BIRD TOWN *FLYER*

Audubon PENNSYLVANIA

Volume 3 Issue 9 *Welcome New Readers!* **Winter 2015**

PA COUNTS! The Central Source for Citizen Scientists!

Citizen Scientists...UNITE! It's time to join Audubon PA's newest campaign to increase awareness and participation in...the GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT. (aka: GBBC)

A webpage has recently been launched to help consolidate resources and help newcomers...teachers take note also...there is information for you to inspire your young naturalists to spend part of President's Day weekend observing nature and use their internet savviness to enter the data! (although it's easy for more mature people too!)

In the meantime, get your habitat in shape; make sure you have feeders, good quality seed, and a source of water (yes, even in winter!). For those who recently joined the Bird Habitat Recognition network, check out our business partners at http://pa.audubon.org/save for savings on all the supplies you'll need to make a great GBBC habitat!

http://pa.audubon.org/pa-counts

(clickable links below newsletter)

5th Annual Bird Festival Soars to New Heights!

The Upper Perkiomen Bird and Wildlife Festival was held on September 26 and saw an increase in attendance over last year's event—nearly 3,000 people enjoyed yet another picture perfect day at Green Lane Park. Planning is already underway for next year and we'll include the popular, annual features such as live animals, a bird-calling contest, a raffle, face painting, food, vendors, and more. A big thanks goes out to our co-host for the event, the Montgomery County Division of Parks, Trails and Historic Sites and to the Montgomery County Commissioners!

AARK Rehab staff and one of their education birds. Photo by Kevin Crilley

Can you I.D. these?

If so, you're off to a good start for the GBBC! Attend a free ID/feeding workshop to learn more of the common feeder birds! See calendar of events in this issue!

Photos by Howard B. Eskin

BirdTownPA

Audubon At Home
John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove
1201 Pawlings Rd.
Audubon PA 19403
610.666.5593 x112

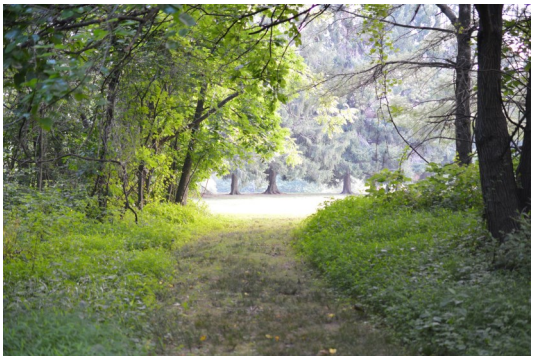
Winter Woodpecker Woes *(reprinted from last year's issue)*

Woodpeckers chipping away at your wood siding or shingles? Could be they're searching for good winter roost sites or insects. Check this website for information and remedies: **www.birds.cornell.edu/wp_about**

Photo by Howard B. Eskin

New Feature: Habitat Property of the Month

Kimberton Waldorf School, Kimberton, PA (prop #2015-066)



By Tim Walsh and Celia Martin

Kimberton Waldorf School consists of a breathtaking 430-acre campus with rolling hills, farm, bubbling creek, and forest. We also have the magical French Creek Conservation Trail on campus, which is used daily by the students for both educational and recreational purposes.

The garden actively maintains about twenty bluebird houses in which Eastern bluebirds, tree swallows, wrens and an occasional chickadee nest. We encourage these birds in the garden because they eat bugs so they are a natural insect control since we garden organically. We also have gourd houses for purple martins and a feeder for the hummingbirds that visit in the summer. On our campus the birds enjoy the fruits of serviceberry, dogwood, mulberry, wild cherry, crab apple and yes, poison ivy! Birds have also been known to take bites out of our apples and tomatoes and they usually eat all of the blueberries before we can get to them but we are willing to share. There are many birds that nest on our school campus and in the surrounding property in the woods. These include those already mentioned plus woodpeckers (including the magnificent pileated woodpecker), titmice, robins, mockingbirds, killdeer, mourning doves, cardinals, blue jays, many kinds of sparrows and much more. Our fields are an active hunting ground for great blue herons, red tailed hawks, kestrels, turkey and black vultures and other birds of prey including an occasional bald eagle. We once had a sandhill crane walking through the fields which I think became lost during its migration. The French Creek, which borders our property, is home to many geese and ducks including mergansers and wood ducks, and the rattling call of kingfishers can be heard frequently. At night we have heard the calls of both screech owls in the summer and great horned owls in the winter. We definitely have many kinds of birds living here, feeding here and nesting here. See http://kimberton.org for info. Tours available!

You're receiving this newsletter because you are part of our Bird Habitat network, you took the Healthy Yard pledge, or you expressed an interest in birds, nature, or native plants. Please share this newsletter with your friends!! Do not want to receive the *Bird Town Flyer*?? No prob. Please reply to this email with request to cancel.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS—2015/2016

PIC OF LEIGH ALTADONNA BY JENN SHERWOOD

BIRD TOWN EVENTS

All events listed below are free and presented in partnership with Wyncote Audubon Society and the listed Bird Town.

DEC. 3, 9:30 AM (THURS), BIRD WALK, ROBBINS PARK, 1419 E. BUTLER AVE, AMBLER, UPPER DUBLIN BIRD TOWN AND WYNCOTE AUDUBON. ALL LEVELS WELCOME!

DEC. 12, 10 AM (SAT): WINTER BIRDFEEDING AND I.D. WORKSHOP, FREE, AT THE UPPER MORELAND LIBRARY, WILLOW GROVE

DEC 15, 8:30 AM (TUES), BIRD WALK, LORIMER PARK, MOREDON ROAD, LOWER MORELAND, ABINGTON BIRD TOWN AND WYNCOTE AUDUBON, ALL LEVELS WELCOME!

JAN. 9, (SAT) TIME: TBD—BIRDFEEDING CLINIC WITH DRESHER'S WILD BIRDS UNLIMITED, BRIAR BUSH NATURE CENTER, 1212 EDGE HILL ROAD, ABINGTON BIRD TOWN

JAN. 10, (SUN) 1PM—3PM- BIRDFEEDING CLINIC WITH DRESHER'S WILD BIRDS UNLIMITED, ROBBINS PARK, BUTLER PIKE, AMBLER, UPPER DUBLIN BIRD TOWN

Ongoing: Birdseed Sale at **Bucks County Audubon** BCAS.org

2016 - SAVE THE DATES!

UPPER DUBLIN BIRD TOWN BIRD WALKS (TIMES ARE PENDING; CHECK FUTURE NEWSLETTERS FOR TIMES)

JAN 7, THURS—TWINING VALLEY GOLF COURSE
FEB. 7, THURS—ROSE VALLEY PRESERVE
MAR 4, THURS—PINE RUN PARK
APR 7, THURS—ROBBINS PARK
APR 17, SUN—TEMPLE AMBLER CAMPUS
MAY 5, THURS—ROSE VALLEY PRESERVE
MAY 15, SUN—TEMPLE AMBLER CAMPUS
JUNE 2, THUR—ROBBINS PARK

PA Businesses...You're Invited!

The Habitat Discount Card program is looking for more businesses to join our network by providing discounts to our registered bird habitats (800+ across the state)

Go to http://pa.audubon.org/save and download the application.

There is no fee required and *you* dictate what the discount will be! Your business will be listed along with the others in the network on the website.

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