



Seven Mountains AUDUBON

2024-25 Newsletter

The National Audubon Society protects birds and the places they need, today and tomorrow, throughout the Americas using science, advocacy, education, and on-the-ground conservation. To support this mission, Seven Mountains Audubon seeks to provide experiences, develop camaraderie, and share information to promote understanding and appreciation of wild birds and the ecosystems they inhabit.



Ruby-throated hummingbird - Lauri Shaffer

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to Seven Mountains Audubon!

If you are a member of the National Audubon Society and live in the Seven Mountains Audubon coverage area as determined by zip codes, you are automatically a member of Seven Mountains Audubon. We are pleased to share our schedule for the coming year and some highlights of the past year, and we hope that you will join us and actively participate in our monthly programs and special events. We look forward to meeting and sharing our love of birds with members “old” and new.

Our monthly **third-Wednesday educational programs** will begin 9/18/24 at East Buffalo Township Municipal Building, 589 Fairground Road. See **pages 5-6** for details.

Monthly **First Saturday Bird Walks** also begin in September (see **pages 3-4**). And later this fall, be on the lookout for announcements from Judy Peeler regarding this year's **Christmas Bird Count (CBC)**.



Blackburnian Warbler - Karen Houser

Over the past year, Seven Mountains members brought table displays and bird-related activities to **R. B. Winter State Park's Winterfest, The Vernal School Expo** at Montour Preserve, a binocular workshop at Montour Preserve, the Earth Day event “**Joy to the Earth**” in Selinsgrove, **The Lewisburg Arts Festival**, a binocular workshop and bird walk at **Lewisburg Children's Museum, Lycoming Audubon's Birding Photography Expo** at The Peter Herdic House in Williamsport, and The Linn Conservancy's “**Great American Backyard Campout**” event, as well as conducting fall and spring trash collection days along a portion of Furnace Road. We invite volunteer participation in all of these public outreach events, and you don't have to be an expert birder to participate! See **page 6** for an opportunity to make your interest known.



Indigo Bunting - Brent Bacon

We welcome your suggestions for **First Saturday bird walk** locations and educational meeting topics, as well as your participation as a First Saturday Bird Walk leader.

We are grateful for the active participation in the **Seven Mountains Group Facebook** page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/7mountains/> with the daily addition of many birding photos from around the area and farther afield. We also remind you to visit and explore the **Seven Mountains Audubon website:** <https://sevenmountainsaudubon.org/> The website and Facebook page are the best sources of updated information on the monthly events listed below.

Introducing new Board Officers and Members, approved at the Annual Meeting in May: **Jessica Sauder** was elected Vice-President. Jessica is an ardent, experienced birder, excellent photographer, and is Snyder County co-coordinator for the Pennsylvania Bird Atlas Program. **Patricia**

Bond is our new Secretary. Patricia completed the Pennsylvania Master Naturalist training program and was a recent event volunteer at The Biggest Week in American Birding at Magee Marsh, in Ohio.



Red-headed Woodpecker - Wayne Stahl

New Board Members are **Becky Stugart**, Adventure Coordinator for The Linn Conservancy; **Marissa Crames**, Program Supervisor of The Vernal School; and **Bryce Perles**, one of the top eBirders of Montour County. **Sabrina Kirby** has retired from the Board but remains active in the Chapter and continues to compile and edit our Annual Newsletter. **Bill Malone** has retired from the Board after many years of service, including two prior terms as Board President, organizer and coordinator of the biannual Furnace Road Cleanup Community Service project, periodic Bird Walk leader and participant in special events. Bill will also remain active in the Chapter.

I also want to acknowledge and give special thanks to **Michael McGuire** who, despite currently working in Sweden, has continued to serve as our webmaster; **Brent Bacon**, chief administrator of the Seven Mountains Audubon Facebook Group; **Kay Cramer**, a prior Board President and Secretary who continues to serve on the Board, managing Zoom connections as well as leading Bird Walks and special outreach events and editing the periodic publication “Bird Lore”; **Bonnie Ingram**, Membership Committee Chair and Refreshments Coordinator for our Educational Meetings; **John Peeler**, our Treasurer; and **Judy Peeler**, Director and Official Compiler for Christmas Bird Count.

Finally, we again encourage you to bookmark, and explore the following excellent local programs:

- [The Linn Conservancy Programs \(local\) https://linnconservancy.org/news/](https://linnconservancy.org/news/)
- [Vernal School \(local\) http://www.vernalschool.org/the-programs.html](http://www.vernalschool.org/the-programs.html)

as well as the many image and information-rich birding websites and smart phone apps including:

- Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology’s “All About Birds” [www.allaboutbirds](http://www.allaboutbirds.org)
- Audubon www.audubon.org
- The National Audubon YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/NationalAudubon>
- American Birding Association www.aba.org
- YouTube www.youtube.com – Any bird or birding related question; also (**Let’s Go Birding-Virtually Live – Sparky Stensaas** – excellent series)
- www.lycobirds.com
- eBird - <https://ebird.org/home>
- Merlin- <https://merlin.allaboutbirds.org/>
- Larkwire - <https://www.larkwire.com/birdsong/the-basics>
- [Pennsylvania Society of Ornithology. – https://pabirds.org/](https://pabirds.org/)

Good Birding!

Bill Tyler, President

Seven Mountains Audubon Monthly Field Trips
2024-2025



Prairie Warbler - Karen Houser

Please check our [website](#), [Facebook page](#), and the [Daily Item](#) for details, updates, and cancellations.

DATE	LEADER	LOCATION	TIME
Sat. Sept. 7	Lauri Shaffer	Montour Preserve	8 a.m.
Sat. Oct. 5	Bill Malone	Turtle Creek Park, Lewisburg	8 a.m.
Sat. Nov. 2	Kay Cramer	Trail of Trees, Snyder Co.	8 a.m.
Sat. Dec. 7	No first Saturday bird walk. Watch for details of the Christmas Bird Count!		
Sat. Jan. 4	John Peeler	Dale's Ridge, Union Co.	TBA
Sat. Feb. 1	Jessica Sauders	Faylor Lake, Snyder Co.	8 a.m.
Sat. March 1	Bryce Perles	Montour Preserve	8 a.m.
Sat. April 5	Jessica Sauder, Patricia Bond	R. B. Winter State Park	8 a.m.
Sat. May 5	Brent Bacon	Lewisburg Federal Penitentiary grounds	8 a.m.

SEVEN MOUNTAINS AUDUBON MEETING & PROGRAM SCHEDULE 2024-25

East Buffalo Township Municipal Building
589 Fairground Road
Lewisburg, PA

3rd Wednesdays at 7:00 PM, September – May

Programs are free and open to the public, and everyone is welcome. In-person presentations are also streamed on Facebook Live. Check our website or Facebook for updates or changes:

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



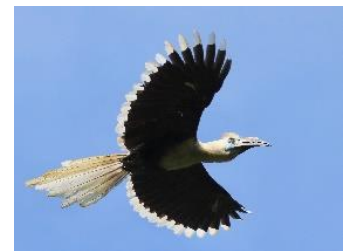
Eastern Towhee - Karen Houser

Sept. 18 – Pennsylvania Bird Atlas

Joe Gyekis will share his experience documenting breeding birds in central Pennsylvania, from the purpose of mapping to the experience of watching courtship, nest building, incubation, and feeding young. Known to many Seven Mountains Audubon members, Joe is a health science professor at Penn State and a lifelong birder, with special interests in local patch listing, nocturnal flight calls, and bird-window collisions. He is the Union County coordinator for the Third Pennsylvania Bird Atlas.

Oct. 16 – Borneo: The Land Below the Wind

This presentation takes us to Sabah, Malaysia in Borneo! Orangutans, proboscis monkeys, hornbills, flowerpeckers, spiderhunters, flying frogs, flying lizards, giant squirrels, and giant bumblebees—these are just some of the amazing animals you will meet through the lens of amateur photographer **Linette Mansberger** as she shares images and information from her 2019 visit to the northern area of the tropical island of Borneo in southeast Asia.



White Hornbill - Linette Mansberger

Nov. 20 – Life in a Nest Box: American Kestrels and Barn Owls

Jon Kauffman will present an in depth look of the breeding behavior of American Kestrels and Barn Owls through live nestcam footage. Jon promotes conservation through citizen science projects such as Project NestWatch, Monarch Watch, winter raptor surveys, and seasonal hawk watches at Shaver's Creek Environmental Center. He has served as a hawk-watcher for Tussey Mountain Hawk Watch and has also traveled and worked with other organizations such as Cape May Bird Observatory and Intermountain Bird Observatory in Idaho. When not sitting on a ridgetop observing hawk migration, you can find him exploring new habitats and discovering the interrelationship between the flora and fauna through avian life.

Dec. 18 – Annual Holiday “Show and Tell”

Bring your photos, slide shows, memorabilia, and bird-related stories; contact **Bill Tyler** to discuss your technical needs.

(continued)

Jan. 15 – Penn State Herbarium

Curator **Sarah Chamberlain** will guide us through the history of the herbarium from its humble beginnings as one of the oldest collections at Penn State to its present position as the third largest herbarium in Pennsylvania. Ms. Chamberlain will discuss why herbarium specimens are important and their current uses for both research and teaching. She will also bring specimens for examination after the presentation. Told with historic photos and sprinkled with humor and interesting stories tying specimens to history, art, entomology, and the “8th Wonder of the World”, this engaging virtual tour of the Penn State Herbarium will convince you herbarium collections are a lot more than just a bunch of dead plants!

Feb. 19 – Gardening for Birds

Jess Snyder – Details TBD

March 19 – The Black Skimmer Project



Black Skimmer - Bill Tyler

Elena Duran will present results of a Black Skimmer chick mortality event investigation and the implications for the understanding of emerging zoonotic diseases, coastal bird species management, and conservation. Elena received her B.S. in Wildlife Ecology & Conservation from the University of Florida, followed by her M.S. in Conservation Medicine from the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University. She is currently a PhD candidate at Texas A&M University under Dr. Jacquelyn Grace. Her research involves understanding how environmental stressors (disease, temperature, contaminants) impact avian health and physiology.

April 16 – The Beautiful Eastern Bluebird

Richard “Dick” Hess retired from PPL Montour Preserve after 25 years of doing Land Management, public programs and law enforcement with the Pennsylvania Fish Commission. He was Chairman of the Board of Supervisors of Anthony Township for 15 years and has been involved in Yokefellow Prison Ministry at the Muncy State Correctional Institute for 39 years. Dick is the owner and operator of Pine Patch Nursery, where he grows trees, shrubs, perennials and water plants. Interested in photography from the age of 10, Dick started taking pictures while in the U.S. Navy, eventually purchasing professional grade equipment and specializing in wildlife photography. Most of his pictures are taken at his farm near Exchange, Pa.



Eastern Bluebird - Bill Tyler

May 21 – Birds of Vietnam and Southeast Asia (and Seven Mountains Audubon Annual Meeting)

Sabrewing Birding Tours – Details TBD

ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER....

This annual newsletter is distributed by email only. We hope that family members or friends will print this newsletter for those who prefer a paper copy. Current and past newsletters are also available online: <https://sevenmountainsaudubon.org/newsletters/>. Please see next page for more ways to get involved...

Volunteer Interest Questionnaire

Want to share your love of birds, talk with folks of all ages, and maybe make some new friends? Consider helping out at one (or more) of our many events! You can learn by “shadowing” experienced volunteers, spend some time outdoors, and do some good outreach to benefit our feathered friends.

If you'd like someone to contact you when opportunities arise, please either reply to the email that brought you this newsletter or print and complete the BRIEF form below and mail it to the address at the bottom. Thanks—hope to see you!



Common Yellowthroat - Karen Houser

Seven Mountains Audubon Volunteer Interest Form

Name:

Best way to contact me:

I'm interested in participating in the following, as time permits:

___ Tabling events: Arts Festival, R.B. Winter Winterfest/Summerfest, Binocular workshops, other

___ Roadside cleanup

___ Leading or hosting a Bird Walk

___ Presenting an educational program/slide show etc.

___ Writing an article for the Newsletter

___ Digital communication:

___ Other:

To share your answers, you can copy and paste the form into an email response to the email that brought you this newsletter, or print this page and mail it to the address below. Thanks for your interest, and good birding to you!



PO Box 389
Lewisburg, PA 17837