

Valley Views


GREATHER WYOMING VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

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www.gwvas.org

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Winter 2023-24

December, January, February

Newsletter of the Greater Wyoming Valley Audubon Society

From the President by Bonnie Yuscavage

My Holiday Wish List

Holiday preparations at home have again started without me, but there are those outside influences that remind me I need to get on my way.... Black Friday sales, the town lights and, of course, holiday music. That music of the season so often is less about the meaning of the holiday and more about what our expectations are of the time. Will we be home for Christmas and can we be expected to be rocking with jingle bells around a Christmas tree? Will a large green monster try to steal our holiday and will Santa be able to weather any storms? There really seems to be a lot to be concerned about.

Seasonal tunes permeate our lives in another way. I have watched with amusement as family members ask one another sly but pointed questions about their likes and dislikes, hoping to find a perfect gift for them. I ask myself how I would answer them. Mariah Carey expresses her romantic wishes in her "All I Want for Christmas Is You." Bing Crosby dreamt of a "White Christmas." In 1953, Eartha Kitt first introduced us to a personality who had a high priced list in "Santa Baby." And, not to be outdone, in 1957, Gayla Peevey sang that she wanted a hippopotamus as a Christmas gift. That was ridiculous because, well, hippos just don't make good pets!

So what does the President of GWVAS want for the holidays? I have a lot of stuff already so my thoughts go to the more abstract. On the top of my environmental list is for our chapter to reach more people to educate them about the environment and to engage them in ways to enjoy it. When we increase our knowledge about a thing and connect with it, it becomes something to care for and champion. Our natural world certainly needs a lot of love not just because we like to watch birds and other creatures but because the future of our health depends on it. We have fascinating environmental speakers on our monthly zooms and our annual banquet has consistently provided great presenters and opportunities for camaraderie with our fellow workers. Our field trips take us to some of the best birding places in the area with leaders who teach and welcome the novice and advanced birders. Those trips are all about the birds.

While we have these great opportunities, your board will be looking for new ways to reach more people, many of whom have had limited experience with nature. We want to share the excitement of migration, the songs and calls of courtship, and celebrate new life in the skies as nests become overcrowded with spring young.

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We want encourage towns to return to being safe havens for bugs and birds with yards full of native plants. We hope to delight children with their first look at a bird through binoculars.

So I am asking you for one thing...share our activities with a friend or an organization. Come to one of our events with your family. We are very friendly. Engage your neighbors in conversation about how you all make the place you live safer for wildlife and each other.

Oh, and one more wish.....one for Peace on Earth and Good Will to All Creatures.

Bonnie



CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

December 16 (Dallas) and 17 (Tunkhannock)

Started in 1900, it continues to be one of the birding world's best way of collecting data to study avian long-term health and populations. Sure, it may be cold but counting birds will warm you up as you become part of something important. Email Rick Koval at unibirder@yahoo.com to register.

MONTHLY PROGRAMS

The monthly programs of the GWVAS will be held virtually at 7 p.m. The Zoom link can be found at www.gwvas.org under Events and will be posted a week before the meeting.

January 15: Beyond the Birds: Looking into the Distant Skies
Alan Yuscavage will be leading a discussion on eclipses and other fascinating events in the sky. This talk precedes the April 2024 total solar eclipse that will be visible across much of the country and will help prepare the listener for the event.

February 19: Inviting Birds and Bugs to the Table
Time to plan for spring planting! John Levitsky of the Luzerne County Conservation District will be talking about how to incorporate native trees, shrubs, and other plants that are attractive to birds to our properties.

GWVAS ONLINE



Visit our website www.gwvas.org for information on birding hot spots and sightings, a calendar of events, environmental position statements, and a list of officers, directors and committee chairs.



Follow our group's Facebook page @ [gwvas.org](https://www.facebook.com/gwvas.org) to keep up on current information and bird news.



Have a great shot of a backyard bird or a stunning sunset? We're on Instagram @[gwvas.audubon](https://www.instagram.com/gwvas.audubon) and we'd love to share your photos.

FIELD TRIPS



To register, please contact John Dickinson at 570-239-4369.

January 13: Kirby Park. Kirby Park is always one of the more productive local birding areas offering river views and wooded areas. We will meet at the Nesbitt boat launch at 8:30 a.m.

February 17: Susquehanna Riverlands. The Riverlands is an Important Bird Area (IBA) in Luzerne county and there is always plenty to see there. We will meet in the parking lot at 8:30 a.m.

March 16: Nescopeck State Park. Nescopeck is another great area for birding in Luzerne county. In mid March, we could find some early migrants mixed in with the overwintering birds. We will meet in the parking lot by the bridge to park headquarters at 8:30 a.m.

Welcome New Members!

The GWVAS family invites all new members to join us at our membership meetings, field trips, and special events. All of these events are designed to be fun and educational, especially for those just starting to learn about birds.

Elaine Hunter

Vanessa Norton

Kathy Berry

Nancy Walton

Bernadine Shimko

Richard Musial

Geraldine Mokris

Daniel Shane

Sara Grier

Edward Piestrak

Frances Sholes

Marion Hidlay

Alison Briggs

Richard Kumple

Charlotte Smith

Virginia Clarke

Michael Pedley

Carol Baron

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elisabethford84@yahoo.com

To learn about new memberships, visit our website gwvas.org and click "Membership." You can renew as a sustaining member and never have to worry about expiration dates. Visit www.audubon.org, click "Membership."



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