



# BULLETIN

FALL / WINTER 2021



*In this issue:* Bird Feeding 101: Strategies to support the birds.

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# BULLETIN

FALL / WINTER 2021

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With fall and winter coming, it's time to start thinking about bird feeding—we'll help you to get prepared.



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# This Audubon View

This summer's "Avian Mortality Event" reinforced two things—bird feeding is very important to people and sometimes there are no easy answers—or any answers at all! In early summer, reports of ill and dying birds, with a combination of blindness/crusty eyes and neurological symptoms, were reported in the Maryland and Washington DC areas. The illness was soon reported in other areas, including southeastern Pennsylvania, and on July 1, the Pennsylvania Game Commission issued a recommendation to take down bird feeders and bird baths across the state—in case this was an infectious, spreadable disease. This wasn't without precedent. A salmonella outbreak in the Northwest United States last year necessitated a similar response. ASWP supported the Game Commission's recommendations and took the extra step of discontinuing the sales of seed and feeders in our Audubon Nature Stores.



Wildlife agencies in several states began investigating and testing the dead and dying birds, in an attempt find a cause for the illness. They were able to rule out diseases including salmonella, West Nile, Newcastle, and avian flu—diseases that had been seen before. There were also no traces of parasites or heavy metals (often associated with pesticides) that could cause the symptoms observed. Many other sources were suggested by the public, ranging from airplane contrails to 5G cell towers to contaminated seed, none of which would cause the symptoms seen. Another intriguing theory is that the deaths were linked to this year's brood X cicadas' emergence. While the maps of the cicadas and bird deaths overlap, they were not exact, and no direct link was ever established. As summer went on, reports of bird deaths with the combination of symptoms waned, and the Game Commission rescinded its recommendation to remove bird feeders.

While no one likes an unsolved mystery, several positive things came out of this situation. More people than ever became aware of the importance of keeping birdfeeders and birdbaths clean and disinfected. And we quickly saw that, working together, people can make a difference when it comes to community science. Without the reports from thousands of backyard bird feeding enthusiasts, the authorities wouldn't have known about the problem or its spread. I am also proud that ASWP serves as a trusted source for so many people to aggregate, interpret, and share information on issues affecting birds and nature. Thank you to everyone for doing your part to support the birds.

—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

### BUFFALO CREEK NATURE PARK

154 Monroe Road, Sarver, PA 16055

• Audubon Nature Store

### SUCCOP NATURE PARK

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

• Audubon Nature Store

### TODD NATURE RESERVE

367 Kepple Road, Sarver, PA 16055

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



# BIRD FEEDING 101:



## *Best Practices for Our Feathered Friends*

With the fall and winter bird feeding season upon us—and after a long summer where we took bird feeders down to combat a still-unidentified bird illness—now’s a good time to brush up on proper cleaning and feeding protocols, backed up with a bit of science.

### WHY FEED THE BIRDS?

Feeding the birds is a personal choice, and one that’s been studied extensively. Some research indicates that in all but the worst conditions, birds are well-adapted to surviving without human help—getting only 25% of their caloric needs from feeders. But other studies show real benefits to bird feeding—especially during very cold temperatures.

In frigid weather, some hungry birds that might succumb to the elements are able to keep going thanks to bird feeders. A recent study out of Oregon State University indicated another positive of feeding—birds are also unlikely to become dependent on the human-placed seed. The researchers determined this by removing winter bird feeders that had been in place for 25 years, to judge how the birds coped. Not surprisingly, the birds simply moved on to naturally-occurring food sources.

### WHY ARE THERE NO BIRDS AT MY FEEDER?

There are a number of reasons why your bird feeder may not have visitors. In the wintertime, when some birds have migrated, there may be a smaller variety of birds showing up. Additionally, the freshness of your bird seed is important—birds really do prefer fresh seed. Old seed that has sprouted will not appeal to them.

Birds also stay away when there is plenty of natural food sources available to them.

Predators may also drive them away—if there are stray cats or even birds of prey circling above, birds will choose to stay away from your feeder.

### THERE’S A HAWK WATCHING MY FEEDER—WHAT SHOULD I DO?

Hawks can scare away birds from your feeder—and the best way to alleviate the situation is to remove your feeders for about 2 weeks so that the hawk begins to look elsewhere for prey. Luckily, the birds that use your feeders will look for food elsewhere after you take your feeder down—but once you put it back up, they will be attracted (once again) to the plentiful seed.

### KEEP THE FEEDERS CLEAN

Those who do feed birds can probably guess that a dirty bird feeder leads to a number of potential problems. It can harbor bacteria, mold, and other communicable threats that spread disease to birds. But keeping birds safe isn’t hard at all. It just takes a little elbow grease:

- Clean feeders at least weekly to help to keep birds healthy. Feeders may be disinfected with a 10% bleach solution (½ cup of bleach per gallon of water). First, clean your feeder with soap and water. Then soak the feeder in the bleach solution for 15-20 minutes. Completely rinse and dry the feeder before refilling it.
- Make sure the ground below the feeders is clean and to remove a buildup of old seed hulls. This refuse, along with uneaten seeds and other waste, can accumulate and harbor deadly bacteria like salmonella.
- Fill feeders halfway during periods of low use to discourage mold.
- Place suet in the shade to reduce spoiling.

## CHOOSE THE RIGHT FEEDER AND LOCATION

But there's even more you can do to help—choose the right feeder for the season. Our Audubon Nature Stores can help you with that! Those that are most useful in the winter have a wide cover over feeding ports, perches, and dispensing trays, allowing seed to remain accessible during snowfalls or storms.

Fly-through platform or tube feeders are especially good designs for this purpose. During the winter, place bird feeders in sheltered locations out of the most severe winds—near protective cover such as trees or a brush pile to offer birds safety from predators.

To minimize window collisions (see the previous issue of *The Bulletin* for more information on this topic), place feeders at least five feet—and up to 20 feet—away from a wall or window. This helps to prevent the birds from hitting glass windows—causing injury or death—as they fly to or from the feeder. Placing feeders near trees or shrubs affords more protection from predators and makes birds more comfortable when eating.

Whether you are feeding birds to help them through the winter or the pure joy of watching them, the proper protocols will help them—and you—to safely enjoy their visits to your backyard.

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For more information about the impacts of feeding birds, see Janel L. Lajoie, Lisa M. Ganio, James W. Rivers. *Experimentally induced flight costs do not lead to increased reliance on supplemental food in winter by a small songbird in the Journal of Avian Biology.*

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## *What food should you offer to the birds?*

Most thrive on seeds, since insects and fruit are harder to find naturally during the winter.

The best cold-weather foods for birds have a high fat or oil content that will provide abundant energy for winter survival.

Remember that native plants, planted now or during the spring and summer, will offer shelter and food sources to birds. Native plants are always a win-win for birds.

## *Product Spotlight: Bird Feeders!*

While we all took a pause on feeding this Summer, our Nature Store staff spent time restocking our shelves with all the goodies your backyard birds know and love. Stop by today to see what's new and back in stock! Upgrade your feeder setup and don't forget the cleaning brushes!

CHECK OUT THESE FEEDERS, PERFECT FOR WINTER FEEDING:

4 qt. All Weather Feeder (first photo) Made in USA and comes with a Lifetime Warranty

6 qt. Squirrel-Proof Sky Cafe (second photo) Made in USA and comes with a Lifetime Warranty

Stop by Audubon Nature Stores to pick up your feeders and seed today!



# Fall/Winter

## PROGRAM SCHEDULE



REGISTER FOR PROGRAMS ONLINE AT [ASWP.ORG](http://ASWP.ORG) OR BY CALLING (412) 963-6100.

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

**BFNR:** 614 Dorseyville Road, Fox Chapel, Allegheny County

**BCNP:** 154 Monroe Road, Sarver, Butler County

**SNP:** 185 W. Airport Road, Penn Township, Butler County

**TNR:** 367 Kepple Road, Sarver, Butler County

 Denotes programs that will be offered online.

## Special Events

### MUSHROOM DAY

October 9, 9am–5pm / BFNR Nature Store

Join ASWP and the Western Pennsylvania Mushroom Club for Mushroom Day! We'll feature a wide assortment of mushroom books, related merchandise, and experts on the subject of mushrooms. From 1–3pm, meet WPMC Mycologist John Plischke, author of *Good Mushroom Bad Mushroom*; and Walt Sturgeon, author of *Appalachian Mushrooms* and *Mushrooms of the Northeast* for book signings.

### CREATURES OF THE NIGHT FAMILY-FRIENDLY HALLOWEEN PROGRAM

October 15, 16, 22, 23 / BFNR

October 22, 23 / SNP

October 29 / BCNP

6:30, 7, or 7:30pm Start Time

Delight in our annual autumn experience as fireflies guide you on our trails to encounter larger-than-life costumed nocturnal creatures. Hear stories from a Great Horned Owl, observe the acrobatics of the Flying Squirrel, go batty with Little Brown Bat, and meet a real-live creature of the night! Come in costume for twice the fun. This event takes place outdoors, even if it's raining. Registration is required. \$6 per member; \$10 per nonmember; under 2 is free.

### NATIVE TREE AND SHRUB SALE

October 1–31 / BFNR

Fall is a great time for planting! During the month of October, an extra 15% discount will be offered on all native trees and shrubs—that's a total of 25% off for members and 15% off for non-members.

### BUFFALO CREEK WATERSHED CLEAN-UP EVENT

October 8–10 / BCNP

Take pride in your community and help clean up the Buffalo Creek Watershed! Grab your family, friends, and neighbors and pick up trash around your neighborhood, local parks, etc. Once you are done, bring your trash bags to the Buffalo Creek Nature Park from 10am–4pm, October 8, 9, or 10, and be entered to win some awesome prizes from Patagonia Pittsburgh! Garbage bags, gloves, and safety vests are available at the Buffalo Creek Nature Park, if you would like them. Please note: electronic and hazardous waste cannot be accepted. Visit [aswp.org](http://aswp.org) for more details.

### SHEREE DAUGHERTY ART SHOW

November 6–7, 9am–5pm / BFNR

Wildlife artist Sheree Daugherty will once again bring her annual Wildlife Art Show and Sale to Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve. The year, she'll feature new original paintings, hand-crafted jewelry, and hundreds of her ever-popular hand-painted bird ornaments. Daugherty's work, which is highly detailed and accurately portrayed, has been featured in our nature stores for many years and we're thrilled to present her work to the Audubon community.

### ASWP MEMBER DAYS IN THE NATURE STORE

November 12–14 / BFNR & BCNP: 9am–5pm; SNP: 12–5pm

Find the perfect gift for all the nature lovers on your holiday list! On these days only, ASWP members enjoy 20% off in our three Nature Stores. And on November 13 at Beechwood, don't miss guest artist Vicki Sawyer, known for her whimsical bird art. We carry Sawyer's greeting cards, as well as a broad range of gifts including mugs and handbags, in all of our nature stores. Please note: the 20% discount excludes optics, birdseed, and select artwork.

## HOLIDAYS WITH AUDUBON: DECORATE A MINI TREE

December 4, 12–2pm / BFNR & SNP  
December 4, 10am–12pm / BCNP

Get into the holiday spirit by decorating a mini tree using natural materials. \$35 per member, \$40 per nonmembers. Registration is required one week prior to workshop for gathering of materials.

## HOLIDAYS WITH AUDUBON: YULE LOG HIKE AND CRAFT

December 11, 12–2pm / BFNR & SNP  
December 11, 10am–12pm / BCNP

Hike out into the woods to gather natural materials to decorate a birch Yule log. We will drill candle holes and level your log so that it will stay in proper position when you use it to decorate for the holidays. Registration required. \$6 per member, \$10 per non-member.

## BIRDS IN MY BACKYARD BOOK SIGNING AND COLLAGE WORKSHOP

December 4, 10–11am / BCNP  
December 11, 12–1pm / SNP

Look! Listen! There's a show going on in your backyard! Join local author Lisa Donovan and illustrator Dee Paras to meet the feathered friends featured in their children's book *Birds in My Backyard*. Drop by to create collage artwork with Dee, play a bird matching game, and enjoy a reading with Lisa. This event is free and fun for the whole family. All materials provided. Signed copies of *Birds in My Backyard* will be available for purchase in our Nature Stores.

## CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

Join one of our ASWP Christmas Bird Counts. For a list of local count leaders, please visit [aswp.org](http://aswp.org).

Buffalo Creek Valley (includes TNR and BCNP): December 18  
Pittsburgh (includes BFNR): January 1  
South Butler (includes SNP): January 2

## KIDS' CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

December 18, 10am–12pm / BCNP  
January 2, 10am–12pm / BFNR & SNP

Kids and parents are invited to participate in a family-friendly version of the Christmas Bird Count. Our naturalist will guide you. This event is appropriate for school-age and up. Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Advance registration is required. Free.

## WINTER BREAK CAMP! WILDERNESS SKILLS FOR SURVIVAL FOR 5<sup>TH</sup>–8<sup>TH</sup> GRADERS

December 27, 28, 29, 9am–3pm / BFNR

Winter survival skills are no joke! Learn to how to stay warm and dry in challenging winter conditions, the proper winter gear, and how to build proper shelters and fires. Participants will learn about natural fibers, and how to cook over an open fire like a pro. Orient yourself with just nature as your guide. This is an all day camp. Students must provide their own lunches. Camp cost for members: \$175; non-members: \$200.

## Birding & Nature Hikes

All birding and nature hikes are offered free of charge.

### BIRDS & MORE NATURALIST-LED MORNING WALKS

BCNP: Year-round every Tuesday at 9 am; Free

BFNR: Year-round every Wednesday at 9 am; Free

SNP: Year-round every Thursday 9 am; Free

TNR: October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 at 9 am; Free

### BUFFALO CREEK AND BUTLER/ FREEPORT TRAIL BIRD WALK

October 2, 8am–12pm / BCNP

Join us as we discover which bird species are migrating through the valley. Meet in the parking lot at BCNP and bird the Butler/Freeport Trail with us. Bring your optics, water, and a snack. Dress for the weather. Registration required. Email Chris Kubiak at [ckubiak@aswp.org](mailto:ckubiak@aswp.org) for more information. \$6 per member; \$10 per nonmember.

## Online Nature Series

These programs are broadcast live from BCNP—you are also welcome to join us in person at that location. All online nature series events begin at 7pm and are \$6 per member; \$10 per nonmember. Advanced registration is required.

 **LITTLE BROWN JOBS: SPARROW ID** October 21  
Ever wonder what that “little brown job” of a bird was? It was probably a sparrow, one of the harder species of birds to identify. Learn the art and science of sparrow identification.

 **BATS OF PENNSYLVANIA** November 2  
Did you that there are nine species of bats that regularly hibernate and migrate in Pennsylvania? Where are they now? This program will look at the ecology and strategies that our bats use to survive the cold of Pennsylvania's winters.

 **THE TREES OF PENN'S WOODS** November 16  
This program examines the types of trees that inhabit the great forests of Pennsylvania and how they impact our local ecosystems and avian species, along with some interesting forestry facts.



## POISONOUS PENNSYLVANIA *November 30*

Is Poison Ivy really poisonous? Are there really venomous snakes in our state? This fascinating program highlights the poisonous, venomous, and irritating animals and plants that share Pennsylvania with us.

## THE COLUMBIAN EXCHANGE *December 14*

Columbus's first journey to the New World in 1492 set off a biological chain reaction that we are still grappling with today. From invasive species and diseases, to impacts on native ecosystems and birds, this program takes a look at the biological consequences of this exchange.

## *Buffalo Creek Watershed and Important Bird Area Series*

Offered free of cost by Audubon and the Buffalo Creek Watershed Coalition with support from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection's Growing Greener Fund.

### HEALTHY BUFFERS FOR CLEAN STREAMS AND GOOD HABITAT (2-PART SERIES)

*October 19 & 26, 6:30–8pm / BCNP*

Vegetated areas around streams, called riparian buffers, are low-cost, simple ways to protect stream health and habitat quality. In part 1 (October 19), participants will learn more about riparian buffers and how to plan, plant, and maintain them. In part 2 (October 26), participants will explore the variety of high-wildlife value native trees, shrubs, and perennial plants that can be used in riparian buffer plantings. Please note: this program is open to everyone—one free tree per workshop is available only for residents of the Buffalo Creek Watershed.

### THE BELLWETHERS OF BUFFALO CREEK (4 PART SERIES)

*October 20, November 18, December 16, January 20, 7–8pm / BCNP*

There are many species present within the Buffalo Creek Watershed that reflect its high quality conditions. Join us to learn about why each of these indicator species are so important and how they help us assess the state of the watershed. This series is open to everyone; come to one or come to all:

**October 20:** North America's Giant Salamander: The Eastern Hellbender

**November 18:** Freshwater Fish as Water Quality Indicators

**December 16:** The Importance of Freshwater Mussels

**January 20:** Louisiana Waterthrush: Life History and Ecology

## *Backyard Nature Series*

Audubon's monthly Backyard Nature Series combines natural history and ecology. You'll actively participate in citizen science, and take home a wealth of information to make your backyard a haven for birds and nature.

### NATIVE SEED COLLECTION WORKSHOP

*October 30, 10am–12pm / BFNR*

*October 30, 2–4pm / SNP*

Learn how to harvest native seed, help Audubon Center for Native Plants to replenish its stocks, and add to your own seed collection. Participants will gain hands on experience collecting, cleaning, and sowing a variety of native plant seed. \$6 per member; \$10 per nonmember.

### BETTER BACKYARD BIRD FEEDING

*November 6, 10am–12pm / BFNR & SNP*

*November 6, 12–2pm / BCNP*

Ever want to attract more birds to yard? This program explains the dos and don'ts behind backyard bird feeding, the best feeders and seed to use, and how the experts get more birds. Participants will also learn about the citizen science program Project Feeder Watch, and how it helps scientists monitor bird populations. Appropriate for both adults and interested youth. Free.

### CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT WARM UP WITH COFFEE AND BAGELS

*December 4, 10am–12pm / BFNR & SNP*

*December 4, 12–2pm / BCNP*

Want to participate in the world's longest running citizen science program? Come enjoy coffee, bagels, and a bird hike as you learn how you can help count birds for science. Learn or review the birds most likely to be seen for Audubon's annual Christmas Bird Counts. Beginners welcome! This includes a classroom session and a short birding walk, conditions permitting. Appropriate for adults and interested youth. Free.

### WINTER PLANTS AND BERRIES FOR BIRDS

*December 11, 10am–12pm / BFNR & SNP*

*December 11, 12–2pm / BCNP*

When winter sets in, birds depend on plant resources to provide critical nutrients as insects become scarce. We will discuss how we can help sustain birds during the harsh winter months using bird-friendly native woody plants and ways to prepare your landscape at the end of the season to support resident birds through the winter. Participants will learn proper pruning and planting techniques to successfully establish trees and shrubs in a home landscape. \$6 per member; \$10 per nonmember.

## Preschool Programs

FLEDGLINGS: AGES 3-5

October 8, November 12, December 10, 10-11:15am / BCNP  
October 12, November 9, December 14, 10-11:15am / SNP  
October 14, November 11, December 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. A parent or caregiver must be present. \$4 per member; \$6 per nonmember

**October:** Welcome Autumn

**November:** Turkey Talk—Let's talk about Turkeys!

**December:** Holiday for the Birds—Bird Feeder Make & Take

## Get Outdoors

WHAT'S IN YOUR BACKYARD?

October 30, 10am-12pm / BFNR & BCNP  
October 30, 2-4pm / SNP

Everyone has a place they call home, including plants and animals. In this program, participants search out our meadows, forests, and pond for animals and their homes. Learn about "niches" each plant and animal have and how they interconnect with the eco-system around them. Then go home and start finding and identifying plants and animals in your own backyard!

## FOREST AWAKENINGS & THERAPY WALKS

October 7, 9:30am-12:30pm / BFNR

Forest Awakenings offers Guided Forest Therapy Walks that help people to cultivate deeper relationships with the natural world. Following a research-based process developed by the Association of Nature and Forest Therapy. Also known as Forest Bathing, Forest Awakenings walks include an introduction, grounding in the senses, an exercise to slow down, customized invitations to engage with the natural world, opportunities to share experiences and a gratitude tea gathering. Many people attend walks again and again, as each interaction has the capacity to deepen their sense of belonging. Registration is required, and the cost is per session. \$25 per member, \$30 per nonmember.

## OWL PROWL

November 5, 7pm / BFNR  
November 6, 7pm / TNR

Learn about our local owls, then search for them on the trails. This event is appropriate for all ages. We will meet participants in the parking lot of both reserves. Registration required. \$6 per member, \$10 per nonmember.

## Scout Programs

CUB AND GIRL SCOUT BADGE DAY

October 9, 10am-12pm / BFNR & SNP  
October 16, 10am-12pm / BCNP

Choose your nature-related badge or activity! This program, for Cub Scouts and elementary Girl Scouts, is booked by group or den. Contact Scott Detwiler at (412) 963-6100 to make your reservation. \$7.50 per scout; one adult chaperone (free) required per den. Other dates are available by arrangement, subject to minimum fees.

## Volunteer Events

TRAIL TUESDAYS

September 14 & October 12, 10am-12pm / TNR

Volunteers are needed to help ASWP protect and improve forest habitat for birds, pollinators and wildlife at Todd Nature Reserve. Join us to manage invasive species and preform general trail maintenance. All materials will be provided and no experience is necessary.

## MONROE ROAD TRAILHEAD PLANTING

September 24, 9am-12pm / BCNP

Help Audubon and the Butler Freeport Community Trail to add more high-wildlife value native plants to the Monroe Road Trailhead, which is adjacent to our new nature center. Materials will be provided and no experience is necessary. *Special thanks to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Fund for their support of this project.*

## KEEP BUFFALO CREEK LITTER FREE

September 28 & October 26, 10am-12pm

Lend a hand and show your support for the Buffalo Creek Watershed by helping us pick up litter! All materials will be provided and no experience is necessary. Let's work together to keep Buffalo Creek litter free! Check out our website for our exact locations and more details.

## HABITAT ENHANCEMENT

October 30, 9am-12pm / BFNR

Volunteers are needed to help make Beechwood even more bird- and pollinator-friendly! Activities will include removing invasive species and replacing them with high-wildlife value native plants such as milkweed. All materials will be provided and no experience is necessary. *Special thanks to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Monarchs and Pollinators Conservation Fund for their support of this project.*

# Audubon NATURE STORE

## THE BEST SEED FOR YOUR BIRDS

In this issue of the Bulletin, we're focusing on feeding birds. And if you've ever seen birds eating our specially formulated Beechwood Blend seed, you can attest to the fact that they love it! We created this blend specifically for the birds in our region. How? By testing the birds' preferences! The seed also eliminates waste—if birds don't like it, it's not in the blend. Beechwood Blend consists of more than 50% sunflower seeds mixed with white porro millet and peanuts. It's also 99.9% pure with no fillers.

Stop by Audubon Nature Stores to pick up Beechwood Blend for the birds in your backyard. It's Available in 10, 20, and 40 pound bags. We'll even help to load it into your car!

## IT'S ALMOST GIFT-GIVING TIME!

Visit Audubon Nature Stores for ornaments, décor, and boxed cards for the 2021 holiday season. Our holiday items will be available starting the first week of November. This year's new ornaments include a spotted salamander, hiker, garden trowel; and the popular "Blossom the Possum."

### BEECHWOOD FARMS NATURE RESERVE

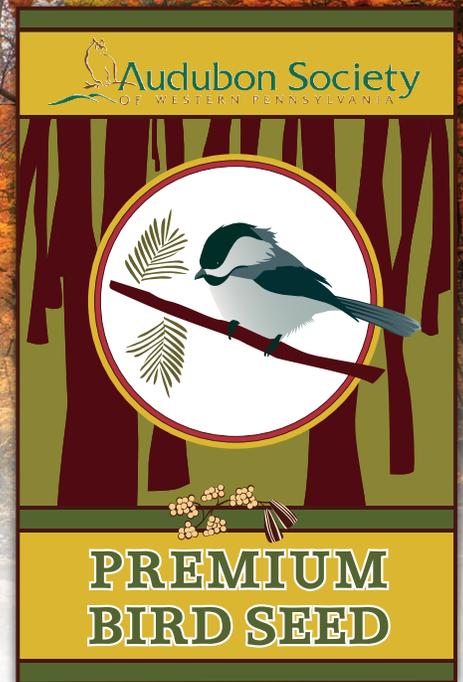
614 Dorseyville Road in Fox Chapel | Tuesday–Sunday: 9am–5pm

### SUCCOP NATURE PARK

185 W. Airport Road in Butler | Tuesday–Saturday: 12–5pm

### BUFFALO CREEK NATURE PARK

154 Monroe Road in Sarver | Thursday–Monday: 9am–5pm



FALL/WINTER SPECIALS: EACH PACKAGE IS 20% OFF RETAIL PRICE!

### OCTOBER SPECIAL

## FINCH FAN PACKAGE

Includes nyjer tube feeder with quick clean base (made in the USA!) and one 10# bag of finch mix.

DISCOUNTED PRICE: \$46

*Price does not include sales tax. Redeem in Store.*

### NOVEMBER SPECIAL

## GO NUTS! PACKAGE

Includes peanut feeder and one 5# bag of whole peanuts in the shell.

DISCOUNTED PRICE: \$28

*Price does not include sales tax. Redeem in Store.*

### DECEMBER SPECIAL

## PA-MADE FEEDER/NESTING BOX DUO

Includes one 8" feeder (for sunflower seeds or nuts) and one beautiful wren nesting box.

DISCOUNTED PRICE: \$36

*Price does not include sales tax. Redeem in Store.*

# AUDUBON News

## 8,000 MILKWEED SEEDLINGS AND COUNTING

ASWP is celebrating the onsite propagation of over 8,000 milkweed plants—part of 2 projects supported by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Monarch Butterflies and Pollinators Conservation Fund.

The milkweed, grown at ASWP's native plant nursery at Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve, will be planted in Monarch and bumblebee habitat restoration and enhancement projects across southwestern Pennsylvania. During the course of the 2-year project, over 11,000 milkweed plants will be grown.

To learn more about these projects and what you can do in your own yard to support Monarchs and other native pollinators, call (412) 963-6100.

## LOUISIANA WATERTHRUSH COMMUNITY CONSERVATION UPDATE

We're excited to share an update on the Louisiana Waterthrush Community Conservation in Buffalo Creek project, funded by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Fund. Louisiana Waterthrush are indicator species that serve as a measure of ecosystem health. They rely on clean streams and large tracts of forest to thrive.

Audubon worked with many partners to improve habitat, as well as educate, inspire, and empower landowners and students to do the same.

From October 2020–August 2021, we reached over 2,700 people through landowner workshops with tree giveaways, programs with local libraries, volunteer events, and in-school programming. We also planted a mile of riparian buffer, planted and distributed 486 trees, removed 5 acres of invasive species, and held two special waste collection events.

## INCREASING LOCAL HABITAT FOR MONARCH BUTTERFLIES

We're working with agricultural landowners to enhance and restore almost 300 acres of land for imperiled pollinators, including the Monarch butterfly. ASWP partnered with Ernst Conservation Seeds to develop a custom native seed mix to support Monarch butterflies, bumblebees, and other imperiled pollinators. The mix includes over 24 species of native plants, including 3 types of milkweed, bumblebee superfoods such as Wild Bergamot and Zigzag Aster, clump-forming grasses for bumblebee nesting, and 3 seasons of blooms.

Funding from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Monarch Butterfly and Pollinators Conservation fund allows ASWP to cover 50% of the cost of the seed mix for agricultural land in Pennsylvania during 2021-2022.

The seed mix is available to anyone, but the discount is currently only available for agricultural land in Pennsylvania, including urban farms. To learn more, please contact Sarah Koenig, Conservation Director, at [skoenig@aswp.org](mailto:skoenig@aswp.org) or (412) 963-6100.



# Audubon VOLUNTEERS

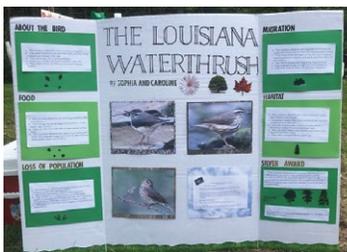
## FLYING SOLO FARM FAIR

Linda Croskey, one of our most active volunteers and the founder of Flying Solo, recently held a farm fair at her house that featured 20 vendors. Her goal was to get bird and nature lovers together—and to connect them in the great outdoors while sharing talents, camaraderie, and giving back to Audubon.

Thanks to Linda, the over 100 attendees, and the wonderful energy of the event, over \$2,200 was raised for ASWP.

Linda's mom created an amazing coverlet/quilt that featured birding and outdoors t-shirts and logos. Jim Brainard won the quilt and donated it back to Audubon. We plan to hang it at one of our reserves to showcase the beautiful quilting work and evoke a bit of nostalgia when people view all of the t-shirt memorabilia. There was also a raffle basket, won by Hope Huntington.

Bird walks rounded out the sunny day. Thank you to Linda Croskey for her volunteerism and her ongoing support of Audubon!



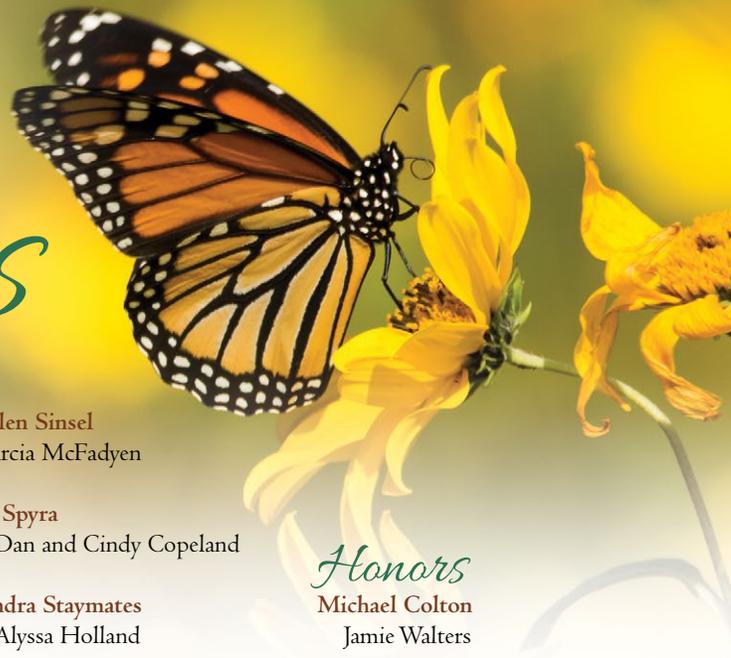
## THANKS TO TROOP 26087

We want to give special thanks to Girl Scout Troop 26087 for their Silver Award project! The Scouts pulled invasive species, organized a tree planting, learned about Louisiana Waterthrush, led an education session on the topic, and then planted some native perennials to finish the project!

## INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING WITH AUDUBON?

*We could use your help with everything from the nature store to planting trees! Contact us to learn more about how you or your group can help to support us through volunteering: (412) 963-6100.*

# Memorials AND Honors



## Memorials

Jennifer Webster Bolton  
Lyn Littleton

James Braham  
Betsey Owens  
Nancy and Dan Fales

Dianne Dendler  
Donna Paul  
Patricia Panseri

Curt Eazor  
Barbara Kuhn

Tom Flannery  
Nancy and Dan Fales

Carly Ann George Voigt  
Regina and Douglas George

Kathleen Marie France  
Thomas Bianculli  
Kenneth Bridge  
Janice Portante

Maurice Martin  
Deborah and Richard Torchia

Succop Family Members  
Beth and Gus Succop

Kathy Paduano  
Dietrich Family

Robert M. Philson  
Suzanne McLaughlin

Gregg Salina  
Antoinette Riffer

Helen Sinsel  
Marcia McFadyen

Ed Spyra  
Dan and Cindy Copeland

Sandra Staymates  
Alyssa Holland

Collette Jousse Wilkins  
Kristin Powers

Edith Wilson  
Melanie Titzel

## Honors

Michael Colton  
Jamie Walters

Mark Holsing  
Sean Holsing

Roxanne Swan  
Garden Club of Forest Hills

*This list includes memorials and honors received through August 31, 2021.*

## HOLD YOUR Next Event — AT AUDUBON —

Planning an outdoor wedding?  
Looking for the perfect place to hold  
your family reunion? Need a great  
spot for a corporate holiday party?

## AUDUBON HAS YOU COVERED

We have rental spaces at each of our  
properties that allow you to experience  
the beauty of nature while you celebrate  
your special event.

Contact us today to learn more about options  
at (412) 963-6100 or [events@aswp.org](mailto:events@aswp.org).



# SHARE AUDUBON WITH YOUR FRIENDS: GIFT THEM AN *Audubon Membership*

Give the gift of birds and nature with a yearlong membership to Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania. They will enjoy a 10% discount on Nature Store purchases and bird seed, advanced notice of sales and events, discounts on the nature programs they love, a subscription to our quarterly Bulletin, invitations to members-only events, and updates on important scientific, conservation, and legislative issues, all while you get the 100% good feeling of supporting the birds and environment of our region! Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania (ASWP) is a nonprofit organization supported in large part through membership dues. You can also join or renew your membership at [www.aswp.org](http://www.aswp.org).

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New or Renewal Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Gift Membership        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual: \$35          | <input type="checkbox"/> Conservationist: \$500 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Household: \$50           | <input type="checkbox"/> Steward: \$1,000       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Naturalist: \$100         | <input type="checkbox"/> Club Level: \$100      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ecologist: \$250          |   |

Go online now or mail this form with payment to:  
ASWP Membership, 614 Dorseyville Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238.

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Employer (for matching gifts): \_\_\_\_\_

IF THIS IS A GIFT MEMBERSHIP, PLEASE COMPLETE ABOVE SECTION & THE FOLLOWING:

Recipient's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

*NOTE: Gift memberships will be sent directly to the recipient.*

How to list your recognition on the recipient note:

\_\_\_\_\_

PAYMENT BY:

Check Enclosed     Credit Card  
Credit Card No.: \_\_\_\_\_  
Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free within Pennsylvania 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.*

## NATURE STORE GIFT CERTIFICATES *for Everyone on Your List*

Have a hard-to-shop-for friend or family member? Wondering what to get for them? We've got you covered! In our book, the perfect gift should come in all sizes, be easy to buy, and need no wrapping. It should also fit any occasion. What is this perfect gift? It's the Gift of Audubon. Whether it's for the holidays, a birthday, anniversary, or 'just because', the gift of Audubon shares the magic of birds and nature with the people you care about.

IT'S A GREAT FIT FOR:

- **Friends:** An ASWP membership will introduce your friends to an organization you enjoy and support.
- **Bird Watchers:** A gift certificate to Audubon Nature Store allows a nature-lover to pick up something new (and fun) from stores located on our properties.
- **Grandparents:** An in-person or virtual program can brighten the day of a parent or grandparent residing in a senior care facility. It will also bring a smile to their friends' faces!
- **Outdoor Enthusiasts:** A commemorative brick, bench, or tree honors a person who enjoys our nature reserves – and they'll get to see it every time they visit.

*Still not sure what someone may want, or want something unique? Give us a call and we will help you out! Give the Gift of Nature – Give a Gift of Audubon.*



# CREATURES OF THE NIGHT

*A Family-Friendly Halloween Adventure*

Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve

OCTOBER 15, 16, 22 & 23

Succop Nature Park

OCTOBER 22 & 23

Buffalo Creek Nature Park

OCTOBER 29

Join us for an all-outdoor non-scary Halloween trek and meet nocturnal animal characters who tell you their story of life beneath the moonlight.

**COME IN COSTUME FOR TWICE THE FUN!**

Start times are at 6:30, 7:00, and 7:30 pm. The cost of the event is \$6 per member and \$10 per nonmember. Children under the age of 2 are free. Register at [aswp.org](http://aswp.org) or by calling (412) 963-6100.

# Native Plants

## FOR SUPPORTING BIRDS IN FALL/WINTER

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*Did you know that planting in cooler temperatures allow plants to establish a healthy root system before going through the summer season of heat and drought?*

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Native plants are important for birds throughout the year, including fall and winter. The following list highlights some of the species that provide food and shelter for birds that overwinter in our region. Plant these this fall to boost the habitat value of your yard.

**Eastern White Pine** (*Pinus strobus*): Large evergreen tree that provides shelter; pine seeds are a great food source.

**Bayberry** (*Myrica pensylvanica*): Medium shrub that provides excellent winter cover; fruit eaten by birds.

**American Holly** (*Ilex opaca*): Large/medium evergreen tree with leathery leaves that is good for shelter; bright red fruit are a favorite of birds.

**White Oak** (*Quercus alba*): Large deciduous tree that provides great shelter; acorns are loved by birds and mammals.

**Inkberry** (*Ilex glabra*): Evergreen shrub that provides good winter cover and fruit persists through winter.

**Winterberry Holly** (*Ilex verticillata*): Medium/small deciduous tree that provides food in the form of red fruit.

**American Hazelnut** (*Corylus americana*): Medium deciduous shrub with catkins that persist into winter, providing food source.

**Black Chokeberry** (*Aronia melanocarpa*): Medium deciduous shrub with purple/black berries.

**Goldenrod** (*Solidago spp.*): Spreading perennial that provides ground level shelter and food in the form of seed.

**Green-Headed Coneflower** (*Rudbeckia laciniata*): Large self-seeding perennial that provides food in the form of seed.

**Staghorn Sumac** (*Rhus typhina*): Medium deciduous tree that provides shelter and food in the form of a cluster of red seed.