

The Bluebird Bulletin

Fall 2024-
Spring 2025

WWW.YORKAUDUBON.ORG

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 9th

Raven Ridge Wildlife Center volunteer Mark Kocher will bring live raptors of PA "Birds of Prey". This would be fun for the whole family! UUCY, 7 P.M.

September 28th-October 8th

Nova Scotia tour with Diamond Tours. Enjoy stops in Acadia National Park, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and New Brunswick. To reserve your spot contact Darlene Schardt at dlschardt@yahoo.com.

October 14th

Meet wildlife carver Bernice Culver and admire her treasures as she describes her technique, polished over many years of teaching "Wildlife Artistry". UUCY, 7 P.M.

October 19th

Native plant and bird walk on the Mary Ann Furnace Trail at Codorus State Park with Ryan O'Meara. Meet at 9 A.M. in the parking lot on Black Rock Road. Varied terrain. Contact Tish Swam if interested. 717-235-2578.

November 11th

Bruce Beehler presents highlights of "30,000 Miles in Search of Godwits from Mexico to the Arctic Ocean". UUCY, 7 P.M.

December 9th

Wendy Looker, falconer and raptor educator, will visit us with her barn owl, Willow, to share the history and mystery of this rarely-seen species. Her presentation is titled "The Not-So- Common Barn Owl". UUCY, 7 P.M.

December 21st

Join us for the 125th Christmas Bird Count. Contact Bernie Frick for details at 717-843-6675. Alternate weather date is Dec. 28.

December 27th

Nixon Park will again host the Christmas Bird Count for Kids. Registration can be made with Nixon County Park at 717-428-1961. Adult volunteers are needed. Please contact Bernie Frick at 717-843-6675.

January 11th

Winter Wildlife Tour of Gettysburg Battlefield with licensed Battlefield Guide David Weaver. Tour begins at the Gettysburg NMP Visitors' Center at 9 A.M. Contact Tish Swam if interested. 717-235-2578

January 13th

How do birds keep warm in cold winter months? Kathy Gingerich will enlighten us with her presentation titled "Baby, It's Cold Outside!" UUCY, 7 P.M.

February 10th

Keith Williams, vice-president of the Lancaster Conservancy, will present a program that explains all about the organization...how it began, location, plans for the future, etc. UUCY, 7P.M.

March 10th

Frank Marsden, director of Eden Mill Nature Center in Harford County, MD, offers a photographer's journey in nature, titled "The Story Behind the Photos". UUCY, 7 P.M.

March 15th

Field trip to Eden Mill Nature Center to look for early spring treasures. Leader: Frank Marsden. If interested, contact Tish Swam. 717-235-2578

April 5th

Annual YAS Banquet returns to East Berlin Area Community Center! Doors open at 4 P.M. for the silent auction, 50/50 tickets, followed by delicious food served family-style at 5:30 P.M. Speaker is Ryan O'Meara presenting "Native Plants: A Bird Sanctuary". See our website/newsletter in early 2025 for further details.

April 26th

Spring Wildlife Tour of Gettysburg Battlefield with licensed battlefield guide David Weaver. Meet at the Gettysburg NMP Visitors' Center at 8 A.M. If interested, contact Tish Swam 717-235-2578.

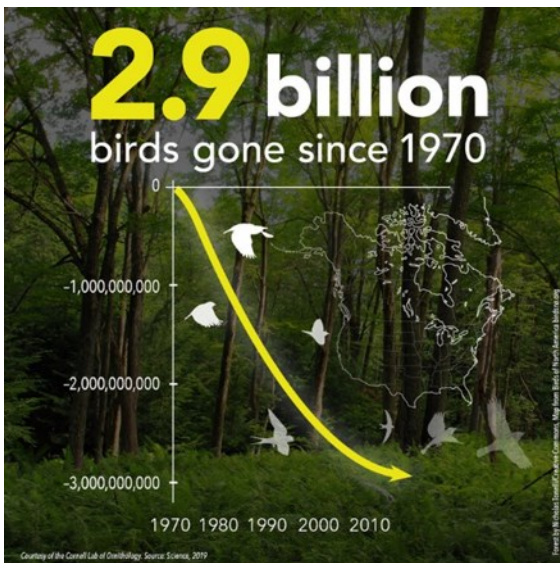
President's Update



Blackburnian Warbler and Eastern Ratsnake
Photo: Bob Reiter @ Spring Valley County Park

Local birder & photographer Bob Reiter sent me this photo that he took while out birding at Spring Valley Park this August. After realizing what was happening in the photograph, I was both disturbed and fascinated at the same time. Poor little guy. But the snake has to eat too, right? Why a blackburnian? Why not a house sparrow? Or a starling? The warbler was just passing through; maybe spending a few days feasting on York County insects and caterpillars before continuing its journey southward to spend the winter in glorious Columbia or Costa Rica. It was deeply disturbing to see one of my favorite birds lose its life in such a manner.

As disturbing as that photo of the blackburnian is to me; I find the graphic below much, much more disturbing:



Cont. ->

May 1st and 2nd

Please contribute to York Audubon Society during the Give Local York activity! Donations can be made at <https://www.givelocalyork.org/>

May 12th

Patrick Miller returns to us with an array of interesting animals! This program will be exciting for children of all ages. UUCY, 7:00 P.M.

May 14-17th

Spend 4 days birding in Ohio during the spring warbler migration spectacle with Becky Stabler! Registration will begin in early January. Contact Becky Stabler at: NatureStabler@gmail.com

June 14th

Annual Audubon picnic, held in the Muskie pavilion at William Kain Park, starting at noon!

I am sure most of us have heard about this report since it was first reported in *Science Magazine* in 2019. Thirty percent of the North American bird population disappearing in about forty years is overwhelmingly disturbing. It is so overwhelming, that many of us may feel powerless to do anything about it. But I would like to encourage you that you are not powerless. Each of us can play a role in turning the tide. The National Audubon Society has made it their mission to “bend the bird curve” and stop the decline in the bird population. This is obviously a large task, and instead of just leaving this job up to the big organizations, I would like for each of us to think about actionable steps that we can take; both as individuals, and as a local chapter of Audubon, to help turn the tide.

Below is a brief summary of some things that each of us can do. None of these ideas are new or profound, but I challenge each of you to look at this list and choose at least one thing that is in your power to do and do it!

Make Your Yard Bird-Friendly. Our typical grass lawn is an ecologically dead zone. Think about how you can “shrink your lawn” and establish shrubs and meadows to maximize native plants in your yard; which will provide food and shelter for birds, support native insects, and increase biodiversity.

-Plant Native Plants

-Shrink Your Lawn.

-Reduce the use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers which harm insects and reduce biodiversity.

-See homegrownnationalpark.org for more information

Support Organizations that are Working to Protect Birds.

There are many organizations (such as the Audubon Society) that are working to protect birds and their habitats. You can support their work by donating money, volunteering your time, or spreading the word about their efforts.

Participate in Citizen Science. The more data we know about the problem, the better we will be at finding solutions. Each of the following activities is an opportunity to contribute information that is used by scientists to help study the problem

-Submit field checklists to eBird and iNaturalist or other citizen science databases

-Participate in Christmas Bird Counts & Feederwatch Programs

-Help out with State Breeding Bird Surveys

Educate Yourself and Others. The more you understand about the problem, the more you will be able to help find solutions. Another HUGE impact can be made by just talking to other people about the problem. So many people are clueless about the role native plants play in promoting a healthy ecosystem, and how having a healthy ecosystem is good for everybody. Be an educator and an evangelist for the cause! Talk to your neighbors and friends about these issues and solutions.

Be a Political Advocate for Birds. Look for opportunities to influence local politicians and leaders to support laws and decisions that will benefit birds and the community. A simple email or phone call can speak volumes if all of us pitch in. Our voices can make a difference.

Keep Cats Indoors. After habitat loss, outdoor cats are the #1 cause of bird deaths. (Source: *American Bird Conservancy*)

Reduce Window Collisions. After cats, collisions with building glass is the second leading cause of human caused bird deaths. (Source: *2017 USFWS report*)

Be the "Boots on the Ground" – Look for areas in your community where habitat could be improved. Report your ideas to your local Audubon Chapter or other advocacy groups.

Thanks for looking at this list. Birds need our help, and these are some very actionable things that we can do to make a difference!

I hope to see you soon at our monthly meetings or other events,

David Arrow

President, York Audubon Society

Attention!

This will be the **last** physical mailing of the York Audubon Society newsletter and calendar bifold.

If you wish to continue to receive a physical edition of the newsletter and/or calendar bifold, you must **opt-in**.

You will continue to receive the newsletter via email. The newsletter can also be found on our website (under More -> Newsletters/Forms)

To opt-in to continue receiving physical mailings, send an email with your full name and which mailing you would like to continue to receive to:

AudubonYorkPa@gmail.com

Nova Scotia 2024

York Audubon is planning a bus trip to Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island & New Brunswick for **Sept 28 – Oct 8, 2024**. Double occupancy \$2,034 and single \$2,659. Included: 8 dinners, 1 lunch and all breakfasts in the hotels. Visit Acadia Nat'l Park before 5 nights in Canada. Tour Halifax, Peggy's Cove, King's Landing, Prince Edward Island and more. For more information, visit yorkaudubon.org or contact Darlene Schardt at 717-741-3078 or email dlschardt@yahoo.com.

Passport required.



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>

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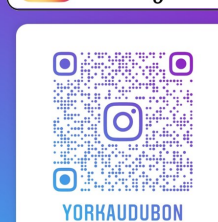
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York Audubon Society



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