

# Quittapahilla Audubon Society Newsletter— Summer 2020

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

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

## Welcome to our new digital newsletter

Welcome to QAS's second digital newsletter. We hope you all read and enjoyed the first edition published in April.

The transition process from a printed copy to a digital copy has been almost completed and, as planned, is proceeding slowly. This has allowed our Board the ability to provide our membership the opportunity to adjust and also to design the newsletter in its new (but not final) format. There have been a few minor changes to this version of the newsletter - some links have been updated, fonts have been changed, overall the layout of some sections have been modified just to name a few. In future editions more changes will be forthcoming.

As stated previously, a printed mailed copy is still available to our Chapter Supporter members (see instructions at the link below to sign up for a printed and mailed edition)

[http://www.qasaudubon.org/yahoo\\_site\\_admin/assets/docs/Newsletter\\_insert\\_for\\_paper\\_60\\_pdf.241124117.pdf](http://www.qasaudubon.org/yahoo_site_admin/assets/docs/Newsletter_insert_for_paper_60_pdf.241124117.pdf)

Please check out the many changes that have been made to the newsletter: we now have color photos, email and internet links, the ability to print forms directly from the newsletter, contact information, and much, much more.

I hope everyone takes some time to look over and hopefully enjoy this newsletter. We, the Officers and Board members wish to thank everyone that has supported and helped in making this continuing transition to a digital newsletter as smooth as possible.

Below is a link to the newer and older QAS newsletters. We will be adding archived older historical newsletters (including the very first newsletter published by QAS—thank you Fritz) starting this Fall.

Thank You All & Enjoy

QAS Officers & Board Members

New & Older Newsletter Link:

<http://www.qasaudubon.org/newsletters>

**Quittapahilla— A native American term meaning "spring that flows from among pines"**

## 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!

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

### Inside this issue

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### Special points of interest

- Program listing and times
- QAS website link
- Chapter Supporter Membership info
- Officers & Board Members info
- Upcoming Field Trips
- Upcoming Programs
- Butterfly ID helpful hints

Everyone,

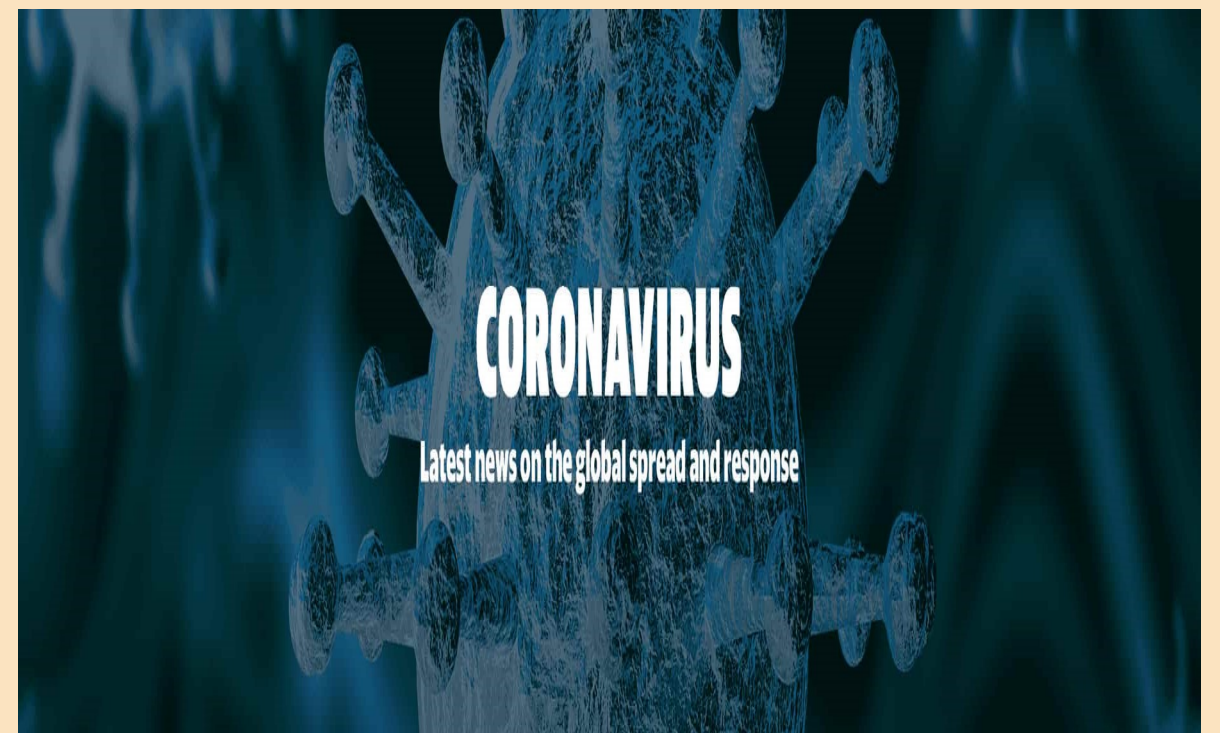
As we begin to 'see the light at the end of the tunnel' and the process of reopening our country and state after the COVID-19 pandemic the QAS Board wishes to thank all our members, and the general public for taking to heart and following the National guidelines that helped us all overcome this terrible pandemic.

We as a nation, now face a new reality; however, as we have in the past we will prevail. The 'war' is still being fought and until we fully understand and develop a medical vaccine we must all stay vigilant in the weeks and months ahead.

With this in mind, the QAS Board still urges all members and the general public to continue to follow all federal, state and locals guidelines and safety precautions concerning the COVID-19 virus. Below is a link to the latest information on the coronavirus.

The QAS Board and Officers thank you for your understanding, support and we wish you good health.

QAS Officers & Board Members



#### **QAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Rosemary Spreha (2022) 717-657-0271  
Art Schiavo (2022) 717-533-1978  
Fritz Heilman (2022) 717-273-0487  
Ruth Krebs (2022) 717-450-5737  
Jim C. Logan (2021) 717-865-5522  
Terry Weaver (2021) 717-272-3491  
Jo Ann Yeagley (2021) 717-865-4787

#### **OFFICERS/CHAIRPERSONS for 2020-2021**

President - Jim Fiorentino 717-274-2305  
Vice-President - Vacant  
Secretary – Bruce Kern 717-820-4262  
Treasurer - Brenda Gish 717-367-1926  
Conservation - Art Schiavo 717-533-1978  
Education – Rosemary Spreha 657-0271  
Field Trips - Fritz Heilman 717-273-0487  
Membership - Jim M. Logan 717-273-8438  
Newsletter - Vacant  
Programs - All Board Members  
Banquet - Jo Ann Yeagley 717-865-4787  
Publicity - Ruth Krebs 717-450-5737

<https://news.yahoo.com/coronavirus>



# Backyard Bee House

The other day I decided it was time to replace the older of my two backyard bee houses with a new one (as now depicted in image 0243, where it is mounted on a Black Locust post, facing the south) - these houses last about four seasons. So I removed the oldest house and in image 0241 is an example of what I found.

I split open the tubes with a hammer and so if you look at the image, counting the tubes from left to right as 1 thru 6, with the bottom of the image representing the opening of the tubes (white appearance), tubes number 1 and 5 had been used by the grass carrier wasps (genus *Isodontia*) - note grass plug towards the opening, and particularly on tube number 5 notice the remnants of tree crickets at the top, their favorite food. These would have been placed there for consumption by the developing larva.

Tubes number 2, 3 and 4 were used I believe by either leafcutter bees or mason bees (both in the bee family, *Megachilidae*) - note larva in casings. The female leafcutter shears ovals from leaves to construct barrel-like cells for developing larva; the mason bee creates cells for each larva and seals the tube entrance with mud.

Tube number 6 on the far right was empty from end to end - this tube and all like it were not used - the end adjacent to the back of the house (at the top in image 0241) was not tight and so apparently did not appeal to any prospective resident. Only tubes that had a physical division or a plugged end at the back of the house were used.

Fritz



Image 0241



Image 0243

## Pink Footed Goose in Lebanon County - March 22nd

A Pink Footed Goose was being reported in nearby Lancaster county since mid February but none had been reported in Lebanon county. On March 22, a Pink Footed Goose was found and reported on a pond at Middle Creek wildlife area by Jonathan Heller. The pond was in Lebanon County.

After I saw the notice on the rare Pa ebird alerts, I drove to MCWA and was lucky enough to see the species. Jonathan and several other birders were there when I arrived Jonathan pointed out the goose's locations to me.

The sighting of the Pink Footed Goose was unofficially believed to be a first Lebanon county record.

I took some very poor quality pictures thru my scope with my iPhone (see attached).

Several unusual species have been showing up in our area (and around the country), so keep your eyes opened - you may be the one reporting the next rare bird in your area.

Jim Fiorentino





## Biggest Week in American Birding was Canceled

From the BSBO website:

Dear Friends:

It is with the heaviest of hearts that we at Black Swamp Bird Observatory (BSBO) share with you, our birding friends and valued supporters, that the 2020 Biggest Week In American Birding has been cancelled. We've known in our minds what we must do. But our hearts were having a hard time letting go.

For refund information, click [HERE](#).

With the potential of the impacts of COVID-19 likely to stretch on for many weeks, even if the all-clear is given soon, at this point the BSBO team does not feel confident that we could deliver the kind of quality experience that has become the signature of The Biggest Week. And while birds and birding are important to all of us, protecting people is paramount.

We are immensely grateful to all of the volunteers, partners, speakers, and sponsors who put so much into preparations for the event this year. Part of the difficulty in accepting the inevitable was the painful process of sharing this news with them first.



But even while we're all trying to remain as isolated as possible, people have come together to support Black Swamp Bird Observatory! Our hardest working and most dedicated volunteers didn't bat an eye, they simply said they'd be ready to rock for 2021! (We love and appreciate all of you so much!)

And words will fail to convey the overwhelming gratitude we feel for the following sponsors who, upon receiving the news that the festival would have to be cancelled, said KEEP OUR SPONSORSHIP MONEY and use it to sustain BSBO's mission.



As many of our membership travels to Magee Marsh each year for the warbler migration, below are a few informational site links—please check for up to date information on the area:

<https://www.biggestweekinamericanbirding.com/special-announcement.html>

<http://cranecreekbirding.blogspot.com/>

<https://www.biggestweekinamericanbirding.com/>

<https://www.bsbo.org/>





## Upcoming September Program

### Birding SE Arizona—Sept. 23, 2020

Southeastern Arizona is a birder's paradise! On his first-ever trip to this region Mike Defina made the most of their time exploring as many hotspots as they could fit into five days. Through photography and digiscoping, they were able to observe many of the species that make Arizona a premier birding destination in the United States! Mike Defina, an attendee on BQ's Arizona birding adventure, will be presenting this program.

Mike is a program manager at Comcast University and resides in Malvern, PA. He has been birding since he can remember but only got insane about birding over the last few years. He loves the birds and the friends he's made while birding. However, being the father of three teens prevents him from birding as much as he would like.



*For more details, see the links below for  
[Programs](http://www.qasaudubon.org/programs) or [Field Trips](http://www.qasaudubon.org/field_trips)*

<http://www.qasaudubon.org/programs>

[http://www.qasaudubon.org/field\\_trips](http://www.qasaudubon.org/field_trips)



## Future Programs - all are tentative

### ***October 28, 2020 – Morning Has Broken – Fred Habegger***

Morning has Broken has time-lapse videos and clips from morning scenes near my home, mostly country scenes and animal sightings along waterways. Fred has presented several of his programs to the QAS group in the past several years.

Fred is a retired old codger. He used to be involved in the photography industry. Now he loves to spend quiet time along the Hammer Creek and in his backyard.



### ***November 18, 2020 – Exploring Your Pa State Parks and Forest – Marci Mowery***

Marci Mowery, PA Parks and Forest Foundation President, will present “Exploring Your State Parks & Forests.” Pennsylvania's state parks and forests provide a myriad of opportunities for engaging in the outdoors. She will explore the history of and opportunities in these special places in our landscape and will provide a list of new places to explore.

A native of Lancaster County, Marci Mowery spent her youth exploring the natural areas of the county and the mountains near the family camp, which shaped her future as a professional conservation leader. Her 27-year career spans various positions with the National Audubon Society and as President of the Pennsylvania Parks and Forests Foundation. When not 'speaking for the trees', Marci enjoys exploring new places, trying new foods, and reading.



### ***December 9, 2020 – Christmas Cookie Social and Member digitals***

***Note: Social gathering starts at 6:30pm***

***Program starts at 7:00pm***

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.



*For more details, see the links below for  
[Programs](http://www.qasaudubon.org/programs) or [Field Trips](http://www.qasaudubon.org/field_trips)*

<http://www.qasaudubon.org/programs>

[http://www.qasaudubon.org/field\\_trips](http://www.qasaudubon.org/field_trips)



Quittapahilla Audubon Society 37th Annual Banquet - May 19, 2020  
was canceled — all reservation monies already paid have been refunded

**Rescheduled date: May 18, 2021**

**QAS Annual Banquet @ Hebron Banquet Hall**

**Program: The Healthiest Forest: What Science Says About Old Growth And Why It Matters For Birds**

**Speaker: 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.

*'it is critical that we preserve some forests in their natural condition'*

**Field Trips—all are tentative—please check the QAS website for updates**

**In keeping with guidelines published by National Audubon—all field trips are cancelled thru August 29, 2020**

**Sunday, July 26, 2020 (Canceled)**

Butterflies, Dragonflies and Their Habitat

Observation via binoculars of butterflies and dragonflies at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area visitor center grounds, along groomed trails and ponds. Meet at 3 PM at visitor center parking lot. Leader Fritz Heilman (717-273-0487).

**Saturday, August 29, 2020 (Canceled)**

Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (MCWMA)

Observation of flora and fauna via groomed trails and tour road. Meet at 9 AM at visitor center parking lot. Leader Fritz Heilman (717-273-0487).

**Saturday, September 26, 2020**

Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (MCWMA)

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

*For more details, see the link below for*

*Programs or Field Trips*

<http://www.qasaudubon.org/programs>

[http://www.qasaudubon.org/field\\_trips](http://www.qasaudubon.org/field_trips)





*Sign up for the QAS-Announce mailing list to receive e-mail reminders for our public meetings, field trips, newsletters, and other announcements of interest. The QAS-Announce list is run through Yahoo!Groups. Click on the link above to sign up.*



### 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.

### Information

Richard & Karen Light were active members of QAS for many years and it is our honor to share information for **The Lebanon Valley Conservancy Richard H. & Karen R. Light Memorial Scholarship**.

Click the link above to review the requirements and application form.



**We have QAS t-shirts, baseball caps, and bandanas for sale. Get yours at our next public meeting.**

The Mount Gretna Bird Club hosts a nature walk every Friday morning. Meet at 9:00 AM at the Chatauqua parking lot off Route 117 (weather permitting). For more information, contact Sid Hostetter, 964-3412 or email: **mtgretnabirdclub@hotmail.com**

Please **contact us** anytime with any questions on our field trips, programs or general information. All inquiries will be answered in a timely manner.

### QAS Camper Scholarships by 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 for Fall 2020 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. Apply today!!





## QAS Environmental Grants

The Quittapahilla Audubon Society has grants up to a \$500 amount for the enhancement and advancement of environmental conservation. This grant is available to any individual or organization in Pennsylvania that would need financial assistance to engage in a project beneficial to the environment, and which would otherwise not be fully funded. Acceptance will be based on, but not limited to, such factors as the expected benefits and scope of the project. Acceptance is at the discretion of the QAS board of directors.

For additional information contact QAS at [QASAudubon.org](http://QASAudubon.org) or by mail:

Quittapahilla Audubon Society, P.O. Box 123, Palmyra, Pa. 17078-0123

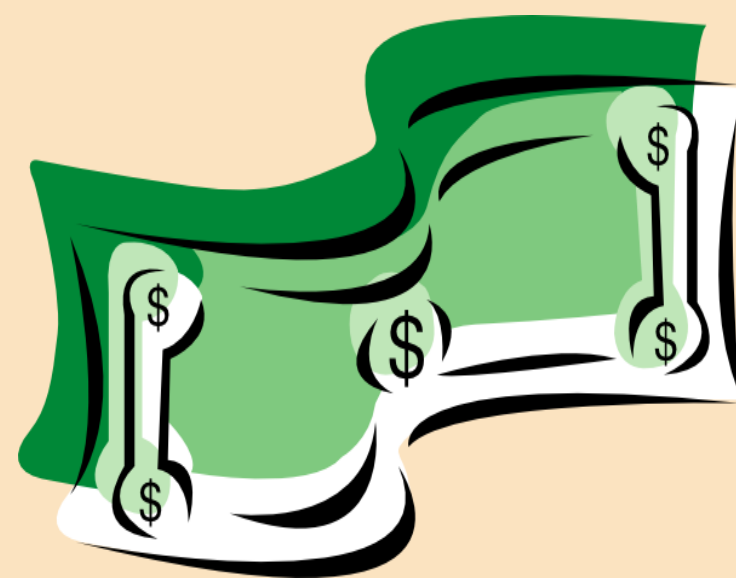
Click the link below for the application form.

### Application in PDF form

[http://www.qasaudubon.org/yahoo\\_site\\_admin/assets/docs/Quittapahilla\\_Audubon\\_Society\\_Grant\\_final.35213704.pdf](http://www.qasaudubon.org/yahoo_site_admin/assets/docs/Quittapahilla_Audubon_Society_Grant_final.35213704.pdf)

### Application in Word form

[http://www.qasaudubon.org/yahoo\\_site\\_admin/assets/docs/QAS\\_Grant\\_Application.36121206.docx](http://www.qasaudubon.org/yahoo_site_admin/assets/docs/QAS_Grant_Application.36121206.docx)



### 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ 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







Butterflies of Lebanon County by Jim Fiorentino

In this new newsletter column we will be looking at the common Butterflies of Lebanon County. Over the last two years I have compiled a yearly list of Butterfly species seen in the Lebanon county. All species have been verified with photo’s and/or two or more sighting verifications. In 2018 —29 species were recorded (as it was my first year, I only started the list in late July). In 2019 —50 species were recorded (look for species listing in future issues) In 2020—15 species have been recorded as May 31 See inserts below for the updated 2020 species and verified sighting listing.

In this newsletter we will be providing ID helpers and reviewing the Eastern Comma and Spring Azure butterfly species.

Month	Species	New	YTD Total
March	3	3	3
April	5	2	4
May	13	10	15

Species	Date	Location
Cabbage White	March 15	Tunnel Hill Park
Eastern Comma	March 15	Tunnel Hill Park
Morning Cloak	March 19	Tunnel Hill Park
Spring Azure	April 6	Iron Valley Dr
Clouded Sulphur	April 19	Iron Valley Dr
Meadow Fritillary	May 2	Goosetown
Eastern Tailed Blue	May 3	Iron Valley Dr
Eastern Tiger Swallowtail	May 4	SGL 156 Mvillage
Pearl Crescent	May 4	SGL 156 Mvillage
Juvenal’s Duskywing	May 4	SGL 156 Mvillage
Wild Indigo Duskywing	May 4	SGL 156 Mvillage
Red Admiral	May 4	SGL 156 Mvillage
Zabulon Skipper	May 25	Iron Valley Dr
Red Spotted Purple	May 25	Iron Valley Dr
Black Swallowtail	May 27	Iron Valley Dr



## Butterflies of Lebanon County

**Eastern Comma** - *Polygonia comma* (Harris, 1842)

**Family:** Nymphalidae

**Subfamily:** Nymphalinae

**Identification:** Small with short hindwing projections. Forewing above is brownish-orange with dark spots; one dark spot at center of bottom edge. Hindwing above has two patterns: summer form is mostly black, winter form is orange with black spots; both have a dark border containing pale spots. Underside is brown; hindwing with a central silver or white comma which is swollen at both ends.



**Wing Span:** 1 3/4 - 2 1/2 inches (4.5 - 6.4 cm).

**Life History:** Males perch on leaves or tree trunks to watch for females, flying aggressively to chase other insects or even birds. Eggs are laid singly or in stacks under host plant leaves or stems. Caterpillars are usually solitary and feed on leaves at night. Older caterpillars make daytime shelters by pulling leaf edges together with silk. Winter form adults hibernate, some first migrating to the south.

**Flight:** Overwintered adults fly and lay eggs in the spring until the end of April. The summer form emerges and flies from May-September, laying eggs that develop into the winter form. These adults appear in September or October and soon seek shelter in which to overwinter



**Caterpillar Hosts:** All members of the elm and nettle families including American elm (*Ulmus americana*), hops (*Humulus*), nettle (*Urtica*), false nettle (*Boehmeria cylindrica*), and wood nettle (*Laportea canadensis*).



**Adult Food:** Rotting fruit and tree sap.

**Habitat:** Deciduous woodlands; woods near rivers, marshes, swamps, and other water sources.

**Range:** Eastern half of the United States east of the Rocky Mountains from southern Canada to central Texas and the Gulf Coast.



## Butterflies of Lebanon County

### Spring Azure - *Celastrina ladon* (Cramer, 1780)

- **Identification:** Seasonally variable and sexually dimorphic. Upperside of males blue, females with some black at outer edge of forewing. Late spring and summer forms with white above. Underside hindwing gray-white with faded small black dots, darker gray with larger black spots, or with blotches and black margins in the center.
- **Wing Span:** 7/8 - 1 3/8 inches (2.2 -3.5 cm).
- **Life History:** Males patrol and perch all day but are most active from midafternoon until dusk. Eggs are laid on flower buds. Caterpillars feed on flowers and fruits and are tended by ants. Chrysalids hibernate.
  - **Flight:** Many broods from January-October along the Gulf Coast; progressively shorter flights northward; May-August in Canada.
  - **Caterpillar Hosts:** Flowers of a variety of woody shrubs and occasionally herbs including dogwood (*Cornus florida*), New Jersey tea (*Ceanothus americana*), meadow-sweet (*Spiraea salicifolia*), and *Collinsia*.
  - **Adult Food:** Flower nectar from dogbane, privet, New Jersey tea, blackberry, common milkweed, and many others.
  - **Habitat:** Openings and edges of deciduous woods, old fields, wooded freshwater marshes and swamps.
- **Range:** Alaska and Canada south of the tundra through most of the United States except the Texas coast, southern plains, and peninsular Florida; south in the mountains to Columbia.
- <https://www.butterfliesandmoths.org/species/Celastrina-ladon>





## Local Chapter Membership Application



The Quittapahilla Audubon Society offers a local Chapter Supporting 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 new Chapter Supporter membership period beginning January 1, 2021 will be January 1 to December 31, regardless of when you join (this is a change from the previous July to June time period. All current old Chapter memberships are paid thru Dec 2020. Notices of dues will be sent starting in November 2020.

You will have the option of receiving a printed copy of 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 Supporter Membership, c/o Jim M. Logan, Chairman, 810 Hill St., Lebanon,  
PA 17046.**

## 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 further information.



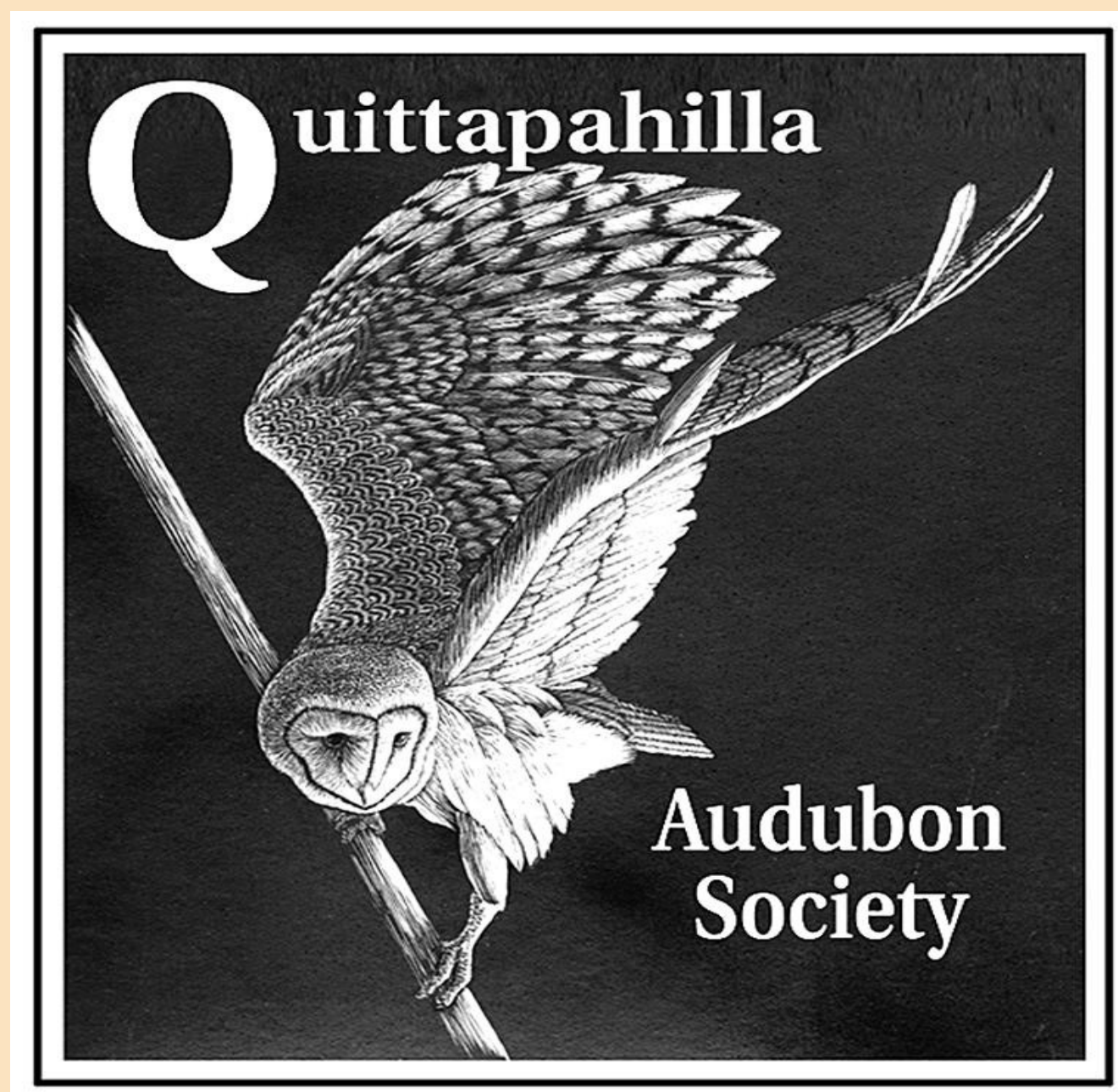
## QAS Winter Newsletter Deadline

If you have an item, an article or a photo that you would like to submit for inclusion in the Fall issue of the QAS Newsletter, please send them to Jim Fiorentino by August 15, 2020.

Articles may be also be emailed to:  
[bluefox122a@gmail.com](mailto:bluefox122a@gmail.com). Comments are also welcome.  
This is your chapter newsletter, and we want to hear from you!







## **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.

QUITTAPAHILLA AUDUBON SOCIETY  
PO BOX 123  
PALMYRA, PA 17078  
[WWW.QASAUDUBON.ORG](http://WWW.QASAUDUBON.ORG)