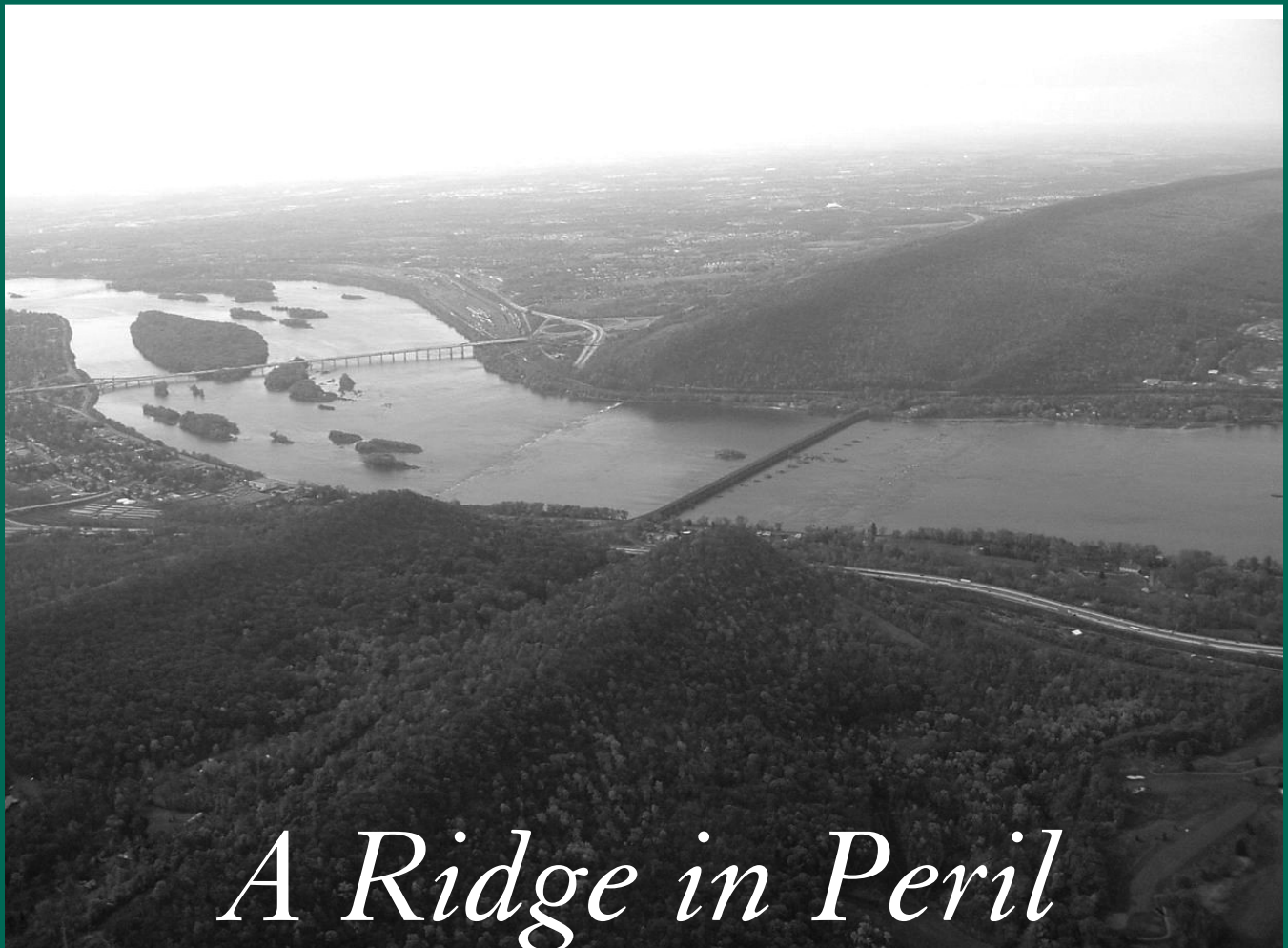




Audubon PENNSYLVANIA

Spring 2006

MAKING A DIFFERENCE by
conserving, restoring and protecting
Pennsylvania's natural ecosystems,
focusing on birds and other wildlife,
for the benefit of humanity and
the earth's biological diversity.



A Ridge in Peril

The Kittatinny Ridge spans eleven counties and touches eighty-one municipalities.

*This "birds-eye" view of the Kittatinny Ridge through Harrisburg shows the
important role each community has in protecting their piece of the Ridge.*

A Ridge in Peril

By Paul Zeph, *Director of Outreach*

A local landmark that dominates nearly every vista in many major municipalities and enhances the attractiveness for residents and businesses, the Kittatinny Ridge spans 185 miles and crosses 11 counties in Pennsylvania. The “Ridge” represents more than half of the Appalachian Trail through our state and is valued for its scenic beauty. It is where families hike and ride bicycles, enjoy watching wildlife, hunt, fish and visit to see beautiful fall colors. Named “Kittatinny” by the Lenape Indians, meaning “endless mountain”, the Ridge provides the headwaters for many streams in south-central Pennsylvania, protecting drinking water supplies for hundreds of thousands of Pennsylvanians.

The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources (DCNR) considers the Kittatinny Ridge the most vital component of the “green” infrastructure of Pennsylvania – and one of the greatest features of our natural heritage. The Ridge also is Audubon Pennsylvania’s largest and one of our highest priority IBA, recognized as a “globally significant” migration flyway for thousands of hawks and eagles and millions of songbirds that pass through the Commonwealth on their way between Canada and South America in spring and fall.

Threats to the Kittatinny Ridge?

In the 1700s, the Kittatinny Ridge marked the edge of the wilderness for settlers. In the 1800s, the Ridge proved to be a natural barrier for

emerging lumbering, manufacturing, and farming industries to transport their products to market. But even in the 1900s, after the system of roadways connected people living between the ridges to southeast and south central Pennsylvania, development and economic growth still stayed to the southeast in the Piedmont area, or to the north in the coal regions.

The Ridge no longer presents the natural obstacle to development that it once did.

Today, residential and commercial development is pushing over and through the Kittatinny Ridge, with few impediments. Greater demand from commuters working in Reading, Allentown, and Harrisburg for homes in wooded areas and middle-class flight from New York City, Philadelphia or Washington DC are increasing development pressure on the Ridge. More than ever before, people are demanding rural ridge-top homes, fueling new steep-slope development.

Well water supplies originating from the Ridge watershed, forested slopes protecting communities from storm water run-off, and scenic views of the Ridge supporting tourism and quality of life are threatened with thoughtless and runaway development.

What Can Be Done to Protect the Ridge?

Two-thirds of the Kittatinny Ridge is in private ownership. This means that legally most of the Ridge can be developed, as long as state regulations and local zoning ordinances are followed. Some pieces of land will be purchased or protected through easements by local land conservancies and trusts, but the majority of protection responsibility falls on the dozens of townships in the counties along the Ridge.

By enacting conservation zoning measures to limit the number of houses built on steep slopes, and by requiring developers to protect natural areas, stream corridors, and green spaces when designing housing



Ridges are becoming desirable places to build homes, but ordinances to protect drinking water and bird nesting habitat and to prevent storm water runoff is critical for quality of life.



*Left to right: Pennsylvania State Representative **Scott Hutchinson**, Chairman of the Joint Legislative Air and Water Pollution Control and Conservation Committee, speaks with **Paul Zeph** and **Tim Schaeffer**, following Audubon's presentation made to the Committee last November. Paul and Tim presented an overview for committee members and the public about Audubon's IBA program, the Kittatinny Conservation Project, and Audubon's work throughout the state to protect IBAs from overabundant deer and inappropriately placed wind turbines.*

tracts, townships have the power to protect the Ridge. This will be true for nearly every Important Bird Area (IBA) in Pennsylvania – and not just for the core area of the IBA, but for the buffer area around the IBA to protect it from habitat degradation.

Audubon Pennsylvania's Kittatinny Ridge Conservation Project has compiled maps, tools and resources for townships and municipalities to use for conservation planning and educational programs to raise awareness about the value of the Ridge for people and wildlife. Now, Audubon is urging municipalities along the Ridge, elected officials and township residents to come together to control development and protect their piece of the Ridge for future generations. The many local and regional partner organizations that are part of the Kittatinny coalition also will play a critical role in helping to advance all aspects of the project at the community level.

Audubon's Conservation Action Plan for the Ridge

Audubon's most important objective is to empower citizens to become stewards of their local natural heritage. To fulfill this objective for the Ridge across the state, Audubon Pennsylvania is developing a new comprehensive plan to raise citizen awareness and support for protection activities in the municipalities that are defined and enriched by the Ridge.

Audubon is protecting the Kittatinny Ridge in a three-phase plan that calls upon Audubon's more than one hundred years of expertise in science, education and positive public policy.

- **PHASE ONE: Gathering the Most Accurate Information and the Partners for Protection**
- **PHASE TWO: Creating a Conservation Action Plan for each Municipality Along the Ridge**

- **PHASE THREE: Implementing the Conservation Plan to Protect the Ridge**

Short-term goals for the project have been to identify and prioritize the areas of greatest scientific and public value and the most pressing threats to those areas. Long-term goals will be to develop public awareness, consensus and mobilization with an inclusive, thoughtful plan for protection.

Audubon Pennsylvania works in partnership with 21 Audubon Chapters and 30,000 Audubon members in Pennsylvania, land owners, state agencies, land trusts, sportsmen's organizations, municipalities and community groups to achieve its conservation goals. Many other local conservation groups are just as interested in protecting Pennsylvania's IBAs for the preservation of watersheds, fish, game, or open space.

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The Pennsylvania State Office of the National Audubon Society publishes this newsletter. Contact us at Audubon Pennsylvania, 105 Town Center Road, Suite 16, King of Prussia, PA 19406.

Comments or suggestions can be directed to the Editor at rpo@audubon.org

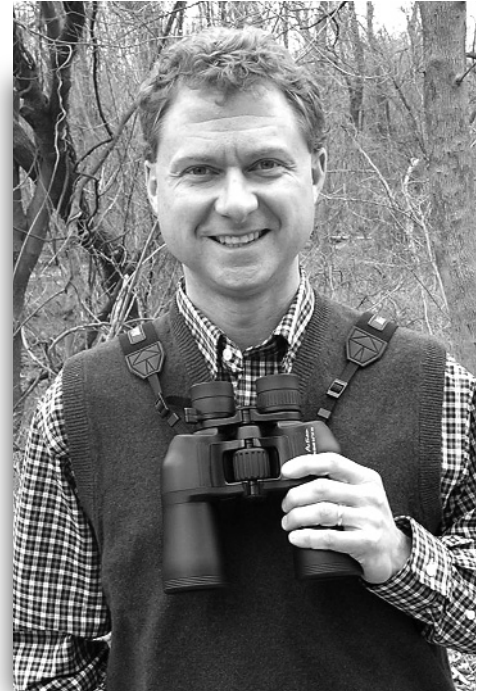
Audubon Chapter Assembly Will Chart the Course of Conservation in Pennsylvania

By Timothy D. Schaeffer, Ph.D., Audubon PA *Executive Director*

On April 1-2, 2006, Pennsylvania Audubon Chapter representatives will gather at the John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove for what we hope will become a semi-annual Chapter Assembly that will be held in alternate locations around the Commonwealth. This year's event is intended to bring "Auduboners" together to discuss the roles of our members, Chapters, staff, and partners in conserving our Important Bird Areas (IBAs) and other Pennsylvania habitats.

Each Chapter is being invited to send up to five delegates to the Assembly to help Audubon Pennsylvania, the state office of the National Audubon Society, chart the future implementation of the IBA program. IBA Coordinator Kim Van Fleet and other staff have been hard at work finishing conservation plans, recruiting local adoption groups, and training volunteers to help steward the sites. Kim will update us on the status of the program, explain the progress we have made to date, and outline common themes from IBAs across the Commonwealth.

One of the goals of the Assembly will be to identify the key public policy issues affecting our IBAs. We will lay out a process for each Chapter to participate in the preparation of a series of policy statements that we hope to be able to present to the Governor and General Assembly as they begin the new legislative session after the 2006 election.



Dr. Tim Schaeffer

An important constituency we are building to conserve our IBAs is an active, informed group of individuals who are willing to contact their local, state, and federal officials to voice their opinions. Whether it is advocating for a science-based approach to deer management, attending a local township supervisors' meeting to defend open space, or asking state or federal legislators to vote for a specific bill, we need more people to show their elected and appointed officials that you – their constituents – are paying attention. To that end, Sean Saville from our DC Policy Office will be on hand to help walk us through the development of an action network that will efficiently link Audubon supporters directly to their elected officials.

Some of you may know that Audubon's national Science Office is located in southeastern PA. We are happy that they will be making the short trip from Bucks County to Mill Grove to join us. Pennsylvania had the first IBA program in the country, and Science Office staff will participate in the Assembly to make sure that we continue to lead the way as we take the program from the planning to the implementation phase.

“One of the goals of the Assembly will be to identify the key public policy issues affecting our IBAs.”

As the state office of the National Audubon Society, Audubon Pennsylvania is a bridge between the organization's national staff and our 21 Chapters and 30,000 members. We are delighted that our national Vice President for State Programs and Chapter Services Lynn Tennefoss will be joining us at Mill Grove to answer questions and share her vision for Chapter involvement nationwide.

These are just a few of the folks who will be in attendance for this historic event. They and the rest of the attendees look forward to helping Audubon achieve our incredible potential for bird, wildlife, and habitat conservation. We have a lot of work to do, and we can only achieve our collective goals if we work together.



Tim Schaeffer

Audubon Pennsylvania Announcements

Welcome, New Board Members!

John A. Moore, of Philadelphia, is a consultant for strategic business planning and financial analysis. He currently serves on the Boards of Directors for the Pennsylvania Institute of Conservation Education, the Social Venture Institute, and the Sustainable Business Network in Philadelphia.

Arthur Newbold, Esq., of Malvern, is a partner in the trial department of Dechert Price and Rhoads, LLP. He is a member of the American College of Trial Lawyers, the treasurer of the University of Pennsylvania Inn of Court, a trustee of the Willistown Conservation Trust and a member of the Willistown Township Planning Commission and the Committee of 70 of Philadelphia.

William E. Sordoni, of Shavertown, manages several family business interests and start up ventures. He is affiliated with the Susquehanna University Alumni Board, Hunters Sharing the Harvest, the Sordoni Foundation, and the Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Sordoni is also a volunteer with the Wyoming Valley United Way, Leadership Wilkes-Barre, and numerous wildlife conservation organizations including the Ruffed Grouse Society, National Wild Turkey Federation, and Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.

Thank You to Departing Board Members!

Audubon Pennsylvania wishes to thank **Dr. Edward Bellis** and **Mr. Alan Gregory** for their years of generous service as members of the Board, and their dedication to the wildlife and wild lands of Pennsylvania.

Staff

Tim Schaeffer was elected to the Board of the National Association for Interpretation (NAI) on November 7, 2005.

Kim Van Fleet attended the annual board meeting of the Hawk Migration Association of North America (HMANA) in Plymouth, NH on Nov. 19, 2005. She is currently serving the second of two three-year terms on the Board of Directors.

Great PA Clean-up at PA IBAs

Call for Volunteers!

This spring Audubon Pennsylvania will partner with the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) in the Great Pennsylvania Clean-up on Earth Day - April 22, 2006. A press conference was held on February 9, 2006 at 1:00 p.m. at Thomas W. Holtzman, Jr. Elementary School to kick-off this year's event and featured Audubon's non-releasable Great-horned Owl accompanied by his handler, Antonia Nocero, Outreach Coordinator. Audubon Pennsylvania is asking for volunteers to help in the clean-up in Important Bird Areas (IBAs) across the state. For more information, please contact Kim Van Fleet, IBA Coordinator, at kvanfleet@audubon.org or call 717-213-6880 x11.

Ridgetop IBAs, Raptors, and Wind Turbines

By Kim Van Fleet, *Important Bird Area Coordinator* and Stacy Small, *Director of Bird Conservation*

Several major migratory bird pathways converge in Pennsylvania, with its complex topography and geographic position along the Atlantic and Appalachian Flyways. As a result, fall and spring bird migrations are annual phenomena that attract the attention of thousands of birders and wildlife lovers, locally, nationally, and internationally. Audubon Pennsylvania's Hawk Watch at Waggoner's Gap, located on the Kittatinny Ridge (Important Bird Area #51), is just one of many locations demonstrating this. Expert volunteer counters at Waggoner's Gap recorded 21,582 migrating raptors during the 2005 fall migration season, including 14 species of diurnal raptors and two species of vultures. Total species counts are as follows: Black Vulture (95), Turkey Vulture (1814), Bald Eagle (303), Northern Harrier (332), Sharp-shinned Hawk (7020), Cooper's Hawk (1054), Northern Goshawk (103), Red Shouldered Hawk (267), Broad-winged Hawk (4123), Red-tailed Hawk (4938), Rough-legged Hawk (12), Golden Eagle (242), American Kestrel (397), Merlin (147), Peregrine Falcon (66), and Unidentified Raptors (219).

According to Dave Grove, lead data compiler for the site, "We had an excellent season, finishing with over 21,500 birds, although this year we didn't have any 'big days' of Broad-winged Hawk flights," indicating that the Broad-wings, usually observed at this site, may have utilized an alternate route this year. He further stated that the site set

new seasonal records for five species, including Turkey Vulture, Bald Eagle, Cooper's Hawk, Golden Eagle, and Merlin. Ron Freed, Audubon Pennsylvania's volunteer site manager and dedicated raptor counter, added, "We're also very pleased with the showing by falcons this year; not only did we set a new high for Merlins, we also saw a rebound in American Kestrel numbers, which had declined in recent years."

Waggoner's Gap is one of six ridge-associated Important Bird Areas (IBAs) located within the Valley and Ridge Province of Pennsylvania. All of these IBAs were designated as such due in large part to the high concentrations of raptors and songbirds that utilize them during fall and spring migration. The five other ridge IBAs include IBAs #44 - Second Mountain, #36 - Tuscarora Ridge - The Pulpit, #35 - Rothrock State Forest/Stone Mountain, #81 - Greater Tussey Mountain, and #32 - Bald Eagle Ridge. Tussey Mountain, Bald Eagle Ridge, and the Allegheny Front are important routes for spring raptor migration, especially Golden Eagles. Additionally, multitudes of birds, including numerous interior forest songbird species, are found nesting on these ridges during spring/summer breeding seasons.

We also know the following about raptor migration in Pennsylvania:

- The ridges of Pennsylvania are oriented in such a way that when prevailing winds strike the slopes of the ridges during fall and

spring, updrafts are produced which result in optimal soaring/gliding conditions along the ridges for migratory raptors. Soaring and gliding flight are frequently employed by migratory raptors because both require less energy expenditure than flapping flight. Consequently, tens of thousands of raptors cruise along the ridges and the Allegheny Front in their migratory movements. So, depending on volunteer hawk watch hours, several thousand to 20,000+ raptors may be observed along a single ridge during a single migration season.

- Raptors will often fly directly above the ridges and tend to hug the ridges in flight as wind speed increases. In addition, they are often observed nearer to the ridge during morning and later afternoon hours.
- Raptors hunt for and consume prey throughout migration and frequently stopover during migration to hunt for prey and roost at night.
- A combination of factors most likely influences when and where raptors fly along the ridges, including time of year, time of day, general weather conditions, seasonality of flight, wind direction and wind speed relative to ridge orientation, general ecology of the different taxa, summer and winter ranges of raptors, leading line effect (usually linear landscape features like ridges and rivers), where birds first encounter the ridges, and availability of suitable habitat in route.

Co-author Kim Van Fleet, Audubon PA's IBA Coordinator, studied raptor migration across the Valley and Ridge Province over four consecutive fall migration seasons (1991-1994)⁴. She found that there is annual and species variation in the use of particular ridges for raptor migration. For instance, early season migrants (i.e. Broad-winged Hawk) and more abundant species (American Kestrel) were more commonly observed on the southern ridges. She also found that falcon species more commonly associated with coastal migration, like the Merlin and Peregrine Falcon, were more evenly dispersed across the ridges of the Valley and Ridge Province. Later season migrants like Golden Eagle, Northern Goshawk,

and Rough-legged Hawk were more prevalent on the northern ridges.

The mission statement of Audubon PA is to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds and other wildlife, and their habitats, for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity. This is foremost in any actions taken by the Pennsylvania state office of the National Audubon Society. Numerous conservation issues have and will continue to arise across the state that directly or indirectly impact forest health on our IBAs, including habitat fragmentation from housing and commercial developments, habitat damage by over-abundant deer, and invasive plant and insect species. Recently, concerns have arisen about wind

farm development on numerous ridge-tops in Pennsylvania. Many targeted wind development sites are lands located on ridges along key raptor migration corridors. These ridges also currently comprise large intact forest blocks that support a diversity of breeding interior forest songbirds. Audubon Pennsylvania supports the development of renewable energy and reduction of fossil fuel dependency. However, Audubon Pennsylvania maintains that wind power development can be accomplished through an ecologically sensitive approach that minimizes wildlife and habitat risks including direct mortality, avoidance of historic migration routes resulting in excessive energy expenditure, and habitat loss and forest fragmentation.



Volunteer monitors **Dave Grove, Joe Yoder, Jerry Stanley, Gene Wagner** and Audubon PA IBA Coordinator and article co-author, **Kim Van Fleet**, track migration year-round at Waggoner's Gap on the Kittatinny Ridge.

Ridgetop IBAs, Raptors, and Wind Turbines *continued from page 7*

Government, non-profit, and industry representatives can achieve this collaboratively by referring to and incorporating current wildlife safety guidelines, including US Fish and Wildlife Service’s “Interim Guidelines to Avoid and Minimize Wildlife Impacts from Wind Turbines”¹ and American Bird Conservancy’s “American Bird Conservancy Wind Energy Policy,”² as well as the position statement issued by the Hawk Migration Association of North America.³

Biological Concerns

In the skies: Pennsylvania is an internationally recognized crossroads of migration for many bird groups, and the ridges of the Valley and Ridge Province and Allegheny Front are utilized heavily by tens of thousands of migrating raptors annually.⁴ Primary risks for diurnal migrating raptors are direct mortality⁵ and route avoidance, resulting in disrupted migration patterns and potentially excessive energy expenditure.

On the ground: Many of the areas of proposed ridgetop wind development sites are on Pennsylvania’s remaining large unfragmented forests tracts. Pennsylvania has a strong stewardship responsibility for breeding populations of interior forest bird species in the Northeast that depend upon these unfragmented forests.⁶

Monitoring

Audubon Pennsylvania stands behind the USFWS in calling for

three years of pre-construction monitoring, as well as post-construction monitoring and ongoing mortality and risk assessment, conducted by agency biologists and/or those independent of industry. For some ridges, long term data sets are readily available through the Hawk Migration Association of North America, www.hmana.org. Other ridgetops will require original data collection. In addition, radar monitoring of nocturnal migrants is currently an available technology to reduce mortality risk for migrating songbirds and other bird groups (D. Mizrahi, pers. comm.). Multi-year pre-construction monitoring is critical because of annual variation in migration routes, due to variation in bird species distribution, weather fronts, and resulting wind conditions.⁴

Siting Recommendations

Audubon Pennsylvania recommends to avoid siting turbines on ridgetops that concentrate raptors during spring and fall migration, in particular Kittatinny Ridge (Blue Mountain), Tuscarora Mountain, Tussey Mountain, Bald Eagle Ridge, and Allegheny Front. Furthermore, other less well-monitored ridgetops in the Ridge and Valley Province, such as Stone and Jack’s Mountain, serve as important migration routes during some periods.⁴

In addition, Audubon Pennsylvania advocates the protection of unfragmented forests, Important Bird Areas (IBAs), areas supporting federally and state Threatened

and Endangered species, and Landscape Conservation Areas (PA Natural Heritage Program - www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/pndi). More appropriate turbine sites would be post-industrial (brownfield) sites, away from major migratory corridors. We seek to minimize fragmentation of intact forest blocks, as PA currently supports large breeding populations of forest birds. The fragmentation of large forest blocks is listed as a bird population stressor in many of our IBA conservation plans (the plans can be found at <http://pa.audubon.org>). Siting wind turbines on “brownfields” (post-industrial sites) rather than large, intact forest blocks would minimize such fragmentation and reduce impacts.

Design Recommendations

Lighting of turbines is to be avoided, as to not attract nocturnal migrating bird flocks. Similarly, adjacent communication and meteorological towers should be lit using rapidly pulsing white strobes, according to American Bird Conservancy guidelines, to avoid attracting nocturnal migrants into wind farms. Guy wires at turbines and adjacent towers increase mortality risk, and should be avoided. Similarly, power transmission lines should be run underground.

Audubon Pennsylvania currently is coordinating with Audubon Chapters statewide, as well as meeting regularly in collaborative settings with resource agency and wind industry representatives to advocate for stringent

pre- and post-construction monitoring guidelines, ecologically sensitive placement and design of turbines, and an alternative energy policy that minimizes wildlife and habitat impacts. State office staff recently held a statewide conference call with Chapters to hear from our members on the issues. Participants widely represented regions targeted for wind development, including Presque Isle, Audubon Society of Western PA, Allegheny Plateau, and Juniata Valley in the west, and Lycoming, Seven Mountains, Appalachian and South Mountain Chapters in

the Ridge and Valley Province. There was general consensus that Audubon supports alternative energy development in the Commonwealth, but that wildlife safety and habitat quality concerns must be on the forefront of all development plans. Audubon Pennsylvania is taking a pro-active approach to the issue by participating in collaborative discussions in Harrisburg and stressing the implementation of nationally developed guidelines for wildlife monitoring, siting, and design criteria for wind turbines, as well as preserving Pennsylvania's highest quality wildlife habitat in the process.

Audubon PA is looking for birders and raptor enthusiasts to volunteer for spring and fall raptor migration monitoring throughout the Valley and Ridge Province. If interested or for further information contact Kim Van Fleet at 717-213-6880 ext.11 or kvanfleet@audubon.org

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Eagles Surpass Records at Waggoner's Gap Hawk Watch

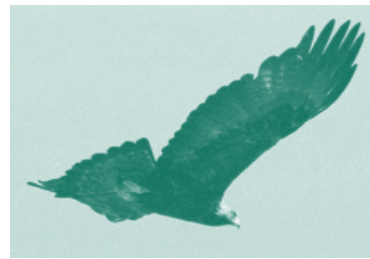
By Ron Freed, *Audubon Pennsylvania Volunteer*

Nothing seems to excite observers at Audubon's Hawk Watch at Waggoner's Gap more than the sight of an eagle soaring by. At the site on the Kittatinny Ridge, north of Carlisle, Bald Eagles are a regular sight for visitors. This hawk watch also is well known for some of the highest numbers of Golden Eagles in the east. But no one predicted the show the big birds would put on during the 2005 watch season when 545 eagles flew by.

The hawk watch at Waggoner's Gap operates from August 1 through December 31 every year, and eagles may be seen any day during the season. Bald Eagles pass by this rocky outcrop on the Ridge, primarily coming from summer breeding grounds in New England, New York and Canada, and migrate south to the coasts of Florida. The peak flight time for Bald Eagles is mid-September.

For Goldens, peak time is early November. Golden Eagles also come from north and east, but mainly from Canada's eastern provinces. Fewer are apt to travel far into the southern states, and many stop in the Appalachians in Virginia and Tennessee. As evidenced by reported sightings in the winter, many never go further south than big woods areas in Pennsylvania.

The largest number of Bald Eagles ever seen in one season at Waggoner's Gap was 196, in 2002. This year, the watch tied that record in mid-October. By early November, 250 were counted, and volunteer monitors projected that 300 sightings may be possible. That milestone was reached on December 19, and the season finished with a count of 303.



Golden Eagles had a previous season high of 234, in 2003. That record was also broken on the same day — December 19 — and the season ended with a total of 242.

This year was exceptional for breeding pairs of Bald Eagles in Pennsylvania. The Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) documented 94 pairs as nesting, in 25 of the Commonwealth's 67 counties. As recent as 1980, there were only three known pairs nesting in the state. The eagles' remarkable turnaround is credited to their protection under the Endangered Species Act and to recovery programs by the PGC and other agencies around the country. The significant increase in eagle numbers is another reminder that we need to keep successful wildlife protection laws strong. Audubon will continue to fight attempts to weaken our protection of vulnerable wildlife, such as the bills that were recently introduced in Congress to undermine the Endangered Species Act.

The hawk watch had a good season overall, with 21,582 total birds passing by (the five-year average is 19,817). The monitor volunteers covered more than 1,100 hours of observing during the five-month season, tracking 16 species of raptors. Daily data was posted on the PABIRDS listserv, and may also be found online through a link at the Audubon Pennsylvania web site (pa.audubon.org/kittatinny).

Of course, one season's data doesn't make a trend, but when taken with the rising sighting numbers in recent years, and the documented increases of breeding pairs, it is reasonable to expect that increasing numbers of eagles will continue to fly past Waggoner's Gap. When they do, they will cause an audible stir among the watchers, as someone first spots them on the horizon and exclaims loudly to the rest of the group, "EAGLE!"

Allegheny Plateau Audubon Society

contact: Bob Stewart
257 Krings St., Johnstown, PA 15963
<http://www.pitt.edu/~dnicodem/>

Appalachian Audubon Society

contacts: Ron & Marci Wilson
105 Linden Dr., Camp Hill, PA 17011

Audubon Society of Western PA

contact: Jim Bonner, Executive Director
614 Dorseyville, Pittsburgh, PA 15238
www.aswp.org

Bartramian Audubon Society

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Bucks County Audubon Society

contact: Honey Hollow
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<http://www.bcas.org>

Conococheague Audubon Society

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Gifford Pinchot Audubon Society

contact: James Lariviere
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Greater Wyoming Valley Audubon Society

contact: Deborah Petroski
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Juniata Valley Audubon Society

contact: Dr. Stan Kotala
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<http://www.juniatavalleyaudubon.org>

Lehigh Valley Audubon Society

contact: Joanne Sora
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Lycoming Audubon Society

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Northeast PA Audubon Society

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Presque Isle Audubon Society

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Quittapahilla Audubon Society

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Seneca Rocks Audubon Society

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Seven Mountains Audubon Society

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South Mountain Audubon Society

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Tiadaghton Audubon Society

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Valley Forge Audubon Society

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<http://www.valleyforgeaudubon.org>

Wyncote Audubon Society

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www.wyncoteaudubon.org

York Audubon Society

contact: Jeanne Schwartzer
83 Indian Rock Dam Rd., York, PA 17403

Cooperative Efforts Protect Mount Zion/Piney Tract (IBA # 21)

By Kim Van Fleet, *Important Bird Area Coordinator*

Audubon Pennsylvania would like to acknowledge and commend the collaborative efforts of the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC), the members of Seneca Rocks Audubon Society and The Alliance for Wetlands and Wildlife in the identification and purchase of grassland habitat in Piney Township, Clarion County. These grasslands, part of The Mount Zion/Piney Tract Important Bird Area # 21, are the result of surface mine reclamation activities that took place in the late 1970s. This site provides critical habitat for numerous species of birds associated with grasslands including four Pennsylvania Species of Concern: Henslow's Sparrow (Partners in Flight Species of Highest Continental Concern and PA State WatchList), Short-eared Owl (PA State Endangered), Upland Sandpiper (PA State Threatened), and Northern Harrier (PA Candidate At Risk).

Members of Seneca Rocks Audubon Society are credited with initially bringing the importance of this site to the attention of the PGC and Audubon Pennsylvania and through the years have developed a good working relationship with both. During the course of 2005 the PGC board approved the purchase of three separate tracts of reclaimed mine lands totaling 2,254.44 acres which have and/or will become part of SGL 330 also known as Piney Tract. The land sale was facilitated through The Alliance for Wetlands and Wildlife. As a result of these efforts, lands that could have fallen to development are now secured for the benefit of numerous non-game species of birds.

This site provides critical habitat for numerous species of birds associated with grasslands including four Pennsylvania Species of Concern:

1. Henslow's Sparrow

(Partners in Flight Species of Highest Continental Concern and PA State WatchList)



Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology

2. Short-eared Owl

(PA State Endangered)



US Fish and Wildlife Service

3. Upland Sandpiper

(PA State Threatened)



USFWS/Cayuga, ND

4. Northern Harrier

(PA Candidate At Risk)



WhoZoo (<http://httpwhozoo.org>)

A Ridge in Peril *continued from page 3*

Audubon views all of these groups as constituencies that can mobilize for Kittatinny protection. The key is to help them make bird and wildlife habitat conservation relevant to local audiences.

An on-going component of the Kittatinny Conservation project is an outreach program with informational presentations and a “conservation toolbox” for township officials, conservation conferences, adult and youth groups, school classes and

outdoor festivals. Thousands of people have heard the Kittatinny conservation message since Audubon started the project four years ago. However, with more than 325,000 people living next to the Ridge and nearly 1.5 million within a 20-minute drive, there is more work to be done.

The Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources generously has provided a \$50,000 grant for Audubon Pennsylvania to establish a base of funding for

the Kittatinny Ridge IBA Project. Audubon Pennsylvania continues to secure additional funding from a variety of community sources and other government grant programs. A portion of a Packard Foundation challenge grant of \$50,000 for 2006 will also match new gifts from private individuals.

For more information, maps, and photos about the Kittatinny Ridge, visit our website: <http://pa.audubon.org>.

Isaac's Deli Raises \$3,000 to Protect Migratory Bird Flyway

Audubon Pennsylvania's Blue Mountain – Kittatinny Ridge Conservation Project got a \$3,000+ boost from Isaac's Restaurant and Deli. From September 13 – October 31, 2005, Isaac's raised money for the project, which is helping to protect a globally important flyway for hawks, eagles and migrating songbirds across South Central Pennsylvania. For every sandwich or salad entrée sold from Isaac's World Café menu, Isaac's donated 25 cents to this special Audubon Pennsylvania project.

The Blue Mountain – Kittatinny Ridge conservation project was an easy choice for Isaac's – the restaurant's menus feature sandwiches named after birds, and their mascot is even a bird – Phoebe the Flamingo.

Isaac's Restaurant & Deli has 19 locations in the Harrisburg area and in Berks, York, Chester, and Lancaster counties. Visit www.isaacsdeli.com and www.pa.audubon.org for more information about the Blue Mountain – Kittatinny Ridge conservation project.



Left to right: Johnny Roberts, Marketing Coordinator, and Alan R. Jacobs, President of Isaac's Restaurant, present a check to Audubon PA's Tim Schaeffer, Executive Director, and Paul Zeph, Director of Outreach.



Berman and Mill Grove Exhibits Highlight Audubon Legacy

by Jon Hartman, *Marketing Coordinator*

Pewee Flycatcher

Supporters of the John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove have long dreamed of building a modern gallery to exhibit Audubon's art. This summer the Phillip and Muriel Berman Museum of Art at Ursinus College will serve as their "crystal ball." From June 1 through August 14, the Museum, in cooperation with curators at Mill Grove, will feature an exhibition entitled *To Follow Nature in Her Walks: The Art and Environmentalism of John James Audubon*.

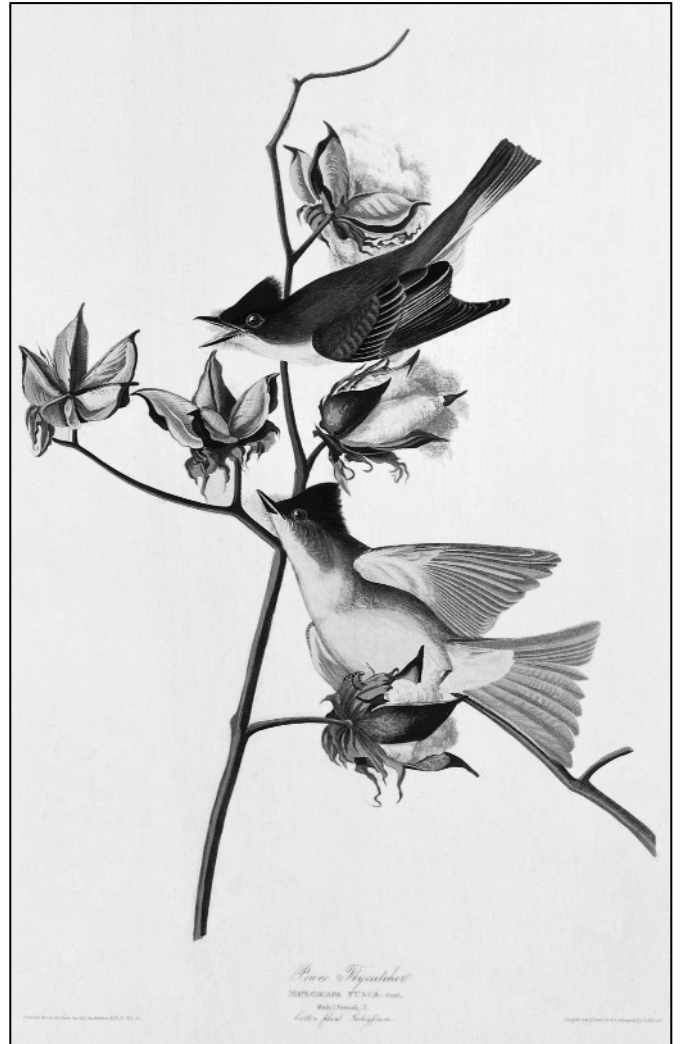
Visitors will see all four bound volumes of *The Birds of America*, which contains 435 hand-colored prints. This original "Elephant Folio" edition used the largest paper available because Audubon rendered each bird life-sized. The exhibition will also display individual prints and several extraordinarily rare original copper plates used during the printing process. In addition, *The Eagle and the Lamb*, a rare Audubon oil painting, will return to Montgomery County for the first time since 2004 when the nine-foot-wide canvas was removed from Mill Grove for restoration work.

The John James Audubon Center manages one of the country's most extensive collections of Audubon art and artifacts. However, the Center's small museum galleries—located in Mill Grove's historic farmhouse where J.J. Audubon lived from 1803-1806—have long constrained the site's ability to exhibit more than a fraction of its holdings. "We hope this exhibition will illustrate what is possible with the right facility,"

explained Jean Bochnowski, Center Director. "This show shouldn't have to be a limited, special engagement. Audubon's legacy should always be visible at Mill Grove, the site where he fell in love with North American birds and wildlife."

To help build momentum for a new museum, Bochnowski determined that the nearby Berman Museum of Art and its state-of-the-art facilities would be the perfect partner for a first-class exhibition. Established in 1987, the Berman is one of suburban Philadelphia's cultural gems, boasting its own diverse collection ranging from 19th century paintings by Pennsylvania artists to 20th century Japanese woodcut prints.

Lisa Tremper Hanover, Director of the Berman Museum, views the Audubon exhibition as "...a wonderful opportunity to collaborate with our close neighbors at Mill Grove in advancing the art and environmental concerns of John James Audubon." She adds, "*To Follow Nature in Her Walks* will focus on Audubon's superb draughtsmanship skills, his ability to create an environment for his subjects, and the specific and



careful steps he took in the watercolor, etching, and reproduction/hand coloration processes."

While pieces from the John James Audubon Center collection make their temporary home at the Berman, Mill Grove will feature another French-born naturalist and artist, Denis Clavreaul. In 1997, Clavreaul published *Dreaming of Africa* – a collection of more than 125 striking watercolor sketches of the dramatic landscapes and wildlife of Africa. Most recently, Mr. Clavreaul followed Audubon's trail through Florida, Kentucky, Louisiana,

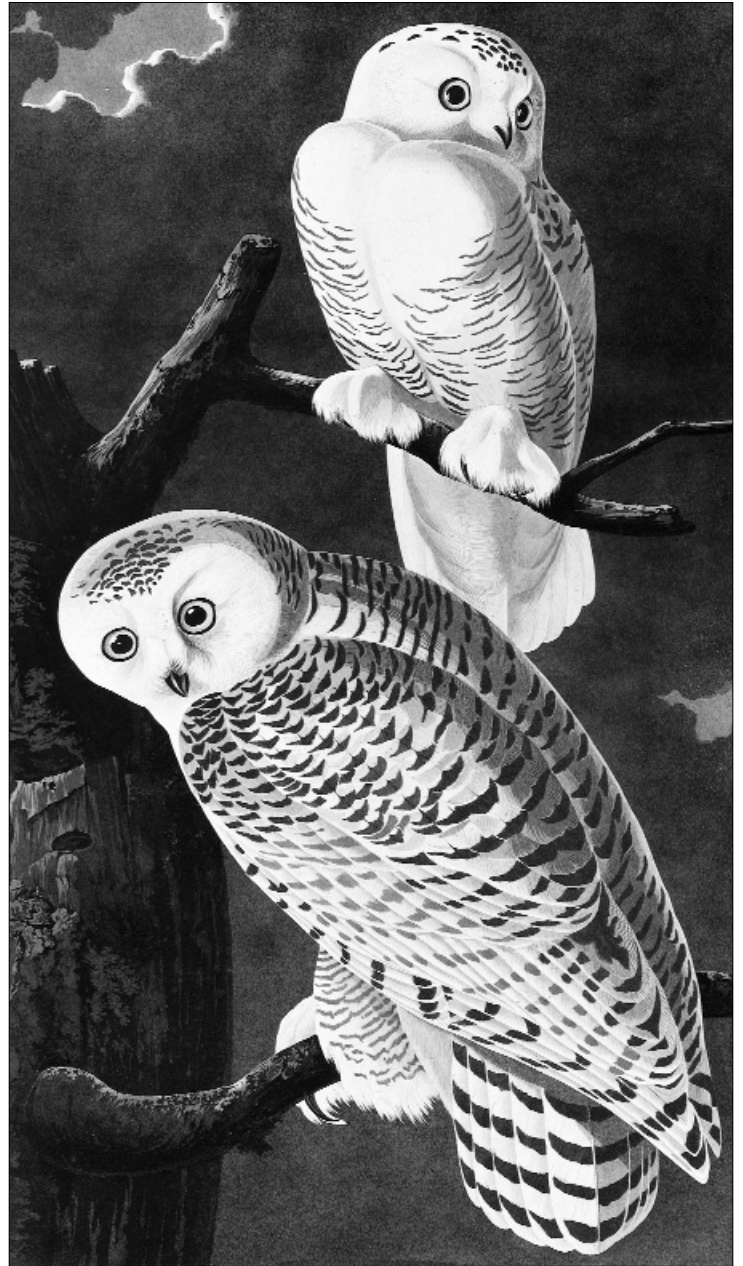
Labrador, Missouri and Pennsylvania. The Audubon Center will display dozens of Clavreaul's sketches and watercolors picturing birds as well as places Audubon knew intimately. Mr. Clavreaul's show will mark the first time Mill Grove features an artist other than John James Audubon.

“We encourage Audubon, art, and nature enthusiasts to visit both sites on the same day,” said Ms. Bochnowski. “At the Berman, people will see Audubon’s remarkable work, still considered the finest collection of wildlife art ever created. At Mill Grove, they can walk through the fields and forests that captivated the newly arrived 18-year-old Audubon and see how his legacy continues to influence today’s artists.”

Both exhibitions run from June 1, 2006 through August 14, 2006. The Philip & Muriel Berman Museum of Art at Ursinus College is located at 601 E. Main Street in Collegeville, PA, and is open Tuesday through Friday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 12 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. For more information visit the Ursinus College web site at www.ursinus.edu.

The John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove is situated on more than 175 acres at 1201 Pawlings Road in Audubon, PA. The Audubon Museum (located in the 244-year-old stone farmhouse) is open Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. and Sunday 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Admission is \$4 for adults, \$3 for seniors (60+), and \$2 for children (4-17). Directions are available at <http://pa.audubon.org> or by calling 610-666-5593.



Snowy Owls



Rose-breasted Grosbeak

Volunteer Profile

Local Vet Lends Healing Touch

“Mommy, I found a birdie with a broken wing. Please say you can fix it! I know you can fix it!”

As a child, Dr. Toby Erlichman constantly brought injured foundlings to her mother. Even though Toby’s mother never fulfilled her dreams of becoming a Veterinary Medical Doctor, she has had the pleasure of watching her compassionate daughter build a reputation as a talented veterinarian with a growing practice.

“Dr. Toby,” as she is known in the community, is the primary veterinarian for the John James Audubon Center’s Red-tailed Hawk, Blaze. “It’s a challenge and lots of fun,” states Dr. Toby. Toby is available to the Mill Grove staff whenever there is a question or concern about the hawk’s care and maintenance. “She’s been a great friend,” exclaims Antonia Nocero, of the Outreach Department, “and listens to our ideas and questions about the hawk’s well-being and behavior. She has an incredible insight with Blaze. We are lucky to have her expertise.”

Toby received her B.S. in Psychobiology from Beaver College and her V.M.D. from the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine. After graduation Dr. Toby moved to Kentucky where she was able to work primarily with rehabbing wildlife. Three years later she returned to Pennsylvania but found that she was unable to treat wild animals in her practice because of Pennsylvania’s strict wildlife management laws. She began as a volunteer under Susan Birch’s Wild Wings Rehab Center, which treats and releases hundreds of wild birds each year.

Toby and a staff of three serve local dog, cat, bird and exotic animal populations at Toby’s Animal Hospital of Chester County in West Chester, PA. Despite a growing practice and family, Toby still manages to lend her services to Tri-State Bird Rescue of Newark, Delaware. She now serves on their Board of Directors.

“It only took a moment to see that she really cares about animals,” affirms Doug Asousa, another hawk care volunteer at Mill Grove.



Dr. Toby Erlichman and her Bernese Mountain dog, Henry.

Scope of Responsibility for Collections Expand at John James Audubon Center

In November 2005, the Friends of Audubon’s Mill Grove donated its collection of Audubon art and artifacts to the National Audubon Society (NAS) for permanent display at the John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove. The collection is valued at approximately \$100,000, and the donation also includes more than \$30,000 in cash to be used toward art conservation. The donation includes the 1806 botanical drawing of *Foxglove* that Audubon sketched at Mill Grove; Audubon’s handwritten manuscript for the blue-winged yellow swamp warbler; a circa-1850 daguerreotype portrait of Audubon; and individual prints from the *Elephant Folio*, *Bien*, and *Octavo* editions of *The Birds of America*.

“The Friends are very generous people who have worked hard over the years to preserve Mill Grove and build this important collection,” said Center Director Jean Bochnowski. “This gift demonstrates their confidence in the National Audubon Society’s stewardship and staff at the Center.”

Under the leadership of Jean and Terry Holt, the all-volunteer Friends organization was formed in 1985 to protect land adjacent to Mill Grove from developers. After raising more than \$200,000 to acquire 55 development-threatened acres, the group established a small museum shop. Profits from the shop were used to purchase art and to support the site’s special events. The previous year, the Friends donated the gift shop inventory to NAS and invested more than \$10,000 to restore Mill Grove’s historic barn to open it to the public.

In another vote of confidence, NAS designated the John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove as curator of its own significant collection of art, which includes works by John James Audubon and other renowned birdlife artists. Among the NAS holdings are a complete set of Audubon’s *Birds of America* and *Quadrupeds of North America*, both currently exhibited at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C. This new curatorial role expands the Center’s current responsibility for managing the Montgomery County collection of Audubon art housed at Mill Grove.

John Flicker, National Audubon Society President added his insight into the Center’s new role, “The John James Audubon Center is attracting the attention of private collectors who are interested in donating their beloved ‘Audubons’ to place where the artist’s love for America and its wildlife began.”

Mill Grove; Lower Providence Hosts 2nd Annual Juried Art Show

By Jon Hartman, *Marketing Coordinator*

The John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove and Lower Providence Township announce that their 2nd Annual Juried Art Show is scheduled from April 27 - May 7, 2006. Selected entries will be exhibited in the historic barn at Mill Grove. Artists in all media are encouraged to submit works.

The juror for this year's show is Chester County artist Adrian Martinez. Mr. Martinez is a renowned painter from Chester County whose works include portraits, landscapes, and historical paintings. In 2003, he completed a commission to paint a 10' x 18' mural for the White House. President and Mrs. Bush selected Mr. Martinez in 2001 to paint a scene for the White House Christmas card.

This year's theme is "Community of Nature," with a special emphasis on art containing a wildlife theme. Mill Grove will be accepting works in all fine art media including drawings, paintings, prints, sculpture and photography.

Cash awards and prizes are available, totaling more than \$1,200. Four awards will be given in each of the following four categories: 1) Oils and acrylics; 2) Watercolors and mixed media; 3) Drawings, prints, pastels and photography; 4) Sculpture, Wall Hangings and Textiles. Prize money will also accompany the following: Best of Show Award, Best Show Theme Award, Audubon Nature Award, and Lower Providence Community Award.

To receive a prospectus for entering the show, please call Mill Grove at 610-666-5593. All work is due at the museum by 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 25, 2006.



Chester County artist Adrian Martinez will be judging this year's Juried Art Show at The John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove.

More information on Adrian Martinez and his work can be found at his web site, www.adrianmartinez.com.

2006 Calendar of Events

at John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove

All outdoor programs will run weather permitting. Please call *The John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove* at 610-666-5593 for reservations and additional information.

MARCH 18

Outdoor Survival Skills

11:00 am - 1:00 pm

Learn about the early beginnings of humans through the basics of fire and shelter building. Where would you find water? How do you read the signs that nature provides, like the weather? A hands-on program recommended for children and adults, ages 9 and up.

Non-members: \$5.00 per adult and \$3.00 per child. Members: Free.

APRIL 2

Native and Pioneer Games

1:30 pm - 3:00 pm

This family oriented hands-on program will explore the day-to-day traditions of past cultures and the recreational pursuits of our ancestors. Come prepared to participate! Call for reservations.

Non-members: \$5.00 per adult and \$3.00 per child. Members: Free.

APRIL 27 - MAY 7

Juried Art Show

The 2nd Annual Mill Grove Juried Spring Art Show will again be held in the historic barn. This year the show will feature nature subjects. There will be prizes for a variety of categories including Wildlife Art (*Chester County artist Adrian Martinez serves as juror*). Several special art activities will be held as well.

MAY 19

Adults Only Evening Campfire "How the Animals Do It"

7:00 pm

Come and learn about romance in the woods. Share an evening of songs, stories and an eye-opening presentation. BYOB. Hors d'oeuvres provided. Bring a blanket or chairs to sit on.

Non-members: \$8.00 per person. Members: \$5.00 per person.

MAY 27

Finding Your Way

10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Learn the basic skills of reading a compass and map correctly and getting your feet to follow the right path. Take part in the Center's own challenge course to test your skills. Recommended for adults and children 9 and up.

Non-members: \$5.00 per adult and \$3.00 per child. Members Free.

Amazing Migration

By Holly Smith, *Education/Project Assistant*

Welcome spring!! The western breezes bear warmth and the vernal equinox promises more daylight from now until September. Vernal pools, full from spring rains and snowmelt, are ready to receive breeding salamanders and frogs. The earth is moist and fresh. For birders, spring means stretching our legs, warming up those binocular muscles, and re-tuning our bird-song ears. It also means the delight of having new birds appear in the yard each day. For birds, spring means migration and mating.

Migration Musings

In his 1999 book, *Living on the Wind: Across the Hemisphere with Migratory Birds*, Audubon Pennsylvania Board member Scott Weidensaul describes the intricacies of bird migration. Birds are genetically programmed to migrate in a particular direction at a particular time of the year. While many of the specifics of avian migration “instinct” are still being discovered, it is known that birds use the sun, moon, and stars as compasses and actually compensate for their apparent movement across the sky. Birds also detect weak magnetic fields, slight odors, polarized light, barometric pressure, and very low-frequency sound waves. All of these clues blend together to help our feathered friends travel vast distances across oceans and continents.

It may be surprising, perhaps even puzzling, to learn that most long-distance “migrants” travel at night. Weidensaul offers several suggestions. Darkness may offer protection from



Geese fly against the backdrop of a full moon at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area, Kleinseltersville, Pennsylvania.

predators. Atmospheric conditions are often less turbulent at night, offering a smoother flight. Cool evening air wicks away the tremendous amounts of body heat created by rapid flapping, thus regulating a bird's body temperature, and dampness helps to replace the water lost through tiny breaths.

Birds that travel relatively short distances within the boundaries of North America tend to be “diurnal migrants” or those that travel by day. Cranes, geese, and ducks steer using visual landmarks (although sometimes geese and ducks will fly by night with the help of moonlight). Swallows and swifts dine on insects while flying. Shorebirds fly by both day and night to cover great distances. Raptors use the rising thermals created when the sun heats the earth's surface and wind updrafts produced along ridges for lift and soaring (see article on page 6). A smattering of other birds such as American Robins, hummingbirds, migratory woodpeckers, crows, and ravens also travel during the day.

Moonwatching

For a spring evening thrill that bests any prime time television offering, go outside when the moon is full (or near to full) and low in the sky. Situate yourself comfortably where you have a good view of the moon, and have your binoculars handy. Better yet, set up a scope. Patience will reward you with flashes of silhouetted songbirds as they fly between you and the moon. To add to the excitement, many species, such as warblers, sparrows, cuckoos, rails, herons, and *Catharus* thrushes, give short vocalizations while they fly. Other species, such as vireos, flycatchers, and orioles, tend not to vocalize during their night migration (Evans and Rosenberg, http://www.birds.cornell.edu/pifcapemay/evans_roseberg.htm, 2000). See the Spring Lunar Schedule on the next page to help plan your spring evening birding.

Once landed...

Spring migration has an urgent energy to it. For each species there is

an optimal time to arrive in their breeding areas. For some territorial species, the strongest males arrive first and stake out the prime territories, often in the same location as the previous year. (Knowing this, we can imagine how landscape changes that take place over the winter must confound migrating birds.) Once established on territory, the males proceed to set up a ruckus, cheerfully claiming the best territory and best fatherhood potential. Along come the females who then proceed to select the males that occupy the best traits and habitats for raising their broods. Other breeding strategies exist that involve multiple mates, such as polygyny or polygamy, and even in species thought to be monogamous, “cheating” with neighbors does indeed occur, according to recent genetic and behavioral studies.

Protect and Celebrate

Birds travel light and live off of the land. Reliable sources of food, water, and sanctuary must be available across the landscape for their efforts to be successful. If there is no safe place to land, swim, feed, or rest, whether it be in a grassland in Argentina or a Northern Boreal Forest, migratory bird populations will continue to decline. Audubon works tirelessly to protect the most important habitats that support birdlife, but we can all contribute by creating habitat on our property and encouraging businesses to do likewise. By supporting conservation groups like Audubon (with your time, talent, and/or donation) you actively promote habitat protection.

Witnessing the amazing phenomenon of migration with our grandchildren will be our reward. How better to celebrate the renewal of spring?



The short night-flight calls from species like this Black-and-white Warbler (Mniotilta varia) are recorded and later analyzed to help monitor populations and identify migration routes.

Tom Johnson

Spring Lunar Schedule	March	April	May
Date of Full Moon	14	13	13
Time of Moon Rise	6:07pm	*8:02pm	*9:12 pm

* Reflects Daylight Savings Time

A Wow! Waterfowl Experience

Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area is the ultimate migration birding experience. Middle Creek (page 68 of the Susquehanna River Birding and Wildlife Trail available on www.pabirdingtrails.org) is a 6,254-acre northern Lancaster County Pennsylvania Game Commission site that includes a 400-acre lake, which acts as a staging area for tens of thousands of Tundra Swans and Snow Geese as they pause to gather energy for their northward trek. During prime staging season – mid-February through March – thousands of birders and non-birders alike hike the 1/2-mile gravel road to Willow Point to stand amongst the flocks. Someone usually has a scope set up, and many happy hours can be spent scanning the lake and nearby fields, squinting and blinking as the sun reflects off of the water and so many feathery white backs. A close examination of the flocks may reveal the less common Ross’s Goose milling among the Snows. Plan to spend the day, and try to resist the temptation to gawk open-mouthed during the skin-prickling experience of having thousands of birds take flight over your head.

(Contact: Pennsylvania Game Commission, Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area, PO Box 110, Kleinfeltersville, Pa. 717-733-1512)

When will they come?

The National Wildlife Federation’s website *eNature* has a terrific website for tracking your favorite migrant. For the Northeast region of the U.S. for instance, information is offered on 37 species of birds. Find species-specific migration information and spring migration maps depicting arrival dates. Winter ranges and migratory paths are also illustrated. Visit: http://www.enature.com/birding/migration_home.asp.

Resources

1. Evans W.R., and K.V. Rosenberg. 2000. (http://www.birds.cornell.edu/pifcapemay/evans_rosenberg.htm) *Acoustic Monitoring of Night-Migrating Birds: A Progress Report*. Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology.
2. Weidensaul, S. 1999. *Living on the Wind: Across the Hemisphere with Migratory Birds*. North Point Press: New York, New York.

Help Pennsylvania Birds and Wildlife...

Support the 2006 BIRDATHON®!

What is BIRDATHON!?

You've probably heard of Walk-a-thons and Tele-thons. Welcome to BIRDATHON®, the National Audubon Society's annual spring fundraising event that supports wildlife conservation in your home state.

Bird-watching is among the fastest growing, most popular outdoor activities in America. More than 60 million people consider themselves active bird watchers, and millions more feed birds. But have you ever considered birding as a competitive activity? Or as a way to help the birds you love?

Each year the National Audubon Society, America's oldest bird and wildlife conservation organization, coordinates BIRDATHON!, the world's largest competitive bird-watching event. BIRDATHON! is the unique Audubon way to celebrate the importance of migratory birds and raise funds for Audubon's conservation programs. BIRDATHON!s raise over \$1 million annually. Across the country, over 100,000 individual sponsors and 30,000 volunteers participate in over 300 communities. Event publicity reaches an estimated 35 million people.

How Does BIRDATHON! Work?

BIRDATHON!s are held throughout the United States from April to June, with times for local events coinciding with bird spring migration times. Our teams will scour the countryside during the first two weeks in May, peak migration time in Pennsylvania. BIRDATHON! team members spend a day out in the field, trying to identify as many birds as possible in a single day. Before the big day, team members ask their friends

and neighbors to "sponsor" them by making a pledge or gift based on the number of species they'll see. Depending on weather and how cooperative the birds are, the team you sponsor could see as many as 100 species, and perhaps many more! *Your team is competing for optics prizes and trophies!*

How Does the BIRDATHON! help birds and other wildlife in Pennsylvania?

100% of Birdathon funds raised by Pennsylvania Audubon team members will go to support our Audubon signature conservation and educational programs here in Pennsylvania.

How Can I Help?

- Whether you are a serious or casual birder, you can be a part of BIRDATHON! 2006.
- Sponsor a Pennsylvania Audubon team from your region or a friend who is a team member!
- Join your local Audubon Chapter and support a BIRDATHON! close to your home!
- Or join a team and ask your friends to support you!
- Pledge an amount per species, or a fixed amount.
- Any way you contribute, you put your dollars to work

to help Pennsylvania's birds, wildlife and their habitat.

So, come on, join in the fun, and help the Audubon team protect our great natural heritage in Pennsylvania by supporting our BIRDATHON!

For more information about participating in BIRDATHON! call Devon Reeser, Development Assistant, at 610-337-0930 or e-mail dreeser@audubon.org.

Support your regional Pennsylvania BIRDATHON! Team!

- **In Central PA/Kittatinny Ridge** - State Office Staff Paul Zeph, and Rick Yancoskie.
- **In North Central PA/IBAs and Bald Eagle State Park** - State Office Staff Kim Van Fleet.
- **In the Northeast PA/Poconos Area** - Audubon PA Board members Joseph G. DeMarco, Carmen Santasania, William Sordoni and State Office Executive Director Tim Schaeffer.
- **In Southeast PA/The John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove/Fairmount Park** - Audubon PA Board members Dr. Leigh Altadonna, Alan Candor, Janet Starwood, Arthur Newbold, volunteers Saul Fischer and Keyth Russell and State Office staff Rhonda Poe and Devon Reeser.
- **In the greater Philadelphia Region/Fairmount Park** - State Office Staff Devon Reeser and Keith Russell.
- **In Central PA/State College Area** - Audubon PA Board members Mark Henry and volunteer Ron Freed.
- **In Western Pennsylvania** - State Office Staff Stacy Small.

Dear Friend of Audubon,

You may know that last year Audubon celebrated its 100th anniversary as a champion of birdlife, wildlife and wild lands conservation. Friends like you across Pennsylvania have been at Audubon's side in leading the charge to protect the Commonwealth's great natural heritage.

What you may not know is that millions of birds find temporary habitat within Pennsylvania as they migrate through the western hemisphere. Pennsylvania also is critical for many species of birds that nest deep in unbroken forests. The Blue Mountain/Kittatinny Ridge is recognized as a globally significant migration flyway for tens of thousands of hawks and eagles, and for millions of songbirds every spring and fall. Many of these birds are at risk. Their populations are declining as habitat rapidly disappears from urban sprawl, overabundant deer, invasive plant species and other pressures.

I am asking you now, as one of Audubon's most passionate supporters, to help us build the grassroots support in your local community. Help us care for Important Bird Areas like the Kittatinny Ridge — to encourage landowners to be good stewards of their land, and municipalities to protect our Pennsylvania forests, fields and wetlands. Help us provide the tools and information that will allow Pennsylvanians to become advocates for the future of birds, wildlife and habitat in their own communities.

Whether you are a serious, casual or beginning birder, BIRDATHON! needs your support today more than ever. Contact Audubon Pennsylvania or call your local Chapter (listed on page 10,) or go online at www.audubon.pa.org/birdathon/ for more information on how you can start your own BIRDATHON! team to raise funds for Audubon Pennsylvania. If you can't form a team, please consider sponsoring one of our regional teams. Just return your completed pledge form (seen below) or your gift to Audubon Pennsylvania, 105 Town Center Road, Suite 16, King of Prussia, PA 19406.



Scott Weidensaul,
naturalist-author,
is Audubon Pennsylvania's
2006 BIRDATHON!
spokesperson

Scott Weidensaul

International Migratory Bird Day (IMBD) May 13, 2006

IMBD was created in 1993 to bring attention to the nearly 350 species of migratory birds that travel between non-breeding grounds in Latin America and the southern US to nesting habitats in North America. Many of these bird populations are declining because they face threats on their migration routes and in their summer and winter habitats.

IMBD is not just an appreciation day—it's a call to action. Today, under the direction of the National Fish and Wildlife Service, a coalition of government agencies, conservation organizations, private businesses, academic institutions, chambers of commerce and citizens celebrate IMBD throughout the Western Hemisphere. BIRDATHON! is a recognition of Pennsylvania's importance to this spring migratory occurrence.

Yes! I would like to support BIRDATHON! 2006

Proceeds from BIRDATHON! 2006 will go toward bird, wildlife and habitat conservation efforts throughout Pennsylvania.

Yes! I would like to make a pledge of \$ _____ per bird species identified during Audubon Pennsylvania's BIRDATHON! 2006.
(Totals are expected to reach 250 species.)

Yes! I would like to make a pledge of \$ _____ to support my regional Pennsylvania BIRDATHON! Team _____.

Instead of a pledge, I would prefer to make a donation of \$ _____.

Check (payable to Audubon Pennsylvania) MasterCard Visa

Card number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Signature: _____ Name (as it appears on card): _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____



Audubon PENNSYLVANIA

SOUTHEASTERN PA OFFICE 105 Town Center Road, Suite 16 King of Prussia, PA 19406 610-337-0890
JOHN JAMES AUDUBON CENTER at MILL GROVE 1201 Pawlings Road Audubon, PA 19407 610-666-5593
HARRISBURG OFFICE 100 Wildwood Way Harrisburg, PA 17110 717-213-6880
<http://pa.audubon.org>

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The Susquehanna River Birding and Wildlife Trail Web Site...

Go to pabirdingtrails.org

Pennsylvania is the “keystone” state for bird watching during fall’s seasonal bird migration. With more than 400 species of birds documented in the state, including 186 breeding species of birds, residents and visitors can find year-round opportunities to engage in bird and wildlife watching in Pennsylvania.



Susquehanna River
Birding and Wildlife Trail

By highlighting parks, natural areas, trails, and scenic drives, the Susquehanna River Birding and Wildlife Trail book and web site provide a convenient tool to lead you to bird and wildlife watching areas. Discover the many natural wonders and hidden jewels of Pennsylvania—from old growth forests to lush wetlands, to vast grasslands.

The web site (pabirdingtrails.org) provides a searchable database to over 218 locations in 39 counties. Site descriptions, county maps, directions, tourism information, and bird watching tips make this a valuable resource for outdoor enthusiasts.

To order a copy of the Susquehanna River Birding and Wildlife Trail book to accompany you during your travels, send a \$9.00 check, payable to “Audubon Pennsylvania-Bird Trail” to:

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