Upcoming QAS Programs . . .

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

Programs are held at 7:30pm every 4th Wednesday of the month from September through April (with the exception of November and December). The programs, which are free and open to the public, are designed for a general audience and children are welcome when accompanied by an adult.

January 26, 2011  
**Migration Ecology of North American Turkey Vultures**  
David R. Barber, Research Biologist for Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, will reveal how, when, and where the Turkey Vulture migrates.

February 23, 2011  
**Gardening with Native Plants**  
This program will be presented by Mt. Gretna resident, Dick Brown. Dick was the recipient of the Conservationist of the Year award in 2009.  
(continued on page 2)
QAS Field Trips: Appointment Birding
-Gary Kinkley, QAS President

In the hustle and bustle of everyday life, it is difficult to find time to get out and go birding as often as we would like. I know that I am often trying to squeeze a little birding in wherever I can, but work and family responsibilities leave me with far less opportunity than I would like. I can at times race to one destination or another for some car birding, but I have never found that as satisfying as a leisurely hike in a local park or game land.

I have, however, found a great way to make sure that I get out at least once or twice a month – I call it my “appointment birding.” When I get my hands on the QAS field trip list each year, I pencil all of the field trips in to my calendar. My schedule will still interfere with a few of the dates, but I try to keep these appointments the same as any other. Our field trips visit some of the best birding locations in Lebanon County and the surrounding areas.

I still recall getting my best-ever view of a perched Merlin at Union Canal Tunnel Park a few years ago, and we could always see another one on our February field trip there. Middle Creek in March, or anytime, really doesn’t need any further hype – it is quite simply the birding gem of south central PA. There are many life birds on my list from Middle Creek. I am not currently off for our Wildflower trip in April, but I plan on trying to make a deal with a coworker because the Logan’s wildflower trips are as educational as the flora is spectacular. Beyond those three, you can join me at Swatara State Park, assist with the PA Migration Count, take a trip to SGL 246, go on an “Amphibian Amble,” a quest for butterflies and dragonflies, or join the weekly trip in Mt. Gretna – there are numerous options to get out there!

As if the locations and potential flora and fauna were not enough of an enticement, there is also the combined knowledge of the leaders and other attendees as well as the fellowship of your fellow QAS members. There really is something for people of all birding skill levels. If you’re a beginner, we will help you make an identification, and if you’re an expert – you can help us! So consider making an appointment to go birding with us in the near future we would love to see you out there!

Programs (continued from page 1)

March 23, 2011
Pennsylvania Spring
Be prepared to get spring fever as you join Dr. Steve Rannels on a journey through Penn’s Woods by way of photos, videos, and sound recordings.

April 27, 2011
Native American Life in the Susquehanna River Basin Region
This program by Stephen and Janeann Runkle will feature a power point presentation and displays of hands-on artifacts.

News from the Nest . . .
QAS members making a difference.

Wanted: Campers for Summer 2011
-Rosemary Spreha

QAS is looking for qualified local students to attend nature-related summer camps. Scholarships are available for students in first through eleventh grade. 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. Applications are available online at www.QASAudubon.org. They must be completed and returned by February 18, 2011.

Suggested camps include Governor Dick Explorers’ Camp, ZooAmerica Day Camp, Mass Audubon Camp, Teen Adventure Camp of Audubon Pennsylvania, and Hog Island Coastal Maine Bird Studies for Teens. Parents are responsible for a portion of the camp tuition and transportation to and from camp.

Hog Island Audubon Camp in Maine

In 2011 the National Audubon Society will celebrate the 75th anniversary of programs on Hog Island by offering seven different programs – one of which is a birding program for teens. For more details on this or any of the other six camps, visit http://hogisland.audubon.org. To apply for a QAS camp scholarship, go to www.QASAudubon.org.
Welcome to our new QAS members . . . Hope to see you at many of our events!


QAS Is Interested in YOU!
-Ruth Krebs

Please tell us of YOUR efforts toward the improvement of our fragile world or to increase awareness of issues affecting our environment. Really, what YOU do matters! Be it volunteer or paid, extensive or one-time, local or global, every bit is so important. Please take credit for what YOU do. Perhaps you have suggestions for action, for future reading, or for ways to spread the word. By sharing, you may inspire others to take steps.

Drop a note into our “collection basket” at the door upon arrival at our next QAS program. Or, if you prefer, send an e-mail via our QAS website: www.QASAudubon.org.

Please let us know if we have your permission to print this information in an upcoming QAS newsletter. We can include or omit your name – whatever your preference would be.

Lots of Happy Birds this Winter

The Wild Bird Seed Sale coordinators Jim and Kitty Logan want to thank all those who purchased QAS wild bird seed this year. We had a very successful sale with QAS supporters and bird lovers purchasing over 20,000 pounds of seed. The profits of the sale are used to support our local chapter’s great programs in environmental education. A special word of thanks goes out to those volunteers who helped to unload and distribute the seed. Your job now is to feed those hungry birds this winter and we’ll be ready to re-stock your seed supply next fall.

Take Part in the Rusty Blackbird Blitz
January 29 thru February 13, 2011

The Rusty Blackbird has been steeply declining, with estimates of an 85-99% population drop over the past 40 years. Your help is needed in mobilizing a "blitz" to locate Rusty Blackbirds and create a map of wintering Rusty Blackbird "hot spots" that will help focus research, monitoring and conservation attention. To learn everything about this go to http://nationalzoo.si.edu/scbi/migratorybirds/research/rusty_blackbird/blitz.cfm.

Join a Powerful Force for Nature
-Cornell Lab of Ornithology, 10/5/10 – Ithaca, NY

You can play a major part in unraveling the mysteries of nature without even leaving your backyard. People of all ages and skill levels are needed to participate in Project FeederWatch. Simply count the numbers and different species of birds at your feeders and enter that information on the FeederWatch website. The 24th season of Project FeederWatch began November 13, but new participants can join at any time until its conclusion in April. This data helps track patterns in bird populations and movement all across North America. To learn more about Project FeederWatch, visit their website at www.FeederWatch.org.

41st Annual Rivers & Wildlife Celebration
March 17-20, 2011 Kearney, Nebraska

Gather with wildlife enthusiasts from around the world to celebrate the annual migration of 500,000 sandhill cranes and millions of waterfowl through the heart of the Central Flyway. Go online to http://nebraskabirds.org for all the details. Registration begins in January 2011.
**Barn Owl Project Update**  
-Gerry Boltz

It has been several years since the last update on the QAS Barn Owl Box Project. Lebanon County continues to be a hot spot for breeding Barn Owls. At present QAS has placed 33 boxes in Lebanon and Eastern Dauphin Counties. We have had six to eight active sites the last several years. The most consistent have been at the Greater Lebanon Refuse Authority (GLRA), Dairy Lane (Dauphin County), and the Lawn area. Dan Mummert, the Pennsylvania State Biologist, has banded over 40 owls at these sites the last two years.

The sites have been averaging four to six owlets. Richard Light, who monitors the GLRA site, discovered that the owls had two broods in 2009. Barn Owls will lay a second clutch of eggs if the first clutch is not successful or destroyed. At a monitored site, the first check in mid-May found the eggs destroyed. The biologist felt that a raccoon or a cat may have been the culprit. A check in August found six eggs which resulted in six banded owls in mid-September.

A secondary benefit of the QAS program has been the Owl Education of over 120 adults and children who have attended the bandings. PA State Biologist Dan Mummert explains the reasons for banding, weighing, measuring wing chord, and taking feather samples for DNA. He answers everyone’s questions. The last group to attend a banding was 38 first through ninth grade students from the Annville Mennonite School. They had many questions as the owls put on a noisy show.

We hope 2011 will be our most productive Barn Owl year.
The sac fry are becoming feeding fish called swim up fry.

**Trout in the Classroom**

-Gina Mason

The seventh grade students at the Palmyra Area Middle School are very excited about a new project that promotes the conservation and restoration of Pennsylvania’s only native trout, the brookie! Through the Trout in the Classroom (TIC) program, students will be able to watch the life cycle unfold before their eyes, and not just in books.

The TIC program, administered by a partnership between the PA Trout Unlimited, PA Fish & Boat Commission and the PA Dept of Education, sent out approximately 400-600 eggs in early November to the Palmyra Area Middle School and other participating schools around the state. Since that time, the students have been eagerly watching the eggs hatch, becoming sac fry and are now witnessing the next stage as the sac fry are becoming feeding fish called “swim up fry.” The project will culminate as the fry become fingerlings and are released into the Quittie sometime in the spring.

The TIC project enables the students to become active participants, by making daily observations, testing the water quality, feeding the trout and other required activities. The students are taking ownership of this project and are not only learning about the importance of conservation and biodiversity, but are also becoming active members in their local watershed, and now have a vested interest in that watershed’s quality.

This is Palmyra’s first year participating in the TIC program, and the only school in Lebanon County that is currently participating. The opportunity was made possible by the assistance of both monetary and technical guidance by various groups and individuals which include the Quittapahilla Audubon Society and the Doc Fritchey Chapter of Trout Unlimited.
Did You Hear?

John James Audubon’s "Birds of America," a rare blend of art, natural history and craftsmanship, recently sold for $10,270,000.00; therefore, becoming the world’s most expensive published book!

Great Backyard Bird Count

The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is coming up February 18-21, 2011. The four-day event is free and is open to all bird watchers. Participants watch birds for any length of time on one or more days of the count and enter their tallies at www.birdcount.org. The results provide a snapshot of the whereabouts of more than 600 bird species and volunteers find connecting with nature to be great fun.

The GBBC is a joint project of the National Audubon Society and the Cornell Lab of Ornithology with Canadian partner Bird Studies Canada.

QAS Members Decorate Bird-themed Christmas Tree

-Jim and Kitty Logan

As part of the 2010 Festival of Trees held at the Lebanon County Expo Center the first weekend in December, several QAS members decorated an evergreen with birds and natural ornaments. A few of the birds included were owls, woodpeckers, cardinals, finches, and chickadees. The tree was also bedecked with gilded White Pine cones, Sweet Gum seed balls, and seed pods from the Honey Locust tree. In addition to the tree, a nearby table provided information and programs about our chapter.


Conservation Contributions

-Gary Kinkley

At the November 9, 2010 Board Meeting, your QAS Board voted in favor of contributing one thousand dollars to the Manada Conservancy’s campaign to preserve the King Farm in South Hanover Township. The Manada Conservancy has identified the King Farm as a conservation priority due to the “good soil, open hayfields, deep riparian buffer along Beaver Creek, and mature woodlands.” The King family is donating a conservation easement in order to preserve the farm from development, but the Manada Conservancy needs to raise $16,000 in order to pay for legal costs, surveying, and other expenses. The Board was unanimous in support of this conservation endeavor.

Also at the November Board Meeting, a motion was made and passed to make QAS a patron member of the Friends of Coleman Memorial Park with a contribution of one hundred dollars. Coleman Memorial Park is a regular QAS field trip site. It is within our Christmas Bird Count area, and it will be part of our field trip for the Great Backyard Bird Count this year on February 20, 2011 – and it is a great place for a walk anytime!

On the Trail of the Ghost Bird

-Gary Kinkley

On Sunday, September 26, 2010 QAS presented the film Ghost Bird at the Allen Theater. The event was a rousing success! 120 moviegoers entered the theater to be greeted by several of our conservation partners in the community. Local conservation organizations, including QAS, displayed materials for those in attendance. The movie and its message were well received by all. QAS presented the film to raise awareness of global species loss and to raise funds for a local conservation project.

Prior to the showing of the film, the QAS Board voted to contribute all of the proceeds to the Lebanon Valley Conservancy’s Tundra Swan Initiative. The goal of the Conservancy’s project is to protect farmland around Middle Creek from development in order to provide foraging grounds for Tundra Swans when they stopover at Middle Creek during migration.

We are pleased to support a program which will help maintain the Tundra Swan as a common sight in our area, and help to save it from the tragic fate of the Ivory-billed Woodpecker which was featured in the film. In fact, a staggering number of the world’s plant and animal species are facing extinction including 1 in 8 of all bird species, and we would like to keep the Tundra Swan from becoming part of that statistic. (continued on next page)
We are proud to announce that the film event raised one thousand dollars to be contributed to the Lebanon Valley Conservancy’s project!

Many thanks go out to the Allen Theater and their staff, all of our members who helped organize and execute the event, and to all of the attendees – we thank you!

Dear Quittapahilla Audubon Society,

Thank you for your generous contribution of $1,000.00 to the Lebanon Valley Conservancy, Inc. The mission of the Conservancy is to promote the conservation and preservation of natural resources in the Lebanon Valley. Donations such as yours help us to protect and preserve farmland and open space. …

Sincerely, Stephanie DiVittore, Esq.
President, Board of Directors

New President for National Audubon

The National Audubon Society named David Yarnold as its new President and Chief Executive Officer. David began his duties on September 1, 2010. Yarnold said, “Audubon’s mission has never been more relevant. From the grassroots to state houses to national and regional policy, its wingspan is unparalleled.”

Following is a message received from David Yarnold:

“After traveling 15,000 miles in 29 days, visiting six Audubon Centers, meeting 24 chapter presidents and seeing 184 species, I’ve landed back in New York today to put to use all I’ve learned on my listening tour.

“My travels introduced me to terrific Audubon staff, volunteers and partners. I’m optimistic that, with greater focus, better communication and a sense of urgency, Audubon’s future has never been brighter.

With best regards, David Yarnold, President
National Audubon Society - www.audubon.org

Hersheypark Fundraiser

QAS has once again participated in the Food and Beverage volunteer fundraiser at Hersheypark. Volunteers worked at food stands throughout the park and QAS received a donation for their efforts. Thanks to all who worked this year: Sheri Freeland, Pam and David Gray, Kay and Rachel Knepp, Ken Light, Rosemary Spreha, Linda Toth, and Lisa Wawrzyniak. Volunteers received a voucher good for a day pass to the park for each shift worked.

Pittsburgh Bans Natural Gas Extraction

The Community Environmental Legal Defense Fund (CELF) is actively involved in many issues to help prevent corporations from raping America’s land and resources, including speaking out against uranium mining and mountaintop removal.

Recently, CELDF issued an “Open Letter to Communities Working to Stop Fracking,” bringing attention to Pittsburgh, PA – which has set a great example for other cities, towns, and communities to follow to take back their power.

Pittsburgh’s recent ban against hydrofracking within their city limits really sends a message. Local officials – acting against the heavy lobby of energy companies – have moved to protect the people from the significant threats posed to their life and health by natural gas drilling companies engaged in hydrofracking (a.k.a. “fracking” in the energy industry) within the Marcellus Shale area of the United States (i.e. from New England down into The Mid Atlantic).

Marcellus Shale Update

This past fall, legislation to pass a severance tax on natural gas extraction in our state failed to pass in the state legislature. A bill was passed by the state House, but the Senate never brought the bill to the floor for a vote. In October, Governor Rendell did sign an executive order which placed a moratorium on the further leasing of land in our state forests. Unfortunately, Governor-elect Corbett’s stated position during his campaign was opposed to a severance tax. Many expect that Governor Rendell’s
Marcellus Shale (continued from page 7)

moratorium order will be rescinded as soon as Governor-elect Corbett takes office.

In the meantime, a ruptured well in Clearfield County released natural gas and fracking chemicals for 16 hours before it was brought under control last June. In addition, according to a Pennsylvania Land Trust report, oil and gas companies have racked up over 1400 violations over the last two and a half years. These violations included “discharging industrial waste onto the ground or into commonwealth waters.” There have been numerous instances of contaminated wells and streams throughout the portions of the state where drilling is taking place. Last but not least, there is the fragmentation of our state forest land as these operations have an enormous footprint. Sections of the forest must be cleared for the drilling pads, the waste water storage, and the required support network of roads.

Quittapahilla Audubon and Pennsylvania Audubon have joined with many other conservation groups throughout the state in support of a severance tax to help mitigate the costs of the inevitable environmental degradation from the Marcellus Shale drilling. Please consider contacting Governor-elect Corbett and your state Senator and Representative to let them know that you support a severance tax on gas extraction. Furthermore, please let your elected officials know that you would like to see the revenue from the tax used to protect and restore our environmental resources. In the end, 2010 has been a year of set-backs on this issue, but all is not lost. We can still succeed if we continue to work together and speak as one voice for the preservation of our natural heritage.

Audubon's Mobile Apps Series Grows

-Audubon Newswire October 28, 2010; Volume 8, Number 10

Portable and convenient for use in the field, Audubon mobile applications continues to expand its reach. We are happy to announce the following apps are now available: Audubon Nature Desert Southwest: The Ultimate Desert Southwest Nature Guide and Audubon Nature Pacific Northwest: The Ultimate Pacific Northwest Nature Guide. For more information visit: www.audubonguides.com/app.

QAS Spring Newsletter Deadline

Any persons who have information to be included in the next issue of the Quittapahilla Audubon Society Newsletter are invited to send them to Dottie Leach by March 21, 2011. Articles may be emailed to naftz78@aol.com or mailed to her at 78 Naftzinger Rd., Annville, PA 17003.

Bird Sightings of Note

Fritz Heilman made a bird sighting of note in November. As he walked the Lebanon County rail to trail he saw a Northern Parula. He is not aware of any prior Lebanon County November sightings for this species.

A few days later, Fritz saw a Cooper’s Hawk fly from his backyard to the neighbor’s tree.

George Tallman, who often drives from Chester County for the Friday field trips given by QAS/Mt. Gretna Bird Club, recently observed a rare Chukar on one of his trips.

The tantalizing sightings continue. On November 28, Art Schiavo traveled to Shartlesville where sightings of an Anna’s Hummingbird were being reported. He was rewarded when it came down to a feeder 20 feet away from him.

Highlights from Field Trips in 2010

Appalachian Trail (below Dehart Dam) – 9/19

Birds heard or seen by the two participants included the Pileated Woodpecker and Wood Pewee. We also observed a dusky salamander, red-back salamanders, great specimens of white turtlehead wildflowers in full bloom, and healthy looking hemlocks.

Fritz Heilman

Wildwood Park north of Harrisburg – 9/26

Among the many plants observed by the four participants were white snakeroot, winterberry, blooming white turtlehead, witch-hazel, buttonbush, American lotus, and mile-a-minute fruit being consumed by Red-winged Blackbirds. Also: a Great Egret, Phoebe, a possible Pine Warbler, a skulking Black-crowned Night Heron, and numerous Wood Ducks.

Fritz Heilman

Memorial Lake and Second Mountain Hawk Watch by QAS and the Lancaster Co. Bird Club – 10/3

Four participants at Memorial Lake and 12 at the Hawk Watch. 51 species observed including Myrtle Warblers, Purple Finch, Red-breasted Nuthatch and
adult Bald Eagle at Memorial Lake; Merlin, Raven, juvenile Bald Eagle and a pair of Red-shouldered Hawks at the Hawk Watch. Also of interest were a Tussock moth and a gray comma butterfly.  

Rosemary Spreha

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 bene-fits 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.

Chapter-Only Membership

Application Information

-Jim M. Logan

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

1. The annual fee of $20.00 will go directly for QAS activities only.
2. The membership period runs from July 1st to July 1st, regardless of when you join.

OFFICERS and CHAIRPERSONS for 2010-2011

President - Gary Kinkley .......................... 503-4027
Vice Pres. - Open...........................................
Secretary - Evelyn Koppel Hostetter.............. 964-3412
Treasurer - Steve Holzman .......................... 964-3266
Conservation - Art Schiavo.......................... 533-1978
Education - Open ......................................

Field Trips - Fritz Heilman .......................... 273-0487
Membership - Jim M. Logan ......................... 273-8438
Newsletter - Dottie Leach ........................... 838-3397
Programs - Board Members .........................
Publicity - Ruth Krebs .............................. 867-4884
Hospitality - Open ....................................

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Stephanie Butler (2011) ............................... 867-4377
Vera Freed (2011) ...................................... 838-0223
Sidney Hostetter (2011) ............................... 964-3412
Open (2011) ..............................................

Rosemary Spreha (2012) .............................. 657-0271
Jim Fiorentino (2012) ................................. 274-2305
Open (2012) ..............................................

Above officers and committee members also serve on Board
NestWatch Protocol for Monitoring Nests
-Cornell Lab of Ornithology - 2008

We recommend a maximum of 8−10 visits spread out over the course of the nesting attempt. As a general rule, if you check nests every 4-5 days, you will be closely following the protocol below.

Nest Building (1 visit, if possible)
If you are fortunate enough to find an active nest while it is being built, be sure to record the status of the nest on the datasheet.

Egg Laying Period (1 or 2 visits)
Make at least one visit during egg laying, preferably in the afternoon. If you find a nest with eggs, go back three days later to determine if the number of eggs has changed. This will help determine first egg date and the egg laying rate. For songbirds, the typical laying period lasts between three and eight days, with eggs laid one per day, usually early in the morning.

Knowing the date the first egg was laid is critically important and easy to determine if you can visit during the egg laying period. For example, if two eggs are in the nest on May 10 and four eggs on May 13, then counting backward one egg per day, we know the first egg was laid on May 9. The second egg was laid on May 10, the third on May 11, and the fourth and last egg on May 12.

Whenever possible during nest checks, wait for the female to leave the nest rather than flushing her off. Record the number of eggs, if known, along with any adult activity you observed, on your datasheet.

Incubation Period (2 visits)
Make two visits, preferably in the afternoon. We suggest one visit at the middle and one at the end of incubation to determine complete clutch size and whether eggs have been lost. Most songbirds begin incubating the day before the last egg is laid and will typically incubate eggs for 11 to 14 days. Record the number of eggs, if known, along with any adult activity you observed, on your datasheet.

To avoid leaving a dead end trail that may lead predators directly to a nest, approach a nest by one path and leave it by another.

Hatching Period (1 visit)
Visit once at or just after hatching to pinpoint the timing of hatching and determine the number of hatched eggs. Most songbird eggs hatch within 24−48 hours of each other. If you see adults carrying food, this is a good sign that eggs have hatched. Check the nest contents and record the number of eggs, observed adult activity, and status of young on your datasheet.

Nestling Period (2 visits)
Visit once when young are thought to be between five and seven days old to determine their development and survivorship. Visit again three or four days later to get an estimate of the number of young likely to fledge.

Do not open nest boxes or disturb nests with fully feathered young, as this can cause premature fledging. Once the young are fully feathered, you can check the nest from a distance with binoculars to determine if the parents are still actively feeding the young.

Typical songbird nestling periods last approximately two to three weeks. Record your observations for number of eggs (if any), observed adult activity, and status of the young on your datasheet.

Fledging Period (1 visit)
Visit once to determine success or failure of nests. Do not open nest boxes or disturb nests that
have fully feathered young, as this can cause premature fledging. Most songbirds fledge within one to two days of each other.

Check the nest from a distance and look around for the adults. If they go to the nest carrying food, the young have not yet fledged. If they go somewhere else, it is likely they are feeding the young in nearby vegetation.

If you are certain the young have fledged, check the nest and make sure it looks intact, i.e., flattened, and in some cases covered in fecal matter. If it appears disheveled or depredated, describe what you see on your datasheet and look for any signs of the nestlings (feathers, body parts, bones) in the area surrounding the nest site.

If you suspect predation has occurred, try to determine the predator by looking around the nest site for clues. If adults are still present, continue monitoring their activity as they may try to nest again. Record the outcome, estimated number of fledged young, and additional comments for the nest attempt on the datasheet.

Post Fledging Period (1 visit)

Visit the nest one last time after you are certain that all the young have fledged to determine if any unhatched eggs or dead young remain. Record additional comments for the nest attempt on the datasheet.

Stay alert—birds that raise more than one brood per season may nest again nearby. If possible, try to keep monitoring nests to the end of the season, July or August. If you find another active nest, please follow the same protocol. Use a separate datasheet for each new nest attempt.

Persons interested in monitoring nests and submitting their information to Cornell Lab of Ornithology, should sign on to their website at www.birds.cornell.edu/nestinginfo/ for further instructions on how to register.

The nesting season hasn’t arrived yet, but the way time flies, it will be upon us before we know it.

So keep this article somewhere safe and pull it out when our birds begin to fly back north and start building their nests. Happy bird watching.)

Become an Online Transcriber
-North American Bird Phenology Program

With the help of volunteers worldwide, the North American Bird Phenology Program (NABPP) is working to understand the scale of global climate change and how it is affecting bird populations across North America. This is a very exciting and timely program which welcomes participants from all backgrounds and ages who would like to get involved.

Migration cards are currently being scanned and becoming available on the NABPP website. You can participate by becoming one of the many volunteers from around the country to sign into their site to help convert these files into their database. This will allow the migration records to become accessible for analysis.

To register, go to www.pwrc.usgs.gov/bpp and click the “Become an Online Participant” button. You will then receive a confirmation e-mail. Please follow the information in the e-mail to complete your registration and begin transcribing records.

The following statistics were reported in the NABPP’s December e-newsletter: Online Volunteers: 2,204; Cards Transcribed Online: 362,996.

Much Belated Thank You

QAS extends many thanks to Nate McKelvie, Linda Toth and Jo Ann Yeagley for serving us so faithfully. Linda and Jo Ann teamed together to work as heads of our Education Committee for the past several years. They did a great job and we are sad to have them give it up. Nate served us very capably on our Board of Directors. His term ended the end of June 2010 and he is spreading his wings in
other areas. Thank you so very much, Nate, Linda, and Jo Ann for all your service. We truly do appreciate it.

QAS is in the process of seeking someone to serve as our Education Chair or Co-chair. Rosemary Spreha has agreed to fill in until we can find a replacement. If you would like more information of what this position entails, please email Rosemary at rspreha@gmail.com.

For details on how to apply for a position on our Board of Directors, please contact President Gary Kinkley at cathartesaaura@live.com or 717-503-4027.