

# QUITTAPAHILLA AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Fall 2019

P. O. Box 123, Palmyra, PA 17078-0123

[www.QASAudubon.org](http://www.QASAudubon.org)

## Upcoming QAS Events

Join Us! Everyone Is Welcome!

### Upcoming Programs . . .

The Quittapahilla Audubon Society holds its programs in the Chapel of the Lebanon Valley Home at 7:00pm every fourth Wednesday of the month from September through April (with the exception of November and December). Due to the holidays, the programs are held another week in these two months. Programs are free and open to the public. They are designed for a general audience and children are welcome when accompanied by an adult.

Lebanon Valley Home is located one half mile east of the intersection of Routes 422 and 934 at 550 East Main Street, Annville, PA. There is limited parking in front of the Home with additional parking available on the adjacent streets. Please use the main entrance at the end of the covered walkway in the front of the Home. The Chapel is handicap accessible.

*Please note:* that the Lebanon Valley Home has a new policy regarding the front entrance. The door will now be locked at 6pm each night instead of 8pm for the safety of residents. We will have a QAS member out front on meeting nights until the meeting starts to open the door. There is a doorbell installed which will alert a Lebanon Valley Home employee to your presence if you are late.

### **September 25, 2019 – TBA**

Our previously scheduled speaker had to cancel.



### ***October 23, 2019 – Spotted Lanternfly: It's Here in Lebanon County! – Mary Lott***

This evening will feature a discussion via Power Point about what the Spotted Lanternfly is and where it came from. Also, details will be presented about the five steps one can take to manage this latest invasive pest.

Mary Lott, a Lebanon County Master Gardener, is a former cardiology researcher at Penn State Hershey Medical Center. Her gardening interests include native plants at the Butterfly and Bee Research Gardens at Penn State Extension Trial Gardens in Manheim, PA. She is also the Lebanon County Master Gardener Chair of the SLF Committee, a member of the Plant Sale Committee, and a member of the Garden (Adult Education) Committee. (Photo by Lawrence Barringer).

***November 20, 2019 – Wild Edible Plants –  
Debbie Naha-Koretzky***

Many people don't realize that they are surrounded by edible plants! Join Debbie Naha-Koretzky (The Wild Edibles Lady) for a fun program to open your eyes to the world of wild edibles. From dandelions to acorns, the fields and woods are filled with an abundance of edibles. This program will cover plant I.D., safe and sustainable harvesting, and incorporating wild plants into culinary dishes. In addition, we'll learn just how good these plants are for us.

Debbie Naha-Koretzky, received her master's degree in Clinical Nutrition from New York University. She is a Licensed Dietitian Nutritionist, a Certified Rutgers Master Gardener, and a Pennsylvania Master Naturalist. Her advanced training in nutrition provides a unique approach to appreciating wild edibles.

***December 11, 2019 – Christmas Social and Member digitals – Note: Social gathering starts at 6:30pm – Program starts at 7:30pm***

Join us as members share their favorite slides and digital photos with the group. This is our holiday social, so please bring a plate of holiday treats to share after the program. Drinks will be provided.

***January 22, 2020 – Conservation of Pennsylvania's Bats in a Time of Crisis – Chris Hauer***

This program will discuss the bat species commonly found throughout Pennsylvania, the importance of bats in maintaining healthy ecosystems, threats to bats including White-nose Syndrome, and current efforts being made to further study and conserve remaining bat populations.

Chris Hauer is a wildlife biologist with the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs at Fort Indiantown Gap. He received a B.S. in Biology from Albright College in 2012, and an M.S. in Biology from East Stroudsburg University in 2014. For his graduate research, Chris worked in

collaboration with the National Park Service to implement a comprehensive inventory of bats in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area and surrounding wildlife refuges in northeastern Pennsylvania. He has worked with bats since 2012, and his current research focuses on understanding the impacts of land management practices (i.e., prescribed fire, timber harvest) and White-nose Syndrome on bat ecology and habitat use.

***May 19, 2020 (Tuesday) – The Healthiest Forest: What Science Says About Old Growth And Why It Matters For Birds – Dr. Joan Maloof***

During this talk, Dr. Joan Maloof will discuss how forests of different ages support different bird species – and why it is critical that we preserve some forests in their natural condition so they can support the full structural characteristics needed by forest dwelling bird species. Maloof will also discuss the condition of the earth's forests and what we can do to save habitat for all species. Books will be available for sale and signing. Come enjoy this time to talk together about trees and birds.

Joan Maloof is a PhD ecologist, an author of four books, and the founder of the Old-Growth Forest Network.

**See page eight for the reservation form!**

***And Our Field Trips at a Glance . . .***

Please join us for as many of our field trips as your calendar will allow.

***Saturday, September 28 – Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (MCWMA)***

Observation of flora and fauna. Meet at 9 AM at the visitor center parking lot. Leader Fritz Heilman (717-273-0487).

***October 6,7 & 8 – Chincoteague & DelMarVa Peninsula – limit 8 participants***

Contact Jim Fiorentino (717-269-0675).

### ***Tuesday, Oct. 29 – Blue Marsh Lake/Union Canal Trail***

Observation of flora and fauna. Meet at 9 AM at Weis Market (east of Lebanon) parking lot, southwest section. Leader Fritz Heilman (717-273-0487).

### ***Sunday, November 17 – Lebanon Valley Rail Trail (LVRT)***

Observation of local birds. Meet at 9 AM at LVRT adjacent to the Lebanon Valley Expo Center. Leader Jim Fiorentino (717-269-0675).

### ***Saturday, December 21 – QAS 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC)***

Event includes walking and driving to count birds within prescribed area. Contact Fritz Heilman (717-273-0487).

### ***Wednesday, January 1, 2020– Lebanon Valley Rail Trail (LVRT)***

Observation of local wintering birds via walk on rail trail. Meet at 10:30 AM at Lebanon Valley Expo Center parking lot next to LVRT. Leader Jim Fiorentino (717-269-0675).

### ***Sunday, February 2 or 9 – Barnegat Lighthouse & Brigantine National Wildlife Refuge – limit 8 participants***

This is an all-day trip, weather permitting. Contact Jim Fiorentino (717-269-0675).

#### **Check out the QAS Grant Program!**

The grant applications are online. We accept them year-round! Check out the QAS website if you or someone you know has a project that may qualify for a QAS Grant!



Samantha Thompson shows campers Ross Gerberich and Luke Hentz a young alligator.

### ***2019 QAS Camper Scholarships Awarded!***

– Rosemary Spreha

Quittapahilla Audubon is pleased to announce that there were two applicants for the camp scholarship. Ross Gerberich and Luke Hentz (see photo above) applied and were granted scholarships to Zoo Camp at Zoo America in Hershey, PA. They attended the week-long day camp in July. They will attend the September 25, 2019 meeting to share their experiences with the club members. *Information about applying for future scholarships is detailed in the next article.*



### ***QAS Camper Scholarships – Rosemary Spreha***

QAS is looking for qualified local students to attend nature-related summer camps. Scholarships are available for students in first through twelfth grade. Scholarships are also available for Educators. Anyone interested in attending summer camp and applying for a QAS scholarship needs to choose a camp appropriate to their age group and submit a scholarship application to QAS. Updated

applications and the criteria are available online at [www.QASAudubon.org](http://www.QASAudubon.org).

Suggested camps include ZooAmerica Day Camp, Wildwood Way Day Camp, and Hog Island Audubon Camp. Parents are responsible for a portion of the camp tuition and transportation to and from camp.

### ***QAS NEEDS YOU!***

If you can give a little bit of your time to QAS, please consider becoming a board member, an officer, or a committee chairperson. Your help will be welcome in any capacity – even if you only have a little bit of time to help. The reach of QAS is only limited by the abilities and contributions of our members. You can talk to any officer or board member anytime about your interest in volunteering. **We would love to welcome you to the QAS team!**

### **A Word from QAS President Jim Fiorentino...**

It's July 11 as I write this, and it's another hot and humid summer day...and we are again expecting rain! It seems we have a thundershower everyday anymore! I am also packing for our family's annual vacation to Myrtle Beach, SC where I will also get to do some birding at Huntington Beach State Park. I can't wait to see the Painted Bunting again this year!

Yesterday we held the QAS annual summer BBQ and Board meeting, and I am very excited about the programs and field trips we have planned for the 2019-20 season. But before we get to that...let's review the 2018-19 programs and field trips. We had 728 participants (another high count since I have keeping records of attendance) in all of our programs and field trips for a total of 5,752 participant hours – I wish to thanks all of you that attended a program and/or field trips during the past year! You made the 2018-19 program/field trip year a very successful year for QAS!

With this in mind, we hope to improve on these number during the 2019-20 season....as the Board has again scheduled a varied and interesting program schedule for the coming year. We have presentations on Edible Wilds Plant, Old Growth

Forests, Vultures, and of course the Christmas Cookie and Member slides social! I believe every member will find a least one program that interests them – hopefully they all will. In addition, we have 25+ field trips scheduled – with trips to Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area, Lebanon Valley Rail Trail, Brigantine, Colebrook State Game Lands, Miners Village SGL 156, Wildwood Lake, and Memorial Lake to name only a few! Everyone should be able to find a field trip that they would enjoy and hopefully attend. Let's all work at improving our attendance of field trips during the 2019-20 season. The field trips are only successful if you, our membership, participate in them (see our web site and/or Facebook page for further details on any trip or contact any Board Member or Officer).

Additionally, during the summer Board meeting, after a long discussion, it was decided by the Board that effective April 1, 2020 the QAS Newsletter will be going digital. Over the next few months, as we transition to digital, you our membership, will be asked to input and reply either via email or the postal service as to whether you want a 'hard copy' of the newsletter. We are still planning to get a limited number of the newsletters 'printed' as we realize not all of our membership may be able to access the newsletter on-line or be comfortable doing so. More details will be forthcoming in the months ahead as we refine the details of this major change. This was not an easy decision for the Board, but the continuing rise in both the printing and postal costs necessitated that we make the change.

I again thank all of you for your support of Audubon and QAS. I also thank all current and former Officers and Board members for their continued commitment and dedication.

In closing, I hope to see all of you along a birding trail, at a QAS program, on a QAS field trip or at my favorite birding location – Middle Creek – sometime during the 2019-20 birding season.

**Good Birding!**

Jim

### ***How Much Do You "like" QAS?***

QAS is on Facebook! Please stop by and "like" us. We are always adding content about meetings and field trips as well as links which may interest QAS members. In addition, you can still sign up for

the **QAS-Announce** mailing list to receive e-mail reminders for our public meetings, field trips, and other announcements of interest. Just go to our website at [www.qasaudubon.org](http://www.qasaudubon.org)!

**Thursday, April 25 – Lancaster County  
Parks Rail Trail – Fritz Heilman**

We had seven participants on about a two-hour walk this AM on a section of the Conewago Recreation Trail in Lancaster County featuring a neat woodlot on the north side and encompassing a



section of the Conewago Creek. Various flora and fauna were observed, including: White-crowned Sparrow, House Wren, Gray Catbird, and an Eastern Phoebe by a small bridge. Another notable bird observation was a pair of Blue-gray Gnatcatchers in the process of building their nest. At the far end of our walk, we heard the calls of Scarlet Tanager, Wood Thrush and Eastern Towhee. Twenty-six species of birds were tallied for this visit.

Our walk also featured the observation of an extensive growth of Virginia Bluebells (*Mertensia virginica*), interspersed with the plant, Spring Beauty. Other plants observed included Common Groundsel, Anise-root (*Osmorhiza longistylis*), a plant in the Umbel family of plants, and Common Chickweed. Bladdernut (*Staphylea trifolia*), a notable shrub (the only member in this particular family of plants in Pennsylvania) with pendulous, clustered flowers was also found among the bluebells – both plants favoring moist woods.

**Saturday, April 27 – Wildwood Park – Fritz Heilman**

We had three participants on about a two-hour visit – it was very windy – and was also the 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Wetlands Festival (always the last Saturday in April) at this site. PA Audubon was there along with the Manada Conservancy and many other organizations. Twenty-seven species of birds were observed including the Yellow Warbler, American Redstart, Myrtle Warbler, and Palm Warbler. Green-wing Teal were out on the lake. Close looks were also had at the Great Egret in breeding plumage with a very noticeable green tone along base of bill.

**Saturday, May 4 – Furnace Hills  
Wildflowers and Songbirds – Fritz Heilman**

We had six participants on about a three-hour visit to the south mountains for the observation of spring plants and migrating songbirds. The weather was misty at first, but as often occurs on outings, the conditions improved to make for a fine morning walk. Our sites visited took us to some of the less disturbed and thus more pristine woods of the local area. This type of habitat yielded some very good native plant observations including several examples of the orchid Yellow Lady-slipper, many specimens of Showy Orchis (*Galearis spectabilis*), Two-Leaved Mitrewort (aka Bishop's-cap), Pennywort, a member of the Gentian family of plants. We also located the interesting mushroom known as an Earthstar (pictured) – this one may be



Hygrometer or Barometer Earthstar. Further observations included Maidenhair Fern and Round-lobed Hepatica (*Hepatica nobilis*) which was no longer in bloom at this late date. It is interesting to note, that according to "The Plants of Pennsylvania" by Rhoads and Block, there are 55 species of orchids in our state – but many are small flowered and easily overlooked. Of course, all our native orchids, and other native plants for that matter, should always be left where observed. Birds observed in the area included the Baltimore Oriole, Magnolia Warbler, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

Thanks once again to Jim M. and Jim C. Logan for organizing and leading this annual wildflower field trip. There are so many great examples of our native plants still to be seen – one just needs to observe at the right time of year (and that is worth checking each month of the year) and place.

### ***Wednesday, May 29 – Bird the Ridge Tour at Fort Indiantown Gap – Fritz Heilman***

About 30 participants (mostly Lancaster County Bird Club members) attended the Bird the Ridge Tour at Fort Indiantown Gap for an approximate 3 hours on site. We were split into two groups

Thirty-nine bird species were observed by our group. "Good birds" included numerous Indigo Buntings, Scarlet Tanager, and Brown Thrasher. Also, we heard both the call and sighting of Yellow-billed Cuckoo. We heard the calls of the Yellow-breasted Chat, but we could not locate it. We were afforded an excellent view by a bridge of a Louisiana Waterthrush – the bird was obviously near its nest site as it had food in its bill!

### ***Friday, June 14 – Lebanon Valley Rail Trail (LVRT) and Colebrook SGL 145 – Jim Fiorentino***

We had 7 people attend the QAS LVRT & Colebrook SGL 145 trip today. Some of the highlights included a pair of Red-bellied Woodpeckers coming and going into a nesting tree, as well as a pair of Downy Woodpeckers, and good looks at Great Crested Flycatcher. At the SGL 145 dam area, several members viewed a Belted Kingfisher swaying in the tree above the pond. The weather was cloudy and windy, and we had a short

rain shower with temps in mid 60's – quite cool for a mid-June trip. We ended the 3½-hour trip with a total species count of 45 for the two locations!

### ***Sunday, June 16 – Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (MCWMA) – Jim Fiorentino***

There was one participant on this weekend's final field trip to Middle Creek. Some of the highlights included seeing a pair of Yellow-billed Cuckoos near stop one and observing an immature Black-crowned Night Heron in the cul-de-sac pond. We also observed a Prothonotary Warbler near tour stop 4. The final species count was 51 for the 3-½ hour trip.

### ***Sunday, July 28 – Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (MCWMA) – Fritz Heilman***

We had two participants on about a two-hour visit to Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area for the observation of butterflies, dragonflies and their habitat. The meadows to the west and northwest of the visitor center were the areas surveyed as these have become over recent years excellent habitat for all manner of insects and plants. Butterfly numbers were high with many specimens of Eastern Tiger Swallowtails along with a good representation of Spicebush Swallowtails. An occasional Clearwing Hummingbird Sphinx Moth was also seen in addition to one nice look at a Common Buckeye. Monarchs were numerous as well as were Eastern Tailed-Blues. Many nectar plants were on



site including Wild Bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*), Joe-Pye weed (*Eupatorium* sp.), and Mountain Mint (*Pycnanthemum* sp.). Dragonflies were present as well – including a female Eastern Pondhawk and a good find of a male Spangled Skimmer. Also observed, in the meadow, was one adult form of the Spotted Lanternfly.

Regarding birds, a couple notable sightings included one Osprey at the main impoundment and four immature Little Blue Herons (all white body at this stage) in the first pond on the left as one enters the management area on Hopeland Road.

Suggested references for the above include: *Butterflies Through Binoculars The East* by J. Glassberg; *Wildflowers In The Field And Forest* by S. Clemants and C. Gracie; *Peterson Field Guide To Moths* by D. Beadle and S. Leckie; *Beginner's Guide To Dragonflies* by D. and L. Stokes.

### ***Hersheypark Fundraiser*** – Rosemary Spreha

Quittapahilla Audubon has once again participated in the Hersheypark fundraiser. Volunteers work at various food booths in the park and Hersheypark makes a donation to Quittapahilla for the hours they work. Volunteers receive vouchers good for admission to Hersheypark. Thanks to this year's volunteers – Susan Dubbs, Kellie Kertulis, Kay Knepp, Linda Mengak, George Mentzer, Clarke Paine, and Jane Watts. If you are interested in participating, please contact Rosemary Spreha at [rspreha@gmail.com](mailto:rspreha@gmail.com).



### ***The QAS Newsletter is Going Digital*** – Gary Kinkley

Next year, we are planning to transition away from a printed newsletter due to the costs to the

chapter from both printing and postage price increases. We currently offer every newsletter on our website [www.qasaudubon.org](http://www.qasaudubon.org) under the “Newsletters” tab. We will still offer a small number of newsletters for members without internet access as well as some printed copies at our monthly membership meetings. More details will be forthcoming.



### ***Tune In...***

If you enjoy listening to nature-oriented programs, you may want to consider tuning in to Jack's Backyard, a call-in talk show about nature and birding with a general focus on the great outdoors and creatures in our local environment. Tune into Reading radio station WEEU AM 830 on Saturday mornings from 8 to 10 AM or call (610) 374-8800 or 1-800-323-8800 to participate.



### ***QAS Fall Newsletter Deadline***

If you have an item, an article or a photo that you would like to submit for inclusion in the next issue of the QAS Newsletter, please send them to Gary Kinkley by November 27, 2019. Articles may be emailed to [cathartesaura@live.com](mailto:cathartesaura@live.com) or mailed to him at 3 Clark Road, Annville, PA 17003. Comments are also welcome. **This is your chapter and your newsletter, and we want to hear from you!**

# Quittapahilla Audubon Society 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Banquet

Tuesday, May 19, 2020 -- Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m.

Hebron Banquet Hall, 701 East Walnut Street (Route 422), Lebanon, PA 17042

**Reservations Required**



### Banquet Menu

#### *Served Buffet Style*

Garden Salad, Roast Turkey, Roast Beef  
Potato Filling, Glazed Carrots, Dinner Rolls  
Assorted Cakes, Coffee, Iced Tea, & Water

## ***The Healthiest Forest: What Science Says About Old Growth and Why It Matters for Birds – Dr. Joan Maloof***

During this talk, Dr. Joan Maloof will discuss how forests of different ages support different bird species – and why it is critical that we preserve some forests in their natural condition so they can support the full structural characteristics needed by forest dwelling bird species. Maloof will also discuss the condition of the earth's forests and what we can do to save habitat for all species. Books will be available for sale and signing. Come enjoy this time to talk together about trees and birds. (Photo by Nicholas A. Tonelli).

Joan Maloof is a PhD ecologist, an author of four books, and the founder of the Old-Growth Forest Network.

### **Travel Directions**

*From 422 East*, travel west on Cumberland Street and turn left onto South 5th Avenue. Continue on South 5th Avenue to Walnut Street and turn left.

Travel east on Walnut Street to 701 East Walnut Street. The Hebron Banquet Hall is located on the left.

*From 422 West*, travel east on Walnut Street to 701 East Walnut Street. The Hebron Banquet Hall is located on the left.

\*\*Please Note: Raffle Prizes – if you already have a raffle prize that you intend to donate, please let us know what you will be bringing so that we may prepare a label ahead of time. We are always very grateful for these donations as the raffle proceeds benefit our education efforts – thank you!

THE COST OF THE EVENING IS: **\$20.00 for Adults / \$7.00 for Children under 12**

YOUR NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF ADULTS: \_\_\_\_\_ NUMBER OF CHILDREN: \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please send this slip and your check, payable to **The Quittapahilla Audubon Society** or (QAS) to:

Jo Ann Yeagley  
121 Swatara Circle  
Jonestown, Pa 17038

**MUST HAVE RESERVATIONS MADE BY MAY 13, 2020**

– refunds cannot be made after the deadline –



## *Sponsors Always Appreciated for Audubon Adventures for Classrooms*

### AUDUBON ADVENTURE SPONSORSHIP FORM

Yes, I wish to sponsor an *Audubon Adventures* classroom for a donation of \$45.

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:

Quittapahilla Audubon Society  
PO Box 123  
Palmyra, PA 17078

### LEAVE A LEGACY FOR QAS

You, as a member or friend of QAS, can leave a legacy that will help save the special areas you have explored and loved long after you are gone. Remember Quittapahilla Audubon Society, your LOCAL Audubon connection, through a bequest in your Will or through a gift annuity that will specifically support QAS programs while paying you a monthly income for life. To learn more about how you can make a bequest and create a permanent legacy in your name or in someone's memory, as well as tax benefits for planned giving options, please contact your attorney or financial advisor.

In supporting a cause that you hold dear, you can have peace of mind that your time on this planet has mattered.

### National Audubon Society Membership

For information concerning National Audubon Society membership click on the following link:

<http://www.audubon.org/> or call **1-844-428-3826** for more information

### Local Chapter Membership Application Information

Quittapahilla Audubon Society offers a local Chapter membership that differs from the current National Audubon membership in these ways:

1. **Your \$20 yearly fee goes 100% to local chapter activities.**
2. The membership period runs from July 1st to July 1st, regardless of when you join.

You will receive the chapter newsletter informing you of upcoming events, but you will not receive the Audubon magazine. If you are interested, please issue a check to QAS for \$20 and mail to: Chapter-Only Membership, c/o Jim M. Logan, Chairman, 810 Hill St., Lebanon, PA 17046. Do not mail to the National membership address in Palm Coast, FL.

### QAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rosemary Spreha (2020)	657-0271
Art Schiavo (2020)	533-1978
Fritz Heilman (2020)	273-0487
Ruth Krebs (2020)	450-5737
Jim C. Logan (2021)	865-5522
Terry Weaver (2021)	272-3491
Jo Ann Yeagley (2021)	865-4787

### OFFICERS/CHAIRPERSONS for 2019-2020

President - Jim Fiorentino	274-2305
Vice-President - Open	
Secretary – Bruce Kern	820-4262
Treasurer - Brenda Gish	367-1926
Conservation - Art Schiavo	533-1978
Education – Rosemary Spreha	657-0271
Field Trips - Fritz Heilman	273-0487
Membership - Jim M. Logan	273-8438
Newsletter - Gary Kinkley	503-4027
Programs - All Board Members	
Banquet - Jo Ann Yeagley	865-4787
Publicity - Ruth Krebs	450-5737

The QAS Board meets at 7:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday in January, March, May, July, September, and November at the Lebanon Valley UCC Home, Annville, PA. Meetings are open to interested persons. If you would like to attend a meeting or are interested in finding out more, contact any officer or board member.

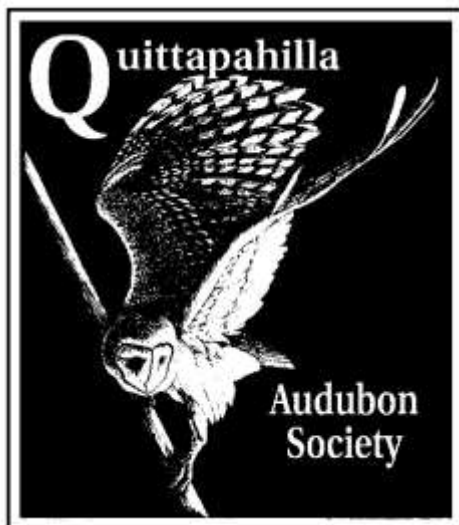
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## **Quittapahilla Audubon Society**

**Your local Audubon chapter,  
working to  
preserve nature and the environment,  
invites you to join us for  
our programs and field trips.**