



2026-27 Newsletter



Blackburnian Warbler photo by Jeff Solomon

President's Message

Seven Mountain Audubon is the official Chapter of the National Audubon Society serving residents of Columbia, Montour, Northumberland, Snyder, and Union Counties. When you join the National Audubon Society, if you live in one of these five Pennsylvania Counties, you are automatically assigned Membership in the Seven Mountains Audubon Chapter also, according to your zip code.

"Seven Mountains" has been a popular way of referring to the region west of Lewisburg since the 18th century. If you look at a regional topographical map, you will see that it is peppered with mountains, notably Jones Mountain, Nittany Mountain, Little Mountain, Jacks Mountain, Shamokin Mountain, Seven Notch Mountain, and Buffalo Mountain—all familiar territory to the bird enthusiasts and charter members who established the Seven Mountains Chapter in 1974. Our Chapter is part of the larger Mid-Atlantic Audubon Region, <https://www.audubon.org/mid-atlantic>.

For an annual membership fee of \$20, National Audubon Society membership includes the following Benefits:

- One full year of the award-winning Audubon magazine.
- Greater connections between you and your local Audubon chapter.
- Member perks at Audubon centers.
- Access to local birding and community events.
- An Audubon wall calendar featuring stunning bird photography.
- Breaking news on birds, their habitats, and advocacy efforts.
- You'll receive conservation updates to show your impact in action.



Barred Owl photo by Tim Healey

Aside from your annual dues to National Audubon, there is no additional fee for local Chapter membership. Our Chapter receives a credit from NAS for first-time enrollment of any new members. Contingent upon a detailed annual report of our activities, we receive from National Audubon a yearly stipend of approximately \$1000. With this support, Seven Mountains Audubon helps people of all ages appreciate, learn about, and support conservation efforts to benefit wild birds.

For example, our Chapter participates in the annual National Audubon Christmas Bird Count, an important citizen-science effort, and several of our members are active in the Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas Project. We also participate in local-regional events such as Montour Environmental Expo, Raymond B. Winter State Park Winterfest, Lewisburg River Road Holiday, and Citizens' Climate Lobby's annual Joy to the Earth Celebration in Selinsgrove. We provide community service by participating in PennDOT's Adopt-A-Highway Program, our semi-annual roadside cleanup of a 2-mile stretch of Furnace Road near Lewisburg.

We organize a monthly Bird Walk with a designated Walk Leader at various locations, usually on the first Saturday of each month, and we also host a monthly educational program with invited speakers on the third Wednesday of each month at 7PM at the East Buffalo Township Municipal Building, 589 Fairground Road, Lewisburg, PA 17837 (see schedules below).

As you can see, there are many ways to be involved, build your birding knowledge, and meet like-minded people. New birders are always welcome!



Canada Warbler photo by Su Bacon

Our Board of Directors includes a President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Membership Chairman, Facebook Group Administrator, and a Webmaster as well as additional Members at Large. The Board meets by Zoom on the second Wednesday, every other month for approximately 1 hour. This year we welcome Evan Houston as a new Board member. Evan is an expert birder and a Regional eBird Reviewer. Joanna Pease, also an expert birder, is our newly elected Vice-President. The Board is always looking for new members; contact me or any other Board Member if you are interested.



Scarlet Tanager photo by Nancy Heintzelman

Our Seven Mountains Audubon Facebook Group, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/7mountains/> is active daily, showcasing birding photography of our members and others, and providing additional birding and environmental resources as well as reminders and detailed information about upcoming events. Our official website <https://sevenmountainsaudubon.org/> is another venue for online resources and information about Chapter Events. We publish an annual newsletter with detailed information about our Bird Walks and Educational Program Schedules, which is distributed by our Membership Chair. We need an up-to-date registry of email addresses to provide this and other communications with our members.

I want to thank our Facebook Administrator, Brent Bacon and our website Webmaster, Michael McGuire for their service. I also want to thank Treasurer Linda Elton, Membership Chair Bonnie Ingram, Christmas Bird Count organizer and compiler Jessica Sauder, Zoom Meeting Coordinator Kay Cramer, Newsletter compiler Sabrina Kirby, and all who have served as Board Members, Bird Walk Leaders, and Program Presenters as well as other active Chapter participants.

We depend on our members for volunteer participation to support and enrich our activities. We welcome new ideas, and we encourage all members to become actively engaged participants.



Common Yellowthroat photo by Brent Bacon

Finally, we again encourage you to bookmark and explore the following excellent local, national, and international resources as well as additional resources in the Guides and Files portion of our Facebook Group:

- 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

Seven Mountains Audubon Third Wednesday, 7PM Educational Programs for 2026-2027

589 Fairground Road, Lewisburg

Check website or Facebook for updates!

9/16/26 - Joe Gyekis will present on Nocturnal Flight Calls of Pennsylvania, describing the night migration of birds through our region, with emphasis on species that are easier to find by listening in the dark than by daytime birding. Joe Gyekis is an expert birder who has been birding since childhood. He is Bird Safe Penn State Advisor and Associate Teaching Professor of Biobehavioral Health, Penn State University.

10/21/26- The 2023-24 Red Crossbill Irruption in Pennsylvania. This program will highlight the major irruption of Red Crossbills that occurred in 2023 and 2024 and will include general information about the species and call types as well, as an overview of the irruption and discussion about the confirmed nestings in PA in 2024. Subsequent and recent sightings will also be mentioned. Wayne Laubscher is Clinton County compiler for the PA Birds publication and a board member of both Lycoming Audubon and the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology.



Ruby-throated Hummingbird photo by Bobby Klopp

Thursday 11/19/27 – Hummingbirds: Jewels of the Air. Sandy Lockerman, a licensed master bird bander, will discuss the intriguing world of hummingbirds. She will help us to look at some of their unique adaptations and migration mysteries. In addition to her ongoing ruby-throat project, she will update us on the documentation efforts being made of western hummingbirds in Pennsylvania.

12/16/26 – Annual Christmas Party and Show and Tell Program

1/20/2027 – How We Became Birders: An Expert Panel. This moderated panel brings together four experienced local birders—Andy Keister, Joanna Pease, Court Harding, and Evan Houston—to share how they developed their skills, lessons they've learned along the way, and their best tips, with time for audience questions.

2/17/27- Birding Through the Seasons will be an illustrated PowerPoint summary of the joys of Pennsylvania birds throughout the year. Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall—there are always interesting birds to enjoy! Even the bleak dark days in February hold interesting and beautiful feathered friends at our bird feeders, and surprises in the fields and woodlands. More than 430 species of birds have been reported in Pennsylvania, nearly half of the total known in North America. From this list, seasonal highlights from our area will be mentioned. Dan Brauning, retired Ornithologist with the Pennsylvania Game Commission, will provide the presentation. He resides in Montoursville with his wife.

3/31/2027 (Note: NOT a Third Wednesday): Presque Isle Bird Banding: Sixty-Five Years of Monitoring at Pennsylvania's Busiest State Park by Laura-Marie Koitsch (Zoom). Laura-Marie Koitsch is a licensed bird bander with many years of experience. She is Banding Program Manager and Digital Content Manager at Erie Bird Observatory, a co-Founder of Erie Bird Observatory, and has been a Councilor of the prestigious Wilson Ornithological Society.

Wednesday 4/21/27 Brazil's Atlantic Rainforest. Travel to the southeastern area of Brazil with amateur photographer Linette Mansberger to experience a few sights of the Rio de Janeiro area and the natural beauty of the Atlantic Rainforest. Insects, reptiles, mammals, and tropical birds will be featured, including the vibrant Flame-tailed Pondhawk Dragonfly, the large Tegu Lizard, the charming Brown-throated Three-toed Sloth, and multicolored birds such as Green-crowned Plovercrest, Saffron Toucanet, Surucua Trogon, Swallow-tailed Manakin, and a variety of brilliantly hued tanagers.



Pileated Woodpeckers photo by Lauri Shaffer

5/19/27- Birds of the Susquehanna Valley by Lauri Shaffer. Just in time to brush up on your birds for the rest of spring migration and the nesting season. Using beautiful photos of beautiful birds, this PowerPoint program will whet your appetite to get out there and go birding! Introducing all the local birds in the area: warblers, woodpeckers, birds of prey, songbirds, and water birds; this presentation will get you ready for the season! Lauri is an avid birder and photographer, and loves getting others excited about nature.

Seven Mountains Audubon First Saturday Bird Walk Schedule and Leaders, 2026-27

Always check our website and Facebook for directions, updates and cancellations.

9/6/2026

**SGL 84 at Dornsife (north lot) -
Court Harding**

10/3/2026

**Shade Mountain Hawk Watch -
Jessica Sauder**

11/7/2026

Turtle Creek Park - Joanna Pease

12/5/2026

**No Bird Walk in December -
Christmas Bird Count Month**

1/2/2027

2/6/2027

3/6/2027

4/3/2027

5/1/2027

6/5/2027

To Be Determined

Sunbury Fabridam - Court Harding

Montour Preserve - Bryce Perles,

Evan Houston

To Be Determined

Lewisburg Federal Penitentiary -

Brent Bacon

Top of Shade Mountain - Court

Harding, Jessica Sauder, Bryce

Perles



Cerulean Warbler photo by Mike Murphy

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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