



Photo by Sarah Hall-Bagdonas

### **Audubon Birds and Climate Report**

The word is out, it came in the form of Audubon Birds and Climate Report in September. 314 birds in North America face significant risk in a warming world. Of those, 126 species are at risk of severe declines by 2050, and a further 188 species face the same fate by 2080, with numerous extinctions possible if global warming is allowed to erase the havens birds occupy today.

If we do nothing, many of these birds could disappear in our children’s lifetimes. That would be a less joyful future by itself, but we know that losing our birds is not the only consequence of global warming. Extreme weather, fierce wildfires, agricultural disruptions, sea level rise, and greater threats to our health – these are consequences we’re already seeing today.

To me, this is personal. This is about who I am and what kind of world I want to live in and leave behind. We have an imperative to act. And the Audubon study also contains plenty of reason to hope. It’s a roadmap to a better future for birds and for ourselves.

Broadly speaking, we need to do two things. We need to protect the places birds need today and the places they’ll need in the future. And we need to do everything we can to reduce the severity of global warming.

What can you do right now? Here is one suggestion, now that the mid-term elections are over and Congress

is back to work, you can contact your representative and tell them to fund and encourage alternative energy source science, reduce and eliminate the coal fired power plants. Here is an interesting fact about the money being spent on reducing climate emissions around the world: less than \$400 billion a year is being spent around the world to reduce emissions or otherwise cope with climate change. That sum is smaller than the revenue of a single American oil company, ExxonMobil. (That is from the recent report issued by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change).

Go to [Audubon.org/Climate](http://Audubon.org/Climate) and read more about how we can reverse this man-made catastrophe.

**Barbara Leo - Conservation Chair**



**Common Tern Photo by Chris Fischer**

#### **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.

## Citizen Science is For the Birds

It is becoming a little more difficult to get outside and enjoy nature as the temperature starts to fall around this time of year. Especially this early winter, as the temperature has dropped quite early and rather quickly! But you can still enjoy nature from the comfort of your own home through the winter, and even contribute to science while doing so. All you have to do is set up a bird feeder (or just fill the ones you have), count birds, and enter your data into Project FeederWatch.

Anyone who is interested in birds can contribute, no matter how experienced you are. New participants are sent a research kit with complete instructions for participating, as well as some bird identification tools. Participants watch their feeders as much or as little as they want over two consecutive days as often as every week. Doing so less often is perfectly okay too, any data collected is better than none! Participants count birds that appear in the count site because of something that they provided, such as plantings, food, or water. You then send your counts to the Cornell Lab of Ornithology Project FeederWatch, and then you are a part of science!

The data collected helps scientists track broad scale movements of winter bird populations and long-term trends in bird distribution and abundance. Citizen science is a great way for people to learn about nature, conservation, science, and in this case birds, by participating in real scientific studies. Each fall participants will receive The Cornell Lab of Ornithology 16-page, year-end report called Winter Bird Highlights.

It is rather easy to attract a nice variety of birds to your new feeders right from the start. Feeders are great in a wooded location, but if you give the birds seed, they will come, no matter where it is! I usually don't even get a chance to finish filling the feeders all up before I get a black-capped chickadee at one feeder and a white-breasted nuthatch surveying the area from a nearby tree. For more information and to sign up, just visit <http://feederwatch.org/>.

Photo & article by **Sarah Hall-Bagdonas - President**

## 115th Christmas Bird Count

It's that time of year when Audubon asks people to get involved in the annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC). This year's Bird Count is on **December 20, 2014**. This the **115th year** for this historic international count. **Northeast Pennsylvania Audubon** is looking for people to help scour a 7.5 mile radius around White Mills looking for as many early winter birds as possible. When weather cooperates late migration may be seen.

The data has helped Congress to pass and fund the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and the CBC data is accepted by the twenty-four major indicators of climate change. You don't have to be an expert to join a team. We pair inexperienced birders with more experienced birders so everyone can help! Call Barbara to get involved



## 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 Yamanoouchi-Rynn
Henry J. Burk	Nancy Firmstone	Eleanor Lewis	Kimball Mountjoy	Eileen J. Tice	
Mr. & Mrs. Jesse Colwell	Michael Forry	Ruth Makelonis	Maryann Mulfino	Richard Tierney	

## **An Approach to Climate Change that Everyone Can Embrace**

In researching for this article, I saw a huge amount of information, some calling climate change a myth, others predicting the end of humanity (and taking the rest of the world down with us). I am not going to try to convince you of either argument. Here is what I propose:

**#1.** Let's stop arguing with each other about the existence of climate change.

**#2.** Let us start living as though we are saving for our kids and grandkids. That means money, food, water, energy, and other natural resources. This is thrifty and just plain common sense.

**#3.** Let us do our part to keep human population in check. We are over 7 billion and growing. This cannot continue without our fighting each other over what is left.

**#4.** Let's act as though other species matter. Check out the very carefully researched projections about the future of birds from the National Audubon Society. Go to: <http://climate.audubon.org>

**#5.** How about kicking out those leaders who are not taking care of our future? Only 13% of citizens who voted in the 2014 mid-term elections were under 30.

**#6.** The long-term interests of our children and grandchildren and the other species of life on this planet are drowned out by the onslaught of well-funded short-term, profit-motivated interests who get to buy their way into the bubbles in which most of our leaders live. Go to [movetoamend.org](http://movetoamend.org) to sign a petition to amend the Constitution to stop the corporations and ultra-rich from taking over government.

**Kathy Dodge –board member**

### **The Nature Treasure Hunt was a Success!**

Twelve children and accompanying adults attended the Nature Treasure Hunt led by Pete Snyder and Katharine Dodge at our Browning Bever Meadow on October 11th. After a session teaching map and compass skills, the students measured their own paces before setting out on a hike to practice their skills. Each was given a list of tasks to complete that incorporated not only map and compass work, but nature observations. Questions such as “list five sounds you hear,” and “find something soft, hard, round, red, etc.” were designed to encourage them to be observant of their surroundings. After reporting back with their results, each received a bag of treasures.”

**Kathy Dodge –board member**



**Past Christmas Bird counters!**

### **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.

Starting in 2015 **Eco-Notes** will be 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.



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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.

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#### **Mark Your Calendars**

#### **Future NEPAS Programs & Field Trips**

(Check our website at [nepaaudubon.org](http://nepaaudubon.org) for the latest updates & information!)

**December 20 2014: AUDUBON'S 115th CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT.** This survey provides critical data to scientists who study the long term trends in bird populations. Participate & learn how we conduct this local bird count within a 7.5 mile radius of White Mills, PA. Please see our Citizen Science page for more details about the Christmas Bird Count. To participate please call Barbara at (570) 253-2364.

#### **2015**

**January 10: Black Bear, Black Bear... Where Do You Sleep?** (Kathy Doge - leader) A workshop covering where our animal neighbors go in winter and what they do. Take Away: Pine Cone Treat. Contact Wayne County Public Library at (570) 253-1220 for more information. Families are encouraged to attend. Children over 8 can attend on their own.

**February 13-16:** Great Backyard Bird Count

**March 21:** Woodcock Dance contact Barb for more information (570) 253-2364.

**April 11: Do Ducks need suitcases?** (Kathy Dodge- leader) A Bird/Habitat Workshop for young/beginning birders, focusing on the birds that live among us. Take Away: Bird Head-dress- Be a Bird. Contact Wayne County Public Library at (570) 253-1220. Families are encouraged to attend. Children over 8 can attend on their own.

**April 18:** Adopt -A-Highway for more information call Marg at (570) 253-9599.

**April 25:** Earth Day Festival

**May 2:** Native Plant Spring Wildflower Walk—North Shore Trail— Prompton Contact Sue at (570) 352-4997.

**May 9:** Pennsylvania Annual Migration Count

**May 16:** Bird walk by David Trently 8 a.m. Florence Shelly Preserve. For more info. Call (570) 253-698-6173,

**June 6:** Birding by boat contact Kathy at (570) 698-6173

**June 14:** Father's Day Canoe & kayak trip

**July 6:** NEPA's Election of Officers & Program

**July 11:** Pocono Waterfall Tour contact Sue at (570) 352-4997

**July 17-18:** NEPA's Art & Craft Show