be held on July 16th and 17th at the Wallenpaupack High School. We will have some new wildlife shows, and of course, all of the great wildlife art and crafts that the festival is famous for. Please put it on your calendar now, so you'll be sure not to miss it! -Jim Sanders



Scholarship Committee co-chair Christine Weigand, scholarship winner Michael Burkhardt, Northeast Pennsylvania Audubon Society President Sarah Hall-Bagdonas at NEPAS Art and Craft Festival.



A great job & big thank you to participants of the **2015 Christmas Bird Count**: Jane and Don Althoff, Kathy Dodge, Dawn Finlay, Ronnie & Chris Fischer, Sarah & Ashley Hall-Bagdonas, Barbara Leo and Georgette Pascotto, Pat & Jim Sanders, Gloria Tabares & Keith Williams.

### 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](http://nepaaudubon.org), to sign up.

**Eco-Notes** is now published two times a year. Find lots more about birds and the environment and the latest information on upcoming programs at [www.nepaaudubon.org](http://www.nepaaudubon.org). Join us on **Facebook** (search Northeast Pennsylvania Audubon Society) and follow us on **Twitter**: [@AudubonNEPA](https://twitter.com/AudubonNEPA).



Please look for our proposed amendments to our By-laws on our website: <http://www.nepaaudubon.org/>

**The 2015 Annual Letter Appeal** was conducted in late November and the month of December 2015. This appeal is only conducted once a year. The donations received from this appeal are used for the continuation of programs and field trips offered to the various communities and schools that are in our regions. The response has been very heartwarming. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has donated to us this time and in the past. (If you haven't donated and would like to do so, please go to our website for information on how to do this.) -Nancy Savage

**Thank you** Laura Sowpel, John & Nancy Cruger, Elizabeth Rotar, David B. Soete, Joseph B. Scerno, Bruce & Jean Edwards, Joanne Everett, Marileta Robinson, Sandra H. Patterson & Michael Chiuchiolo Sr., James & Patricia Sanders, Nancy Ross, Karen & G. Roebing Gravel and Robert & Jean Campbell.

## 2016 NEPAS PROGRAMS/FIELD TRIPS

Check out our website for events for all of 2016 and updates <http://www.nepaaudubon.org/events/>

**February 6:** GREAT BACKYARD BIRDS. Lacawac Sanctuary, 10 AM- noon. What birds are chirping in your backyard? Using a winter bird feeder is an aid to our feathery friends and is better than TV on a cold winter's day. We'll explore the types of feeders and seeds that attract birds to our Pennsylvania backyards. The Northeast PA Audubon Society's expert birders will provide tricks and tips for remembering who's who going tweet-tweet. Interested families and friends may construct a recycled feeder and take home an observation sheet. The Great Backyard Bird Count runs through Feb. 15. Hang and watch your feeder, record your sightings and enter your report online. Simple tutorial provided. Bring a soda bottle (2 liter or smaller).

**February 12-15:** GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT, Thurs., Fri., Sat., Sun., dawn to dusk. Count birds in your back yard for Citizen Science in Cornell's important national survey! Call Bob at 570-676-9969, or get tools and how-to's at <http://gbbc.birdcount.org/>

**February 25:** BIRDS and CLIMATE CHANGE at the Himalayan Institute, 6:30 PM. This program discusses the recent and extensive National Audubon Society Study of the effects of climate change on birds in North America. Free and open to the public. Call Audubon at 570-253-9250 for more information. The Himalayan Institute is north of Bethany, PA.

**February 26:** Black Bear, Black Bear, Where Do You Sleep? Salem Public Library, Hamlin, 6PM, A free program for children and adults about where our animal neighbors go in the winter, Learn about hibernation, migration, and other ways creatures cope with the cold months of winter. Have you ever wondered how a duck can swim in icy water, or how a deer can survive curled up in the snow? This program may help us to understand these. The presenter will be Northeast Pa. Audubon member and artist, Katharine Dodge, who will have her book "Sweet Dreams of the Wild" available for a donation to Audubon. Activities will include coloring a bookmark and making pinecone treats for the winter birds. All are welcome. Children under eight should be accompanied by an adult. To register, contact the library at (570) 689-0903.

**April 16:** "ADOPT A HIGHWAY" Litter pick-up. Join us for our annual cleanup along Route 191 near Lake Ariel, PA, to help make nature beautiful again! Free breakfast afterwards!! Call Kathy at 570-253-9250 to sign up.

**April 17:** Birding Tune-up Program at the Himalayan Institute, north of Bethany, PA. Learn how to identify birds by visual cues and the sounds they make. Indoor session starts at 8 AM, bird walk to practice your skills at 9 AM. Binoculars recommended. Some will be available for those who do not have any. Free and open to the public. Call Audubon at 570-253-9250 for more information.

**April 22-24:** EARTH DAY FESTIVAL. A weekend honoring Mother Earth with programs for all ages, including Birding & Breakfast with Audubon (we provide the binoculars). Small fee for breakfast. For details and to reserve a spot, call Audubon at 570-253-9250.

**April 24:** Earth Day Festival Birding & Breakfast: Sunday, April 24th. 8 AM bird walk along the Lackawaxen River in Hawley (binoculars provided for those who need them). 9 AM breakfast at the Settler's Inn. \$12.00 fee for the breakfast. To reserve a spot, call Northeast Pa. Audubon Society at 570-253-9250. Space is limited.

**April 30:** SPRING WILDFLOWER WALK, North Shore Trail, Prompton State Park. Join naturalist Sarah Hall Bagdonas for a nice afternoon hike along Prompton State Park's North Shore Trail to see all of the beautiful spring blooms that give the forest floor a lovely color for a short time each year. Learn how to identify several Pennsylvania wildflowers and learn about their uses and history. Bring your wildflower guide if you have one! Meet at the North Shore Trail off Beech Grove Road, Honesdale at 1 PM. Call Sarah @ 814-335-3991 for details.

**May 14:** PENNSYLVANIA ANNUAL MIGRATION COUNT. Join a team to look for returning migratory birds. All ages, all levels of expertise & knowledge welcome. Contact Chris at 570-446-9597 or [cfischer@nepaaudubon.org](mailto:cfischer@nepaaudubon.org).

**May 27:** BIRDING BY BOAT (Promised Land State Park program) Bring your boat and join the Park Naturalist for a 2 hour paddle, birdwatching from the perspective of the lake surface! Meet at Promised Land State Park lower parking lot. Call 570-676-0567 to sign up.

**June 7:** Bird's the Word. Tuesday, June 7 @ 5pm at the Tannery Access, Varden Conservation Area (Off route 296 north of Lake Ariel). Come to Varden and discover the amazing diversity of bird life in this park. Walk is an easy 1.5 miles.

**June 24 and 25:** BioBlitz at the Ten Mile River Boy Scout Camp. More information will be available at a later date.

**July 16 & 17:** NEPAS ART AND CRAFT FESTIVAL 10am-5pm each day. A wonderful family event with art and crafts for sale, free wildlife shows, nature exhibits, and children's crafts. The \$5 entrance fee supports NEPAS scholarship programs. Children under 12 free. Held at Wallenpaupack High School on Rt 6 in Hawley.

**July 30:** POCONO WATERFALL TOUR with Sue Thompson. A day-long tour of our area's waterfalls. Trails easy to moderate, wear hiking shoes and bring a lunch. Rain or shine unless pouring! Meet and return to PPL Environmental Learning Center off Rt 6, Hawley, PA. Suggested donation \$5. For adults, \$3. For ages 5 to 12. Registration required. Contact Sue at 570-352-4997.

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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.

Editors: Ashley Hall-Bagdonas

Contributors: Bob Campbell, Kathy Dodge, Jim Sanders, Nancy Savage, David Trently, Ronnie Fischer, Sarah Hall-Bagdonas

**2015 Christmas Bird Count results:**

Species	# of Counts	Species	# of Counts	Species	# of Counts	Species	# of Counts
Canada Goose	114	Red-shouldered Hawk	5	American Crow	167	American Tree Sparrow	10
American Black Duck	5	Red-tailed Hawk	7	Common Raven	3	Dark-eyed Junco (slate)	335
Mallard	226	Ring-billed Gull	101	Black-capped Chickadee	176	White-throated Sparrow	6
Ring-necked Duck	10	Rock Pigeon (Feral Pigeon)	18	Tufted Titmouse	43	Song Sparrow	2
Bufflehead	27	Mourning Dove	39	White-breasted Nuthatch	49	Northern Cardinal	41
Common Goldeneye	6	Great Horned Owl	1	Brown Creeper	2	House Finch	21
Hooded Merganser	33	Red-bellied Woodpecker	8	Carolina Wren	1	Purple Finch	21
Common Merganser	10	Downy Woodpecker	21	Eastern Bluebird	37	Pine Siskin	1
Wild Turkey	155	Hairy Woodpecker	10	European Starling	269	American Goldfinch	73
Sharp-shiner Hawk	1	Pileated Woodpecker	2	Cedar Waxwing	12	House Sparrow	118
Bald Eagle	10	Blue Jay	98				

**Total individuals: 2,294**

**Total species reported: 42**