

Valley Views

GREATER WYOMING VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

P.O. Box 535, Dallas, PA 18612


<http://www.gwvas.org>

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Valley Views

Summer/2022
June, July, August

Newsletter of the Greater Wyoming Valley Audubon Society

From the President by Bonnie Yuscavage

Vacation All I Ever Wanted

Last summer, when one of life's largest complications was COVID, the Board of Directors met at Moon Lake Recreation Area to plan activities for the year. Our field trip chairman, John Dickinson, suggested we focus on exploring our local state lands in our public field trips. While we often head to some of those places, John hoped that weather and health risks would cooperate and we could explore new portions of the millions of acres managed by our state. We all agreed it was a great idea.

Who knew then that in a few months Russia would invade Ukraine and gas prices would soar? Now we weave our ways through airline sites to find deals on flights, navigate gas station finder apps looking for cheap fuel, and wonder how we can most affectively afford some much needed rest and recreation this summer away from home. The week at the beach or flight to a popular vacation spot appears to be more a dream this year than a reality for some.

The answer might be, of course, those wonderful public lands almost in our

backyards. Pennsylvania State Game Lands, State Parks, State Forests and Recreation Areas and State Wildlife Management Area provide countless ways to be entertained, educated and exercised all year round. Pinchot State Forest District encourages bike riding and canoeing at Moon Lake

Recreation Area and hiking at the Thornhurst Tract. Heading to Frances Slocum, Nescopeck, Hickory Run, Salt Springs, Promised Land or Rickett's Glen State Park? Learn about their educational programs about the history of their areas and enlightening nature talks and walks. State Game Lands not only provide hunting opportunities but also locations for hiking, cross

country skiing and snowshoeing. (Outside of hunting season, of course!) And how can we forget Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area and the huge number of waterfowl that find a migratory stopover place in the spring? Each of these places spotlights unique plants and animals, geology, and history and many ways to appreciate them. And, yes, all of these places are great birding spots!"

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Visit our web site at <http://www.gwvas.org>

Bird Hotline!

www.gwvas.org

Visit our website for current information on birding hot spots in the GWVAS area and the most recent interesting bird sightings. The website is also a source of information about upcoming birding events and other activities. Good Birding!



GWVAS ONLINE

www.gwvas.org

The Greater Wyoming Valley Audubon Society website has a host of information including links to other sites. At our website you can find out about:

- Who we are—the officers, directors and committee chairs
- Our Calendar of Events
- Bird counts, birding hotspots, and recent sightings
- GWVAS environmental position statements
- And much, much more!

The GWVAS is on Facebook!

<http://www.facebook.com/grwyovalas#!/grwyovalas>

Visit us there and "Like" us, and spread the word to your friends and relatives.

Check us out on Instagram!

[@gwvas.audubon](https://www.instagram.com/gwvas.audubon)

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. Go to Audubon's website at Audubon.org. Then click on membership.

Valley Views is published quarterly by the Greater Wyoming Valley Audubon Society, P.O. Box 535, Dallas, PA 18612

Retired Editor: Bob Wasilewski

Articles and ideas are welcome! Deadline for submissions is the 1st of Aug., Nov., Feb., and May and should be mailed to the address

on the front or e-mailed to the editor at gwvasmail@gwvas.org.



About the Paper:

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

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,

Ann Stark
Lucille Petrosky
Carin Dominick
Benita Wasilisin
R L Clapper
Marilyn Bell
B Mackachinas
Marianne Best
Tom Jesso

Katy Stark
David P
Zdancewicz
Theresa
Zdaniewicz
Frank Urban
Beatriz Glick
Cindy Malkemes

Cynthia Kennelly
Ann Webster
Deborah Welch
David Bell
Marcella Kelly
Eileen Carlin
Lynda J Jenceleski
Lisa Krzywicki
Bret Yarczower

Audubon Membership Application

Not For Renewal

Please enroll me as a member of the National Audubon Society and the Greater Wyoming Valley Audubon Society. My membership will include quarterly issues of *Valley Views* and bimonthly issues of *AUDUBON* magazine.

NEW MEMBER SPECIAL -- ONE YEAR INTRODUCTORY OFFER -- \$20

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Make Checks payable to : National Audubon Society

Amount Enclosed: \$ Chapter Code: U13

Send application to: Greater Wyoming Valley Audubon Society
P.O. Box 535, Dallas, PA 18612

Our state Constitution and its Environmental Rights Amendment assure Pennsylvanians they have the right to clean air and water, and to the preservation of our natural resources. Those of us over 30 will fondly remember former District Forester Manny Gordon in television spots encouraging us to “Enjoy! Enjoy!” the natural beauty of northeastern Pennsylvania. Mr. Gordon shared the sentiment of the



stewards of our state lands and waters that they are ours to explore and utilize wisely. Likewise, I encourage you to research Pennsylvania lands near you and get out this summer to enjoy their outstanding natural beauty.

By the way, if you are ever looking for some company, join one of

our field trips. We have friendly leaders and we welcome folks with all levels of experience. We learn from one another. The trip descriptions give explanations of any challenges of terrain. We hope to meet you soon!

Bonnie

New Website

The GWVAS website has been updated! It will feature the same basic information in a new form. The domain name (gwvas.org) is the same. We all thank Bob Wasilewski for his dedication to maintaining the website over the years. Communication is essential to the success of any organization and Bob has been instrumental in helping us stay in touch with our members

Sun is shining.
The weather is sweet.
Make you wanna move your
dancing feet.

Bob Marley

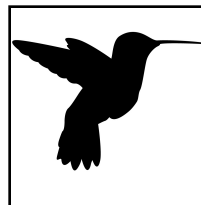
Have a happy, dancing
feet summer!



Help Keep the Hummers Humming

Lorraine Smith

Supply issues have certainly caused us to become more flexible with our food purchases. Since “golden sugar” was the sole choice available at the market, I bought it. Advertised as “less processed,” I thought if it’s better for us humans, surely it’s beneficial to our migrating hummingbirds. A quick internet search proved that thought to be absolutely incorrect. Do NOT use organic, raw, golden or any sugar other than white refined. If sugar is not pure white, it may not have been sufficiently purified to remove trace amounts of molasses. Molasses, rich in iron, is helpful to humans but toxic to hummingbirds’ liver cells. Since our hummingbirds are just returning from Mexico and Central America, let’s keep them safe.



Nectar is easy to make with 1 part white sugar to 4 parts boiled water, no red dye. And remember to change the mixture every 3 or 4 days, more frequently when temps are above 90 degrees. Give those feeders a thorough cleaning every time you change nectar; because the birds are so small, any bit of mold can cause illness or death. If possible, the feeder should be in a shady spot. About once a month, soak feeders in a solution of bleach and water (one tablespoon bleach per quart of water) and rinse thoroughly. The hummers will thank you by returning back to your feeders on a regular basis. They do remember!

Source: Audubon.org and International Hummingbird Society

Thank You

We thank Janine Grisez, Silvia Grisez, Marianne Ballard, Richard Ward, and Deborah McGough for their generous gifts in memory of Florence Lenahan, and David K. Thomas in memory of Martha J. Thomas. We express our sincere condolences to the families of Ms. Lenahan and Mr. Thomas for their loss.

We thank Renee Winter Bertsch, Jean Eyat, Michael Shisko, and James Strohl for their donations to our 2021 Annual Appeal, bringing the total to \$1,905.00.

We thank Jeff Stratford, John Jakoby, and Benedict A Yatko for their donations to the “Chickadee Challenge fundraiser in support of the Dr. Sid Curran Memorial Nature Camp Scholarship Fund.

We thank Mr. James Strohl for his additional ongoing support.

Loving Hummingbirds to Death?

In an article on audubon.org, Pepper Trail, a recently-retired senior forensic scientist and ornithologist at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Forensics Laboratory in Oregon, discusses his work involving the illegal trade in hummingbird “love charms.” These “*Chuparasos*,” according to Trail, are widely available in Mexico, which legally protects only twenty of its endemic hummingbird species. Although all hummingbirds that occur in the United States are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, *Chuparasos* likely are being sold here: the charms have been found as far north as Minnesota.

Mexicans have long associated hummingbirds with vitality, health, and good luck, an association that has led to a traditional belief that they possess a magical power to bring love. Indeed, the term “*chuparosa*” literally means “rose-sucker.” Most commonly, the charms, packaged in a red, paper tube, consist of the dried body of a hummingbird with its head and beak protruding from a wrapping of red satin thread, along with a prayer that “calls upon the bird to give the owner ‘the powers to possess and enjoy any woman I want, whether it be a maiden, married or widow.’” They sell for anywhere from \$20 - \$100, with \$50 being the most common price. Although many species are used, the ruby-throated hummingbird is “by far the most commonly identified hummingbird in the charms.” Trail reports discovering one charm containing a ruby-throated hummingbird with a U.S. bird band, used for scientific research concerning migration and survival, on its leg, an experience to which Trail refers as “one of the most chilling moments of my career.”

Although the effect that the love charms have on hummingbird populations is unknown, it likely is not significant since the populations of the species that are used in the charms are “robust,” with the ruby-throated population estimated at around thirty million and growing. In addition, while Mexico legally protects only a handful of hummingbird species, Mexican newspapers and magazines increasingly have begun publishing articles to educate the populace on hummingbirds’ ecological importance and the threat that the love charm trade poses.

“These birds have always been good luck and carriers of good wishes, but alive, not dead. A dead hummingbird does not serve to attract good luck or love.”

Mexican conservationist and hummingbird expert Maria del Coro Arizmendi Arriaga

Trail concludes by writing that, “Mexico is home to an

extraordinary array of hummingbird species and has fostered a deep cultural connection to these marvelous birds dating back to at least the time of the Aztecs. What better way to honor this rich natural and cultural legacy than to conserve hummingbirds for the enjoyment and ecological benefit of future generations?”

What better way indeed!

<https://www.audubon.org/news/the-illegal-trade-these-love-charms-growing-threat-hummingbirds>

Field Trips

By direction of National Audubon and the Board of Directors of GWVAS, these following safety mandates are in place:

Activities will be in compliance with any local, state, and federal orders and the rules of the host location. Leaders and participants must follow all CDC safety measures including

- **Avoiding person-to-person contact**
- **Adhering to social distancing protocols**
- **Wearing protective masks**

All participants are required to register, to maintain safe distancing, and to sign liability waivers.

**Saturday
June 25**



Tree and Shrub ID at Moon Lake with Garrett Barr and Tammy Tintjer. 9:00 a.m. Take a leisurely walk through fields and forests at Moon Lake Recreation Area with a focus on tree and shrub identification. We will build on the May tree ID program, but people with all levels of experience are welcome. Meet in the parking lot closest to the Atherton Road entrance. Contact Garrett at (570) 301-4618 to register.

**Friday
July 15**



Acoustic Surveys of Bats at Moon Lake with Garrett Barr. **8:30 p.m.** After a brief introduction to bats and acoustic survey techniques, we will use stationary and mobile recording devices to survey bats at the Moon Lake Recreation Area. Using the mobile device, we will take a leisurely walk along roads and trails for about an hour before returning to the lot to view sonograms of the bats calls we recorded. The program should end around 10:30 p.m. (moonrise) and is weather dependent. Meet at the at the first parking lot near the Atherton Road entrance. Contact Garrett at (570) 301-4618 to register. **Note that this is an evening field trip.**

**Saturday
August 20**



Nescopeck State Park with John Dickinson. 8:30 a.m. The Park offers a wide variety of habitats, and 177 species have been recorded here. We will spend a few hours exploring the park looking for resident birds and perhaps some early fall migrants. Meet by the bridge near the park office. Call John Dickinson at 570-239-4369 to register.

We have no regular monthly programs in June, July, or August. Monthly programs will return in September.