

QUITTAPAHILLA AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Fall 2018

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

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 26, 2018 – Nature Photography Website and Slide Show – Dale Bicksler

Dale will describe his mid-life introduction to birding and later-life attempts at nature photography. He will

introduce his website and end with a 25-minute slide show of some of his photographs and bits of poetry.

Dale started birding at age 46, but he didn't begin photographing birds and other natural things until after retirement from Penn National Insurance in 2008. He lives with his wife in Mechanicsburg. They have two children and six grandchildren. (Photo by Jim Fiorentino).



October 24, 2018 – Twin Edens: Galapagos and the Falklands – Scott Weidensaul

Separated by more than 4,000 miles, the Galapagos Islands in the equatorial Pacific and the Falkland Islands off the stormy tip of South America would seem to be worlds apart. In fact, these two remarkable archipelagos have much in common, from their shared history with Charles Darwin to their extraordinary diversity of life, above and below the waves. Join naturalist Scott

Weidensaul for an exploration of these twin Edens -- one famous, one little-known -- that helped shape how science understands the natural world.

Scott Weidensaul is the author of more than two dozen books on natural history, including the Pulitzer Prize finalist "Living on the Wind," about bird migration, "The First Frontier: The Forgotten History of Struggle, Savagery and Endurance in Early America," and "The Peterson Reference Guide to Owls of North America and the Caribbean." Weidensaul is a contributing editor for Audubon, a columnist for Bird Watcher's Digest and writes for a variety of other publications; he lives in Schuylkill County, and is an active field researcher studying the migration of owls, hummingbirds and songbirds from Maine to Alaska.

November 14, 2018 – Pennsylvania's Barn Owl Conservation Initiative – Dan Mummert

Dan Mummert from the PA Game Commission will present a program titled, Pennsylvania's Barn Owl Conservation Initiative: What Has Been Learned Over The Past Decade? During this presentation, Dan will focus on our state's barn owls. He will discuss a number of topics related to everything from nesting habits and



habitat requirements to conservation issues related to their decline in Pennsylvania. Dan will then provide information about the PGC's Barn Owl Conservation Initiative and how this program has been working to slow their decline over the past decade.

Dan Mummert is the Pennsylvania Game Commission's Wildlife Diversity Biologist for Southeastern Pennsylvania. Since 2004, his role with the PGC has

been focused on maintaining the incredible diversity of birds and mammals found throughout our state. With daily schedules that have him doing everything from surveying caves for bats to consulting landowners on how to enhance their properties for golden-winged warblers, Dan officially has the best job in the universe. When not wearing his PGC hat, Dan can be found hiking, birding, running, playing the cello, or coaching his daughter's softball team. (Photo by Justin Sauder).

December 12, 2018 – 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 23, 2019 – Madagascar: Birds and much more – Steve Rannels

Madagascar, a laboratory of natural selection and speciation, is home for unique birds, lemurs, chameleons and plants, most endemic to the island. The relationships and distribution of Madagascar's biology will be presented using photographic, video, and audio media. Dr. Rannels will surely entertain as well as educate us on the exotic wildlife of Madagascar!

Since childhood, Steve has had a fascination for insects. This interest has persisted and developed into an urge to understand the natural world, know its components, and understand its dynamic interrelationships. Steve and Sharon are active in local bird clubs and land conservation groups. His philosophy is to preserve as much of the environment as possible for all species.

Field Trips at a Glance . . .

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

Sunday, September 30, – State Game Lands 156 in and around Miners Village

Observation of local birds. Meet 8 AM at the Miners Village Ball field off Boyd Street. Leader Jim Fiorentino (717-269-0675).

Sunday, Oct. 7 – Swatara State Park

Observation of flora and fauna via walk on rail trail. Meet 2:30 PM at Trout Run Trailhead parking lot. Leader Fritz Heilman (717-273-0487).

Thursday, Oct. 25 – Union Canal Trail/Blue Marsh Lake

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

Sunday, November 18 – Lebanon Valley Rail Trail (LVRT) at Expo Center

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

Saturday, December 15 – QAS 39th annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC)

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



(Photo by Jim Fiorentino).

Tuesday, January 1, 2019 – Lebanon Valley Rail Trail (LVRT) at Expo Center

Observation of local wintering birds via walk on rail trail. Meet 11 AM at Lebanon Valley Expo Center parking lot next to LVRT. Leader Jim Fiorentino (717-269-0675).

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!**

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!



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.

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.

A Word from QAS President Jim Fiorentino...

It's March 16th as I write this, and it's an overcast winter day and I am so looking forward to Spring and of the course the spring Warbler migration – as I hope all of you are.

Speaking of annual migration, the Snow Geese and Tundra Swans are currently at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area. It seems that this migration has gotten earlier each year with the bulk of the snow geese passing thru by the end of



February. On the weekend of Feb 24th, there were an estimated 200,000+ snows and 4000+ Tundra Swans at Middle Creek. As of yesterday, there are about 4000 snows and 200 Tundra Swans at Middle Creek. I hope each of you had a chance to visit Middle Creek and view them – it truly is a spectacular site when they all lift off!

Over the next two weekends, is another annual migration and show – the Timberdoodle mating call and flight dance. Gary Kinkley has led these trips at Swatara State Park and Memorial Lake for many years – and has been very successful in seeing Timberdoodle's (or at least hearing them) doing their flight dance. By the time you all read this, the trips will be over, and I hope all of you had a chance to attend at least one of the them...it truly is amazing to hear and hopefully see the flight and calls.

Speaking of trips, QAS has many programs and field trips planned for the remainder of the 2017-18 season. With field trips to Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area, Memorial Lake State Park, and the Lebanon Valley Rail Trail just to name a few! Please look over the list and plan to attend one or more of these field trips. I wish to thank all of you that attended a program and/or field trips during the past year. We are in the process of setting up the field trips for the 2018-19 season and will be adding even more opportunities for our members to

get outdoors and experience the wildlife that is all around us.

Keep in mind, that all QAS field trips and programs are intended for the education and enjoyment of you – our membership and the general public. So please plan on attending one or more of the field trips and/or programs in the 2017-18 and the upcoming 2018-19 season – the trip leaders and program presenters will appreciate your support (see the web site and/or Facebook page for further details on any trip or contact any Board Members or Officer).

Our annual Banquet is being held May 23 and will also be over by the time you all read this. I hope to continue the success we had last year when we moved to the Hebron Fire Hall and a buffet style meal. More on this in the next newsletter...thanks to everyone that did attend and/or donate a raffle prize.

I was recently informed that Gary Kinkley – past President, Board Member, and Newsletter Chairperson is resigning from the Board due to work issues and requirements. Gary has agreed to continue as the Newsletter chairperson. The Board and Officers wish to thank him for years of service and I personally wish to thank him for helping when I was elected into the Presidency of QAS.

We have several vacancies on the Board and Officers positions, if you would like to volunteer some time to help – please contact and/or see one of the Officers or Board Members – our phone numbers are listed at the end of this newsletter.

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 remaining 2018-19 birding season. (Photo by Jim Fiorentino).

Enjoy the Fall Migration and Good Birding!



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!

Sunday, March 18, 2018 – Timberdoodle at Swatara State Park & Sunday, March 25, 2018 – Timberdoodle at Memorial Lake State Park – Gary Kinkley

We were met with much better weather this year for our annual Timberdoodle field trips after some bitter weather and a few cancellations the past few years. Our first trip, to Swatara State Park drew 11 participants to witness the mating dance of the American Woodcock. We were able to use the same viewing location that we have enjoyed in the past – right off the Trout Run parking lot facing west. After a discussion about the American Woodcock and its mating ritual, we awaited the first “peent” calls of the males. The first one started calling very close to our group about fifteen minutes after sunset. Most members of the group got a glimpse of a singing male in the spotlight, and we all got views of



them flying in silhouette against the remaining orange light of the setting sun. We were also able to hear all of their vocalizations – including their agitated “rattle” when two males get a little too close to one another. Their appeared to be at least four males displaying.

The second trip to Memorial Lake State Park proved to be even more productive. We met at the upper parking lot this year as habitat changes have made the middle lot less conducive to viewing the Timberdoodles. We had at least six different males calling from every direction, and we were able to get great views in the spotlight. One bird landed just a few feet from our group of five. He called and took off, and he returned to almost the same spot. We were able to spotlight that male at least four times. Their display went on for about a half-hour. Clearly, there must have been a few

females present. Hopefully, they will bring the next generation of woodcocks into the world, and we will continue to see their amazing displays at our two state parks (and elsewhere) for many years to come! (Photo by Fritz Heilman).

Saturday, March 24, 2018 – Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area – Fritz Heilman

We had nine participants on about a 3 ½ hour visit to Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area for the observation of migrating and resident birds. Upon arrival the tour road was closed (recent snows were an issue the previous days) but thankfully it was reopened by the time we needed to access it. Our first stop, by the main impoundment and the pond on the west side towards the visitor center, yielded some good birds with observations of several Ring-necked Ducks, a pair of Northern Shoveler Ducks, an American Coot, a Killdeer and Black Ducks, among others. Next stop was an observation of the Great-blue Heron rookery, where we noted several herons at their nest sites. Continuing on the main road, we stopped at the first pond opposite the moderate sized white painted building. At this pond, on

the east side of the road, were Green-winged Teal, more Ring-necked Ducks, and a Northern Pintail Duck. Soon after, driving on the tour road, we observed a pair of adult Bald Eagles in flight (this observation was among several for



the visit). Bluebirds were noted at various locations and we did have some early season observations of tree swallows. Between stop numbers three and four were two Ring-necked Pheasants. Stop number four yielded a nice look at a female Northern Harrier.

Finally we all agreed to take a side visit off the management area for a chance observation of the Red-

headed Woodpecker by the swampy woodlot along Hickory Road. After some time at this site we finally observed an adult bird of this species working the thicker woods in the back away from the road (where most of the ash trees have succumbed to the Emerald-ash Borer Beetle infestation). (Photo by Jim Fiorentino).

Saturday, May 5, 2018 – QAS Birdathon – Fritz Heilman

For the Birdathon, I thank Jim and Kitty Logan for assisting with this annual effort. The three of us spent about three hours at Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area. We walked part of the Conservation Trail where we heard eastern towhee, wood thrush, and ovenbird calling in the adjacent woodlot. Returning to the parking lot, we had one of the best species for the day with two yellow-throated vireos (the call drew our attention to this species)!

A drive over to the small parking lot southeast of the visitor center on the mountain side yielded a brown thrasher, a male American redstart, and black-throated blue warblers. Next, we walked the middle creek trail below the dam. We had nice looks at magnolia and chestnut-sided warblers.

Water birds were few on the impoundments though we did spot double-crested cormorants at their usual location. The tour road drive between stops 3 and 4 yielded a couple bobolinks to round out some of the highlights. We ended the count with 41 species as I added a male ruby-throated hummingbird at my backyard nectar feeder for the final species.

Saturday, May 12, 2018 – 27th Annual Pennsylvania Migration Count (PMC)

For this year's effort, 17 observers spent a combined 36 hours birding Lebanon County. They covered 64 miles in the process! Their efforts resulted in 3,931 birds counted, representing 148 species! Highlights included 31 Snow Geese, a Red-throated Loon, 9 Virginia Rails, 6 Soras, and 28 warbler species!

Wednesday, May 30, 2018 – Bird Tour at Fort Indiantown Gap

There were about 40 participants (including many members of the Lancaster County Bird Club, as this was a joint venture) on this Bird Tour at Fort Indiantown Gap. The trip was provided by and led by Dave McNaughton with assistance from his associated wildlife

managers on staff at this military site. After driving into and parking on restricted property, we spent about three and one-half hours on a walking tour via several service roads. A total of 43 species of birds were observed or heard only, among which were several Indigo Buntings, various species of warblers, Orchard and Baltimore Orioles, Oven Birds, Wood Thrushes, and the call of the Pileated Woodpecker. Other wildlife encountered included a nice specimen of a Black Rat Snake, two Spotted Turtles (one with a study transmitter), the call of the tree frog, and several species of butterflies including the Black Swallowtail (*Papilio polyxenes*). Wetland sites and ponds, including an active beaver pond were observed. We also observed two *Prometha* Moth cocoons hanging (as they typically do for over-wintering) from a nearby shrub.

Our thanks again to Dave for providing this opportunity to see some Lebanon County lands that are otherwise off limits to the public, having been converted from private to government property around 1933.

Saturday, June 16, 2018 – Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (MCWMA)

We had three participants on about a 5 ½ hour visit to Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (MCWMA) for the observation of resident birds (and a late addition data collection for a "Bird Blitz" – a record of resident number of bird species here and elsewhere). At the main impoundment, we observed a female Wood Duck with several ducklings. We made the same observation of this species of duck and ducklings across the road at the small pond below the visitor center. A White-tailed Deer was standing in the water (cooling off?) at the pond's edge. Walking out to Willow Point, we observed several Double-crested Cormorants (and another deer standing in the water). Stop number three provided looks at Bobolinks. Driving a short distance away from stop three, we observed a male Pheasant and a surprise observation of at least two, maybe three young Pheasants – a rare sight anymore. This general area along the tour road has been good recently for Pheasant sightings. Driving back to the cul-de-sac we observed one Snow Goose, and we heard the call of the Yellow-breasted Chat – at 25 grams our largest warbler. The drive back here also yielded a Grasshopper Sparrow. The next site, stop 4, yielded perhaps the highlight of the day with an observation of the Prothonotary Warbler – observed around the small pond at the sharp left turn in the road. This bird has been reported in that area, and the twenty or so Prothonotary nest boxes on posts that have been placed at MCWMA may be having positive results. After a lunch stop in Kleinfeltersville we took a

walk on the Conservation trail above the visitor center, then followed the path into the woods high on the hill. Here we heard an Eastern Towhee and a Pileated Woodpecker. Exiting out the eastern side into the upper meadow, we heard then saw a Yellow-breasted Chat (a nice observation in the sunlight). Finally, also of note were several observations via calls of the Yellow-billed Cuckoo, including two observations, one by the double ponds on the west side of Hopeland Road just before the main impoundment, and another at the Willow Point parking lot. Oh, and also worth a mention should be our side trip to Hickory Road east of MCWMA where we did again see the resident Red-headed Woodpeckers (two adults). Total species count was sixty-six.

Sunday, July 29, 2018 – Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (MCWMA)

We had eight participants for about a 2 ½ hour visit to Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area for the observation of butterflies and dragonflies. At the flower



garden between the entrances to the visitor center we observed several Tiger Swallowtails, one Snowberry Clearwing (a day flying moth that looks and feeds like a miniature Hummingbird), and a couple Ruby-throated Hummingbirds. Activity was low there, so we proceeded to the meadow with groomed trails just to the north of the visitor center. Here we observed several species of butterflies including Monarch, Meadow Fritillary, Cabbage White, Eastern Tailed-Blue, and several species of skippers (possibly Least, Wild Indigo Duskywing and Zabulon). Many milkweeds plants were present, including *Asclepias tuberosa* (Butterfly Weed)

and *Asclepias syriaca* (Common Milkweed). On Common Milkweed were the often-present insect, the Red Milkweed Beetle (in the Long-Horned Beetle family – *Cerambycidae*). Our next stop was the two ponds on the far eastern edge of the management area for observation of dragonflies. Here we saw the typical representatives for our region of this order of insects (Odonata – “Toothed Ones”), with the observation of Common Whitetail, Widow Skimmer, Slaty Skimmer,



Blue Dasher, male and female Eastern Pondhawk and male and female Common Green Darner. Dragonflies are an amazing group of insects, with flight and vision abilities unsurpassed in the world of insects. (Photos by Jim Fiorentino).



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.

SAVE THE DATE

QAS Annual Banquet

Tuesday, May 21, 2019

Hebron Banquet Hall

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. I understand a label indicating my sponsorship will be placed on the kit.

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New Proposals Could Significantly Weaken the Endangered Species Act – from

<https://www.audubon.org/news/new-proposals-could-significantly-weaken-endangered-species-act>

Over the past few weeks, we've seen a number of new proposals that could significantly weaken the Endangered Species Act (ESA), from a suite of bills in the U.S. House to proposed regulations by the administration. The ESA is a critical tool to protect and recover the most vulnerable birds and other wildlife in the country, and Audubon is committed to protecting this bedrock law.

Many of the key provisions put forward by the administration and in legislative proposals fail to address the needs of birds and would undermine the goal of the

ESA. Some of the more concerning provisions include proposals that would remove automatic protections for species that are newly listed as "threatened," allow publication and analyses of economic impacts instead of focusing solely on the science, and make it harder to designate unoccupied habitat as "critical habitat." Some of the proposals in Congress would take these potential rollbacks further, by rushing delistings, limiting science based-decisions, and reducing citizen involvement.

The ESA currently protects about 100 U.S. bird species, including the Whooping Crane, Piping Plover, and Western Yellow-billed Cuckoo. The law prohibits harm to listed species, designates "critical habitat," and initiates a recovery plan with population goals and specific management activities. The ESA has also served as an important tool for incentivizing large-scale conservation efforts, such as the case with the Greater Sage-Grouse. The ESA has helped numerous bird species recover and be delisted, such as the Brown Pelican, Bald Eagle, and Peregrine Falcon, and has set many other species on the path to recovery.

Instead of weakening protections, Congress and the administration should provide more resources for species recovery, including for habitat conservation, and deploy these measures as early as possible. By the time many species are listed, their populations have fallen



dramatically, making it much more difficult to maintain and increase their numbers. The most effective species conservation strategy is to prevent the conditions that lead to the need for ESA protections by funding and supporting proactive conservation. While there are opportunities to simplify implementation practices that could result in better and faster conservation outcomes, too many of these proposals would only put birds at greater risk.

The Endangered Species Act is a lifeline for birds, and is far too important to allow its vital protections to be chipped away. We are working to ensure it continues to provide science-based decision-making, incentives for collaboration on proactive conservation, and robust

protections for imperiled species and the places they need to survive.

Currently, the administrative proposals are in a 60-day comment period, ending in late September, and the new House bills have not yet had a hearing, meaning there is still time to act. Audubon will provide opportunities to comment on the new regulations, but in the meantime please ask Congress to uphold the ESA and defend against any efforts that would undermine protections for birds and other wildlife. (Photo by Kimberley Caruso/Audubon Photography Awards).

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.

Chapter-Only Membership Application Information

Quittapahilla Audubon Society offers a local Chapter-Only 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.

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**

QAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Art Schiavo (2020)	533-1978
Fritz Heilman (2020)	273-0487
Ruth Krebs (2020)	450-5737
Jim C. Logan (2019)	865-5522
Terry Weaver (2019)	272-3491
Jo Ann Yeagley (2019)	865-4787

OFFICERS/CHAIRPERSONS for 2018-2019

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Vice-President - Open	
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Newsletter - Gary Kinkley	503-4027
Programs - All Board Members	
Banquet - Cecelia McNaughton	418-3760
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.

QAS Winter 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 17, 2018. Articles may be emailed to 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!**

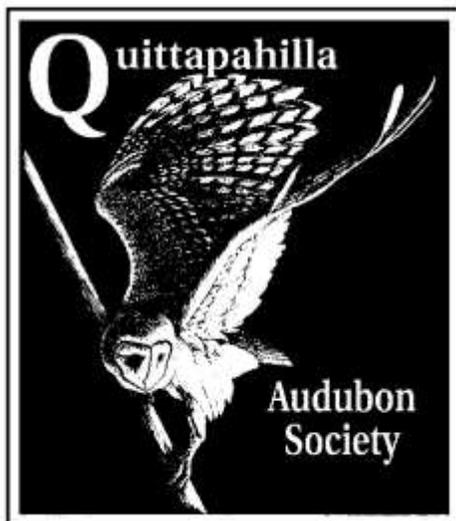
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