



The Bluebird Bulletin

Spring 2023

WWW.YORKAUDUBON.ORG

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

February—June

Monday, February 13th

Join John and Cheryl Dawson as they share their passion for mycology in "An Introduction to the World of Mushrooms and Fungi". John has been president of the Eastern Penn Mushroomers and Cheryl uses mushrooms to dye yarn! 7:00 p.m. at UUC York.

Monday, March 13th

Penn State master gardener and birder Alice Simmons offers a presentation about the importance of using native plants in our gardens, and their role in the ecosystem. Her program is titled, "What's the Big Deal About Native Plants?" 7:00 p.m. at UUC York.

Monday, April 10th, 2023

Tony Campisi, co-owner of Campisi Property Service LLC, will present a lively and animated talk on "Sustainable Landscaping", helping the audience to fully embrace the concept of fighting for the natural world in their own home landscape. 7:00 p.m. at UUC York.

Monday, May 8th, 2023

This will be a night to celebrate the Bill DelGrande legacy. We will remember his many accomplishments as a birder, a gardener, and a family man. We will be treated to a presentation by his colorful daughter-in-law Nina DelGrande, titled "Boobies, Birds, and Wildlife of the Galapagos." 7:00 p.m. UUC York.



(Bill Delgrande and Dick Humbert)

Wednesday May 10th—Saturday May 13th

Join Becky Stabler of NatureStabler Explorations on a bus trip to the Magee Marsh. Close to Toledo, Ohio there is a massive migratory funnel that directs a great variety of birds around the southwest corner of Lake Erie. Thrill to the spectacle of migrating warblers, as well as shorebirds and raptors in this birding mecca! Over 150 species were recorded on the 2022 trip! Contact Becky Stabler for details. 717-688-5183

Saturday, June 10th

Annual York Audubon Society picnic at William Kain Park's Muskie Pavilion. Meet at noon with a dish to share and your own utensils. There are electrical outlets. All are invited for fun, fellowship, and games! Bring your binoculars for birdwatching. Questions? Contact Tish Swam 717- 235-2578.

President's Update

Hopewell Landfill Recreation Area

Many of you may be aware of the YCSWA's attempted proposal to reopen the Hopewell Landfill. This was met with serious concerns from community members worried about the effects of truck traffic and noise as well as nature enthusiasts who treasure the unique grassland habitat that is home to many birds such as Grasshopper and Savannah Sparrows, Eastern Meadowlarks, Blue Grosbeaks, and American Kestrels. The grasslands is also a favorite wintering grounds of the Short-eared Owl and Northern Harrier and one of the best places in York County to spot migrating Wilson's Snipe, Bobolinks, and Dickcissels. There is also a small patch of trees which has been home to breeding Red-Headed Woodpeckers for at least a decade.

Many thanks to Alice Simmons who spoke up at the public meeting to represent Audubon and educate the community about the importance of the habitat at Hopewell. As a result of Alice's comments, a group of local residents (now known as the Hopewell Birders) became interested in learning more about the birds of this special habitat and Alice obliged by leading several bird walks for the community at Hopewell. Fortunately, the Hopewell township board voted against the re-opening of the landfill and it appears that it is safe for the time being.

Kiwanis Lake Native Plant Gardens

Many thanks to Deb Carman who has spearheaded an effort to evaluate and maintain the native gardens that were planted several years ago at Kiwanis Lake (Farquhar Park) as part of PA Audubon's Plants for Birds Program. These gardens are located in an area that is heavily frequented by the general public and they present an excellent opportunity to educate others about the beauty and value of planting native plants. Deb is developing a plan to involve both YAS and local community members in maintaining and improving the beauty of these gardens.

YAS Donates Birding Backpack to York County Library

In an effort to try to promote birding in York County, the York Audubon Society has donated a "Birding Backpack" to the York County Library System. The backpack is a comprehensive birding kit that includes two pair of Nikon binoculars, a National Geographic Bird Field Guide for kids, the Kaufman Field Guide to Birds of North America, pocket guide to Pennsylvania Birds, a Birding Bingo game, a Birding Backpack Binder containing a quick start to birding, binocular tips, and a guide to birding York County. The backpack is appropriate for both children and adults and can be borrowed from the library like a book for a 3 week time period.



Spring Programs at YAS Focus on Natives

It has been great getting back in the groove of meeting regularly again. As we come out of a great series of programs this fall, I look forward to our programs in the spring. Our focus in March and April is on native plants and sustainable landscaping. I hope you will all be able to attend these programs as they will really open your eyes about some simple things that each one of us can do in our homes and yards that can have a positive impact on nature.

Good birding,
David Arrow

123rd Christmas Bird Count

December 17 marked the 123rd CBC, making it the nation's longest-running community science bird project. York's CBC centered on Lake Marburg in Codorus State Park. On this partly cloudy day, 24 birders composed of 8 teams set out to count the number of birds and species within our 7.5 mile radius. At the end of the day, 73 species and 7,069 birds were tallied. The number of species has been fairly consistent over the last four years ranging between 72 and 75. Unusual birds included Wilson's Snipe and an Osprey. Not found on this day were Wild Turkeys. The birders met around noon for a break at the Codorus Park Office for lunch and a discussion of what was found. The results of the CBC will be included with the data base with Audubon National covering North and South America, which will be analyzed for trends, now especially a concern with climate change.



Join us for outdoor adventures at different locations in York County each week as we explore to see what birds are in the area. These are informal walks and anyone with an interest in nature is welcome to attend, regardless of skill level or membership status. In fact, these walks are an excellent opportunity to learn about birding and nature. No registration required.

Look for the *Weekly Bird Walk* schedule under the *Birding* section of the York Audubon Web Page: <http://www.yorkaudubon.org>

When does your Audubon membership expire?

Wondering when your Audubon membership actually expires? York Audubon is able to obtain actual expiration dates from the national Audubon database. We print this date for you whenever you receive a mailing from us. Remember to check this date to know when your membership actually expires. A \$20 payment sent in a month ahead of time will renew your membership.

Give Local York

We at York Audubon are excited this year to add to our fund raising activities by participating in "Give Local York"! It is a county-wide, on-line event for local non-profits in which thousands are raised, with some matching funds included, during a 24 hour period. It will be from 9 PM May 4 to 9 PM May 5, 2023. As you know, all of our activities are now free to the public! Some of these expenses include our monthly chapter meetings, weekly bird walks, this newsletter (which is our largest yearly expense), keeping the bird feeders full at our local parks, and our new scholarship fund for local youth. We hope you will contribute to York Audubon Society to support our efforts for the birds, nature and the environment of our beautiful York County

Welcome to Evan

Evan Vaeth has graciously volunteered to fill the position of Social Media Director for YAS. Evan is an avid birder and excellent photographer from the Hanover area and we are thrilled to have him on our board. Evan will be handling our social media accounts on FaceBook and Instagram as well as editing our Spring and Fall Newsletters.

Membership Application

Please enroll me as a member of the National Audubon Society and of the York Audubon Society. Please send Audubon Magazine and my membership card to the address below.

Chapter Code U14

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

Membership is \$20

Please make checks payable to National Audubon Society

Mail to:

National Audubon Society

P.O. Box 97188

Washington, DC. 20077-7124

Or renew by phone: 1-844-428-3826

Renew on-line at: www.audubon.org

York Audubon Society
P.O. Box 2432
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Contact Information

Please contact board members at:

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Recording Secretary: Sherry Lookofsky

Treasurer / Bird Counts: Bernie Frick

717-843-6675

Ways and Means: Kyle Groft

Dick Humbert

717-266-1864

Program/Field Trips: Tish Swam

717-235-2578

Education: (vacant)

Membership/Website: George Schardt

717-741-3078

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nexevan@gmail.com

Past President: Carolyn Mathur

717-309-7899

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Our regular MONTHLY CHAPTER MEETINGS
will be held at
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF YORK,
925 S. GEORGE ST, YORK, PA
Meetings are free and open to the public - Come
join us!