THE DRUMMER
SENECA ROCKS AUDUBON SOCIETY
OBSERVE & CONSERVE
www.senecarocksaudubon.org

Volume 43-1 ~ Winter **December 2026-February 2027**
SRAS ~ PO Box 148 ~ Clarion, PA 16214 **Editor, Jerry Cichocki**

Volunteer for the 2026 Christmas Bird Count





Photos, left to right: A Winter birding event in 2018 (SRAS photo archives); Northern Cardinal and Ring-necked Pheasant, by Meg Kolodick / Audubon

Every year from December 14 to January 5, tens of thousands of everyday volunteers all across the Western Hemisphere fan out across designated zones to count every bird they see or hear. Started in 1900 by the National Audubon Society, the Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is the longest-running, as well as one of its largest, community science programs in the world[1]. This means that the CBC has generated 125 continuous years of data. This massive historical timeline allows researchers to track long-term trends in addition to short-term snapshots.

Researchers and conservationists use CBC data to inform many kinds of environmental preservation and conservation programs and decisions. On one day in December, we can make a substantive contribution to this enormously important dataset.

This will be the 40th year that SRAS will be participating in the CBC. You're invited to join this year's Count which occurs throughout the day on **December 19**. On that day, a group of Seneca Rocks Audubon members will count birds along country roads, offroad, or at bird feeders.

Field teams count by car. Each section driver follows a set route. New counters can ride along and help spot birds. Car counters enjoy beautiful country roads, comradery, new friends, and of course seeing birds! The same goes for hikers, but offroad. We have volunteer openings for riding in cars and hiking. Other counters tally birds at their bird feeders. It can be done solo or with others.

[1] U.S. Fish & Wildlife Services, https://www.fws.gov/story/2023-12/6-reasons-join-christmas-bird-count

We welcome more feeder observers. Because the CBC is a scientific study, the feeders must be in a certain designated area. Each survey takes place inside a permanently established, 15-mile-diameter (24 km) circle in central Clarion County and follows consistent effort and counting rules year after year. This design ensures high data quality and comparability across decades. Click here for a map of the Clarion Circle and more information.

Anyone can join the count, no matter what your skill level is, and for as long as you like. If you're interested, sign up in advance by contacting our Field Coordinator Mal Hays (814-764-5645, malhays54@gmail.com) or our Feeder Coordinator Cindy Bonner (bonners74@comcast.net) You can also email us at senecarocksaudubon@gmail.com. It's a unique experience that is gratifying and fun.

Fall Bird Seed Sale

The Fall Bird Seed Sale was conducted this past October, coordinated again this year by Audubon member Liz Brocious. Sales this year were pretty much on par with the Fall 2025 sale.

- Fall 2025: 22 orders; 58 bags of seed/corn; 61 suet cakes
- Fall 2026: 22 orders; 56 bags of seed/corn; 43 suet cakes

SRAS runs the bird seed sales twice a year, Winter and Fall. In 2025, the Winter sale did slightly better than Fall – 28 orders, 64 bags of seed/corn, 30 suet cakes.

Fortunately, SRAS has an excellent local partner for the sales – J&J Feeds & Needs, with locations in Shippenville and Brookville. Liz Brocious said she is grateful for their support, "J &J Feeds & Needs has been an excellent partner in this endeavor. They are very cooperative and offer us a sizeable discount from their retail prices. We only add a minimal up charge from their discounted prices so that members enjoy the savings."

Remember To Renew Your Membership

There are so many reasons to be a member of our local Audubon chapter, Seneca Rocks Audubon Society. Do it to support efforts to improve our community, to improve our environment, to improve your personal knowledge of our natural world, to enjoy the company of your neighbors, to make new friends, to just have fun.



It's easy to renew. Click here for a SRAS membership form and mail it with your check.



Alternatively, you can join the National Audubon Society. If you live in Clarion, Forest, or Jefferson Counties, you'll automatically become a SRAS member.

Status of Advocacy/Conservation Initiatives

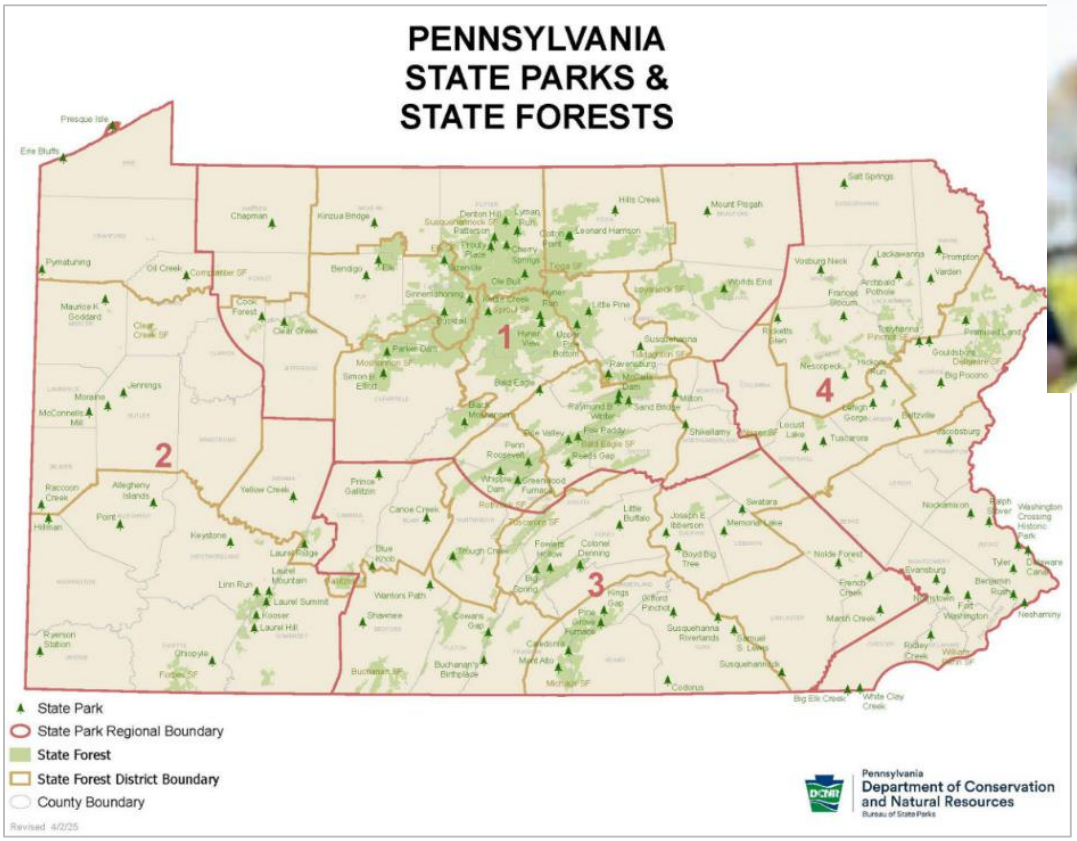
With elections and holiday breaks, both the State and Federal Legislators will probably not be meeting until the first of the year, 2027. Until then, there is little to report concerning those policies containing content that could endanger the safety of our birds and their habitats.

However, just to update you concerning HB 2316, the Scarlet Tanager Bill--this bill still has not been called for a vote in the House Game and Fisheries Committee. It is expected that the bill will be added as an amendment to another bill which will hopefully speed up the vote in the House of Representatives. We will be notified if there are any changes regarding this bill.

SRAS Monthly Programs

September Program: "Birding in Pennsylvania State Parks"

Wherever you live in Pennsylvania, there is a state park nearby, usually more than one for you to choose from. In fact, there are 125 PA State Parks. Chris Kemmerer is the head of the Education and Interpretation Section of the Bureau of State Parks within the Department for Conservation of Natural Resources, and for our September program, he talked about birds that we are likely to see at many of the PA State Parks





Chris is an avid birder himself and is a former officer in the Audubon chapter in South Central Pennsylvania where he lives.

There are so many parks and so much to see that Chris was only able to talk about the ones that he considers best for birding. Below is a summary of several parks within about an hour of Clarion, followed by a short list of some parks in other parts of the Commonwealth that Chris described as being worth the trip. Get more information about each specific park here on the DCNR website.

Parks within about an hour of Clarion:

- Cook Forest – Old growth forest and Clarion River; always great birding; warblers, woodpeckers, Louisianna Wood Thrush, eagles, kingfishers, mergansers, as well as other wildlife. They frequently conduct events, which Chris highly recommends. Check their website.
- Clear Creek – Mature forest, adjacent to Cook Forest; many of the same species.
- Chapman – Warren County; Surrounded by Allegheny National Forest; easy loop around Lake Chapman; Owl, eagle, osprey, heron, grouse, migrating waterfowl.

- Jennings Environmental Education Center – Slippery Rock; environmental training programs for a full range of age groups. Located within State Game Land; mix of grassland and wetland; Indigo bunting, Barred Owl, Red-headed Woodpecker.
- MK Goddard – Mercer County; diverse mix of lake, wetland, forest, meadow, and shrubby. Merganser, heron, Purple Martin, and possibly Ruffed Grouse.
- Moraine – Butler County, borders Jennings Environmental Education Center. Features sunken gardens, butterfly trail, and biking trails. Especially good spot for migrating species, including songbirds, waterfowl, Wood Duck, and nighthawk.



Tufted Titmouse in Cook Forest State Park; photo: Kelly Culbertson / Audubon

Additional State Park for day trip or overnight trip:

- Bald Eagle, Centre County; Most bird species of any state park
- Pymatuning, Crawford County; Lake, wetland, and forest
- Sinnemahoning, Cameron/Potter Counties; Golden Eagles winter over
- Presque Isle, Erie County, Piping Plover Project
- Yellow Creek, Indiana County; Most diversity in species
- Codorus, York County; nesting Bald Eagles
- Ricketts Glen – Luzerne/Sullivan/Columbia Counties; Waterfalls

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October Program: "2026 Educators Week at Hog Island"

Each year, Seneca Rocks Audubon offers to sponsor one teacher or adult community leader who promotes an appreciation of nature through school, work, or volunteer activities in Clarion, Forest, or Jefferson County for the weeklong program, "Sharing Nature: An Educator's Week", at the Hog Island Audubon Camp in Bremen, Maine. This year, SRAS selected Dana Hannibal for this honor. Dana told us of her experience at the Audubon Camp at our October program.



Dana Hannibal at Hog Island Camp; photo: Dana Hannibal

Dana is a District Technician at the Jefferson County Conservation District (JCCD). Among her duties, in addition to field work in support of conservation initiatives, Dana provides environmental education through various classroom and field-based programs that reach hundreds of people of all ages per year.

Dana was one of 48 education professionals attending the camp for Educator's Week this year. Each day was packed with expertly organized instruction, presentations, demonstrations, exercises, observations, and independent exploration. Among the highlights was a lesson on the Puffin Project delivered by the renowned naturalist Stephan Kress.

Like so many others who have gone through the program, Dana was both inspired and prepared to apply numerous ideas and techniques that she learned to her work at JCCD. Specifically, Dana

intends to incorporate ideas about instructing students in nature journaling, developing a workshop for teachers in environmental education, and implementing “amphibian crossing” warnings on selected roads during migration season.

We thank Dana for being an excellent representative of SRAS at Educator’s Week, and we wish her well in putting this valuable experience to good use for our local environment.

November Program: “Grassland Conservation”

Pennsylvania is certainly well-known for its tree-covered mountain ranges and hardwood forests. What grasslands we do have, scattered across the state in relatively small, localized areas, are disappearing, due to human expansion. And grassland bird populations have declined correspondingly: It is estimated that 720 million grassland birds have been lost since 1970, amounting to about 43% across all grassland bird species, including 75% of Eastern Meadowlark.



David Yeaney II

These disturbing trends prompted the Pennsylvania Game Commission to conduct a study called "Evaluating Pennsylvania's Grasslands to prioritize Conservation for Grassland Nesting Birds." David Yeany II, a native of Forest County and a Senior Vertebrate Zoologist and Avian Ecologist for the Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program (PNHP) at the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy (WPC) was a principle researcher on that study in 2022.

The study aimed to evaluate grassland habitats to find ways to improved conservation and habitat management, and it was comprised of 3 steps: Develop an inventory of priority habitat sites; set goals for improving those habitats; and identify actions that can help meet those goals.

David described for us the methods his team used to evaluate and prioritize site, which included both computer-based data collection and mapping, followed by field surveys. A key part of their analysis was measuring the density of different bird species within each different type of habitat. Not all grasslands are alike; so the research team had to categorize the various types: herbaceous meadow, shrub land, agricultural field, short grass and standing hayfield.

In the end, David’s team submitted their recommendations, summarized below. Some of the recommendations have obstacles involving the need for funding resources and the need to provide incentives for people to carry out the required actions.

- Some species, like bobolink and meadowlark, could benefit by landowners making the choice to delay harvesting their hayfields until late summer.
- Avoid cutting roads and trails through grasslands because they can cause fragmentation of the habitat.
- Manage invasive plants and especially shrubs, which also fragment the habitat, and may even end up transforming the grassland into shrub land or wooded habitat.

Owl Prowl



2026 Owl Prowl; photo: Peggy Butler / Audubon



Red Morph Screech Owl spotted at 2026 Owl Prowl; photo: Trudy Guth Griebel



Owl spotting at 2026 Owl Prowl; photo: Peggy Butler / Audubon

It was another fun and eventful outing, as expert SRAS Owl Guide Mal Hays led a group of birders on the November 4 Owl Prowl along various roads branching off Route 208 south of Shippenville. The Owl Prowl has been an annual SRAS event for at least the last 10 years, and according to Mal, it is always successful in hearing and spotting some of these nocturnal birds of prey at one or more locations.

We were pleased to welcome 2 young students from the Fisheries and Wildlife Program at Penn West Clarion University among the 11 birders on this year's Prowl.

It was a pleasantly warm evening as we traveled in 4 vehicles to each of 6 locations. At each stop, Mal played recorded owl calls while everyone listened for a response. We had no luck at the first few sites, as the wind had increased, and a light drizzle fell. But as the breeze calmed and the rain stopped, our luck turned; we heard owls respond to Mal's calls. At the final stop, we got an excellent view of a Red Phase Eastern Screech Owl to keep our 10+-year record intact.

Later that same week, Mal Hays led a group of Cub Scouts on an Owl Prowl along the same route. Mal gave this description of that event:

"On Friday November 6th we had our owl prowl for Julie Smith's cub scout troop. We had 10 scouts and 8 parents in attendance. The weather was perfect with light winds and no rain. We made six stops and had a total of four owls, 3 Eastern Screech owls and 1 Barred owl. Even though we did not get a lot of owls it was a new experience not only for the scouts but for the parents as well. It was a great evening out in nature."

COMMON NIGHTHAWK MIGRATION COUNT
2026 CLARION COUNTY

by Mal Hays

This was our tenth annual count at the Mill Creek boat launch on the Clarion river. We started our count on August 15th and ended on September 5th, counting each night. We had four rain-outs during the 22 days of counting.

We start each night two hours before sunset and count till dark, breaking it down into four half hour quarters. This year in the first quarter we had 67 birds (12%), second quarter 56 birds (10%), third quarter 293 birds (52%), and in the fourth 150 birds (26% .

Our total count for 2026 was 566 Nighthawks, our average for our previous 9 years 487 birds, so we were above our average this year.



Figure 1 Common Nighthawk; photo by Mark Hainen/Audubon Photography Awards

We had 20 different people participate as watchers this year, four people for the first time. We had people come from as far away as Kittanning Pa this year.

Thanks to everyone who participated this year. The more people we have makes for a more fun watch and the more eyes we have makes for a more accurate count. Looking forward to 2027. Come join us.

COMMON NIGHTHAWK MIGRATION COUNT
2026 VENANGO COUNTY

by Meg Kolodick

This was the 27th year to gather at the Oil City Marina and watch for Common Nighthawks, from August 14-September 8. There were 2 rainouts and 9 zero count nights, but the company was always enthusiastic and knowledgeable. Peak night was Aug. 21st with 44 Nighthawks seen.

Final totals for each half hour:
1st half hour - 5 Nighthawks(2%)
2nd half hour - 28 Nighthawks (12%)
3rd half hour - 57 Nighthawks (25%)
4th half hour - 140 Nighthawks (61%)
Total - 230

We did have 25 watchers altogether, over the duration of the watch. 30 species other than Nighthawks were seen or heard. We'll be back for season 28!

Bird Friendly Habitat Recognition

By Jo Scheier



We were delighted to receive a plaque designating our property as a certified Bird Habitat this summer. Our long term goal as stewards of the place we fondly call FernWood is to provide everything needed by birds, butterflies and wildlife to thrive. This includes a commitment to promote natives and control invasives without the use of herbicides or pesticides.



We live on nearly 100 acres of mostly forest that was once part of the Cook holdings. Our predominant trees are oak, maple, cherry, hemlock and other pines. These provide food and shelter to a nice variety of birds, especially warblers, vireos and woodpeckers.

We have a large potager garden enclosed by a ten foot fence. This garden, measuring 95 feet x 40 feet, features raised beds, allowing us to manage soil acidity and health. Among the mix of herbs, vegetables and flowers, we have planted many natives including rudbeckia, blue mist flower, echinacea, monarda, ninebark, spicebush, native hydrangeas, ossier dogwood, native columbine, lupines, clematis and summersweet. Several of our plants were purchased from SRAS at the Sawmill Herb Festival over the years!

Outside the fence we have wild blueberries, dewberry, and teaberry providing fruit for the flocks of turkeys wandering through. We grow a small meadow with sea oats, native grasses, asters and milkweed. Our lawn is a mix of clover, violets, and grass. We have a small pond for water, frequented by mourning doves and juncos. Our property also has several vernal ponds and wetland areas where we have planted red cardinal flower and blue lobelia for the hummingbirds.

Our biggest challenge is invasives, especially stilt grass and, to a lesser extent, Japanese barberry. Of course, deer and rabbits put a lot of pressure on anything growing outside the fence. I have tried to establish colonies of Virginia bluebells, and have planted other native bushes, only to see them eaten into oblivion. But we keep trying.



Ray Bugay and Jo Scheier in their Bird-Friendly Habitat garden; photos: Jo Scheier / Audubon

I keep a record of the birds I see on the property every year and the dates they return in the spring. They are amazingly consistent. Future plans including hanging owl and bat boxes, and adding more bird boxes to our pastures. The barn (where we have horses, chickens and ducks) is a favorite of the phoebes and the great crested flycatcher. Crows have come to expect a share of the scratch we throw out every day. Perhaps someday we'll get a barn owl to move in. If only they could read! They'd know we have a "bird habitat."

Many thanks to SRAS for the support given to those of us working to create a place where birds can thrive.

Editor's note: Your property might qualify as a designated Bird-Friendly Habitat if it provides birds with their basic needs of food, water, shelter, and nesting opportunities. We'd like to see more properties in our region recognized. Click here for details NOTE: If you live in Clarion, Forest, or Jefferson county, SRAS offers a complimentary Audubon membership when you apply for Bird-Friendly Habitat recognition for your property.

Clarion Free Library Garden Preparation

Local birds and pollinator insects will soon have another pocket garden within the borough of Clarion thanks to SRAS Bird-Friendly Habitat Committee (BFH). The Clarion Free Library accepted an SRAS offer to create, as articulated by Library Director Rebecca Aharrah, "a peaceful place for people to read, relax and be surrounded by nature" on the garden site behind their building on Main Street.

On October 18, SRAS volunteers took the first step toward fulfilling that vision by "sheet-mulching". First they dug up all the old vegetation, which was mostly weeds, then covered the ground with cardboard, and topped it with a layer of wood chips. In spring, the volunteers will return to plant native plants and shrubs to attract birds and insects. All materials, as well as all the labor, are being donated by the volunteers themselves. Some of the seedlings that will be planted in the spring may be products of the Winter Seed Sowing Workshops that the Bird-Friendly Habitat Committee will conduct this coming January. (See information about it later in this edition.)

The Library Garden is the fourth pollinator garden that the BFH group has planted in Clarion Borough. The first is the Janet Horn Memorial Garden in the park on 2nd Avenue; two others were planted in the first block of North 6th Avenue. Each one preserves a space for Nature within the borough.





SRAS Bird-Friendly Habitat volunteers: Keith Hileman, Jerry Cichocki Liz Brocious, Nancy Cichocki, Rob Burris, Alice Thurau, and Annisa Ferringer; photo by Keith Hileman/Audubon

Upcoming SRAS Events and Activities

Program Schedule
NOTE: ALL 2026 PROGRAMS BEGIN AT 6:00 P.M. and
Occur in the basement meeting room of the
Clarion Free Library
For more information about each of these programs, click *here*.

	"Members Night" December 9 Close out the 2026 Program series with our annual Members Night gathering. We will enjoy some light treats, review highlights of this year's activities, and share our stories, poems, and ideas about birding, the outdoors, SRAS events, etc. Join us, members and friends, all are welcome.

More Upcoming Events

Dec 19	**40th Christmas Bird Count** It's your opportunity to make an important contribution to bird conservation and scientific research. You can join one of the field observation routes or as an observer at your own backyard feeder. Either way, please send an email to senecarocksaudubon@gmail.com and we will get information to you.
Jan 1	**Cook Forest State Park program: *First Day Hike - Deer Park-Mohawk Trails*** The Friends of Cook Forest celebrate the New Year with a hike on the Deer Park and Mohawk Trails. Meet at 1:00 pm at the entrance to Ridge Camp for a 4-mile hike through some of the finest old growth forest in the Northeast. Please be prepared to walk on roots and rocks, and dress for the weather. Friendly, leashed pets welcome. (2 hrs)
Jan 9	**Winter Seed Sowing Workshops** Join the fun at a winter sowing class in January in Clarion! You'll plant several types of beautiful native perennial flower seeds in jugs and take them home. It's an easy and inexpensive way to grow native flowers for your garden. All supplies will be provided. Two classes will be held: one from 9:30-10:30, and one from 11:30-12:30. You will plant 5 jugs for $5 (pay at the door). A third class will be held at 1:30 pm for children aged 6-12, accompanied by 1 adult for $3 per child, to plant 2 jugs. The event will be held in the lower level of the Main Street Center, 516 Main Street. Registration is required: use *this link* on our website. The classes are co-hosted by Seneca Rocks Audubon, the Master Gardeners of Clarion County, and Cook Forest Conservancy.

Feb	**Wild Birds of Pennsylvania Art Contest for Kids**



Seasonal Sightings (December~February)

Birds, Flora & Fauna






clockwise from top left: Philadelphia Vireo- an uncommon visitor; Ovenbird- seen spring and fall; Blackburnian warbler a less common visitor than it used to be; Bald Eagle (immature, one of my favorites, from February a few years ago; photos by Meg Kolodick / Audubon



Turkeys, female and chick; photo:Jerry Cichocki / Audubon

The Poetry Corner

Yellow Warblers
by Paulette Colantonio
8/3/26

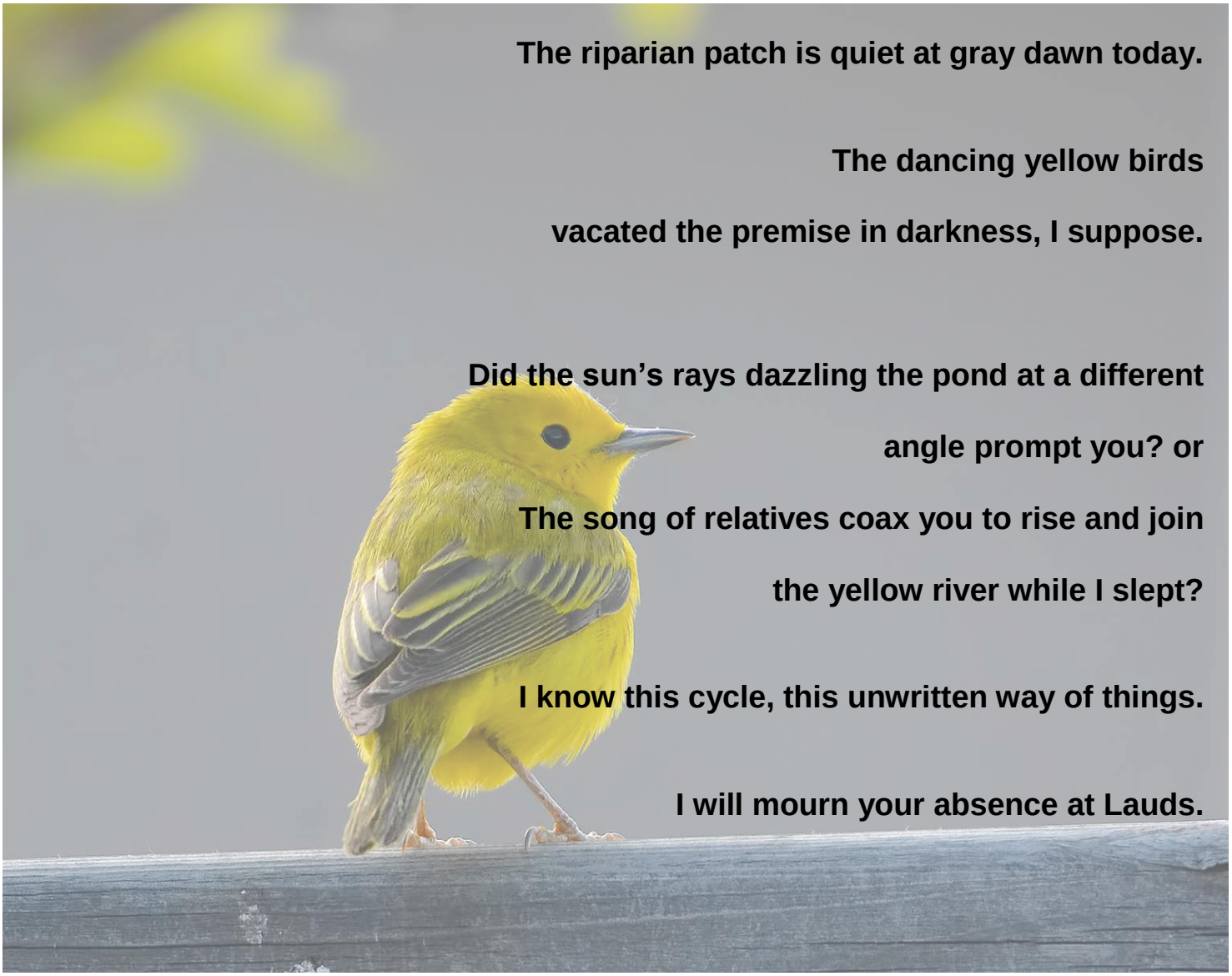


Photo: Northern Yellow Warbler, Diane Taylor/Audubon Photography Awards

My Old Pine Tree
By Ruth Montgomery, 1904-2000



Photo: Pinus resinosa, Wikipedia

As I sit by my east window
soaking up the sun - my big
Old Pine Tree must surely know
Its life may end! Could it beg?
For it's putting on quite a show.
Dewdrops sparkle in the sun,
Like little diamonds in the light
A flash of wings - oh what fun!
Robins, sparrows all take flight.
A mourning dove has come in sight.
Now why I wonder! - I see a nest
They have never come so near before
All the little birds fly back to rest,
The robins sing, they have nothing to fear
The Old Pine Tree shelters them all.
In the shelter of that Old Pine Tree
(Of course she knows it's nesting time)
The birds all know they nothing to fear
And so they live a life sublime
While we all worry and disagree.
So while I watch all this spendor
Of my Old Pine Tree - my wonder grows
What is important, a dark front door
Or the life of my tree? Only God knows
My tree, a haven, a joy, I guess I'll keep her.
"But then I did not & only I miss her"

Bewildering Birds

Caching

You have probably noticed that some birds perch at your feeder and eat their fill, while another stops at the feeder, snatches a seed, and immediately dashes away into a tree, and is back a while later for another snatch-and-dash. Why does a bird fly off with its food instead of eating it on the spot?

According to Shailee Shah, a post-doctoral Fellow at Cornell University, in her article in "All About Birds", there are at least three reasons: "the birds could be trying to stay safe; or they might need to work on the seed in order to open it; or they might be caching the food item to save it for later."

Small birds are very wary about staying safe from predators. If food is at an exposed location, such as a feeder, they must be very cautious. "Birds such as finches and grosbeaks, with their seed-crushing bills, can eat and scan simultaneously, looking down only briefly to grab another seed. Birds that must look down and hammer at seeds, however, prefer to fly to a safer place with their food instead of working on it in an area exposed to predators. This is why you often see chickadees flitting back and forth from feeder to trees or shrubs and back with their seeds."



Black-capped Chickadee, Erie county, Pennsylvania; photo: Shannon Skalos/Audubon Photography Awards

Some birds carry foods – such as shelled seeds and nuts – away to a safer place to work at cracking it open. "True to their name, nuthatches often wedge seeds into bark crevices and hammer at them with their bill to "hatch" them open.

The other reason for snatch-and-dash behavior is "caching" - storing up food supplies in a safe place for later. "Lots of birds—and even mammals such as squirrels, beavers, and bears—cache food for consumption later on, during lean times."

Caching is not such a simple process as one might think. "A bird must not only fly back and forth, one or a few seeds at a time, over hundreds of trips. They also have to make sure the caches aren't stolen and remember where all the food is hidden." That's not easy when you consider that most of these birds can have "thousands of separate caches scattered around their home ranges."

"Most chickadees and nuthatches cache food one by one in bark crevices and tree crotches, while corvids generally cache multiple seeds at once under ground. Canada Jays, however, are corvids that cache in trees. They use their saliva to form a bundle containing multiple food items and stick it to arboreal surfaces. The saliva also helps prevent the food from spoiling."



White-breasted Nuthatch, York county, Pennsylvania; photo: Pamela Brown/Audubon Photography Awards

"Birds might also need to actually deceive snoopers. Male White-breasted Nuthatches, in particular, often steal the caches of their mates. Watching a pair of nuthatches at the feeder, you will notice that the female often flies off with a seed less than 30 seconds after the male embarks on a caching flight, and that she usually flies in the opposite direction in order to best throw the male off her trail."

Record Migratory Flight

Bird migrations are a fascinating phenomenon in Nature. Some facts and stories of bird migrations are quite extraordinary; and some are truly astonishing. In 2022 the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) reported the amazing story of a record-breaking migration:



"A four-month-old bar-tailed godwit known as B6 set a new world record by completing a non-stop 11-day migration of 8,425 miles from Alaska to Tasmania, Australia. This trip represents the longest documented non-stop flight by any animal!"

A team of scientists from the USGS, the Max Planck Institute, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service conducted a study to track the migration of juvenile bar-tailed godwits to better understand how these birds navigate their first migrations from Alaska to wintering sites. This work is part of a larger effort to understand the locations and times of the year where godwits face the greatest threats.

The scientists tagged B6 with a 5-gram solar-powered satellite transmitter attached to its rump. The shorebird left the godwit breeding site near Nome, Alaska on October 13, 2022. It arrived on the island of Tasmania at the southern tip of Australia on October 24.

Bar-tailed Godwits had been tracked before on their annual non-stop migrations between breeding grounds in Alaska and wintering sites in New Zealand and eastern Australia. But the journeys of juvenile godwits on their first migration had never been monitored.



Bar-tailed Godwit, Fort De Soto Park, Pinellas county, Florida

According to the USGS article, "Alaska is a critically important site for the world's shorebirds. Alaska has an abundance of coastal ecosystems and food resources that provide important breeding and migratory stopover sites for shorebirds. Thirty-seven shorebird species regularly breed in Alaska and most of these species conduct impressive long-distance migrations. As their name implies, shorebirds are intimately linked to shorelines and wetlands, a fact that potentially heightens their vulnerability to climate-related effects attributable to rising seas and diminished wetland functions. Shorebirds rely on interconnected networks of functional ecosystems at sites that often are located thousands of miles apart around the world."

Send Your Articles and Photos

Attention Readers! Surely, you have information that you find interesting and would make a good topic in a future edition of *The Drummer*. Or you have a bird photo or a poem that you would like to share. We are always looking for material to include in our quarterly newsletter. Do it! Send a photo, document, or link in an email to senecarocksaudubon@gmail.com and mention what it is and tell us something about it.

Wild Facts About Wild Turkeys



Photo by Ryan O'Keven/Audubon Photography Awards

Turkey Terms to Know

1. A male turkey is called a ___
2. A female turkey is called a ___
3. A young turkey is called a ___
4. The fleshy flap of skin over the beak of a tom is called a ___
5. The red skin hanging under the tom's chin is called a ___

A. snood
B. hen
C. wattle
D. tom
E. poult



*** Pre-Thanksgiving Sale! ***

Source:https://www.birdsofwestcobb.com/post/hilarious-bird-memes-and-comics

Turkey Trivia

1. Turkeys are ***fast***! Turkeys can run at speeds up to **25 miles per hour** and are capable of flying as fast as ***???*** **miles per hour** (in short bursts).
   A. 55 B. 75 C. 95 D. 105
2. ***True or False ?*** -- Turkeys spend most of the day on the ground. Despite their large size, they will roost in trees overnight to protect themselves from predators.
3. Turkeys are ***???***, which means they eat a varied diet of mostly grass and grains but also insects, nuts, berries, and small reptiles.
   A. hungry B. herbivorous C. omnivorous D. pigish
4. An adult turkey has over ***???*** **feathers**. In effort to attract a mate, toms will strut by displaying their shiny feathers and colorful heads.
   A. 50 B. 500 C. 1,000 D. 5,000
5. Turkey fossils have been discovered across the southern United States and Mexico, some of them dating from **more than** ***???*** **years ago**!
   A. 50 B. 5 million C. 500 million D. a billion

Turkey Trivia
1. = A. 55
2. = True
3. = C. omnivorous
4. = D. 5,000
5. = B. 5 million

Turkey Terms
1. = D. tom
2. = B. hen
3. = E. poult
4. = A. snood
5. = C. wattle



Wild Turkey, adult female and chicks, Hingham, Massachusetts; Fusheng Zhang/Audubon Photography Awards

Information sources: Lake Erie Nature & Science Center, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Cornell University, and National Audubon Society.

Leadership Team	
Team Member	**Role**
Alice Thurau	President, Webmaster & Bird-Friendly Habitat (BFH)
Vickie Gotaskie	Vice-President, BFH
Cindy Bonner	Treasurer, CBC Feeder Watch
Kay John	Secretary, Membership & Conservation/Advocacy
Peggy Butler	Education
Nancy Cichocki	Member at Large, BFH
Pat Conway	Facebook & History
Gary Edwards	Outreach Programs
Mal Hays	Outings & CBC
Nick Kolodick	Outings & CBC
Michael Leahy	IBA 21 Piney Tract
Jim McGuire	Education
Ron Montgomery	Outreach Programs
Larry Towse	Outings
Carole Winslow	CBC Compiler, PA Bird Atlas
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To contact one of the team members,
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Members are encouraged to contribute announcements, articles, photos, etc. to Editor, Jerry Cichocki, or email senecarocksaudubon@gmail.com attention Editor:.

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