

NON-PROFIT ORG.
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 PERMIT NO. 223
 Wilkes-Barre, PA

	Page
President	1
Thank You	2
Field Trips	3
Meetings	3

GWVAS ONLINE
 Website: www.gwvas.org
 Facebook: [@gwvas](https://www.facebook.com/gwvas)
 Instagram: [@gwvas.audubon](https://www.instagram.com/gwvas.audubon)

About the paper: *Valley Views* is printed on a Neenah paper made from 50% sugar cane (bagasse) and 50% recycled paper.



Valley Views

Winter 2022/2023
 December, January, February

Newsletter of the Greater Wyoming Valley Audubon Society

From the President by Bonnie Yuscavage It's Only/If Only

The bird swooped gracefully through the trees with her stunning white edged wings spanning nearly 30 inches. Her striking yellow eye searched the tree where she landed and she began stripping the bark to find the beetles she yearned for. Actively foraging through the small grove of trees where she was exiled, her long pale bill sounded against the trees. “Knock, knock.” “Knock, knock.” She called to others of her kind but those calls went unanswered. And then she was gone. Gone.

There have been those who have thought they have seen more of her kind since that day in 1944. Biologists argue as to the accuracy of the identification of the few photos that have been taken. The Ivory-billed woodpecker may indeed be gone.

But there is a small army of biologists, amateur birders and outdoorspeople who have not given up on the possibility that there is still a small breeding population in the South. Years of survey work have yielded only a few possible questionable sightings and recordings, the last of which was in 2004. Yet, they continue to champion for the bird, endeavoring at least to keep it on the endangered species instead of the planned move to “Extinction.”

You cannot help to be inspired by

these people who hold out hope when all seems impossible. We can look back at other determined individuals and institutions who recognized that need to protect the remaining 22 California condors from extinction and have been successful in increasing their numbers. When the Endangered Species Act was enacted in 1967, the Kirtland's Warbler was among the first species listed. Then, less than 200 singing males were known. Due to human partnerships and research, over 2000 breeding pairs are now being reported.

There are those who would say that having hope in the Ivory-billed is foolish and that the time and money spent on finding it is ill spent. After all, *it's only* a bird. Unfortunately, as each species has its place in the ecosystem, a loss is not just a loss to bird enthusiasts. It is a loss to everyone. Will those who are negative about conservation continue to be so nonchalant when losses in the natural world affect their ability to have access to clean air, water, and ample food? Will their “*it's only's*” turn to “*if only* we had done something before?”

Many of us do not have the resources of time, money or physical stamina to carry out years of bird survey work in Southern forests or even our own.

Continued page 2

Continued from page 1

Yet we can draw inspiration from those who have hope in our futures. We can each work to improve habitat at our own homes. We can participate in bird counts and support environmental education programs. We can stop discounting our own ability to make positive change in our world. Our own dedication to conservation, individually and in partnerships, will ensure that “if only” never becomes a part of our vocabulary.

Bonnie

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.

Merry McKeon	Mary Eichman	Kathleen Starck	Joseph Skoronski
Gary Hontz	James Zenex	Wendy Shortz	Catherine Scoda
Paula Regan	Kenneth Trexler	John Vetaschick	Molly Maginley
Florence Hayduk	William Earnshaw	Eleanor Bolinski	Robert Harris
		Philip Bapst	

THANK YOU!

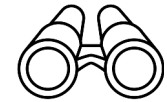
Thank you to the participants of the Fall 2022 GWVAS birdseed sale. Through your purchases, we netted \$290. Thank you to Wild Birds Unlimited and Gary Kostrobala. We are very grateful for the many years of support and partnership in conducting these annual fundraising events. Best wishes for continued success! Thank you to the folks who purchased GWVAS sweatshirts—stay warm and wear your GWVAS logo shirts with pride!

Thank you to Joe DeMarco for his recent generous donation. Thank you to James Strohl for his continuing donations. Thank you to Jan Lohman for selecting GWVAS to receive a memorial contribution in memory of Karen Yarrish. We greatly appreciate your gifts. Financial support from our members and friends, as well as your participation in fundraising events, helps us continue to produce educational programs and activities, informative conservation, and preservation of the Natural World. -Deb Petroski, GWVAS Treasurer

Valley Views is published quarterly by the Greater Wyoming Valley Audubon Society, P.O. Box 535 Dallas, PA 18612. Deadline for submissions is the 1st of February, May, August, and November, and can be mailed or emailed to editor Elisabeth Ford elisabethford84@yahoo.com.

When does my membership expire?
Here's where to look:
On your Valley Views mailing label in upper right.
Example: Exp 10/18 (mo/yr)
You can renew as a sustaining member and never have to worry about expiration dates. Visit www.audubon.org, click on membership.

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT DECEMBER 17 (DALLAS) AND 18 (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.

FIELD TRIPS

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

December 3: Frances Slocum State Park. The park is a good place to see vagrants such as Redpolls and Pine Siskins. We will meet in the parking lot by the environmental center at 8:30 a.m.

January 14: Kirby Park. Visit a productive local birding area offering river views and wooded areas. We will meet at the Nesbitt Boat Launch at 8:30 a.m.

February 18: Susquehanna Riverlands. At this Important Bird Area, we will meet in the parking lot at 8:30 a.m.

Shawangunk Grasslands National Refuge and Eagle Trip along the Delaware River-to register, text Bonnie Yuscavage at 570-283-1518 or email byuscavage@yahoo.com. There will be no carpooling due to COVID concerns.

January 6: Shawangunk Grasslands National Refuge, Wallkill, Ulster County, NY. The refuge hosts a number of grassland birds, but is known for Short-eared Owls. This trip is weather dependent.

February 12: Eagle Trip along the Delaware River. In partnership between the Pocono Environmental Educational Center, Brandwein Institute, and the National Park Service, this trip is a caravan to search for eagles. We will follow the east side of the river and end at the Lackawaxen River around 4 p.m. Dress warmly, bring binoculars, field guides, and a lunch. This trip is weather dependent.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

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. They will be posted a week before the meeting.

January 16: The Secret Life of the Veery. Dr. Chris Goguen, Penn State Hazleton, will discuss his research on the migratory songbird, conducted at Nescopeck State Park, including nesting habits, predators, and his work using radio telemetry to study the behavior and survival of fledglings.

February 20: Geomorphology and Native Brook Trout at the Seven Tubs Nature Area. Matthew Finkenbinder, Associate Professor of Geology, Wilkes University, will review the interplay between geology, recent glaciation, and postglacial fluvial erosion on the landscape at the Seven Tubs and how this impacts the stream channels. He will touch on native brook trout in the streams, the origin of the whirlpools developed in Wheelbarrow Run, and the changes in the nature of Laurel Run.