



Seven Mountains AUDUBON

2025-26 Newsletter



Northern Flicker photo by Lauri Shaffer

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. In this newsletter, we are pleased to share some highlights of the past year and our

schedule for the coming year. We hope you will join us and actively participate in our monthly programs and special events. We look forward to sharing our love of birds with members “old” and new.

Our monthly third-Wednesday educational programs will begin 9/17/25 at the East Buffalo Township Municipal Building, 589 Fairground Road, Lewisburg. See **page 5** for details.

Monthly First Saturday Bird Walks also begin in September (see **page 4**). And later this fall, be on the lookout for announcements, at meetings and on our website and Facebook, regarding this year’s Christmas Bird Count (CBC).



Blackburnian Warbler by Jeff Solomon

Over the past year, in addition to bird walks and monthly educational programs, Seven Mountains members brought table displays and bird-related activities to R. B. Winter State Park’s Winterfest and to the Earth Day event “Joy to the Earth” in Selinsgrove. As a member of the PennDot Adopt-A-Highway Program, we conducted fall and spring trash collection days along a portion of Furnace Road between Lewisburg and Mifflinburg. We also maintained a Bird-Friendly Blooms garden at the north end of the Lewisburg Community Garden on North Water Street. 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 X for an opportunity to make your interest known. We welcome your suggestions for bird walk locations and educational meeting topics as well as your participation as a bird walk leader.



Blue-winged Warbler by Karen Houser

We also invite you to visit and explore the Seven Mountains Audubon website: <https://sevenmountainsaudubon.org>. The website and Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/7mountains/>) are the best sources of updated information on our regular monthly events and other activities.

We welcomed two new Board members this year: Court Harding and David J. Bauman. Court is a private landowner wildlife biologist with Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever, a nonprofit working towards upland wildlife habitat conservation around the country, and is working on a Big Birding Year for Northumberland County—195 out of a goal of 200 species at last report. David began his birding journey by frequenting hawk watch sites in the late 80s and gradually realized there were so many more birds to see! He is the Executive Director of Snyder County Libraries and is Snyder County co-coordinator, with fellow Board member Jessica Sauder, for the Pennsylvania Bird Atlas.



Pine Siskin photo by Court Harding

I want to again acknowledge and give special thanks to the following Board members: Brent Bacon, for serving as chief administrator of our Facebook group; Kay Cramer, a prior President and Secretary, for managing our Zoom connections, leading special outreach events, and editing the

monthly publication “Bird Lore” (under the auspices of the Pennsylvania Society of Ornithology); Linda Elton, for accepting election to the office of Treasurer at the May meeting (and John Peeler, for his prior service in that role); Bonnie Ingram, for chairing our Membership Committee and coordinating refreshments for the educational meetings; and Michael McGuire for continuing to serve as our webmaster, even while working in Sweden.

Jessica Sauder, along with past Board member Judy Peeler, are Director and Official Compiler, respectively, for our Christmas Bird Count. Another past Board member, Sabrina Kirby, continues to compile and edit the newsletter. This is just a sampling of the behind-the-scenes work involved with being a chapter of the National Audubon Society, promoting the values and activities in our mission statement above. Your help is always welcome!



Blue-gray Gnatcatcher photo by Brent Bacon

Finally, we again encourage you to bookmark and explore the following excellent local, national, and international resources:

- Audubon www.audubon.org
- National Audubon YouTube Channel <https://www.youtube.com/NationalAudubon>
- American Birding Association www.aba.org
- LycoBirds www.lycobirds.com
- eBird <https://ebird.org>
- Merlin Bird ID <https://merlin.allaboutbirds.org>
- Larkwire <https://larkwire.com/birdsong/the-basics>
- Pennsylvania Society of Ornithology <https://pabirds.org>
- Vernal School <https://www.vernalschool.org>

Good Birding!

Bill Tyler, President



Cape May Warbler photo by Bill Tyler

**Seven Mountains Audubon
Monthly Bird Walks
2025-26**

Meeting time is usually 8 a.m. at the site. Attendees are encouraged to carpool. Please check our website or Facebook (addresses on p. 1) and/or the Daily Item for details, updates, or cancellations.

Date	Location	Leader
September 6	Montour Preserve	Court Harding
October 4	Trail of Trees, Snyder Co.	Jessie Sauder or Kay Cramer
November 11	State Game Land 84 at Dornsife (north lot)	Court Harding
December 6	<i>No First Saturday Walk</i>	<i>(Christmas Bird Count this month)</i>
January 3	Indoor Option, Montour Preserve	Bill Tyler
February 7	Water Fowl (Allenwood Game- Lands/Rose Valley Lake?)	Michael McGuire
March 7	Montour Preserve	Bryce Perles/Evan Houston
April 11(2 nd . Sat.)	Lewisburg Borough	Sabrina Kirby
May 2	U S Penitentiary Lewisburg	Brent Bacon
June 6	Glacial Pools Preserve	Jessie Sauder/Michael McGuire



Wood Thrush photo by Lauri Shaffer

**Seven Mountains Audubon Meeting and Program Schedule
2025-26**

East Buffalo Township Municipal Building
589 Fairground Road
Lewisburg, PA

3rd Wednesdays at 7 p.m., September- May

September 17

Winging It Near Water With a photographic presentation, **Linette Mansberger** will showcase birds that are found near various water habitats in southcentral Pennsylvania. She will teach about the families of birds that frequent wetlands, ponds, streams, etc., and some of the birds' unique characteristics. Also included will be a few remarkable birds from water environs around the world.

October 15 (Zoom)

Scott Harris writes: "*RaptorQuest, Chasing America's Raptors*" is about my journey to find all 53 of the Raptors that call the Lower 48 states home. I did find all 53, along with a Bat Falcon, a Steller's Sea Eagle, and an Eurasian Eagle Owl. I took 17 months and traveled more than 100,000 miles across 34 states. In my presentation, I share my successes and failures It's about the Raptors, of course, but it's also about the people I met, the things I learned, and why I'm already in the middle of my next big birding adventure."



Bald Eagle photo by Su Bacon

November 19

Celebrity Shorebirds: Piping Plovers and Common Terns at Presque Isle After a 60-year absence, Piping Plovers are now once again calling Gull Point at Presque Isle State Park their summer home. Nesting there since 2017, they have contributed to the endangered Great Lakes population in a meaningful way and afforded us the opportunity to learn more about these charismatic shorebirds. They have also provided moments of deep sadness as well as sublime joy. **Mary Birdsong**, co-founder and Lead Shorebird Monitor for Erie Bird Observatory, will provide an overview of Erie Bird Observatory programs as well as information about the Great Lakes population of Piping Plovers, including highlights from the last nine years of monitoring. She will also talk about Common Terns, who have also attempted to nest at Gull point and were finally successful.

December 18

Holiday Party "Show and Tell" by Seven Mountains Audubon Chapter

January 21

Winter Birding in Florida Every winter, Ralph and Lauri Shaffer head south in their camper to visit family and birdwatch for two months, staying in



beautiful state and regional parks. From Painted Buntings to Flamingos, photographing these colorful birds is a thrill. A serious birder for most of her life, **Lauri Shaffer** has been photographing nature for the last 15 years and will present a program on these beautiful southern birds, offering tips on favorite places to see them.



American Flamingo photo by Ralph Shaffer; Roseate Spoonbill by Lauri Shaffer

February 18

Backyard Habitat for Birds **Court Harding**, a private landowner wildlife biologist with Pheasants Forever and Quail Forever, a non-profit working towards upland wildlife habitat conservation around the country, will discuss how you can improve your backyard for birds year-round.

March 18

Why Counting Birds Matters: Updates on the Pennsylvania Bird Atlas and Tips for Participating **Amber Wiewel** is the coordinator of the 3rd Pennsylvania Bird Atlas, which will provide a snapshot of the population status and distribution of birds in the Commonwealth. No other bird surveys are as comprehensive, and for that reason, the results are critical to the establishment of conservation priorities for Pennsylvania birds. Amber earned her master's in ecology and evolutionary biology in 2011 from Iowa State University, having studied the breeding-season ecology of the Puerto Rican Bullfinch. In Puerto Rico, she also led field crews surveying birds for a large collaborative research project. Her bachelor's degree research examined winter ecology of the Black-and-white Warbler in Puerto Rico. In addition to her professional pursuits, Amber also participates in the USGS annual breeding bird surveys and volunteers as a Penn State Master Gardener, helping landowners with garden plans.

April 15 (Zoom)

Common Loons and Snowy Owls **Dan Oh**, close friend of Lauri and Ralph Shaffer, excellent photographer, and New England birder, will use PowerPoint, still photography, and video to discuss two of his favorite subjects: the Snowy Owl and the Common Loon, including their life cycles, how to find them, and tips for photographing them. Dan is a retired Chemical Engineer and former Director of Operations at Key Polymer.

May 20 (Zoom)

A Geo Big Year Professor **Alan MacEachren**, a Penn State University geographer, was in the process of retiring in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic when he embarked on a year-long birding adventure, with a goal of identifying 67 species in each of the 67 counties in Pennsylvania. He wrote a book about this quest.

Volunteer Interest Questionnaire

Want to share your love of birds, talk with folks of all ages, maybe meet some new friends? Consider helping out at one of our many events! You can learn by “shadowing” experienced volunteers, spend some time outdoors, and do valuable 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 form below and mail it to the address at the bottom. Or just come to a meeting or bird walk and tell us what you’d like to do.** Thanks—hope to see you!

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: e.g., Arts Festival, Joy to the Earth
- Roadside cleanup
- Leading a bird walk, or hosting one on my property
- Presenting an educational program
- Newsletter
- Digital communication
- Other:



Eastern Screech Owl by Edie Cox

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.



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