



## **Welcome to Seven Mountains Audubon 2018-2019 President's Letter**

The past decades have been difficult for birds. Many bird species, even ones we think of as common, have declined precipitously.

What with habitat degradation, warming temperatures, increasing numbers of catastrophic weather events, and human activities like use of non-native plantings, insecticides and pesticides, feral cats and buildings with bird-killing glass, it sometimes seems that the threats to our favorite species are insurmountable.

And yet...there is a change in the air. The latest opinion polls from Yale show a significant majority of Americans now recognize that climate change is happening and want the federal government to act on it. Soon Congress itself will realize it must act.

There are significant success stories out there. Think of the bluebird, which was threatened with extinction when I was a child; the bald eagle and peregrine falcon, which have made a real comeback after DDT was banned; and further afield, the Atlantic puffin, which is now breeding in good numbers on the islands off coastal Maine again. These successes show that we can reverse some of the worst declines with scientific knowledge and will.

We can't rest on our laurels, though. Birds, like humans, are sensitive to pollution of air and water. We must be vigilant to prevent protections of clean air and water from being rolled back. We must work in our own habitats to provide bird-friendly plants and habitats to favor bird survival.

Our programs this year will help with ideas, while many will show the wonders of birdlife in America and abroad. I hope to see you at our First Saturday walks as well, when we get out and see the birds in their habitats. We invite you to join like-minded, bird-brained folks to enjoy and celebrate our beautiful, ecologically-essential birds.

Kay Cramer, President

**\*\*This is the only printed newsletter for the year.**

**Make sure you keep this newsletter for your Seven Mountains Audubon information.**

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**LISTSERVES**

**Reminders**

We have changed the way that we send out our emails. To the best of our abilities, we have moved your email addresses to the new emailer, MailChimp. This is a work in progress. To be added to our mailing list, you may do so by sending an email to: Michael Paul McGuire at [mpmcguir@gmail.com](mailto:mpmcguir@gmail.com)

You will receive a monthly e-Newsletter and reminders of special events and we will attempt to keep you updated on last minute cancellations, etc.

**Internet & Social Media**

Website: <http://www.sevenmountainsaudubon.org/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/7mountains/>

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FYI: Audubon bird apps are free to anyone at: <http://www.audubon.org/apps>

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**SPECIAL THANKS GO TO:**

Allen Schweinsberg, Bob Reyda, Brent Bacon, Jack McCann, JoAnn Cooper, and Lauri Shaffer for leading our First Saturday field trips.

Bob (coordinator) & Elena Reyda, Dick & Nancy Dagle, Alice Marquart, Allen & Joanne Schweinsberg, Jill Largent, and Bill Malone for participation in the Furnace Rd. cleanup.

**Please be sure to check our website or FaceBook Group for any updates or changes.**

Website: <http://www.sevenmountainsaudubon.org/>

Face Book: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/7mountains/>

## SEVEN MOUNTAINS MEETING & PROGRAM SCHEDULE

Meetings and Programs for 2018- 2019

### Where:

All activities below are held at the  
**Kelly Township Supervisors' Building,  
551 Zeigler Rd, Lewisburg, PA.**

**AT: 7:30 PM**

All meetings are open to the Public and Everyone is welcome!

*\*Please check the website and Facebook for updates.*

*<https://www.facebook.com/groups/7mountains/>*

### **September 19th, 2018 Ian Adrian—Habitat Restoration**

This presentation will be an overview on the value of protecting native habitat, in addition to some feedback on converting one's yard to a natural meadow, and reasons to do so. This will be accompanied by a slide show of nature photography, almost exclusively from Pennsylvania.

Ian was born in Winfield, PA, and loves traveling to new places, spending time in nature, photographing landscapes, plants, and especially wildlife. Over the years his passion has driven him to develop a strong interest and concern for habitat conservation, and he has embarked upon several small habitat restoration projects which he will share with us.

### **October 17th, 2018 Margaret Brittingham--Marcellus Shale Exploration and Development in Core Forest Habitat: Effects on Forest Habitat and Birds**

North-central Pennsylvania contains one of the largest blocks of core forest within the mid-Atlantic region. These core forests overlay the Marcellus shale where resource extraction has increased exponentially and is projected to continue for at least the next 40 years.

She will discuss landscape change associated with shale gas development on public and private land within the first 5 years of shale gas development and research on initial response by forest bird communities to these changes. She will also discuss wildlife use of pipelines and potential strategies for reducing negative effects of shale gas development on forest habitat and wildlife.

Dr. Brittingham is a Professor of Wildlife Resources in the College of Agricultural Sciences at The Pennsylvania State University.

Her research focuses on avian ecology, specifically the effects of habitat fragmentation on bird populations, incorporating wildlife needs into forest management plans, and managing for wildlife on private lands.

### **November 14th—Jack McCann and Jill Largent--Yellowstone in the Winter, Ecology, and Geology; (bison, wolves, moose, elk and other animals)**

Yellowstone in the winter was number one on our bucket list. We had the highest of expectations and the winter photographic tour exceeded every one of our expectations. Ecology, and Geology; bison, wolves, moose, elk and other animals.

### **December 19th—Christmas Party**

Bring digital photos or hard copies, stories to share about the last year.

### **January 16th, 2019--Allen Schweinsberg: Birds of Hawaii**

Allen and Joanne Schweinsberg visited Hawaii in March 2018 with a birding tour that took them to Oahu, Kauai, and the big island of Hawaii. Hawaii has an avian habitat devastated by introduced species and diseases, but our emphasis will be on surviving native species such as the famous Hawaiian honeycreepers.

Allen is a retired mathematics professor who has been a member of Seven Mountains Audubon since its inception in 1974. He has served as chapter president on three occasions.”

### **February 20th, 2019--Lauri Shaffer--Birding by Ear**

Designed for beginning and intermediate birders who would like some tips on learning bird songs. Photos, mnemonics, and songs of at least 60 birds will be presented. We'll practice describing a few songs to be able to take notes that will help us remember the bird by ear. Resources will also be given in a handout for additional mnemonics, Birding by Ear CD's, phone apps, and some on-line helps.

Lauri is a retired teacher with a life-long passion for birding and a slightly more recent passion for nature photography.

### **March 20th, 2019—Abe Abrahamson--Legacy of Wildfire: Restoring Fire in Fire-Adapted Florida Scrub**

Perceptions of wildfire in the early 1900s produced a policy of fire suppression across North America. Yet fire is an integral part of many ecosystems worldwide that acts as a powerful ecological and evolutionary agent. Abe will introduce us to Florida Scrub, Florida's most endangered ecosystem, and the role of fire in Scrub. His long-term studies of plant responses to fire help define appropriate fire management and ecosystem conservation.

Join us for his richly illustrated presentation on the legacy of wildfire.

### **April 17th, 2019--TBA**

### **May 15th, 2019, The Great Migration, Owen Floody, John and Judy Peeler**

As suggested by the title, the images in this show were taken in Tanzania's Serengeti National Park and focus on a particularly dramatic (and hazardous) moment in the Great Migration of wildebeest and other animals. Specifically, they focus on a river crossing though they also include images of birds and animals from elsewhere in the Serengeti. River crossings are necessary events, as the grazing lands that the animals seek at this time of year (July, so near the middle of Tanzania's long dry season) are on the opposite side of the Mara River. At the same time, crossings are risky, in part due to challenges posed by the river itself, in part due to the many predators that inhabit or line it. The specific crossing that we viewed was happily successful but still enormously exciting, as wildebeest flew through the air and churned through the water with great urgency.

Owen Floody is a retired Bucknell professor who spent many years teaching courses and conducting research on the biological factors that influence the behavior of humans and other animals. Presently, he spends much of his time using travel to pursue his interests in scenery, wildlife and photography.

John Peeler, like Owen retired from Bucknell, was his tent-mate for this trip. He has for ten years or so pursued bird photography as a way to slow down to a birder's pace, the better to accompany Judy Peeler, who has been an avid birder for much longer. At this point he finds the activity sufficiently engaging that he often goes out alone to take some shots.

Judy Peeler, a member of Seven Mountains Audubon for nearly 30 years, has visited Tanzania and neighboring Uganda. Her role in this presentation is merely to provide names of birds, resident or in migration

## **Board Meetings**

**Are the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every other month.**

Sep 12, Wednesday 7:30PM

Nov 14, Wednesday 6:30PM

Jan 9, Wednesday 7:30PM

Mar 13, Wednesday 7:30PM

May 08, Wednesday 7:30PM

All members are welcome. If you have something that you would like to bring to the group's attention please contact Board President Kay Cramer, (falconrider1@gmail.com) at least one week ahead of time. In case of any last minute changes in location, please contact any Board Member the day of the meeting. Please join us even if you would just like to come and listen.

### **First Saturday Field Trip**

The first Saturday of each month, January through December, Seven Mountains Audubon provides a local field trip.

All trips depart at 7:30 a.m. from Lewisburg at the Weis Parking Lot behind Panera's and the Weis Gas station, just west of US 15. Public is welcome.

Trip leadership rotates informally, and the field trip destination is announced via Facebook, a few days in advance.

If you have an area of interest that you would like to suggest, or if you would like to lead a walk, please contact any board member.

Check Facebook for cancellations: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/7mountains/>



PO Box 389  
Lewisburg, PA 17837

**Return Service Requested**

**Board:**

- Kay Cramer, President
- Brent Bacon, Vice President
- JoAnn Cooper, Secretary
- Bill Malone, Treasurer

**Board members:**

- Lauri Shaffer, Programs Chairperson
- Bonnie Ingram
- Bill Tyler
- Webmaster-Michael McGuire

**Phone:** 570-837-3377 Please, leave a message on T&D Cats answering machine.

**Email:** [Info@sevenmountainsadubon.org](mailto:Info@sevenmountainsadubon.org)

National Audubon's Mission: To conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity.

Existing Members will receive renewal notices directly from Audubon. Make sure you renew.

**New Membership Form:** Seven Mountains Audubon will receive the entire NEW membership fee, when new members join through us.

Yes, I want to join Seven Mountains Audubon and National Audubon Society at introductory rate of \$20 for first year.

**NOT FOR RENEWALS**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
New Member Only

Street: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Place my name on the Email list to receive all my newsletters online.

My email address is \_\_\_\_\_ .

My check for \$\_\_\_\_\_, payable to **National Audubon Society** is enclosed.

**Mail to:** Seven Mountains Audubon, c/o Bonnie Ingram,  
671 Kepner Rd., Muncy, PA 17756