

The Bluebird Bulletin

Spring 2026

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monday, February 9, 2026

Kathy Gingerich will reveal the mysteries of each feather on a bird in her presentation titled, "Feathers". There's far more to feathers than meets the eye. UUCY, 7pm.

Monday, March 9, 2026

Lancaster Conservancy's Keith Williams will welcome the new season with a presentation titled, "Spring Ephemerals". UUCY, 7pm.

Saturday, April 11, 2026

Annual Banquet East Berlin Area Community Center! Doors open at 4 pm for the silent auction, 50/50 tickets, followed by delicious food served family-style. A beautiful hand-made quilt by Darlene Schardt will be raffled off (tickets \$5). Speaker Linette Mansberger will present "Winging It Near Water"! She will teach us about the families of birds that frequent wetlands, ponds, and streams in South Central PA...and some of the bird's more unique characteristics. More details to come.

April 20-25, 2026

Join York Audubon and Diamond Tours for a guided tour of Savannah and Jekyll Island, Georgia, and Beaufort, South Carolina! It includes 6 days and 5 nights as well as a Trolley Tour of Savannah and an evening show at the Savannah Theater! For more information, or to reserve your spot contact Darlene Schardt at dlschardt@yahoo.com or 717-741-3078 (voice only).

April 30-May 1, 2026

Give Local York is a 24-hour non-profit fundraising drive. Your donations help fund our conservation and outreach programs such as keeping bird feeders at local parks filled! Donations can be made at <https://www.givelocalyork.org/>

Monday, May 11, 2026

West Shore Wildlife Center will bring some of its wild ambassadors for an educational and entertaining program for the whole family! UUCY, 7pm.

May 11-14, 2026

Join Becky Stabler for a trip to Magee Marsh! Ohio's northwest shore is a hotspot for migrating warblers to stop at on their way north. For information on rates and lodging, contact Becky Stabler: Naturestabler@gmail.com

Saturday, June 13, 2026

Annual picnic at William Kain Park's Muskie Pavilion, starting at noon. Bring covered dish. More details to come.

President's Update



PA BIRD ATLAS

A **monumental conservation effort** is underway in our state: the 3rd Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas. This five-year, statewide project is a comprehensive survey to map the breeding and wintering status of all bird species in Pennsylvania. It is a massive citizen science initiative, following similar surveys conducted in the 1980s and early 2000s.

Why is this so important for our local birds and our chapter's mission? **Bird atlases provide a vital "snapshot" of our state's bird populations.** By comparing the data from this atlas with the previous ones, we can track changes in bird distribution and abundance over the past several decades. This information is crucial for conservation. It helps researchers identify species at risk, pinpoint key habitats in need of protection, and understand how factors like habitat loss and climate change are affecting our feathered friends. The findings from this project will guide conservation efforts for years to come, ensuring a future for the birds we all love.

The state is divided into 3x3 mile "blocks" and we rely on volunteers to thoroughly survey each block to document the bird presence, abundance, and most importantly, any **evidence of breeding activity**. The target for each block is to have a minimum of 20 hours of "atlasing effort" during the breeding season (primarily June). In York County, there are 100 blocks that need atlased, so this means a LOT of volunteer time is needed towards achieving this goal.

We are currently finishing up year two of the five-year data collection period and we still need a lot more atlasing to be done over the next three years, so we are looking to get more people involved in the project. The best part is that anyone can get involved, regardless of your birding skill level. Whether you're a seasoned birder or a backyard enthusiast, your observations are valuable. This data is collected using the powerful and user-friendly **eBird app**, making it accessible to anyone with a smartphone or computer. You can simply go birding in your neighborhood or a local park, and if you see a bird carrying nesting material, feeding a fledgling, or exhibiting any other breeding behavior, you can record it in the eBird app using a specific "breeding code." The project's website (<https://ebird.org/atlaspa/home>) offers a wealth of resources, including a quick start guide and video tutorials, to help you get started. You can even "adopt" a block in our area to ensure it is thoroughly surveyed. By participating, you are not only contributing to a critical scientific study but also deepening your own connection to the birds of York County.

If you are interested in participating, contact either myself, David Arrow, at tokens4dave@gmail.com or Chuck Berthoud at chuckbmib@gmail.com and we will help get you set up so that your data can be used by the atlas!

Happy atlasing!

See website:



David Arrow

President, York Audubon Society

Reminder from Last Month:



"If you haven't yet explored the **Bird Habitat Recognition Program**, now is the perfect time to see how your yard can join our growing network of bird-friendly sanctuaries in York County! Whether you have a sprawling woodland or a simple suburban garden, this program is designed to help you identify small, impactful changes—like adding a pollinator saucer or a native shrub—to provide the food, water, and shelter our local birds need to thrive. Beyond the ecological benefits, you'll earn a beautiful yard sign that serves as a wonderful conversation starter with your neighbors. Check out the roadmap to a better backyard at the [Pennsylvania Audubon Council website](#) and let's make our community a true home for the birds together!"

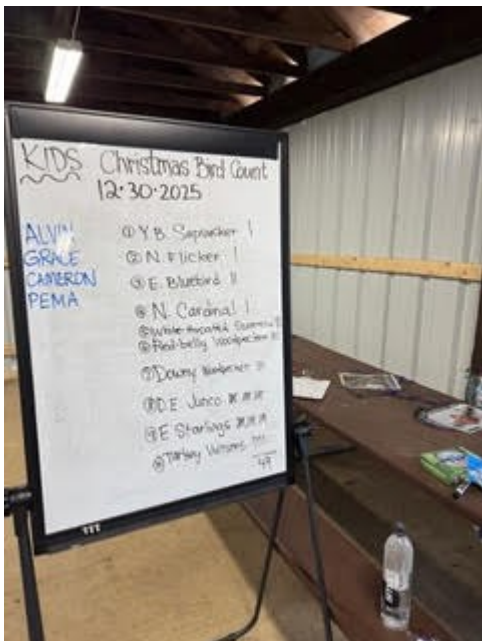
2025 Christmas Bird Count for kids

This was the 10th CBC4Kids and it was going to be different. It started with Nixon Park Visitor's Center being closed for improvements to the HVAC system. Plan B was to conduct the event at Rocky Ridge County Park using a pavilion with panels. Amenities would include a fire and electric heaters. 25 had registered for the event on Dec 30.

Approaching the turnoff from Mt. Zion Rd, traffic was backed up and warning signs said "Workers Ahead". Utility workers were actively engaged at the intersection when we got there. Upon finally reaching the pavilion, the power was out. Kelsey Frey, our Park's leader took it in stride and said we could shift to Rudy Park and so we went to Plan C.

Unfortunately, not all those registered made the transition, but those who did found a warm fire, lights and heaters. After Kelsey made her introduction, explaining what birds we might find and how to use binoculars. Our group of 7 kids started the walk. We anxiously returned to the pavilion to get out of the wind, enjoy some hot chocolate and total our numbers. Despite the cold temperature and bitter winds, we spotted 49 birds among 10 species, for which, given the conditions, we were pleased.

Thanks to the Park Staff and our Audubon guides for making this happen.



126th Christmas Bird Count

The Christmas Bird Count on Dec 20, 2025 marked the 126th event of this community science project. The York Circle, with a radius of 7.5 miles, is centered on the dam at Codorus State Park. Weather was good for counting in that the day was sunny without the wind we had been experiencing. The number of counters was down to 19 from a high of 30 last year, mainly due to some regulars traveling. Among the 4,047 birds counted, we had 70 species.

New to our list is the Ross's Goose, which was spotted at Long Arm Reservoir in a group of other geese, by using scopes. A low number of American Goldfinches were identified at 40. Highs included Common Mergansers at 108 and Common Ravens at 10. There was a reported eruption of Red Breasted Nuthatches and our count of 9 was the highest in the last 7 years. Thanks to our counters for continuing the tradition.



Join us for outdoor adventure as we explore York County for birds! These are informal walks and anyone with an interest in nature is welcome to attend. These are an excellent opportunity to learn about birding and nature. No registration required.

Look for the Monthly Bird Walk schedule under the "birding" and "bird walks"

Yorkaudubon.org

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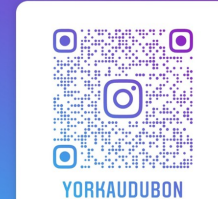
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York Audubon Society



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