



Baird Ornithological Club Programs & Field Trips - for Fall 2022 – Spring 2023 Web site: www.bairdornithological.club

For our 2022-2023 indoor in person meetings at Nolde Forest EEC, your Board of Directors asks: If you are feeling ill, have recently been exposed to COVID, or are awaiting the results of a test for COVID-19, please stay home. Consider wearing a mask if you wish to minimize your risk for contracting the virus. A highly effective mask (N95, KN95, or KF94) is recommended.

Sept. 9, 7:30 pm in person at Nolde Forest Environmental Ed. Center “Colorado Grouse Tour, & then some!” - Sheila Martin, BOC VP Five species of grouse inhabit the high chaparral, northern valleys & prairies of the US & they have spectacular mating displays, yet are exceedingly difficult to find away from their display grounds. This 1st meeting of the 2022-23 season will include a social. Bring snacks to share. Drinks will be provided. Please minimize use of throw-away plastic.

Oct. 14, 7:30 pm in person at Nolde Forest Environmental Ed. Center “Raptors in Migration – Tips on Identification” - Vince Smith, Valley Forge Audubon Society president Just in time for hawk migration, Vince will be teaching the basics of raptor identification.

Nov. 11, 7:30 pm in person at Nolde Forest Environmental Ed. Center “Hummingbirds I have Met” - Mike Slater, BOC Member From the tropics to Berks Co., Mike will share some of his most memorable hummingbird pictures & experiences with us.

Dec. 9, 7:30 pm Zoom only* “Carolina & Black-capped Chickadees – the Contact Zone” - Dr. Robert Curry, Villanova University - Dr. Curry is returning to present new findings in the Black-capped & Carolina Chickadee contact zone where the species hybridize.

Jan. 13, 7:30 pm Zoom only* “Sparrows Simplified: Making Sense of the Little Brown Jobs” - Michael Moore, Delaware Ornithological Society president Many birders struggle with identifying sparrows, referring to them as LBJ's (little brown jobs) or sparrow sp. This talk will help you tackle this difficult group. With discussion of finding & identifying rarities.

Feb. 10, 7:30 pm Zoom only* “Do Female Birds Sing?” - Lauryn Benedict, University of Northern Colorado They certainly do! Female bird song is more common & widespread than is generally appreciated.

Mar. 10, 7:30 pm in person at Nolde Forest Environmental Ed. Center “Migration Behavior of Snowy Owls & Broad-winged Hawks” - Rebecca McCabe, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary - Learn about the nonbreeding period of two iconic raptors, the Snowy Owl & Broad-winged Hawk

Apr. 14, 7:30 pm in person at Nolde Forest Environmental Ed. Center “Echoes of the Past” - Bill Uhrich, BOC member
We all have seen photos of our local conservation heroes Rosalie Edge & Maurice Broun of Hawk Mt. Sanctuary, but their voices have been lost to time until now. Thanks to Jack Holcomb, we have digital copies from old tape recordings of Rosalie & Maurice. Bill Uhrich will play snippets. We'll also be treated to film Maurice shot in the 1950s & 1960s of non-raptor species at Hawk Mountain, including views of 100's of interrupting Evening Grosbeaks, a sight we may never witness again in our lifetimes.

May 12 Banquet at the Berkshire Country Club (Save the date. Details will be in the Spring newsletter)

**Zoom Links will be emailed to all members a few days before each meeting. If you don't receive it by the day before the meeting & you would like to join in, please contact Mike Slater at paplantings@gmail.com*

BOC Field Trips/Bird Walks - Fall 2022 – Spring/Summer 2023 (Including our fall Tues. Bird Walks (2nd & 4th Tues.s) NEW - GPS addresses/coordinates are included for Google Maps.**

Flash Bird Walks

Field trips may be scheduled at short notice any time it appears conditions are right for an additional outing. Email announcements will be sent to all members & the information will be on our website at the same time <https://bairdornithological.club/>

Aug. 30 (Tues.) Morlatton Village SRT 4pm

Nighthawk Migration Watch along the Schuylkill River
Join BOC members for a late day walk on Tue. Aug 30, to kick off the fall season. Meet at the parking lot for Morlatton Village Schuylkill River Trail trailhead near Douglasville. We will walk the Schuylkill River Trail & then hang out at the bridge over the river until near dusk. Target bird is migrating Common Nighthawk. Directions: Rt. 422 east to traffic light just past Douglasville. Turn right onto River Bridge Rd, continue a short distance to right turn onto Old Phila. Pike, parking area on left. Coordinator: Russ Hoffman 484-794-7053, russhoff@yahoo.com
Meeting Loc.: 480 Old Philadelphia Pike, Douglassville, PA 19518

Sept. 13 (Tues.) Angora Fruit Farm 8 am

Walk the area around Angora Fruit Farm on Mt. Penn, now part of the Berks County parks system, looking for fall warblers, thrushes, & flycatchers. Meet at the farm parking lot. Take Rt. 12 (Warren St. Bypass) north to Spring Valley Rd. exit. Left on Spring Valley Rd. 1/2 mile to McKnight's Gap Rd. on left. Take road up hill to stop sign. Proceed bearing slightly left past Skyline Dr. to Bingaman Rd. Go downhill to stop sign, turn right & then left onto lane to farm. Coordinator: Russ Hoffman 484-794-7053, russhoff@yahoo.com
Meeting Loc.: Angora Fruit Farm, Berks County Parks & Recreation, Angora Rd, Reading, PA 19606 40.3624, -75.8839

Sept. 14 (Wed.) State Hill Hawk Watch 9 am – 4 pm

Peak time for Broad-winged Hawk migration. Bald Eagles & Ospreys will probably be seen. Stay for a short time or all day. Bring a folding chair, lunch & non-alcoholic beverages. Experienced hawk watchers will help you identify birds. Meet at the State Hill Boat Launch, Blue Marsh Lake, accessed from Brownsville Rd. Park in the first lot on the right at the top of the hill after you enter. Coordinator: Russ Hoffman 484-794-7053, russhoff@yahoo.com **Meeting Loc.: 585 Brownsville Rd, Sinking Spring, PA**

Sept. 17 (Sat.) Mount Penn Pagoda Hawk Watch 9am – 2pm
Peak time for Broad-winged Hawks. Walk down the steps at the front of the Pagoda & meet on the lawn. Bring a lawn chair. Coordinator: Bill Uhrich 610-698-1575
Meeting Loc.: 98 Duryea Dr, Reading, PA 19602

Sept. 27 (Tues.) Bombay Hook NW Refuge 9 am
Targeting shorebirds, herons, early waterfowl, gulls & terns, fall songbird migrants. Meet at Bombay Hook NWR Visitor Center. Coordinator: Art Zdancewic, 610-858-3315 **Meeting Loc.: 2591 Whitehall Neck Rd, Smyrna, DE 19977**

Oct. 1 (Sat.) Union Meadows Fall Migrants 8 am
An easy walk on a wide flat trail through wooded & open field habitats seeking sparrows & other fall migrants. Meet at Union Meadows East parking lot, trailhead for the Schuylkill River Trail, Rte.724/East Main St. in Monocacy, 2 miles east of Birdsboro. Coordinators: Rudy Keller & Linda Ingram, 610-621-7473 **Meeting Loc.: 100 Campbell Ford Road, Douglassville PA 19518**

Oct. 11 (Tues.) Kernsville Dam Recreation Area - Desilting Basin 8 am This recently augmented wetland habitat is continuing to produce interesting sightings. A LeConte's Sparrow was found in 2020. Will Nelson's Sparrow be next? Mid-Oct. is prime time for rare & common sparrows. From Reading, take Rt. 61 north. At light for Cabela's make a right onto Jetson Dr., then right on Industrial Dr. to left on Kernsville Dam Rd. Coordinator: Mike Slater paplantings@gmail.com **Meeting Loc. at the big parking lot for the: John Bartram Trail, Hamburg, PA 19526, 40.5624, -75.9947**

Oct. 12 (Wed.) State Hill Hawk Watch 9 am – 4 pm
Details the same as September 14

Oct. 15 (Sat.) Mount Penn Pagoda Hawk Watch 9 am – 2 pm
Details the same as September 17

Oct. 25 (Tues.) Lake Ontelaunee Waterfowl 8 am
Ducks, geese, grebes & other waterbirds at Berks County's premier site for this group of birds. Meet at the dam on Rt. 73 between Rts. 61 & 222. We will carpool to other Loc.s around the lake as time permits. Coordinator: Dale Beitzel 610-713-4330, callpj07@verizon.net **Meeting Loc.: at the west end of the dam on Rt. 73 between Rts. 61 & 222. (Lake Shore Dr, Shoemakersville, PA 19555, 40.4468, -75.9325)**

Oct. 29 (Sat.) Middle Creek Museum & Birdwalk 10 am
We will take a trip back through time with a visit to the Conservation History Museum at the Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area's Visitors Center. We will learn about the history of the Pennsylvania Game Commission & how conservation efforts have evolved since the commission's founding in 1895. Meet in the parking lot at the Center to tour the museum. Participants can afterwards bird around Middle Cr.. Bill Uhrich, 610-698-1575. **Meeting Loc.: 100 Museum Rd, Stevens, PA 17578**

Nov. 6 (Sun.) Hopewell Big Woods Tr., French Creek St. Pk. 8 am - Wide trail meanders through open fields bordered by woodland. Previous seasons were excellent for field & edge species, including late migrants & wintering birds. Meet at trail parking lot on Center Rd. adjacent to Union Twp. maintenance facility. Coordinators: Linda Ingram 610-621-7473, Peter & Jane Wolfe. **Meeting Loc.: 165 Center Road, Douglassville PA 19518**

Nov. 9 (Wed.) State Hill Hawk Watch 9 am – 4 pm
Details the same as September 14

Nov. 19 (Sat.) Mount Penn Pagoda Hawk Watch 9am – 2pm
Details the same as September 17

Dec. 18 (Sun.) - Reading Christmas Bird Count
Compiler: Lucy Cairns 610-223-4501 ljanetcairns@gmail.com

Dec. 23 (Friday) - Elverson Christmas Bird Count
Compiler: Jim Cook 610-587-7545 cell, 610-286-5021 work, jim@elversonsupply.net

Dec. 30 (Friday) - Hamburg Christmas Bird Count
Compiler: Laurie Goodrich 570-943-3411 ext. 106

Jan. 1, 2023 (Sun.) New Year's Weekend - Berks Drive Loop 8am
Begin your year with a visit to various Berks birding spots, starting at E. J. Breneman Quarry. Meet at Cacoosing Meadows Park parking lot on Reedy Road at the end closest to Evan's Hill Road. Coordinators: Jane & Peter Wolfe 484-794-3703 **Meeting Loc.: 1049 Reedy Road, Sinking Spring PA 19608**

Jan. 2, 2023 (Monday) - Bernville Christmas Bird Count - Compiler: Mike Slater paplantings@gmail.com

Feb. 19 (Sun.) E.J. Breneman Quarry - Introduction to Wintering Waterfowl 1pm
Learn to identify ducks & geese that winter in Berks County at this easily accessible site. Experienced birders with scopes will be there to help you get good looks. Park at Cacoosing Meadows Park on Reedy Road at the end closest to Evan's Hill Road. Snowy or icy conditions may limit access to the parking lot. Coordinator: Linda Ingram 610-621-7473, Rudy Keller **Meeting Loc.: 1049 Reedy Road, Sinking Spring PA 19608 (Park at the Evans Hill RD end of the lot)**

Mar. 25 (Sat.) Green Hills Preserve–Winter Birds 8 am
Wintering birds & early spring arrivals in managed grassland & edge habitats. From Rte. 10, go west on Rte. 568 (Kurtz Mill Rd.), turn right onto Gunhart Rd. Parking lot is on the right. Coordinator: Art Zdancewic 610-858-3315 **Meeting Loc.: Natural Lands' Green Hills Preserve, 553 Gunhart Rd, Mohnton, PA**

Mar. 26 (Sun.) French Creek State Park – Woodcock Watch 7 pm
American Woodcock courtship display. Coordinator: Art Zdancewic 610-858-3315 **Meet at park office 843 Park Road, Elverson PA 19520.**

Apr. 8 (Sat.) Gring's Mill - Spring Walk for Early Migrants – 8 am
Meet at the Gring's Mill Recreation Area. Dir. East on Broadcasting Rd to end. Make right 1/2 mile to entrance on left. Coordinator & for more information Russ Hoffman 484-794-7053. **Meeting Loc.: Gring's Mill Recreation Area, 2083 Tulpehocken Rd, Reading, PA 19610**

Apr. 23 (Sun.) Union Meadows - Early Migrants 8 am
Spring migrants including early warblers. An easy walk on a wide flat trail through wooded & open field habitats. Meet at Union Meadows East parking lot, Schuylkill River Trail, Rte.724/East Main St. in Monocacy, 2 miles east of Birdsboro. Coordinators: Rudy Keller, Linda Ingram 610-621-7473 **Meeting loc.: Union Meadows East parking lot, 100 Campbell Ford Road, Douglassville PA 19518,**

Apr. 29 (Sat.) Hay Creek Watershed 8 am
Walk the Hay Creek Watershed in search of spring warblers, including La. Waterthrush, nesting raptors & possibly nesting Bank Swallows. Meet at the closed south end on Hay Creek Rd. From traffic light at Rtes. 568 & 724 in Gibraltar, take 568 west approximately 1.5 miles & turn left on White Bear Rd. Drive 4 miles through 2 stop signs & turn left on Hay Creek Rd. Drive to the dead end & park on the shoulder. Coordinator: Russ Hoffman 484-794-7053, russhoff@yahoo.com
Meeting Loc.: Old 82 & Pakrking Area, 2000 Hay Creek Rd, Birdsboro, PA 19508

Apr. 29 (Sat.) Birds, Butterflies & Botany, Neversink Mountain, 10 am (with Mengel Natural History Society) For butterflies flying only in early spring, this is one of the few accessible Berks County Loc.s. Meet at S 10th & South ST., Reading. (Park on South St.) Coordinators: Karl Gardner 610-987-3281, Ryan Woolwine 484-883-6461. **Meeting Loc.: 999-975 South St, Reading, PA 19602. 40.326248, -75.918611**

May 6, (Sat.) Nolde Forest Spring Walk 8am
Join BOC members for a walk to search for spring migrants including Louisiana Waterthrush, other warblers, & Acadian Flycatcher. Maybe also catch sight of a Barred Owl which usually nests here. We will meet at the Sawmill Parking Area just off Rt. 625, south on Rt. 625 from Shillington to sign for Sawmill Parking. Coordinator: Linda Ingram 610-621-7473 **Meeting Loc.: 2910 New Holland Rd, Reading, PA 19607**

May 7 (Sun.) State Game Lands 106, Pine Swamp Rd. 7 am
Spring Migrants. From Hawk Mt. Sanctuary go south on Hawk Mt. Rd. 4 miles & turn right on Pine Swamp Rd. Drive 1 mile to parking area on right. From Rte 143, turn left on Hawk Mt. Rd. & drive 4 miles to Pine Swamp Rd. (left turn) then 2 miles to parking lot on left. Coordinator: Russ Hoffman 484-794-7053, russhoff@yahoo.com
Meeting Loc.: Pine Swamp RD, Kempton PA, 19529, 40.626208, -75.952045

May 13 (Sat.) Hopewell Village Nat. Historic Site-Spring Migrants & Breeding Birds 7am Once an annual BOC venue, this has long been absent from our walk schedule. Eastern Towhees are reliable. Coordinator: Sheila Martin 610-858-6005 **Disregard the published address of 2 Mark Bird Lane; the NHS gate is still closed at 7 a.m. From obvious crossroad of Park Rd (Rte. 345), Clemente Brooke Dr & Hopewell Rd, continue south on Park Rd. Cross a bridge, then enter a brief dense wood. At modest residential-looking twin mailboxes Nos. 2 & 4, turn right onto a gravel driveway. Make several tight turns to the Park's handicap parking lot; limited to ~ 12 spaces.**

May 20 (Sat.) Exeter Scenic River Tr. at Trout Run Park 7 am Spring migrants & breeders along the Schuylkill River. Park anywhere on both sides of the road. Coordinator Russ Hoffman 484-794-7053
Meeting Loc.: just before the Exeter Twp. Yard Waste Composting area next to Trout Run Park, 914-920 East Neversink Rd, Reading, PA 19606

June 3 (Sat.) Hopewell Big Woods Trail 7 am Breeding birds of grassland & edge habitats. A wide trail meanders through open fields bordered by woodland. Meet at trail parking lot on Center Rd. adjacent to Union Twp. maintenance facility. Coordinators: Rudy Keller 610-845-7310, Sheila Martin 610-858-6005
Meeting Loc.: 165 Center Road, Douglassville PA 19518

June 10 (Sat.) Green Hills Preserve Butterflies 10am (with Mengel Natural History Society) Extensive open fields & some wooded habitat. Directions: From Rte. 10, go west on Rte. 568 (Kurtz Mill Rd.), right onto Gunhart Rd. Parking lot is on the right. Coordinators: Karl Gardner 610-987-3281, Ryan Woolwine 484-883-6461
Meeting Loc.: Natural Lands' Green Hills Preserve, 553 Gunhart Rd, Mohnton, PA

June 17 (Sat.) Kernsville Dragonflies & Damselflies 10am (with Mengel Natural History Society) - Directions: Rte. 61 north, right on Jetson Dr. (across from Cabela's), right on Industrial Dr., left on Kernsville Dam Rd. Coordinators: Mike Slater paplantings@gmail.com, Karl Gardner 610-987-3281 **Meeting Loc., @big parking Lot: John Bartram Trail, Hamburg, PA, 40.5624, -75.9947**

June 24 (Sat.) Nolde Forest EEC Moth Night 8:30 pm (with Mengel Natural History Society) - The leaders will hang sheets with UV lights & bait trees with rotten fruit/beer to bring in the night insects for viewing. Bring flashlight. Meet at Mansion parking lot. Coordinators: Ryan Woolwine 484-883-6461, Jim Eckert 610-373-1064, Karl Gardner 610-987-3281 **Meeting Loc.: 3025 New Holland Rd, Reading, PA**

July 15 (Sat.) Wildflowers & Pollinators at Union Meadows West 10 am (with Mengel Natural History Society)
A meandering path through this former ball field converted to a pollinator meadow provides good access for observing a variety of species. Directions: Route 724 (East Main St., Birdsboro) (turn opposite St. Michael's Cemetery) Park in the ball field parking lot. Coordinators: Mike Slater paplantings@gmail.com, Linda Ingram (610-621-7473) **Meeting Loc.: 980 E Main St, Birdsboro, PA 19508**

Aug. 5 (Sat.) Blue Marsh Butterflies 10am (with Mengel Natural History Society)
Coordinators: Karl Gardner 610-987-3281 & Ryan Woolwine 484-883-6461 **Meeting Loc.: Blue Marsh Visitor's Center, 1268 Palisades Dr, Leesport, PA 19533**

Aug. 19 (Sat.) Angelica Park Butterflies 10am (with Mengel Natural History Society) Meet in the parking lot adjacent to Berks Nature, the entrance is off Rt. 10, Morgantown Rd., at the big sign for Alvernia University. Coordinators: Karl Gardner 610-987-3281, Ryan Woolwine 484-883-6461 **Meeting Loc.: Berks Nature Angelica Creek Park, 575 St Bernardine St, Reading, PA 19607**

www.bairdornithological.club

**(GPS address are included as given by Google Maps)*

****Includes Fall Tues. walks, the Spring Tues. walks to be announced in 2023.**