

QUITTAPAHILLA AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Spring 2019

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.

Please Note: Banquet Update

Due to a scheduling conflict, Katie Fallon will not be able to present her program *Vulture: The Private Life of an Unloved Bird*. We will be hosting an alternate program presented by Ralph Buckles: *Birds, Bees, and*

Native Plants. Details can be found on pages two and seven. (Photo from <http://www.animal-ethics.org/honey-bee-on-blue-aster/>).



April 17, 2019 – Spring Migration in the Mid-Atlantic – Derek Stoner

The program will focus on the spectacle of spring migration is a favorite experience for birders, with brightly-colored neo-tropical songbirds arriving and thousands of waterbirds, shorebirds, and raptors pushing north. April and May are peak months for this movement of birds in the Mid-Atlantic region. Take a photographic tour through the season, from the first-arriving Louisiana Waterthrush to the late-migrating Alder Flycatcher. Images of vibrant-colored warblers, orioles, tanagers, vireos, and more will build excitement for the rush of migration in coming weeks.

Derek Stoner is a lifelong outdoorsman with a deep passion for connecting people to nature. During a fifteen-year career with the Delaware Nature Society, he managed and led environmental education programs ranging from summer camps to international ecotours, while also managing the 860-acre Middle Run Natural Area and overseeing the planting of 20,000 trees for habitat improvement. The award-winning Middle Run Birding Trail is his creation, a unique design that is renowned as a premier location for experiencing the spectacle of songbird migration. His writing and photography work appear in *Outdoor Delaware* magazine, *Wild Delaware* and *Wild Delmarva* books, *Pennsylvania Game News*, and the *News Journal* newspapers. He does biodiversity consulting for conservation organizations like Mt. Cuba Center, Brandywine Red Clay Alliance, the White Clay Watershed Association, and the National Park Service. He currently works for the Pennsylvania Game Commission as a Wildlife Conservation Specialist. Derek is past president of the Delmarva Ornithological Society, recipient of their Outstanding Conservationist Award, and a founder of the Delaware Dunlins Youth Birding Club, dedicated to mentoring and leading the next generation of birder-conservationists. A resident of Lancaster, he lives on his family's farm in Eden with his wife Hilary where they manage the land for the benefit of wildlife.

May 21, 2019 – Banquet: Birds, Bees, and Native Plants – Ralph Buckles

A talk on how Native Plants (Trees, bushes and flowers) provide a habitat that can preserve the lives of various types of birds and pollinators (especially Honey Bees). The use of Chemical Free habitats will not only preserve the current species of birds and bees but will allow the numbers of both birds and bees to grow. Easy to grow specialty plants will be discussed. Plants like kitchen herbs, hedges and blooming trees will be discussed and how they can help both birds and bees. Honey Tasting of some different types of honey will be part of the program.

Ralph is a member of the Lancaster County Beekeeper Society. He is pursuing bee production and associated honey without chemicals.

See page seven 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.

Thursday, April 25 – Lancaster County Parks Rail Trail

Observation of flora and fauna. Meet 8 AM at Colebrook Rail Trail parking lot to car-pool. Leader Fritz Heilman (717-273-0487).

Saturday, April 27 – Wildwood Park

Observation of flora and fauna. Meet 8 AM at Saves-A-Lot Market (northwest of Lebanon) northeast section of parking lot. Leader Fritz Heilman (717-273-0487).

Saturday, May 4 – Furnace Hills Wildflowers and Songbirds

Observation of Spring ephemerals and Spring songbirds. Meet 9 AM at route 72 Lebanon K-Mart, in front of garden section. Leaders Jim M. Logan (717-273-8438) and Jim C. Logan (717-865-5522).

Sunday, May 5 – Birdathon

QAS annual fund raiser. Team competition to observe bird species. Form your own team or meet 8 AM at MCWMA visitor center parking lot - contact Fritz Heilman (717-273-0487).

Saturday, May 11 – 28th Annual Pennsylvania Migration Count (PMC)

A spring count of migrating birds in Lebanon County – contact Chuck Berthoud (717-889-0196).

Wednesday, May 29 – Bird the Ridge Tour at Fort Indiantown Gap

This is a joint visit with the Lancaster County Bird Club. Leader Dave McNaughton. Details to be published at a later date.

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

Observation of resident birds. Meet 8 AM at LVRT Colebrook parking lot. Leader Jim Fiorentino (717-269-0675).

Saturday, June 15 – Lebanon Valley Rail Trail (LVRT) at Expo Center

Observation of resident birds via walk on rail trail. Meet 9 AM at LVRT adjacent to the Lebanon Valley Expo Center. Leader Jim Fiorentino (717-269-0675).

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

Observation of resident birds via drive along tour road. Meet 8 AM at MCWMA visitor center parking lot. Leader Jim Fiorentino (717-269-0675).

Sunday, July 28 – Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (MCWMA)

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

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.

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 11:00 pm on March 24th as I write this, and it was a rather mild, sunny spring day with temps in the low 60's which makes me anxious for the spring Warbler migration to begin! I cannot wait to get back to Magee Marsh. If you have not visited this mecca of birding (especially for warblers), add it to your birding bucket list of places to visit – it's a trip well worth taking!

As happens every mid-February the Snow Goose and Tundra Swan migrations have already come and gone at Middle Creek. There were about 135,000 Snow geese and 3500 Tundra swans at Middle creek about 2 weeks ago...that was the peak. I was at Middle creek earlier today and there are about 1000 snows and no Tundra Swans – it seems they leave earlier each year. I hope each of you had a chance to visit Middle Creek and view them. It truly is a spectacular sight when they all lift off. By the way, Middle Creek also now has a live web cam on hdontap.com – look under the listing PA Snow Goose.

One of the reasons I am up writing this late is because I just returned from another annual migration and show – the Timberdoodle mating call and flight dance. Newsletter chairperson Gary Kinkley led tonight's outing at Memorial Lake, and we were very successful in seeing and hearing several Timberdoodle's beginning at dusk. There were 14 adults and 7 youth in attendance as the weather cooperated – a very successful trip indeed.

QAS has many field trips planned in the coming weeks, just look over the field trip listing (in the QAS field trips brochure or online) and plan to attend at least one. The trip organizers will be appreciative of your

attendance. I do 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 2019/20 season, and we will be adding even more opportunities for our members to get outdoors and experience nature.

Skipping ahead, on May 21, QAS's 36th annual Banquet will be held – featuring the program: *Birds, Bees, and Native Plants* by Ralph Buckles. A banquet reservation form is in this newsletter and also online at the QAS website - please fill it out and return to banquet chair Jo Ann Yeagley. The banquet is being held at the Hebron Fire hall again this year. Your support of QAS's annual Banquet is greatly appreciated.

As both new and returning Officers, Board Members, and Chairs are annually nominated and elected at the banquet, it generally signals the closing of one and the start of another year. As in the past, I must take the time to thank everyone that has led, participated, attended, donated, and volunteered their time in helping QAS during this past year. I especially wish to thank the Officers and Board members for their continued support and commitment to QAS Audubon.

I will be beginning my 8th year as QAS President on June 1, and as I look back at all the challenges overcome and changes that have occurred in that time – I can only see QAS as continuing to grow stronger, embracing the future, adopting new ideas, and being committed to having quality programs and field trips while supporting our membership and in the year(s) ahead.

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.

Get Out and enjoy nature and the Spring Migration – 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!

Saturday, February 9 – Barnegat Lighthouse & Brigantine National Wildlife Refuge – Fritz Heilman

We had seven participants on an all-day trip to visit the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge along



the coast of New Jersey. This refuge is actually a latter-day combination of two distinct refuges, Barnegat and Brigantine. Arriving first at Barnegat and the Lighthouse and jetty, we were greeted with upwards of 22 mph wind gusts and temperatures around 31 degrees with wind chill at times around 11 degrees (according to my Kestrel instrument). Braving the cold, we ventured out onto the boulder composed jetty and were pleased to find several of our target birds including the highly anticipated Harlequin Duck (also called Torrent Duck or Sea Mouse) along with a nice find of a couple female Common Eider and several good looks at male and female Long-tailed Ducks! A Purple Sandpiper was observed near the end of the jetty along with a few Ruddy Turnstones. At



Brigantine we took the tour road and found various species of ducks including Northern Pintail, Northern Shoveler, Bufflehead, and nice looks at Hooded Mergansers. A flyby of a Peregrine Falcon was a good find as well. Our thanks to chapter president Jim for arranging and leading this return visit to a great east coast National Wildlife Refuge. A dinner at the Silver Coin restaurant in

Hammonton, NJ capped off the day afield. We ended up with 34 species of birds for the field trip! (Photos by Fritz Heilman).

Sunday, February 17 – Great Backyard Bird Count – Union Canal Tunnel Park – Fritz Heilman

We had thirteen participants on a two-hour QAS visit to Union Canal Tunnel Park for the observation of flora and fauna, including data collection for the annual Great Backyard Bird Count. As if on cue (as some suggested), a Great-blue Heron appeared alongside the canal as we were about to start our walk. We then continued on to the appropriately named “Hawks Flight Trail” to continue our visit via the hillside trail system. Along the way we had several fly overs of Ring-billed Gulls and a few observations of Downy Woodpeckers along with one sighting of the cryptically colored Brown Creeper – always a “good bird” to find. At the junction of the trails we found again the Promethea Moth cocoon, still



hanging on the Spicebush shrub which is one of its caterpillar’s preferred foods. This beautiful species of moth has declined in our region, perhaps due to a particular tachinid fly introduced to control the Gypsy Moth (according to D. Wagner’s excellent field guide, “Caterpillars of Eastern North America”). Continuing on to the Pansy Hill Meadow along the ridge top, we had nice observations of three Eastern Bluebirds. Heading west on the lower Gravel Hill trail brought us to the top of the south portal where we took time to check out the three nearby fine specimens of Cedar of Lebanon trees, and then the view of the tunnel which is the oldest existing transportation tunnel in the United States (built between May 1825 and June 1827). Our finally tally of bird species was seventeen. A stop afterwards for some

of us at Panera Bread restaurant was a warming finish to the day (and coincidentally a fundraiser for The Lebanon Valley Conservancy). (Photo by David Bree).

Sunday, February 24 – Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area (MCWMA) – Fritz Heilman

Today, Sunday, February 24th, I joined Jim for the QAS field trip to Middle Creek – overcast and light rain at first, but the rain stopped soon after our arrival. At stop one, we observed dozens of Tundra Swans and some Common Mergansers plus one immature Bald Eagle in the southern woodlot. Moving on to the two ponds opposite the white building along the north end of Hopeland Road, we observed numerous Widgeon (Baldpate), Pintails and Green-winged Teals with one apparent Eurasian Teal (having a white horizontal stripe on the scapulars) mixed in with the group of Green-winged Teal on the right pond. A walk out to Willow Point (where the parking lot is getting very congested this time of year) yielded the call and observation of a Pileated Woodpecker in the woodlot east of the southbound trail. At the point, thousands of Snow Geese were observed, along with an adult Bald Eagle in the nest. We then headed east to Hickory Road off Sportsman Road to check on the Red-headed Woodpeckers in the flooded sparse woodlot – and found one adult within about a minute of being there – and soon thereafter, two more adult Red-headed Woodpeckers! A drive farther east on route 897 to check on the Bald Eagle nest opposite Blue Lake Builders appeared to have another adult Bald Eagle at that location. A return to Hopeland Road near the visitor center yielded a low fly-over of two immature Bald Eagles and one mature. And of note, Great-blue Herons were already occupying the rookery at the old location north of the visitor center, west of Hopeland Road.

Sunday, March 17 & 24 – Timberdoodle at Swatara State Park & Memorial Lake State Park – Gary Kinkley

We had seven participants for our timberdoodle field trip to Swatara State Park on March 17th. We were able to get excellent views of a single male displaying to the west of the Trout Run parking area. The male displayed several times over a 20-minute time period. We were afforded several excellent views of his courtship flight silhouetted against the setting sun. Best of all, he made a curtain call out in the open which we were briefly able to get in the spotlight!



Our second timberdoodle trip, this time to Memorial Lake State Park on March 24th, drew 21 participants with seven children included on a mild evening. Again, we were fortunate to have a great view of the woodcock courtship flight! At this site, we were able to observe two woodcocks displaying. Several times, the birds flew right over our heads. We were not able to get either bird in the spotlight on the ground, but the great sky views more than made up for it. The children present did an incredible job of finding the birds for the rest of the group. Everyone involved, enjoyed spending time with these amazing birds. (Photo from <https://timberdoodle.org/biology>).

***Saturday, March 23 – Middle Creek
Wildlife Management Area (MCWMA) –
Fritz Heilman***

On the Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area field trip today, we had six participants braving the extreme windy and cold conditions. At stop one, we had observations of Ring-necked Ducks and Buffleheads on the west side pond along with flyovers of Bald Eagles and Tree Swallows. The next stop to observe the Great-blue Heron rookery at the west side woodlot yielded few herons as the wind must have been keeping them out of site. However, while observing at this site we did see a male Harrier, aka Marsh Hawk or Bog Trotter. Driving to the far northern area of the wildlife management property by the small white building off Hopeland Road, we observed on the east side ponds several species of ducks, including Green-winged Teal and Northern Shoveler. Next, while driving the tour road at the first bridge, we observed one Eastern Phoebe, a good early migrant find. Further along the road were several sightings of Eastern Bluebirds. At stop three, just to the

northeast, were a few thousand Snow Geese feeding on the grasslands. Past stop three, just before the turn to the right, was a neat observation of a female Kestrel having a meal of what appeared to be a Meadow Vole. No Bobolinks were observed, and Tree Swallow numbers were low. Spring Peepers were heard at stop four. Finally, a drive off the property to Hickory Road did yield an adult Red-headed Woodpecker. We had around 25 bird species for the day. A stop at the Klinefeltersville Hotel for a couple of us for a meal and to warm up finished our visit to this fine natural site.



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.

Quittapahilla Audubon Society 36th Annual Banquet

Tuesday, May 21, 2019 -- 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

Birds, Bees, and Native Plants – Ralph Buckles

A talk on how Native Plants (Trees, bushes and flowers) provide a habitat that can preserve the lives of various types of birds and pollinators (especially Honey Bees). The use of Chemical Free habitats will not only preserve the current species of birds and bees but will allow the numbers of both birds and bees to grow. Easy to grow specialty plants will be discussed. Plants like kitchen herbs, hedges and blooming trees will be discussed and how they can help both birds and bees. Honey Tasting of some different types of honey will be part of the program.

Ralph is a member of the Lancaster County Beekeeper Society. He is pursuing bee production and associated honey without chemicals.

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, 2019

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

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.

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

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.

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 (2019)	865-5522
Terry Weaver (2019)	272-3491
Jo Ann Yeagley (2019)	865-4787

OFFICERS/CHAIRPERSONS for 2018-2019

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.

Bluebird Nest Boxes at the Greater Lebanon Refuse Authority – Fritz Heilman

I performed the annual late winter cleaning and maintenance of the twenty-seven Eastern Bluebird nest boxes plus the one American Kestrel nest box just north of the electronic waste recycling building. I removed four of the Bluebird nest boxes to modify the skylights on each, and I will replace them on my next visit. The skylights (two-inch diameter generally) are there to deter House Sparrows from nesting. I plan to start weekly monitoring once the nesting season arrives (around April).



The images included show the White-footed mice (there were four) in box number two by the pond in the southwest section of GLRA – this is one of the few boxes that mice occupy every winter. The other image shows the two new Bluebird nest boxes (with skylights) installed at the site of the previous old nest box post by the main office. There are two boxes on the post as research has shown that if Tree Swallows occupy one box, they will tolerate Bluebirds in the other as opposed

to another Tree Swallow nest. (Photos by Fritz Heilman).



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 under the “Newsletters” tab. We may still offer a small number of newsletters for members without internet access as well as some printed copies at our monthly membership meetings. We would appreciate the feedback of our membership as well. Please let me or one of the other Board Members or Officers know what you think.

Don't Miss the
DEADLINE!

QAS Spring 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 July 17, 2019. 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!**

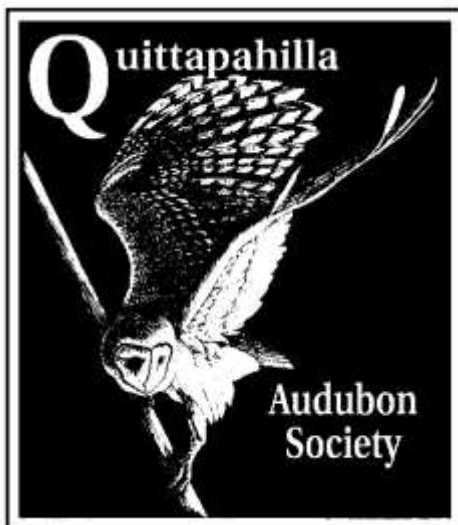
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Quittapahilla Audubon Society

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