


Spring 2013

Bulletin

Volume 78
No. 1

newsletter

A photograph of three children sitting on a log in a forest. The child on the left is a young boy with blonde hair, wearing a white t-shirt with blue trim and grey pants, with a yellow jacket draped over his lap. The child in the middle is a young boy with dark hair, wearing a light green t-shirt with blue trim and grey pants, and a light-colored bucket hat. The child on the right is a young girl with dark hair, wearing a pink t-shirt and purple pants, and a pink bucket hat. They are all smiling at the camera. The background is a dense forest with tall trees and green foliage.

Get Outside with Audubon!

**Maple Madness,
BirdFest Weekend,
and Summer Camps
build a lifelong love
of birds and nature**

 **Audubon Society**
OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

Staff

Bulletin

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ON THE COVER:

Spring is coming! And it's time to get outdoors. Join Audubon for upcoming programs including Maple Madness, BirdFest Weekend, and Summer Camps! Register online at aswp.org.



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This Audubon View

Those of you who are familiar with Audubon history know that we held our very first meeting at the Schenley Hotel (now the William Pitt Union at the University of Pittsburgh) way back in April of 1916.

As we approach our 100 year anniversary, we're beginning a three-year project to look back and celebrate all we've accomplished—while making plans for our next 100 years. As a part of that process, we are setting a series of goals to achieve by our centennial. We're calling it "Audubon's 100 by 100."

One of these goals—and the one I'm particularly excited about—is ASWP becoming 100% carbon neutral by our 100th year. Climate change is a serious issue and while much has been written and said about it, we want to do more than just talk. ASWP will demonstrate what can be done to eliminate our carbon footprint—through a series of energy and operating efficiencies, management of our forests (and possibly acquisition) for carbon sequestration, and purchase of high-quality offsets.

We'll continue to develop our other 100 by 100 initiatives, and announce them in future issues of the Bulletin. But I know that there are some opportunities we have not considered. Over the next few months, we will be sending you—the extended members of our Audubon Family—a series of surveys and questionnaires to help us create our goals. I hope that you will take the time to respond.

I look forward to learning from you how Audubon should close out its first 100 years—and the goals we should set for our next.

Jim Bonner

ASWP Executive Director



A Friends of Audubon Membership Makes a Great Gift

Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania (ASWP) is a nonprofit organization supported in large part through membership dues.

Membership Benefits • 10% Discount on Nature Store Purchases and Bird Seed • Subscription to Bulletin Newsletter • Library and Teacher Resource Center Lending Privileges • Tuition Discounts and Advance Notice on Education Programs • Invitations to Nature Store Open House and Special Events • 100% Good Feeling for Supporting Environment Education

Join or renew your membership at aswp.org

New or Renewal Membership Gift Membership

Individual \$35 Household \$50 Naturalist \$100 Ecologist \$250 Conservationist \$500 Steward \$1000 Club Level \$100

Your Name _____ Phone _____

Email _____ Employer (for matching gifts) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

**If this is a Gift Membership, please complete the above section and the following:*

Recipient's Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

NOTE: Gift Memberships will be sent directly to the recipient How to list your recognition on the recipient note:

Payment by: Enclosed Check Credit Card (please complete following): Credit Card No.: _____ Exp. _____

Mail with payment to: **ASWP/Membership • 614 Dorseyville Road • Pittsburgh PA 15238**

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.

SNOWY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT YIELDS SURPRISING FINDS

Over 130 participants logged a cumulative total of 270 hours tallying birds in the Pittsburgh Christmas Bird Count on December 19th, 2012. The Pittsburgh CBC circle is centered on Shaler Township and includes the City of Pittsburgh, McCandless Township, Penn Hills, and the areas in-between.

When compared to last year's unseasonably mild temperatures, this year's weather was a bit more typical. Temperatures ranged from 28 to 33 degrees and snow was falling, fast. Although an inch of snow was forecasted, birders were faced with 5 to 8 inches of snow that fell during the morning and early afternoon hours.

With snow falling heavy at times, birders found conditions to be challenging. Despite difficult driving conditions and binoculars clogging with snow, participants found a remarkable diversity of birds. A total of 80 species were found on count day within the circle.

In fact, the total species count far exceeded the 10-year average of 68 species. The high species count came, in part, from improved communications prior to the count. Although the internet has enabled birders to quickly and

effectively report birds for a number of years, it has not been widely used to coordinate birders for the Pittsburgh CBC.

Examples of interesting finds include a Rufous Hummingbird which was banded in early December on Mount Washington and a Lesser Black-backed Gull at the Point in downtown Pittsburgh. Both birds were secured for the CBC because of prior knowledge of their presence.

Of course, anytime birders are scattered among an area, surprises will be found. The two most surprising birds this year were a Short-eared Owl found in Oakmont and a Baltimore Oriole in O'Hara Township. The Short-eared Owl was originally flushed by a group of field participants in the morning and later photographed by the area leader. This is a Pennsylvania Endangered Species and is the first record of the species on the Pittsburgh count.

The Baltimore Oriole was found by a first-year participant at his feeder in O'Hara Township. The bird was coming to a woodpecker feeder, presumably picking dried raisins from the food blend. The oriole is the perfect example of how a single person interested in birds can



Top photo: This Short-eared Owl was photographed by David Yeany during the snowy Bird Count.

Bottom photo: Baltimore Oriole

contribute to the CBC dataset. Without his participation, the oriole's presence would not have been known or documented.

A number of waterfowl including Tundra Swan, Lesser Scaup, and Ring-necked Duck, lingering on our area rivers helped to contribute to this year's high diversity, as did a few lingering passerines including Chipping Sparrow, Fox Sparrow, and Red-winged Blackbird.

Audubon Nature Store is located at Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve in Fox Chapel

Get Ready for Spring at Our Yard & Garden Sale Saturday, May 4

Take advantage of our lowest prices of the season during Audubon Nature Store's Yard & Garden Sale – May 4 from 9 am to 5 pm. Browse our selection of tools, supplies, and functional decorative items for your yard and garden needs.

With Mother's Day just around the corner, don't miss this one-day event, which runs in conjunction with ASWP's Native Plant Sale. ■

OPTICS EVENT

Stop by the store during BirdFest on May 11 for special deals on optics! ■

CONGRATULATIONS

Charles Siefert is the lucky winner of Audubon Nature Store's Holiday Gift Basket. ■

Maple Products are a sweet subject for our shoppers!

Many of you know that we offer Wagner's Maple Sugar Camp syrup during Maple Madness, but did you know that we carry Somerset County's sweet sap year round? Wagner's 100% pure Pennsylvania maple syrup is available in gallon, half gallon, quart, pint, and half pint sizes in both Grades A and B. ■

Don't Forget to Feed the Birds Year-round

Just because winter is coming to an end, it doesn't mean it's time to take down the birdfeeders. Give your feathered friends a tasty treat and delight in watching them year-round at your feeder. Stop by Audubon Nature Store to pick up Beechwood Blend, birdseed specially formulated for the birds in our region. The birds will say thank you! ■

The Importance of Being a Volunteer

Volunteers provide a vital service to our organization, helping us with everything from office work to native plant cultivation and student field trip assistance. If you're interested in becoming a volunteer with us, please call (412) 963-6100.

We're also seeking volunteers for our Volunteer Naturalist program, which runs Mondays from March 18 through April 29. Contact Scott at (412) 963-6100 ext. 20 or sdetwiler@aswp.org for more information. Note: there will be no class on April 1. ■

Support Audubon Through Commemorative Trees, Benches, or Bricks

A commemorative tree, brick, or bench is a wonderful way to continually preserve the cherished thoughts of individuals you care deeply about, and who also care deeply about Audubon. ASWP offers commemorative trees and benches, in addition to bricks, as options for purchase within our properties at Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve and Succop Conservancy.

At the same time, your commemorative purchase helps ASWP fulfill our mission to connect the people of southwestern Pennsylvania to birds and nature through our programs, projects, and places.

Please contact Chris Kubiak, Development Associate, at ckubiak@aswp.org or (412) 963-6100 to discuss commemorative options. ■

Audubon Center for Native Plants Spring Sale, May 4 9am-1pm

Stop by Audubon Center for Native Plants on May 4 for our Spring sale! Native plant experts will be on hand to discuss the types of plants that will work best in your backyard.

Native plants attract birds, butterflies, and beneficial insects to your garden. And during our sale, the plants will be offered at the lowest prices of the season! ■



SUMMER CAMPS

Get Outside with Audubon!

Kids have fun learning about birds and nature at Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania's Outdoor Discovery Camps! Designed for kids ages 5-14, our camps allow kids to explore the outdoors, visit the pond, make crafts, and observe birds and other wildlife. Visit aswp.org for a complete listing of our camp offerings at Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve and Succop Conservancy.

(412) 963-6100
aswp.org

Beechwood Farms Nature Reserve
614 Dorseyville Road :: Pittsburgh PA 15238

Succop Conservancy
185 W Airport Road :: Butler PA 16002

VOLUNTEER NATURALIST TRAINING for new volunteers will be held on Mondays, from March 18 through April 29, 9:30am to 2:30pm. There will be no class on April 1. Contact Scott Detwiler for more information (412) 963-6100.

MARCH

- 6 Naturalist Led Morning Walk ▶ 9am**
Enjoy viewing birds and other wildlife on a hike through the reserve with one of our naturalists. **Free**
- 9 Maple Sugaring for Scouts ▶ 10am-Noon** Scouts, Join us on the trail for hands-on look at the history and science of maple sugaring. **Cost:** \$7.50 per scout
- 10 Audubon Center for Native Plants: Composting Workshop for Families ▶ 2 - 4pm** Compost is a highly nutritious fertilizer and soil amendment that adds life to any garden soil. The workshop will highlight various composting methods for the home landscape. Each family will make a worm compost bin complete with worms to take home. Pre-registration required. **Cost per family:** \$40 member / \$45 nonmember
- 13 Naturalist Led Morning Walk ▶ 9am**
Enjoy viewing birds and other wildlife on a hike through the reserve with one of our naturalists. **Free**
- 14 Fledglings ▶ 10 - 11am** Give your 3-5 year old a head start on a lifetime of loving the outdoors. These naturalist-led programs incorporate stories, activities and a trail walk on seasonally appropriate topics. Parent or caregiver must be present. **Cost:** \$4 member / \$6 nonmember

- 16 Maple Madness ▶ 10am-3pm** Enjoy a naturalist led walk through the history of maple sugaring-after diving into a pancake breakfast. Last seating for pancake brunch is 1:30pm. Reservations required. **Cost:** \$6 member / \$10 nonmember

- 20 Naturalist Led Morning Walk ▶ 9am**
Enjoy viewing birds and other wildlife on a hike through the reserve with one of our naturalists. **Free**
- 27 Naturalist Led Morning Walk ▶ 9am**
Enjoy viewing birds and other wildlife on a hike through the reserve with one of our naturalists. **Free**

APRIL

- 3 Naturalist Led Morning Walk ▶ 9am**
Enjoy viewing birds and other wildlife on a hike through the reserve with one of our naturalists. **Free**
- 9 Speaker Series ▶ 7 - 8:30 pm** Join us for a presentation on Green Burials by Pete McQuillen of Penn Forest Natural Burial Park. **Free**
- 10 Naturalist Led Morning Walk ▶ 9am**
Enjoy viewing birds and other wildlife on a hike through the reserve with one of our naturalists. **Free**
- 11 Fledglings ▶ 10 - 11am** Give your 3-5 year old a head start on a lifetime of loving the outdoors. These naturalist-led programs incorporate stories, activities and a trail walk on seasonally appropriate topics. Parent or caregiver must be present. **Cost:** \$4 member / \$6 nonmember
- 14 Wildflower Walk ▶ 2 - 4pm** See what's popping up in the woods. We'll look for spring beauties including, bloodroot, hepatica and others along our trails. **Free**
- 17 Naturalist Led Morning Walk ▶ 9am**
Enjoy viewing birds and other wildlife on a hike through the reserve with one of our naturalists. **Free**
- 20 Birdwatching Hike ▶ 8-10am** Beechwood is coming alive in Spring! Take a guided walk with one of our naturalists and learn what, and who, is onsite. **Free**

- 24 Naturalist Led Morning Walk ▶ 9am**
Enjoy viewing birds and other wildlife on a hike through the reserve with one of our naturalists. **Free**
- 27 Birdwatching Hike ▶ 8-10am** Beechwood is coming alive in Spring! Take a guided walk with one of our naturalists and learn what, and who, is onsite. **Free**
- 27 Scout Badge Day ▶ 10am - Noon** Scout groups can fulfill requirements towards nature-related badges, arrows, try-its or other awards. Visit aswp.org for a list of offerings. Sessions are chosen by a den or group on a first-registered, first choice basis. Pre-registration required. **Cost:** \$7.50 per scout
- 28 Audubon Center for Native Plants: Basic Landscaping with Native Plants ▶ 2 - 4pm** Wake up your garden with cheerful spring blooming native plants. Learn how to enhance your landscape using native plants, reduce the spread of invasive species, and explore the benefits of these adaptable plants. Bring a picture of your garden space or create a new landscape using design techniques such as sketch, paint and collage to create designs that will bring nature closer to you. **Cost:** \$6 member / \$10 nonmember

MAY

- 1 Naturalist Led Morning Walk ▶ 9am**
Enjoy viewing birds and other wildlife on a hike through the reserve with one of our naturalists. **Free**
- 2 Babes in the Woods ▶ 10 - 11am**
Parents and toddlers (2 and under) will delight in using sight, sound, touch, and smell to discover the natural world. These naturalist led programs incorporate seasonally appropriate topics. Parent or caregiver must be present. Strollers/Baby Backpacks welcome. **Cost:** \$4 member / \$6 nonmember
- 4 Birdwatching Hike ▶ 8-10am** Beechwood is coming alive in Spring! Take a guided walk with one of our naturalists and learn what, and who, is onsite. **Free**

- 4 Audubon Center for Native Plants: Spring Sale ▶ 9 am - 1 pm**
Join us for our Annual Spring Plant Sale, where you'll receive discounts on all of our nursery propagated native plants, including hard to find favorites. Plant Experts will be available to help answer questions.

- 5 Audubon Center for Native Plants: Get Your Garden Ready for Spring ▶ 2-4pm** Join us for tips and low cost techniques to prepare an organic landscape space that will enhance backyard biodiversity and create a chemical free environment where plants can thrive. Come prepared for working outdoors with hand tools. Each participant will learn to make then take home compost tea. **Cost:** \$4 member / \$6 nonmember
- 8 Naturalist Led Morning Walk ▶ 9am**
Enjoy viewing birds and other wildlife on a hike through the reserve with one of our naturalists. **Free**
- 9 Fledglings ▶ 10 - 11am** Give your 3-5 year old a head start on a lifetime of loving the outdoors. These naturalist-led programs incorporate stories, activities and a trail walk on seasonally appropriate topics. Parent or caregiver must be present. **Cost:** \$4 member / \$6 nonmember

11 Migration Mania Family Event

It's our yearly festival for the birds-taking place on International Migratory Bird Day! Enjoy bird themed activities for the entire family, including bird watching hikes, games, and special speakers. **Free**

- 11 Author and Biologist Derek Lovitch ▶ 7pm** Derek Lovitch will provide a peek into his book "How to Be a Better Birder" He offers a more effective way to go about identification—he calls it the "Whole Bird and More" approach—that will enable you to identify more birds, more quickly, more of the time. **Free**
- 15 Naturalist Led Morning Walk ▶ 9am**
Enjoy viewing birds and other wildlife on a hike through the reserve with one of our naturalists. **Free**
- 18 Birdwatching Hike ▶ 8-10am** Beechwood is coming alive in Spring! Take a guided walk with one of our naturalists and learn what, and who, is onsite. **Free**
- 19 Wildflower Walk ▶ 2-4pm** See what's popping up in the woods. We'll look for spring beauties including, bloodroot, hepatica and others along our trails. **Free**
- 22 Naturalist Led Morning Walk ▶ 9am**
Enjoy viewing birds and other wildlife on a hike through the reserve with one of our naturalists. **Free**
- 29 Naturalist Led Morning Walk ▶ 9a.m.**
Enjoy viewing birds and other wildlife on a hike through the reserve with one of our naturalists. **Free**

JUNE

- 1 Audubon Center for Native Plants: Rain Harvesting Workshop for Families ▶ 2-4pm** Learn about the environmental benefits, financial savings & water conservation Rain gardens and Rain barrels offer. Each family will make 1 rain barrel OR 1 rain chain. Pre-registration required. **Cost per family:** \$40 member / \$45 nonmember
- 5 Naturalist Led Morning Walk ▶ 9am**
Enjoy viewing birds and other wildlife on a hike through the reserve with one of our naturalists. **Free**
- 2 Babes in the Woods ▶ 10-11am**
Parents and toddlers (2 and under) will delight in using sight, sound, touch, and smell to discover the natural world. These naturalist led programs incorporate seasonally appropriate topics. Parent or caregiver must be present. Strollers/Baby Backpacks welcome. **Cost:** \$4 member / \$6 nonmember
- 7 Citizen Science Corps: Firefly Watch Training ▶ 8 - 10pm** Watching fireflies is an annual rite of summer. Now learn how you can help scientists track fireflies around the world by reporting on our favorite nighttime insect from your own backyard. Perfect for families. **Cost:** \$6 member / \$10 nonmember
- 11 Speaker Series ▶ 7-8:30pm** Join us for special presentations that will get you thinking about important environmental issues. **Free**
- 12 Naturalist Led Morning Walk ▶ 9am**
Enjoy viewing birds and other wildlife on a hike through the reserve with one of our naturalists. **Free**
- 13 Fledglings ▶ 10 - 11am** Give your 3-5 year old a head start on a lifetime of loving the outdoors. These naturalist-led programs incorporate stories, activities and a trail walk on seasonally appropriate topics. Parent or caregiver must be present. **Cost:** \$4 member / \$6 nonmember

MARCH

3 Audubon Center for Native Plants: Composting Workshop for Families

► **2-4pm** Compost is a highly nutritious fertilizer and soil amendment that adds life to any garden soil. The workshop will highlight various composting methods for the home landscape. Each family will make a worm compost bin complete with worms to take home. Pre-registration required. **Cost:** \$40 member / \$45 nonmember

7 Year of Useful Plants ► 10am - Noon

This workshop hike will identify native plant species that have a practical, medicinal, or edible use to humans. We will discuss each season and what to look for. Bring a notebook and camera to help you remember. If we are in luck, the witch hazel tree just may be in bloom. We will conclude with a wild gathered snack from the forest. **Cost:** \$6 member / \$10 nonmember

9 Year of Useful Plants ► 10am - Noon

Scouts, join us on the trail for hands-on look at the history and science of maple sugaring. **Cost:** \$7.50 per scout

14 Naturalist Led Morning Walk ► 9am

Enjoy viewing birds and other wildlife on a hike through the reserve with one of our naturalists. **Free**

19 Fledglings ► 10 -11am

Give your 3-5 year old a head start on a lifetime of loving the outdoors. These naturalist-led programs incorporate stories, activities and a trail walk on seasonally appropriate topics. Parent or caregiver must be present. **Cost:** \$4 member / \$6 nonmember.

21 Naturalist Led Morning Walk ► 9am

Enjoy viewing birds and other wildlife on a hike through the reserve with one of our naturalists. **Free**

23 Maple Madness ► 10am-3pm

Enjoy a naturalist led walk through the history of maple sugaring-after diving into a pancake breakfast. Last seating for pancake brunch is 1:30pm. Reservations required. **Cost:** \$6 member / \$10 nonmember

28 Naturalist Led Morning Walk ► 9am

Enjoy viewing birds and other wildlife on a hike through the reserve with one of our naturalists. **Free**

30 Wedding and Events Open House

► **11am-3pm** Enjoy a naturalist led walk through the history of maple sugaring-after diving into a pancake breakfast. Last seating for pancake brunch is 1:30pm. Reservations required. **Free**

APRIL

4 Naturalist Led Morning Walk ► 9a.m.

Enjoy viewing birds and other wildlife on a hike through the reserve with one of our naturalists. **Free**

7 Wildflower Workshop ► 2-4pm

Enjoy a short hike and identify some common wildflowers. Then spread some seed mixture over our meadows to increase our flower diversity. A naturalist will offer ideas for incorporating wildflowers into your landscape plans. We will also identify ways that wildflowers are beneficial to our ecosystem. **Cost:** \$6 member / \$10 nonmember

11 Naturalist Led Morning Walk ► 9am

Enjoy viewing birds and other wildlife on a hike through the reserve with one of our naturalists. **Free**

13 Scout Badge Day ► 10 am - Noon

Scout groups can fulfill requirements towards nature-related badges, arrows, try-its or other awards. Visit aswp.org for a list of offerings. Sessions are chosen by a den or group on a first-registered, first choice basis. Pre-registration required. **Cost:** \$7.50 per scout

16 Fledglings ► 10-11am

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18 Naturalist Led Morning Walk ► 9am

Enjoy viewing birds and other wildlife on a hike through the reserve with one of our naturalists. **Free**

20 Birdwatching Hike ► 8 - 10 am

Succop Conservancy is coming alive in Spring! Take a guided walk with one of our naturalists and learn what, and who, is onsite. **Free**

25 Naturalist Led Morning Walk ► 9am

Enjoy viewing birds and other wildlife on a hike through the reserve with one of our naturalists. **Free**

27 Birdwatching Hike ► 8 - 10 am

Succop Conservancy is coming alive in Spring! Take a guided walk with one of our naturalists and learn what, and who, is onsite. **Free**

MAY

2 Naturalist Led Morning Walk ► 9am

Enjoy viewing birds and other wildlife on a hike through the reserve with one of our naturalists. **Free**

4 Birdwatching Hike ► 8 - 10 am

Succop Conservancy is coming alive in Spring! Take a guided walk with one of our naturalists and learn what, and who, is onsite. **Free**

9 Naturalist Led Morning Walk ► 9am

Enjoy viewing birds and other wildlife on a hike through the reserve with one of our naturalists. **Free**

12 Mother's Day Brunch ► 11am-2pm

Give mom the day off and celebrate the day with an outdoor brunch in our pavilion. Then paint a birdhouse together to remember mom's special day. Registration is required at aswp.org.

14 Babes In the Woods ► 10 - 11 am

Parents and toddlers (2 and under) will delight in using sight, sound, touch, and smell to discover the natural world. These naturalist led programs incorporate seasonally appropriate topics. Parent or caregiver must be present. Strollers/Baby Backpacks welcome. **Cost:** \$4 member / \$6 nonmember

16 Naturalist Led Morning Walk ► 9am

Enjoy viewing birds and other wildlife on a hike through the reserve with one of our naturalists. **Free**

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Succop Conservancy is coming alive in Spring! Take a guided walk with one of our naturalists and learn what, and who, is onsite. **Free**

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23 Naturalist Led Morning Walk ► 9am

Enjoy viewing birds and other wildlife on a hike through the reserve with one of our naturalists. **Free**

30 Naturalist Led Morning Walk ► 9am

Enjoy viewing birds and other wildlife on a hike through the reserve with one of our naturalists. **Free**

JUNE

4 Babes In the Woods ► 10 - 11 am

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6 Naturalist Led Morning Walk ► 9am

Enjoy viewing birds and other wildlife on a hike through the reserve with one of our naturalists. **Free**

9 Audubon Center for Native Plants: Rain Harvesting Workshop for Families ► 2 - 4pm

Learn about the environmental benefits, financial savings & water conservation Rain gardens and Rain barrels offer. Each family will make 1 rain barrel OR 1 rain chain. Pre-registration required. **Cost per family:** \$40 member / \$45 nonmember

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13 Naturalist Led Morning Walk ► 9am

Enjoy viewing birds and other wildlife on a hike through the reserve with one of our naturalists. **Free**

14 Citizen Science Corp: Firefly Watch Training ► 8 - 10 pm

Watching fireflies is an annual rite of summer. Now learn how you can help scientists track fireflies around the world by reporting on our favorite nighttime insect from your own backyard. Perfect for families. **Cost:** \$6 member / \$10 nonmember

SAVE THE DATE June 22
A Night In The Woods

TODD NATURE RESERVE
Upcoming Events

Naturalist Led Morning Hikes resume April 19! ► Every Friday at 9am Enjoy viewing birds and other wildlife on a hike through the reserve with one of our naturalists. **Free**

MAY

4 Birdwatching Hike ► 8 - 10 am Todd Nature Reserve is coming alive in Spring! Take a guided walk with one of our naturalists and learn what, and who, is onsite. **Free**

Memorials and Honors

MEMORIALS

Martha Casho
Eddie and Al Twersky

Amelia C. Wagner
Gil and Ginny Glenn

Andrew James Bobick
Barbara Rainard

Craigie Succop
Louise Rogers
Christopher Covert, Jr.

Patricia Laing
Family members

William F. McCrady, Jr.
Andrea McCrady

Perry Jubelirer
Marlene Parrish

HONORS

Tom and JoAnn Succop
William and Natalie Hoffman
Amy, Michael, Craig and
Wills Millin

Tom and Jean Harbeck
Jolie Schroeder

*William, James and
Larry Anderson*
Gary and Donna Anderson

ASWP gratefully acknowledges the generous support received from the following corporations, foundations, and trust funds:

\$50,000+

- ▶ Beckwith Family Foundation
- ▶ Columbia Gas—NiSource
- ▶ Laurel Foundation
- ▶ PA Department of Environmental Protection
- ▶ Fred J. and Shirley H. Jordan Foundation
- ▶ National Fish & Wildlife Foundation
- ▶ Succop Family Charitable Trust

\$25,000 - \$49,999

- ▶ Allegheny Regional Assets District
- ▶ BNY – Mellon
- ▶ Clapp Charitable Trust
- ▶ Dominion Foundation
- ▶ EQT Foundation
- ▶ The Sprout Fund

\$5,000 - \$9,999

- ▶ Dominion Foundation
- ▶ The Florence Boyer Foundation
- ▶ FTS, Inc.
- ▶ GenOn
- ▶ National Audubon Society
- ▶ pair Networks, Inc.
- ▶ PNC Bank
- ▶ White Pine Fund

\$1,000 - \$4,999

- ▶ The Ahmanson Foundation
- ▶ Church Brew Works Foundation
- ▶ Medures Catering
- ▶ The Pittsburgh Foundation
- ▶ Ringham Corporation
- ▶ River Speech & Educational Services, Inc
- ▶ The Techs
- ▶ T.N. Walker, Inc.
- ▶ Western PA Mushroom Club

\$500 - \$999

- ▶ Fox Chapel Area Rotary
- ▶ Fox Chapel Garden Club
- ▶ Town & Country Garden Club
- ▶ Wealth Mgt. Strategies, Inc.

\$250 - \$499

- ▶ Ariba, Inc.
- ▶ Delany Chevrolet-Buick Honda-Hyundai
- ▶ PA Environmental Council
- ▶ PPG Industries Foundation
- ▶ The Songbird Sanctuary
- ▶ Talisman Energy, Inc.

Maple Madness

March 16 • 10am-3pm
Beechwood Farms
Nature Reserve
614 Dorseyville Road • Fox Chapel

March 23 • 10am-3pm
Succop Conservancy
185 West Airport Road • Butler

Enjoy a naturalist-led walk through the history of maple sugaring—after diving into a Pancake Brunch!
Rain or shine. Last seating for pancake brunch is 1:30 p.m.

Reserve your space online at aswp.org
or call (412) 963-6100.

Audubon Society OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA

M MEDURE'S Catering

Citizen Science Outreach Program

We have received a generous grant from Dominion foundation that will enable us to bring citizen science to locations throughout our service area. Check our website at aswp.org for dates and times near you. Programs are currently scheduled for:

- Leechburg Public Library
- Crooked Creek Environmental Learning Center
- Saxonburg Area Library
- Butler Area Public Library
- Franklin Center (Beaver)
- Citizen's Library (Washington)
- Outdoor Classroom (Upper St. Clair)
- Moon Parks and Recreation
- Beaver Memorial Library
- Westmoreland County Conservation District
- Fern Hollow Nature Center
- Construction Junction

BirdFest Weekend! Birding Trips, Guest Speakers, and Mothers' Day Brunch

BirdFest has been such a success that we've extended it to include the entire weekend of May 10-12! Visit aswp.org to register for each event! And don't forget that Saturday we'll hold Migration Mania at Beechwood, with fun bird activities for the whole family.

New events for 2013 include Friday night's "Birds and Brew" featuring guest speaker Jim Danzenbaker. Jim is a World Series of Birding team member and the sales manager for the Americas, Kowa Sport Optics. At "Birds and Brew" he'll provide a dynamic presentation on his birding experiences in some very remote and inhospitable locations, including an expedition to Antarctica. This event will take place at the National Aviary. Make your reservation at aswp.org.

Saturday morning, join Audubon for a birding trip to Sycamore Island. Accessible only by boat, few birders have the chance to experience this location—even though it's just a short drive from Beechwood.

Saturday evening at Beechwood, author and biologist Derek Lovitch will provide a peek into his book "How to Be a Better Birder." Derek offers a more effective way to go about identification—he calls it the "Whole Bird and More" approach—that will enable you to identify more birds, more quickly, more of the time.

Sunday morning, Derek Lovitch will accompany a group (reservations required) to Presque Isle in Erie. Shuttle vans will transport individuals, who will gain tips on birding during the trip. While at Presque Isle, they will join experienced birders to learn the results of a Birding Competition that morning—and enjoy viewing some of the birds found during the competition.

Wrapping up the weekend, we'll hold a Mothers' Day brunch and birdhouse painting event at Succop Conservancy. Toast mom with a mimosa and dine outdoors in our beautiful pavilion!



**BIRD
FEST
2013**

MAY 10 - 12

*Celebrate
International Migratory Bird Day
and Join us for a full weekend
of events for bird lovers!*

Friday
Birds and Brew featuring *Jim Danzenbaker*
Held at the National Aviary

Saturday
Sycamore Island Birding Trip
Migration Mania Family Event at Beechwood
Bird Lecture featuring *Derek Lovitch*

Sunday
Presque Isle Birding Trip
Mothers' Day Brunch and Birdhouse Painting
at Succop

Reservations required.
Visit aswp.org or call (412) 963-6100 to reserve your spot.



Audubon Society
OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA
614 Dorseyville Road, Pittsburgh, PA 15238

77 Weddings in 2012!

Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania congratulates all of the couples who married at Succop Conservancy this past year. We wish you a lifetime of happiness—and a lifetime of enjoying the great outdoors!

Kelly Donachy and Chris Terenzio
Amanda Smelko and Ben Lynch
Shannon Brady and Peter Mathis
Jessica Karenbauer and Joe Delaney
Shannon Sippey and Nick Sherman
Carrie Shafer and John Hollis
Amanda Booher and Justin Ross
Kiley Durst and Daniel Coulter
Malorye Waite and Scott Barlett
Jamie Brady and Chris Joseph
Crystal Charpentier and Tyler Saklad
Melissa Geiger and Joshua Shulman
Molly Schafer and Michael Czerepak
Megan McCall and John Hungerman
Stephanie Hazuza and Ryan Morgan
Kristin Newport and Joe Cudzik
Rebecca Berkey and Zack Mason
Kyra Miller and Justin Wisniewski
Lauren Lambert and Tyler Odrechowski
Kristin McGranahan and Andrew Vetro
Erin Szymanski and Rob Bradley

Kayla Wolbert and Adam Tannehill
Rachel Leon and Aaron Scrivo
Kelly Williams and Altay Keresteci
Lindsay Sanderson and Rocky DeLisio
Rachel Fodi and Brandon Bouchard
Sarah Kress and Jon Snyder
Anna Mercurio and Stephen Crucitt
Courtney Brennan and Mark Ambtman
Leanna Stitt and Ryan Bird
Christina Smith and Robert Saper
Dena Horner and Sam Province
Angelina Caputo and Caleb Hudspath
Caitlin Dellen and William Larkin
Steve Kovac and Ben Pilcher
Lisa Thompson and Mark Zion
Amanda Fults and Zac Jaber
Becky Cook and Justin McGhee
Cortney DiVito and Dale Ballard
Brandi OHara and Josh Reinert
Erin Eidenshink and Munkhtsog Davaador
Emma Sperling and Cory Brant
Mary Ann Burge and Stefan Sembrat
Rachel Dugan and Justin Gottron
Jennifer Miller and Mark Fleming
Sheena Wickett and Tony Krug
Kristina DeVito and Lance Waltman
Christine Daniels and Keegan Fuller
Rachel Mayo and Scott Sexauer

Kierstin Carlson and Matthew Montgomery
Katie Killmeyer and Nicholas Irvine
Misty Greenlee and Anthony Rocha
Stephanie Songer and Archibald Wiese III
Barbara Smith and Lynn Springle
Bethany Petrik and Adam Fitch
Kacey Skalski and Nathan Hoot
Kimberly Faust and Mike Lavallee
Nicole Lundell and Justin Larson
Jennifer Russell and Ricky Reid
Autumn Miller and Chris Bowser
Jackie Pokusa and Nathan George
Jennifer Scheidmeier and Erik Degelman
Emily Pritchard and Tom Hauser
Mallory Daniels and Dustin Starr
Janet Sentner and Paul Linsenmayer
Tabitha Artman and Ryan Waltman
Tara Bennett and Tyler Ray
Sara Andrasz and Mathew Myers
Angela Natale and Chris Montgomery
Aubrey Mondie and Russell Buberniak
Crystal Halle and Michael DeGruttolo
Heather McCurdy and Rob Robson
Sunshine Eger and Terry Pryor
Bethany Pascoe and Mark Fink
Amber Depew and Matt Neyman
Lyndsay Iorio and Dan Signor
Julie Kramer and Richard Allen



You're
Invited



to a
Wedding and Events
Open House

at Succop Conservancy

Saturday, March 30

11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Tour our grounds and house, meet with vendors,
and discover how we'll create your perfect wedding
or special event at Succop Conservancy!

Call (724) 586-2591 or visit aswp.org
for more information.

185 West Airport Road | Butler PA 16002

Q: If a nesting bird is startled, how long before the eggs get too cold?

A: Nesting season is upon us. With it, Audubon gets lots of questions about nests that have been disturbed. Someone may discover a nest of eggs with no bird apparently nearby. Or, someone may accidentally startle a bird from a nest. How long can those eggs lie unattended before they get too cold?

Birds have a body temperature of about 104° F. The ideal incubation temperature is generally about 5° below that. However, eggs can withstand much lower temperatures yet remain viable. The fastest a bird can lay eggs is at least 24 hours between eggs. Clutch sizes can be one to 23 eggs, depending on the species. Many birds wait until all the eggs are laid before they begin incubating. This means the egg is going to be closer to the ambient temperature, which can vary quite a bit. The freezing point seems to be the lower limit for viability. But the eggs can remain viable at these low temperatures for several days, even a week or more in some species.

However, once incubation begins, the embryos are more vulnerable--but not necessarily from direct cold. Embryo development slows as the egg cools, ceasing below about 78° F. The eggs can still be warmed and develop; however, there is a trade-off. The cooler the egg gets, the more energy it takes for the parent to rewarm it. Cooling slows the development speed, which prolongs the total incubation time, which also means more of the parent's energy is spent on the effort. Longer incubation also prolongs the exposure of the nest to threats from predators. So, it's not so much the cold itself that kills the embryo, but rather the delays that incur as a result.

In the course of their normal day, birds may be off the nest a surprising amount of time. They tend to cycle intervals of incubating and feeding rather than continuously incubate. Birds with larger eggs tend to have longer periods off of the nest. Some birds insulate their nests more than others. As the embryo develops, it begins to generate more of its own heat, extending the time the parent can be away later in the incubation period. However, the strongest variables are ambient temperature and humidity. Birds

will vary their time on the nest accordingly to keep the optimal temperature. Indeed, too much warmth is more immediately deadly to a developing embryo than cooling, so they will incubate less on warm days.

All this varies among species, but let's finish with one example. In songbirds, time on the nest is about 75-80% of the bird's day. Tree swallows may go through 40 cycles of incubating in a day. Now for some back-of-the-napkin math. Let's assume the bird stays on the nest most of a 12-hour night, spending most of the "off" time during the day when food is available and ambient temperature is higher. We estimate that the swallow is gone roughly 10 minutes at a time during the day, and is sitting on the eggs about 10 minutes at a time. Some cooling is natural for the egg as long as it is not for an excessive period. So, a startled bird is not really a major threat to cool the eggs, as long as they can get back to the eggs within their normal window for the weather conditions.

Apparently those 10 minutes of "me time" 40 times a day is not a problem for the developing swallow; perhaps human parents will find encouragement in this.

HILLMAN
Performing Arts
- SERIES -
2012 - 2013

An Evening With Ira Glass

APRIL 13, 2013 • 7:30 PM

TO ORDER TICKETS:
www.thehillman.org or 412-968-3040

HILLMAN CENTER FOR PERFORMING ARTS
Shady Side Academy | 423 Fox Chapel Road | Pittsburgh, PA 15238



614 Dorseyville Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15238-1618
www.aswp.org

NATURE STORE HOURS

Tuesday 9 am - 7 pm

Wednesday - Saturday 9 am - 5 pm

Sunday 1 pm - 5 pm

Trails at all locations are open year-round.

7 days a week, dawn to dusk

(412) 963-6100

DIRECTIONS TO BEECHWOOD (FROM PITTSBURGH)

Take Route 28 north to Route 8 North/Butler exit. Turn right at first traffic light on to Kittanning Road which becomes Dorseyville Road. Travel 4.3 miles and beechwood will be on your left. For additional directions, visit us at aswp.org. Route 28 construction may cause delays. Please allow additional travel time.

DIRECTIONS TO SUCCOP CONSERVANCY (FROM PITTSBURGH)

Take Route 8 North from Pittsburgh or South from Butler and turn on to West Airport Road. Once on West Airport Road, Succop Conservancy's driveway will be the first road on your left.

DIRECTIONS TO TODD NATURE RESERVE

Take Rt. 28 North to the Butler/Freeport Exit 17. Turn right at Rt. 358 North, and then right at Monroe Road. Travel about 2 miles, and make a right at Kepple Road. Travel 1.5 miles and Todd Nature Reserve will be on your right. Park in the lot and please sign in at the informational kiosk at the cabin. Trail maps are located at the kiosk.

Connecting the people of southwestern Pennsylvania to birds and nature through our programs, projects, and places.



Become a fan of Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania on Facebook and receive updates on Beechwood, Succop Conservancy and Todd Nature Reserve.

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