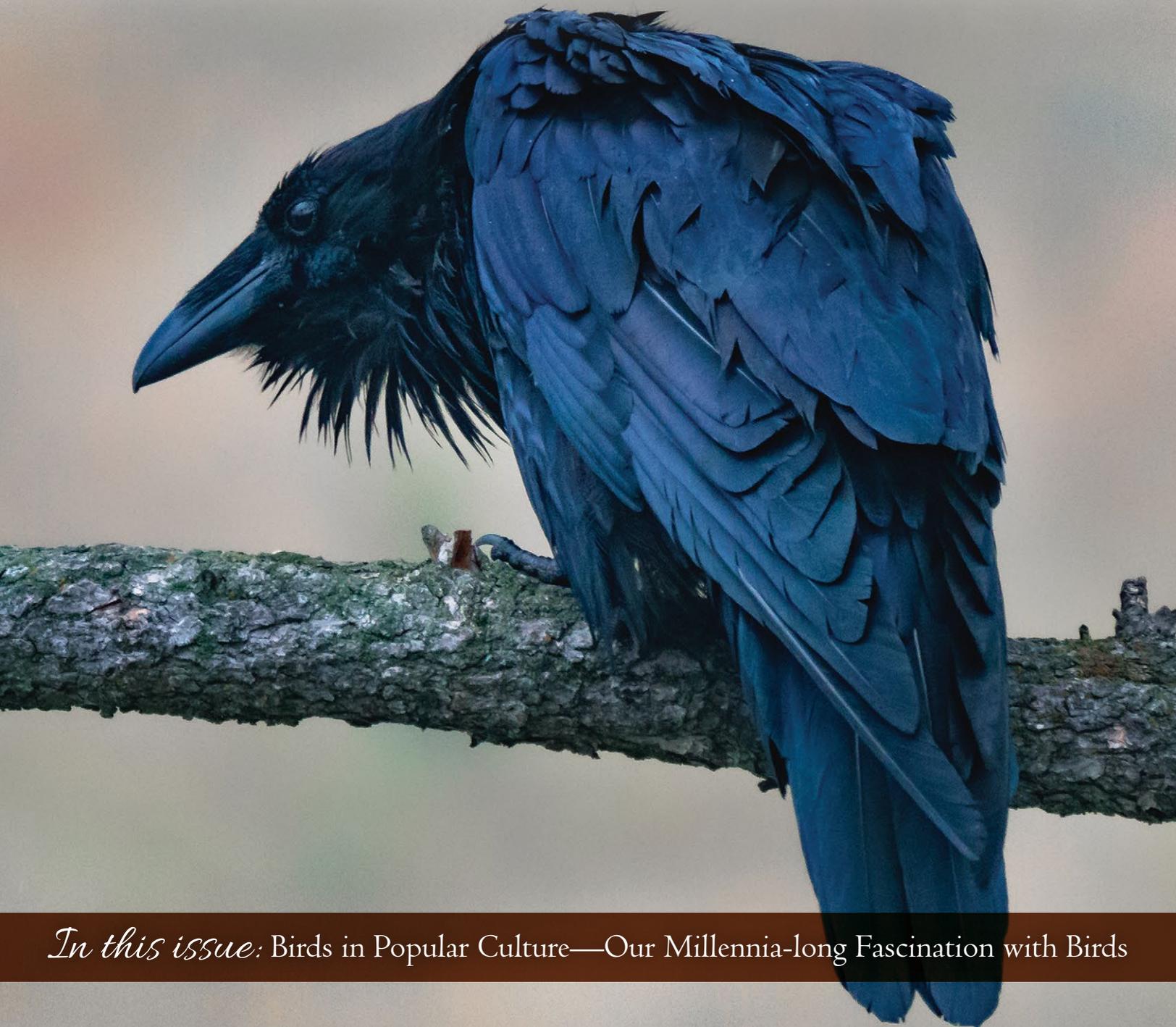


BULLETIN

— WINTER 2023 —



In this issue: Birds in Popular Culture—Our Millennia-long Fascination with Birds

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BULLETIN

WINTER 2023

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Birds have been part of
our culture for thousands
of years. Why are our
stories so intertwined?

*Photo courtesy of Judy Ritner,
Audubon Photography Awards.*



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This Audubon View

While there were many bird stories in the media throughout 2022, the Avian Flu outbreak was one of the biggest. Known officially as Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza A (HPAI A H5), this virus is highly contagious and deadly. This is not the first outbreak of HPAI (the one in 2015 resulted in over 50 million bird deaths), but it's one of the most widespread and damaging to ever hit the US. As of the end of 2022, over 55 million birds will have died or been euthanized because of the disease—most of those in commercial chicken and turkey farms. The disease has been detected in over 340 counties across 46 states.



While there has been one outbreak report in each of three local counties (Allegheny, Westmoreland, and Washington), Western PA has generally been spared the worst of this disease so far. And while that is reason to celebrate, it's not reason to become lax. According to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, bird feeders are unlikely to cause an increase in the spread of avian influenza, since the species of birds that tend to visit feeders are not commonly infected. However, feeders do concentrate certain bird species and that can increase the risk of transmission of other infectious diseases that do impact bird health, including salmonella, E. coli, and mycoplasma.

We frequently talk about the importance of cleaning your bird feeders and the area around them. You can find detailed information and cleaning directions/tips at aswp.org. Between climate change, habitat loss, outdoor cats, and all of the other threats that our feathered friend are facing, we don't want our backyard enjoyment of them to cause additional problems.

If you are still looking to adopt a New Year's Resolution, regularly cleaning your bird feeder is a great one. At least monthly—ideally, weekly!

Best,

—Jim

OUR RESERVES, NATIVE PLANT NURSERY, AND NATURE STORES

BEECHWOOD FARMS NATURE RESERVE

614 Dorseyville Road in Fox Chapel, Pittsburgh, PA 15238

Audubon Nature Store & Native Plant Nursery / Dogs not permitted on trails

BUFFALO CREEK NATURE PARK

154 Monroe Road, Sarver, PA 16055

Audubon Nature Store / Dogs on leash are welcome

SUCCOP NATURE PARK

185 W. Airport Road in Penn Township, Butler, PA 16002

Audubon Nature Store / Dogs on leash are welcome

TODD NATURE RESERVE

367 Kepple Road, Sarver, PA 16055

No restrooms or other facilities / Dogs not permitted on trails

ACCESSIBILITY INFORMATION: For accessibility needs or questions about any of our sites, please contact Brian Shema at (412) 963-6100 or at bshema@aswp.org. For accessibility needs or questions about any of our programs, please contact Chris Kubiak at (412) 963-6100 or ckubiak@aswp.org. All other questions regarding accessibility or inclusion can be directed to Jim Bonner at (412) 963-6100 or jbonner@aswp.org.



Birds

IN POPULAR CULTURE



For as long as people have put ink to paper (or etchings to rock), they've utilized birds in their storytelling. Corvids in particular. This family of birds is comprised of over 120 species that includes crows, magpies, and ravens. Sometimes villainous, sometimes kind, and often showcasing anthropomorphic qualities, corvids through thousands of years of popular culture have one thing in common—an air of mystery.

Why are we so fascinated with these birds? And why do we assign them so much power? The answers likely lie in the connections, experiences, and even superstitions that we humans have long held regarding our feathered friends. Ancient peoples believed that birds were signs from the gods—or even gods themselves. Egyptians, Mayans, and Aztecs drew some of their deities as birds, and associated them with the sun, wind, and vegetation.

Birds, whether they liked it or not, became intertwined with our successes and failures.

In some cases our superstitions benefitted the birds. England's King Charles II so strongly believed that England would fall if there were no ravens at the Tower of London that he insisted some of the birds be permanently kept there. Even now, nearly 400 years later, seven ravens are kept on the Tower grounds.

Other superstitions don't treat the birds so kindly. Especially when it comes to crows, which are often mistaken for ravens but who receive noticeably less props.

The crows' bad rap may have started in ancient Greece—where a crow at a wedding meant certain divorce for the happy couple. Worse, seeing a crow in a churchyard or graveyard portended a quick death (for the human, not the crow).

Magpies, another corvid species, are even more vilified than crows. As the only bird that reportedly did not partake in the journey of Noah's Ark, magpies are said to have a “drop of the devil's blood” beneath their tongues. That's a strong accusation against a bird that somehow managed to survive the world's inundation.

What we've learned from birds, via cultures from ancient times until now, is that good or bad, people view our feathered friends as an extension of their lives and livelihoods. Today, we still smile knowingly when a cardinal appears, remembering our parents' notion that the vibrantly red bird represents a visiting spirit.

Even with myth busting technology at our fingertips, some long-held bird stories are too ingrained in our culture to ever fully disappear.

Photo courtesy of Gene Putney, Audubon Photography Awards.

BESTSELLING BOOKS

Wondering which bird books are best? We recommend these over and over again! [Bringing Nature Home](#) & [Sibley Field Guide to Birds of Eastern North America](#) are available in our nature stores!



OUR TOP 10 BIRD Superstitions:

- 1 If a bird accidentally hits your window, someone in your house will soon die. (*Pro tip from Audubon: we carry stickers in our Nature Stores that you can adhere to your windows to decrease window hits by birds—and potentially extend your life if you subscribe to this superstition.*)
- 2 A hooting owl means impending doom. This belief was started by the Romans after Julius Caesar, Augustus, and Agrippa supposedly had their deaths preceded by an owl's hoot.
- 3 A wren's feather provides protection from shipwreck and drowning.
- 4 Tip your hat at every magpie you see, and you'll have good luck.
- 5 Need even more good luck? Then accept it as a good omen when a bird poops on your head. (*Bonus points if you still have the hat on that you tipped at the magpie.*)
- 6 A woodpecker tapping on a tree in your neighborhood indicates that you'll soon have a visitor.
- 7 Bring a peacock feather into the house of an unmarried woman and she'll go on to become an old maid.
- 8 If a bird travels by you from left to right, trouble is ahead. But if the direction is right to left, you have good times to look forward to.
- 9 If you see six mynah birds together, you'll be seeing green—you are about to receive surprise money. Unfortunately, mynahs (which are in the same family as starlings) are an Old World species, so don't count on that windfall if you are sticking around western Pennsylvania.
- 10 Get out your earplugs on weekends. On Fridays, Blue Jays disappear from the earth and travel to Hell to deliver gossip (and also, sticks). They return on Saturdays and are exceptionally loud, signifying their joy at safely returning from the underworld.

Memorials AND Honors

Memorials

Laura Bothfeld Tracy
Regina Miller

Marshall S. Brindza
Harriet Kruman

Charles Byron Holman
Terri Holman

Charles T. Campbell
Betsey Owens

George Chronis
Demetra Andrews
Angela Anetakis
Georgia Anetakis
Sondra & Nicholas Chronis
Greg Cominos
Jamie Contis
Dina Friedel

Dr. & Mrs. James Hart
Marina Hradil
Nancy Iglesias
Maria & J.R. Janik
Dae & Jim Machin
Vasie Marinakos

Kiki & George Plastiras
Angela & Anthony Stagnaro
Diane Strauch
Manuel Telakis
Maria & Nick Tripodes
Gus Vratisnas
Ginny Wills

Carly Ann George Voigt
Regina & Doug George

George H. Gilmore
Sharon & Hiller Hardie

Thomas M. Hally
Angela Burns
Kathy DeBlassio
Gary Dziki
ReaDonna & Dean Kossler
Bill McGarry
Terry & Harold Price
Nancy & Donald Rausch
The Neighbors at Lafayette Hills
Sandra Roy
Roseann & David Sine
Joanne Tremiti
Jan & Al Webster

Mrs. Sarah Heppenstall
Kris & Dan Charny
Betsey Owens

C. Talbott Hiteshew
Isabel Ford
Amy Hiteshew
Amy Succop Millin & Michael Gordon Millin
Betsey Owens
Shirley Sagawa
Bonnie & Phil Witmer
Margot Woodwell

Lewis and Sally Johnson
Dana Martin

Francis Joseph Leahey, Jr.
Rachel Govelovich
Judy Kline
Roseann Nebinger
Blair Pawlowski
Kim Springer

William F. McCrady
Andrea McCrady

Donald Howard Minard
Ann Jones

Mom and Dad
Jeanne Mumford

Bertha Morimoto
Lorraine Doyle

Audrey O'Rourke
Lisa and Albert Boucek
Ryan Farmer
Raymond Novak
Lynne Rackley
Darleen Robertson
Carol Sikov Gross
Barbara and Keith Sundberg

Priscilla Oehl
Betsey Owens

Kristin Pontier
Samuel Pontier

Earl Swanson
Christine Baldizar

Ruth Weir
Kris and Dan Charny
Sharon and Hiller Hardie
Betsey Owens
Mary and Paul Vey
George Weir

Honors

Tingle Barnes
Laurie & John Culbertson

Northern Cardinal
William Lipowcan

Pam Conroy
Donna Oertel

Cindy & Dennis Holmquist
Katharine Jordan & Jessie Holmquist

Lynn Johnson
Harriet Kruman

Mary Kaufman
Loretta & Vince Schmidt

Ed Keiser
Sarah Keiser

Sigrid King
Anne Rashid

Chris Kubiak
Terry & Ted Scheetz

Corey Nagle
Donna & Glenn Nagle

Betsey Owens
Arlene & William Gordon

Sue Pish
Harriet Kruman

Emily Schmidlapp &
Tom Samilson
Christina & Ellis Schmidlapp

Cameron Soulis &
Michael Salmon
Michele & John Bender

Holly W. Sphar
Molly Sauereisen

Winter

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

REGISTER FOR PROGRAMS ONLINE AT ASWP.ORG
OR BY CALLING (412) 963-6100.

Events take place at Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve (BFNR), Succop Nature Park (SNP), Buffalo Creek Nature Park (BCNP), Todd Nature Reserve (TNR), or online via Zoom. Register online at aswp.org or call (412) 963-6100.

SOME EVENTS WE JUST CAN'T PLAN IN ADVANCE!

So watch for Audubon Pop-up events—great experiences like Chimney Swift watches, Gull watching at the Point, and Ice Fishing. Learn about these events by following us on social media or subscribing to our email newsletter. Email us at register@aswp.org and let us know that you'd like to be added to the list.

 AudubonWesternPA  AudubonWesternPA

Special Events

YOGA IN THE PARK

*Sundays, January 22 & 29; February 5, 12, 19, & 26;
March 5, 12, 19, & 26, 4–5pm / BCNP*

Start your week off with some yoga. Give yourself the space to breathe and stretch so you are ready for the work week. This program is offered through Sol Power Yoga and held in our beautiful classroom where you are surrounded by nature and overlooking Little Buffalo Creek. \$5 per member, \$10 per nonmember.

BUFFALO CREEK WATER QUALITY MONITORING UPDATE

January 26, 6–8pm / Online

Join Audubon and Duquesne University online to learn more about water chemistry sampling and fish survey results from across the Buffalo Creek Watershed. This data is being collected to establish a baseline understanding of the sources and types of pollutants impacting water quality and habitat in the watershed. *This program is offered free of cost by ASWP and the Buffalo Creek Coalition with support from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Growing Greener Fund.*

FLY TYING SERIES

Tuesdays, February 7, 14, 21 & 28; 7–9pm / BCNP

Join Trout Unlimited, Arrowhead Chapter and Audubon on Tuesday evenings through February to learn how to tie flies. Participants will learn to tie two or three flies at each session, beginning with easy ones and building their way up to more difficult ones. Beginners welcome! Appropriate for adults and interested youth, age 10 and up (minors must be accompanied by an adult). Tools and materials will be provided; you'll end the series with 8–12 new flies! Materials cost for entire series is \$10 per member, \$15 per nonmember. *This program is offered free of cost by ASWP and the Buffalo Creek Coalition with support from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources Environmental Stewardship Fund.*

GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT WALK

Saturday, February 18, 10am–12pm / BFNR, SNP & BCNP

Join the ASWP naturalists for our annual Great Backyard Bird Count walk on Audubon's trails. Launched in 1998 by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, the Great Backyard Bird Count was the first online community-science project to collect data on wild birds and to display results in near real-time. Free.

PANCAKE & MAPLE BONANZA

Sundays, February 26 & March 5 / BCNP

Sundays, March 12 & 19 / SNP

Two sessions: 10–11am or 11:30am–12:30pm

Ever wonder how maple syrup is made? Join us as we fire up the evaporator and talk about turning that sap into syrup. Then head inside to our cozy classroom for a pancake breakfast—pancakes, sausage, fruit and, of course, real maple syrup! Registration required. \$12 per member, \$15 per nonmember.

CHECK ASWP.ORG IN EARLY SPRING TO
REGISTER FOR SUMMER CAMPS!

MAPLE DRINK TASTING: ADULTS-ONLY HAPPY HOURS

Friday, March 24, 7–9pm / BCNP

Friday, March 31, 7–9pm / SNP

March is the height of Maple Sugar season here in Western PA! If you have ever wondered about how maple sap is made into maple syrup, this is the program for you! In this 2-hour, adults-only program you will learn how we take raw maple sap and turn it into maple syrup. We will have a maple syrup tasting, try some drinks and snacks made with maple syrup and get an up close tour of the evaporator in action at night! Registration required and must be over 21. \$15 per member, \$20 per nonmember.

MAPLE MADNESS

Saturday, March 11, 10am–1pm / BCNP

Saturday, March 18, 10am–1pm / BFNR

Saturday, March 25, 10am–1pm / SNP

Maple isn't just something you put on your pancakes—there's so much more to maple sugaring! Experience the sights, sounds, smells, and tastes of maple sugaring as you take a trip through time. You'll tour our maple sugar demonstration trail, discover the history and science of maple syrup, learn how to collect and make your own, and take home delicious maple candy. This event will take place completely outdoors; please dress for the weather! Registration required. \$6 per member, \$12 nonmember.

MASTER BIRDER PROGRAM

Various Dates in Spring & Fall 2023, 6:30–8:30pm

Online Program on Thursdays, Outings on Saturdays

Audubon's Master Birder Program is for the beginning to intermediate birder who would like to take his or her birding knowledge to another level. Outings are designed to reinforce class subject matter and to get firsthand experience with the breadth of birds that occur in Western Pennsylvania. Graduates will have a detailed understanding of local habitat, bird identification, and behavior along with the desire to share their learning through an ongoing volunteer commitment to the ASWP. Cost: \$450 per member, \$500 per nonmember. Email Chris Kubiak at ckubiak@aswp.org for more details.

Birding & Nature Hikes

BIRDS & MORE NATURALIST-LED MORNING WALKS

BCNP: Every Tuesday at 9am; Free

BFNR: Every Wednesday & Sunday at 9am; Free

SNP: Every Thursday 9am; Free

TNR: Every Friday at 9am (Starting beginning of April): Free

MORAINES STATE PARK BIRD WALK

Saturday, February 11, 9am–12pm / Meet at McDaniel's Boat Launch

Join us at Moraine State Park as we bird during the height of winter. We will focus on overwintering species, residents and other interesting birds. We will meet in the parking lot at McDaniel's Boat Launch and bird several locations at Moraine. Bring your optics, water, and a snack and dress for the weather. Registration required. Email Chris Kubiak at ckubiak@aswp.org for more details. \$6 per member, \$10 per nonmember.

Online Series

Learn about Bird, Natural History, and Native Plants in these free programs!

LAYERED LANDSCAPE: EDGE HABITATS WITH NATIVE PLANTS

Tuesday, January 17, 7–8:30pm / Online

This program takes a closer look at the 5 key plants that form a productive layered edge habitat for birds, insects and mammals. Edges are often distinctive habitat that are favored by some of local native wildlife species, and this program will discuss how to create them in your own backyard. *This program is offered for free thanks to underwriting from the Fox Chapel Garden Club.*

CHANGES IN THE LAND: TODD NATURE RESERVE

Thursday, January 19, 7–8:30pm / Online

Based on the classic book by William Cronon, this presentation follows the changes in ecosystems and land usage at Todd over the past 300 years. From the period of use by Native Americans, to later Europeans and Americans farming, timbering, and iron smelting, this presentation follows how Todd Nature Reserve's landscape has changed through human interaction. Free.

ALEXANDER WILSON: AMERICA'S FIRST ORNITHOLOGIST

Thursday, January 26, 7–8:30pm / Online

Most people know America's most famous bird artist and observer John James Audubon, but few people know Alexander Wilson. Ever wonder why we have birds named after states? Or who painted American birds before Audubon? Thank Mr. Wilson. Wilson's impact on early American ornithology is striking; he preceded and influenced Audubon almost a decade before John James landed in Pennsylvania. A fascinating portrait an individual who named many of the species we know today and who's lasting impact on American birds to this day. Free.

DON'T MISS OUR LINE-UP OF MAPLE THEMED EVENTS THIS MARCH, INCLUDING MAPLE MADNESS!

BATS OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

Thursday, February 16, 7–8:30pm / Online

Bats are one of Western Pa's most interesting flying mammals, but many have been suffering steep declines from disease in the past decade. This virtual program discusses the different bat species found in Western PA, their ecologies and life histories, as well as updates on White-nose Syndrome. We will also discuss ways to help bats by creating bat boxes and bat-friendly habitats in your own backyard. Free.

OWL ECOLOGY IN WINTER

Thursday, February 23, 7–8:30pm / Online

Our region has a number of interesting owl species. Did you a local owl starts breeding in January? How do they hunt and survive the cold, dark, winter months? This program will look at several of our local owl species, their ecology, along with discussing the irruptive Snowy Owl. Free.

THE SCIENCE & HISTORY OF MAPLE SUGARING

Thursday, March 9, 7–8:30pm / Online

This program will explore how people learned to get sugar from trees. We will begin with Native American techniques and continue onto the latest maple sugar extraction technologies. You will be able to identify local maple species and understand the science of how/why these trees make sugar. Free.

NATIVES & NESTERS: BIRDS & NATIVE PLANTS

Tuesday, March 14, 7–8:30pm / Online

Get ready for nesting season by exploring garden design concepts and native plants that will support a variety of Pennsylvania birds that may be raising young in your backyard. *This program is offered for free thanks to underwriting from the Fox Chapel Garden Club.*

THE CORVIDS: BLUE JAYS, CROWS, & RAVENS

Thursday, March 16, 7–8:30pm / Online

Corvids display remarkable intelligence and are among the most intelligent birds on Earth. Members of the family have demonstrated self-awareness in mirror tests, possess tool-making ability, and passing information through generations—skills which until recently were thought to be possessed only by humans. This program will follow some of our local Corvids remarkable kills and what makes them some of the most unique species in the bird world. Free.

LOCAL PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT

Una Biologicals is a Pittsburgh-based company that makes organic, sustainable, and fair trade products. Stop by our nature stores to check them out.



Kids & Preschool Programs

FLEDGLINGS PRESCHOOL ACTIVITIES: AGES 3-5

Tuesdays, January 10, February 14, March 14, 10–11:15am / SNP
Wednesdays, January 11, February 8, March 8, 10–11:15am / BCNP
Thursdays, January 12, February 9, March 9, 10–11:15am / BFNR

Give your 3-5 year old a head start on a lifetime of loving the outdoors. Fledglings programs incorporate stories, a walk, and activities to introduce new and fun nature themes to young participants. Parent or caregiver must be present. \$4 member; \$6 nonmember.

January: Who Gives a Hoot (Special visit with an Owl)

February: Run for Cover (Holes and hiding places)

March: Down the Maple Trail (Making maple syrup)

BEECHWOOD AFTER-SCHOOL SERIES

Wednesdays, January 11 & 25, February 8 & 22,
March 1 & 15, 4:30–6pm / BFNR

Want to get your child or student outside into nature this winter? This after-school program at Beechwood Farm Nature Reserve serves as the perfect respite from an overload of screen time. Winter at Beechwood has its own unique features and fascinating encounters with nature. Explore our meadows, forests and ecosystems for animals and their homes with an Audubon educator all the while having fun! Ages K-3rd grade. \$5 per member, \$10 per nonmember.

DIY Hands-On Activities

WEEKEND MAKE & TAKE:
WINTER SNOWSHOE MAKING

Saturday, January 14, 12–2pm / BFNR
Saturday, January 28, 10am–12pm / SNP
Saturday, January 28, 2–4pm / BCNP

Snowshoes allow you to walk on top of deep snow instead of laboriously dragging your legs through it. These time (and effort) saving devices have been in use for centuries in North country areas. In this hands-on workshop, we will use heat to bend PVC tubing into frames, and then attach harness leather walking pads and boot straps. Maximum attendance is 6 people, one week advance registration is required. \$25 per member, \$35 per nonmember.

GROWING FERNS FROM SPORE

Saturday, February 18, 11am–12:30pm or 1:30–3pm / BFNR

Ferns are primitive plants basically remaining unchanged for millions of years, creating soft, flowing texture in a shaded landscape. Participants will get expert tips on collecting and sowing fern spore to grow in their own homes. \$6 per member, \$10 per nonmember.

KIDS GET CREATIVE: MAKE A NATURE JOURNAL

Saturdays, March 25 & April 1, 10:30am–12:30pm / BFNR

Kids will spend two weekend days learning how to record impressions of nature and improve their drawing skills. Students will learn how to organize and plan their journal with the exploration of plants and trees. This program is for kids ages 8-15. \$100 per member, \$125 per nonmember.

Community Science

COMMUNITY SCIENCE: GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT TRAINING

Saturday, February 4, 10–11:30am / BFNR, SNP & BCNP

The Great Backyard Bird Count takes place Presidents Day weekend and can be done anywhere there are wild birds. Get ready to count with this training reviewing common species and reporting procedures. Visit GBBC.org for details about the count. Great for scout leaders, parents, and others who want to learn about the count and get tips for getting their groups involved. Free.

PROJECT BUDBURST

Saturday, March 4, 10–11:30am / BFNR, SNP & BCNP

Project BudBurst participants make careful observations of the timing of leafing, flowering, and fruiting phases of plants (plant phenophases) throughout the year. Spring, summer, fall, and winter phases are all valuable. Learn how scientists and educators can use the data to learn more about how plant species respond to changes in climate locally, regionally, and nationally. Free.

Outdoors 101

TRACKING: SIGNS OF ANIMAL ACTIVITY IN WINTER

Saturday, February 4, 12–1:30pm / BFNR, SNP & BCNP

Hone your senses to see the unseen by reading the clues animals leave behind with their tracks, scat, scratches and holes. We will divide our time between an indoor presentation and the trail. Free for ASWP members, \$5 per nonmember.

EARLY SIGNS OF SPRING

Saturday, March 4, 12–1:30pm / BFNR, SNP & BCNP

What's coming? When will it get here? It may already be here! Let's look for the first glimpses of the return of spring on our trails. Free for ASWP members, \$5 per nonmember.

Scout Programs

MAPLE SCOUTS

Saturday, March 25, 10am–12pm / BFNR

Saturday, March 11, 10am–12pm / SNP

Saturday, March 18, 10am–12pm / BCNP

Experience the science and history of Maple Sugaring. Groups or individuals welcome; advance registration is required. Contact Scott Detwiler at (412) 963-6100 or sdetwiler@aswp.org to make your reservation. \$10 per scout.

Volunteer Opportunities

We are always looking for volunteers! Contact us at (412) 963-6100 to talk about volunteers opportunities in our stores, offices, or out on the trails.

BEECHWOOD CONSERVATION CORPS

Saturday, March 25, 10am–12pm / BFNR

Do you enjoy working outdoors? Want to help the environment on your own schedule? The Beechwood Conservation Corps (BCC) is a dedicated group of volunteers that helps to steward priority conservation areas at Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve (BFNR). BCC volunteers adopt an area and work independently with support from Audubon staff. This program will highlight major conservation efforts happening at BFNR, provide an overview of the BCC, and explore priority management zones that would benefit from additional volunteer support.

HUMMINGBIRD & ORIOLE SEASON IS
**RIGHT AROUND
THE CORNER!**

Get prepared for the return of
hummingbirds and orioles with feeders
and food that attracts these beautiful
birds to your backyard.



AUDUBON News



CELEBRATING PROPAGATING AND PLANTING OVER 11,000 MILKWEED PLANTS

Over the past 2 years, ASWP staff and native plant nursery volunteers have propagated over 11,000 milkweed plants from seed—improving availability of this native plant that is critical for the survival of Monarch Butterflies. The total project numbers—comprised of work on Rights of Ways, agricultural land, and Audubon’s properties—are impressive: 240 acres restored, 186 acres enhanced, 1,500 lbs. of custom seed mix for Monarchs and bumblebees sowed, 11,200 milkweed plants planted, and over 60 farms participated in a discounted pollinator seed mix program. These projects were funded in part by two grants from NFWF’s Monarchs and Pollinators Conservation Fund. Additional funding was provided by NiSource/Columbia Gas and the Duquesne Light Company. Additional partners included Allegheny County, Army Corps of Engineers-Pittsburgh District, Chatham University, FirstEnergy, Friends of the Riverfront, Grow with Trees, Keystone 10 Million Trees Partnership, PennDOT, Penn State Extension-Butler County, Rachel Carson Trail Conservancy, Resource Environmental Solutions, Inc., many farmers, and the amazing volunteers who made this undertaking a reality.

NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION (NFWF) AWARDS \$40K TO AUDUBON FOR COMMUNITY RIPARIAN CONSERVATION

ASWP will improve 7.5 acres of stream and pond habitat at Beechwood and conduct complimentary education and outreach thanks to support from NFWF’s Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Fund. These efforts will help to improve water quality and habitat for several dragonflies, damselflies, and avian Species of Greatest Conservation Need—and help community members to improve habitat on their own properties. Project partners include the Bidwell Horticultural Technology Program, Duquesne University Department of Biological Science, Fox Chapel Area High School Environmental Science students, and Penn State Extension.

AUDUBON RECEIVES \$80K TO EXPAND CONSERVATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION EFFORTS IN BUFFALO CREEK

Audubon’s efforts in the Buffalo Creek Watershed and Important Bird Area (IBA) will continue to grow thanks to support from the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) Environmental Stewardship Fund. Work includes collaborating with municipalities and landowners to improve habitat, expanding the Buffalo Creek Coalition, offering a suite of environmental education opportunities for the public, assessing road-stream intersections to determine whether aquatic organisms and riparian species are able to reach necessary cooler headwaters, and a watershed-wide comprehensive water quality sampling program. Special thanks to our project partners: Armstrong Conservation District, Duquesne University, and the Buffalo Creek Coalition Steering Committee.

STAFF UPDATES

Nelson Milano is our Buffalo Creek Watershed Coordinator—and an entomologist, ecologist, educator, and native Spanish speaker. He’s excited to connect with the communities in the Buffalo Creek Watershed to improve awareness of the ecosystem services of the lands surrounding them. Additionally, Nelson looks forward to working with Pittsburgh’s growing Latino population.

Steve Antoszyk is our Facility Steward at Succop Nature Park. He brings an abundance of experience in landscape management—having installed and maintained residential and commercial landscapes throughout our region. A western Pennsylvania native, Steve earned a degree in horticulture and runs a small family-founded florist company alongside his wife.

Ask the NATURALIST

IS EXTINCTION FOREVER?

The Dodo (1690s). The Passenger Pigeon (1914). The Po'ouli (2021). Bird species have disappeared from our planet for hundreds of years. Often driven by habitat loss, climate change, and human interference like hunting, extinction erases birds from their natural habitats, never to be seen again.

Short of cloning or Jurassic Park-like genetic engineering, extinction is forever. But occasionally, the birds may not be extinct—they're just exceptionally good at hiding themselves. Papua New Guinea's Black-naped Pheasant-pigeon (*Otidiphaps insularis*) is the most recent example of this.

Black-naped Pheasant-pigeons are large, ground-dwelling birds with a broad tail. More than 140 years had passed since the bird, described as "a reclusive species native to the steep forested slopes of Fergusson Island," by [livescience.com](https://www.livescience.com), had been documented by a human. But when a team of American and New Guinean researchers set out to investigate a bird that locals had seen in the underbrush, they emerged with scientific proof that the Black-naped Pheasant-pigeon hadn't gone extinct.

It turns out that local people had seen the bird—but not since the 1990s. And the remoteness of the birds' forest home meant that information about the sightings wasn't shared with a wider scientific audience. These situations compelled the research team to place 12 cameras across the birds' habitat, high atop Fergusson Island.

The resulting images proved that the species was, indeed, still in existence on a 3,200 feet-high ridge near the Kwama River. But Black-naped Pheasant-pigeons' future remains in peril. The area where researchers re-discovered the bird in September 2022 is slated to be logged, potentially destroying the environment of this elusive species. And researchers believe that the birds' population is rather small.

Still, this story gives hope that other species, thought to be gone, may still be out there waiting to be re-discovered. Which will be next? Maybe the Ivory-billed Woodpecker?

HANDMADE, FAIR TRADE WREN HOUSES

Give your backyard wrens a home to be proud of, and support fair trade artisans who craft these bird works of art.

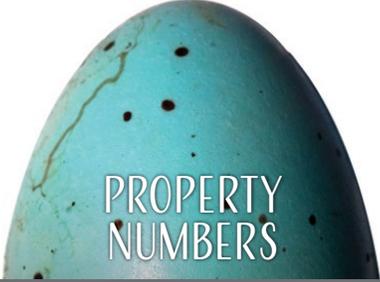


AUDUBON'S YEAR IN REVIEW



WHAT'S "HATCHING" AT AUDUBON

American author and anthropologist Zora Neale Hurston once said, "the present was an egg laid by the past that had the future inside its shell." So it is with much of our work. Whether it's teaching students, visiting senior centers, planting native plants, supporting backyard habitats, or building Chimney Swift towers, what we've accomplished over the past year will help to create a better future for the birds and nature. And for us, too! Of course, some things can't wait for tomorrow. In addition to the items below, over the past year we painted the T. W. Phillips Barn at Succop Nature Park and built new bridges at Todd and Beechwood Farms Nature Reserves. We answered thousands of phone calls and emails from people across the region with questions about birds, native plants, and other natural history topics. And we developed many new programs and projects that we will be "hatching" out in the upcoming year.



PROPERTY NUMBERS

4

Public Parks and Reserves
(8 Properties Total)

599

Acres Owned or Managed;
137 Acres Protected by Easement

12.5

Miles of Trails Maintained

65,000

Estimated Property Visitors



CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT RESULTS

16,197

Birds Counted on
Pittsburgh Count

189

Pittsburgh Participants

5,664

Birds Counted on
South Butler Count

50

South Butler Participants



NATIVE PLANT NURSERY

11,000

Milkweed Plants Propagated

23,100

Native Plants Sold

131

Plant Species Propagated

100,400

Square Feet of Turf that
can be Converted to Meadow
with our Seed Packs



OUR VOLUNTEERS

548

ASWP Volunteers

5,672

Volunteer Hours

\$169,906

Estimated Value of
Donated Time

Priceless

Real Value of Volunteers



ASWP MEMBERSHIP

3,215

Member Households

1,003

Members for at Least 8 Years;
314 for at Least 25 Years

655

Members at the \$100+ Levels;
51 at \$1,000+

878

New Members



CERTIFIED BACKYARD HABITATS

819

Total Enrollees

200

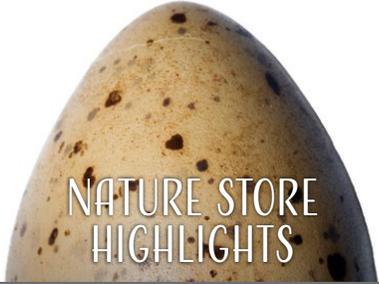
New Enrollees

475

Total Certified Backyard
Habitats

550

Total Certified Acres



NATURE STORE HIGHLIGHTS

219,208

Pounds of bird seed, including 170,600 pounds of Beechwood Blend

309

Pounds of Local Honey Sold

2,318

Products in Inventory

20

Local Consignment Artists' Products Featured



FACILITY USAGE

72

Weddings Hosted

96

Photography Sessions

65

Other Rentals

11

Indoor and Outdoor Rental Spaces Available at Three Locations



SUMMER CAMPS

41

Summer Camps Conducted

508

Total Campers

\$5,670

in Camp Scholarships Awarded

8,500

Hours Spent Enjoying the Outdoors



BUFFALO CREEK WATERSHED

350

Water Samples Taken

20

Conservation Partners Including Government Agencies, Universities, Corporations, and Nonprofits

\$300,000

Invested in the Watershed

1,000+

Feet of Streambank Restored



FIELD CONSERVATION

50

Acres of PennDOT Roadsides Converted to Meadows

125

Acres of Farmland Planted As Pollinator Habitats

75

Acres of Right-of-Way Enhanced or Restored

1,500

Trees Planted



EDUCATION PROGRAMS

340

School Programs Reaching 11,799 Students

464

Public Programs and Classes Reaching 8,653 People

78

Online Programs with 3,278 Households Viewing

120

Hikes with 1,072 Participants

OPERATING INCOME

Contributed Income	875,036
Earned Income	846,468
Interest Income	18,619
Total Operating Income	\$1,740,123
Money Spent from Multi-year Support	\$431,635

EXPENSES

Programs, Projects, & Places	1,635,706
Management & General Administration	147,792
Fundraising	78,632
Total Program Expenses	\$1,862,130
Money Reserved for Multi-year Projects	\$182,530

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (AS OF JUNE 30, 2022)

ASSETS

Cash and Cash Equivalents	141,480
Accounts/Pledges Receivable	485,158
Inventories	132,569
Investments	903,239
Fixed Assets (Net of Accumulated Depreciation)	7,946,578
Total Assets	\$9,609,024

LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	46,875
Accrued Expenses	54,952
Deferred Revenue	67,583
Total Liabilities	\$169,410

NET ASSETS (WITHOUT DONOR RESTRICTIONS)

Unrestricted - Undesignated (Land & Buildings)	7,970,929
Board Designated Land Acquisition and Projects	29,661
Endowment	224,515
Total Net Assets without Donor Restrictions	\$8,225,105

NET ASSETS (WITH DONOR RESTRICTIONS)

Projects	535,843
Endowment	678,666
Total Net Assets with Donor Restrictions	\$1,214,509
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$9,609,024



These numbers are for the fiscal year running July 1, 2021 through June 30, 2022. Our audited financial statements and IRS 990 are available online or by request.



614 DORSEYVILLE ROAD
PITTSBURGH, PA 15238

SHOP AUDUBON NATURE STORES

FOR EVERYTHING YOU
NEED TO ENJOY THE BIRDS
THIS WINTER!

BEECHWOOD FARMS NATURE RESERVE
614 Dorseyville Road in Fox Chapel · 412-963-6100
Tuesday-Sunday from 9am-5pm

BUFFALO CREEK NATURE PARK
154 Monroe Road in Sarver · 724-295-3589
Tuesday-Sunday from 9am-5pm

SUCCOP NATURE PARK
185 W. Airport Road in Butler · 724-586-2591
Tuesday-Saturday from 12-5pm

