

Valley Views

GREATER WYOMING VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY

P.O. Box 535 Dallas, PA 18612

DATED MATERIAL

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Valley Views

Spring 2025

March, April, May

Newsletter of the Greater Wyoming Valley Audubon Society

From the President by Bonnie Yuscavage

Lifting Voices

Living in a town or city has certain advantages but there is one thing it lacks. Quiet.

Since my husband and I have started a move to a rural home, we have been able to get out the bird feeders again without fear of the neighbor's roaming cats ambushing the birds or unfortunate car collisions. Of course, the first birds to arrive were the chickadees. No surprise there. But what was surprising was something that I had not heard in a little while because of the noise of town. First, there was the flutter of small wings as the birds flew close to my head followed by their calls when they perched. They weren't the

typical "dee-dee-dee" sounds but rather something more light, musical and twittery. I was as delighted by the sounds as if it was the first time I heard them. Having passed through what has been a seemingly endless winter, I felt hope that spring and new life was fast approaching.

That's what bird sounds do to us. They delight us and inspire us. They reduce our stress. They excite us and arouse our curiosity. Whether it is the tiny twitter and the hum of a Ruby-throated Hummingbird or the honks and flaps of 10,000 Snow Geese, we are moved by not only the sight but the sound of birds.

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AVIAN FLU REMINDER

The Pennsylvania Department of Health, Department of Agriculture, and Pennsylvania Game Commission share valuable information about Avian Flu on their websites.

They remind us:

- Wash hands before and after touching animals or animal products.
- Avoid eating, drinking, or touching your face while handling animals.
- Don't let kids kiss birds or other animals; wash their hands if they touch them.
- Wear gloves when cleaning birds feeders, coops, or pens.
- Use separate shoes when filling bird feeders or use shoe covers.

Report sick or dead wild birds to the Game Commission by calling 1-833-PGC-WILD (742-9453). At this writing, portions of Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area are closed to the public as a safety precaution. Visit the location's website for updates.

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.

Janet Edwards	Chris Lacy	Stephen Schweitzer
Bridget Evans	Audrey M. Wylie	Thomas Looney
Kathryn Miller	Kristina Baade	Jane Gaudio
Vicki Todd	Richard Kramer	Rita M. Cross
Josie Marino	Hal Pratt	Deborah Manahan
Glenn Manahan	Walter Wojcik	
	Karalinda Wilson Lynn	
	Vera & David Walline	

Raising Voices, Lending Hands

If you have an hour or so a month to spare, if you have some talents to share, if you want to work with some great people bringing environmental awareness to the local public, consider working on one of your Chapter's committees or on our board. We're very friendly and promise not to overwork you! Contact Bonnie at byuscavage@yahoo.com or call 570-283-1518 in the evenings to raise your voice and lend a hand for nature!

Bamboo Vs. Trees

Over 20,000 trees are flushed down the world's toilets per day, including thousands of acres of boreal forest per minute, 30 gallons of water per roll, and over a gallon of bleach, formaldehyde and other chemicals. Most toilet paper sold in the United States comes from a small handful of big corporations. Therefore, there is no incentive for them to innovate.

Changing to bamboo paper is a step toward a more sustainable lifestyle. It is naturally antibacterial and is as comfortable as traditional toilet paper.

Bamboo is cultivated in forests that have existed for centuries rather than deforested lands. The fastest growing plant on the planet, it can grow over three feet a day. Their extensive root system remains intact and prevents soil erosion, saving nutrients for the next crop.

By opting for bamboo toilet paper, you actively contribute to the preservation of precious forests and water sources. It's a small choice that carries a significant impact.

- Sandy Goodwin

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.

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."

GWVAS ANNUAL BANQUET

AppleTree Terrace
4 Newberry Estates
Dallas, PA
Phone: 570-674-5529
6 p.m on June 11, 2025

All are invited. Non-members, children and friends are welcome.

Buffet menu includes: Carved herb and panko encrusted pork loin, chicken francaise with lemon butter sauce, Florentine stuffed fish with lemon butter sauce

Meat-free options: Italian rosemary red potatoes and chef's choice vegetable, cheese stuffed shells with vodka sauce

Appetizers: hot crab salad, mini potato pancakes with sour cream and applesauce, Italian meatballs

Salad station, coleslaw, fresh fruit and cheese.

Dessert buffet: Assorted pastries, cookies, ice cream

Coffee, hot tea, iced tea, soda.

Beer and wine included. Cash bar for mixed cocktails.

Price is \$45 per person, \$40 for children under 12. Send checks to GWVAS Annual Banquet PO Box 535 Dallas, PA 18612 and make payable to GWVAS. Payment in advance is required and must be received by May 30. Please include full names of all attending along with a phone number or email address for reservation confirmation.

Our banquet speaker will be from Pocono Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center, bringing some of the center's residents. From owls to opossums, the center works with them all! The staff will speak on animal adaptations and habitats, how we can work with the wildlife that live around us and the different ways we can make a difference in cohabitating peacefully.

2024 Annual Appeal Response

Thank You!

GWVAS would like to thank all our members and friends who so generously contributed to the 2024 Annual Appeal. Donations to the Annual Appeal help support things like our chapter's educational programs and projects, and other environmental and conservation efforts we undertake. If you haven't yet contributed to this year's Appeal, but would like to, please make your contribution to GWVAS Annual Appeal PO Box 535 Dallas, PA 18612. Make checks payable to GWVAS.

At this time, we would like to recognize, *and thank*, the following supporters of our 2024 Annual Appeal:

Martin Freifeld, MD
Joseph Baranoski
Janine Oliveri
James Strohl
Jan Lohmann
Jean Eyet
Benedict Yatko
Alison Flanagan
Michael Bertram
Paul Golias
Mary Begtrup
Bobb Davies
Kathleen Boyle

Mariellen Sokolas
Steve Smithonic, Jr.
Bernice Manzoni
Sandy Goodwin
Jane Gaudio
Aggie Walton
John Dickinson
David K. Thomas
Jon Thomas
Joan Hutchinson
Brenda Jordan
Candice Hoffman
Fran Crossin

Michael & Mary Jo Shisko
Mary & Hal Pratt
Sam & Toni Hockman
Philip & Penny Reid
Dan & Robin Golden

FIELD TRIPS



To register, please call John Dickinson at 570-239-4369

March 22: Frances Slocum State Park. By late March, resident birds will be becoming more active and some early migrants may have arrived. Meet in the parking lots by the environmental center at 8:30 a.m.

April 19: Nescopeck State Park. In mid April, we could find some early migrants mixed in with the overwintering birds. Meet in the parking lot by the bridge to park headquarters at 8:30 a.m.

May 10: Hunlock Creek Boat Launch. The site next to the river is great for warblers in mid May. In particular, the boat launch is one of the few areas where Cerulean Warblers are reported each spring. Contact John to register and get directions.

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. Everyone is welcome to join!

April 21: Cain Chamberlin, Executive Director of the Endless Mountain Heritage Region, will join us to discuss plans to create a National Heritage Region in northeastern Pennsylvania. Learn about those plans and how they might impact local natural areas and wildlife.

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We often dismiss the sound of our own voices, believing that no one is listening to our concerns about the environment or that what we say and do doesn't matter. That might have been the belief of those who were engaged in early American grassroots environmental movement, but it wasn't. They knew that each small voice encouraged another and another and another. That attitude is as important today as ever. The native plant you plant, the nest box you monitor, the eBird list you keep, the time you spend teaching a child about birds all matter. Each of our voices, all of our actions show our passion for nature and our dedication to a healthier world, and we need to continue to support and inspire one another.

Bonnie

Use what talents you possess;
the woods would be
very silent if no birds
sang there except those
that sang best.

-Henry Van Dyke



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.