Upcoming QAS Events – Join Us!

Upcoming Programs …

January 27, 2010
Tundra Swan Story
Jim Binder, the manager of Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area, will share with us all about the Tundra Swan. A Tundra Swan DVD made by the Lebanon Valley Conservancy will be shown.

February 24, 2010
Messing Around with Birds (for Fun and Science)
Join us as Scott Weidensaul shares about some of his research projects such as banding hawks and saw-whet owls and studying the migration of western hummingbirds. Learn how you, too, can have a great time making important contributions to the science and conservation of birds.

March 24, 2010
Saw-whet Owl Research Program
Nate McKelvie, a QAS Board Director, will present an overview of the Ned Smith Center’s Saw-whet Owl Research program. Don’t miss it!

April 28, 2010
A Trip to Antarctica by Janet and Jim Maynard

We Have a New Website Address
Our new address is www.QASAudubon.org. We thank Steve Holzman who, the Board unanimously agrees, did a great job in setting it up and continues to keep it updated. Visit our website and let us know what you think. How else will we learn what the majority of you want to see there?

Unusual Bird Sighting for this Time of Year in Our Area

Turn to page 6 to read about this bird which was sighted on a recent Mt. Gretna Bird Club/QAS Walk.
Field Trips at a Glance …

Phone numbers for Field Trips leaders: Fritz Heilman—273-0487; Sid Hostetter—964-3412; Gary Kinkley—832-7727; Jim C. Logan—865-5522; Jim M. Logan—273-8438.

Mt. Gretna Bird Club/QAS Walks
Meet Fridays, weather permitting, at 9am at the parking lot of Governor Dick Environmental Center on Pinch Road in Mt. Gretna. Direct inquiries to mtgretnabirdclub@hotmail.com We are not associated with Governor Dick. Leader Sid Hostetter

February 14, 2010
Union Canal Tunnel Park for Observation of Flora ad Fauna and Annual GBBC
We’ll collect data for the Great Backyard Bird Count. Meet Sunday 2pm at parking lot off 25th Street, Lebanon. Leader Fritz Heilman

March 20, 2010
Middle Creek Wildlife Management
Meet Saturday 9am at the visitor center parking lot to observe migrating waterfowl. Leader Fritz Heilman

March 21, 2010 (rain date March 28)
Timberdoodle at Memorial Lake
Observation of “sky dance” of the crepuscular woodcock. Meet Sunday 7pm at main parking lot (adjacent to boat rental). Leader Gary Kinkley

April 24, 2010
Monroe Valley Spring Wildflowers
Meet Saturday 10am at Lickdale Campground’s General Store parking lot. For details, contact trip co-leaders Jim M. Logan or Jim C. Logan.

News from the Nest . . .

QAS members making a difference

Wanted: Campers for Summer 2010
- Jo Ann Yeagley, Education Co-chair

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 19, 2010.

Suggested camps include ZooAmerica Day Camp, Governor Dick Explorers’ 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.

Thank You from Former Camper Family

Dear Audubon Society Members,

My family and I would like to thank you again for sending Grace [Grieve-Carlson] to Mass Audubon Camp in New Hampshire last August. It was an amazing experience for her and she loved every minute of it.

I thought the camp was run very well. As soon as we sent in our registration forms, they contacted us and from that time until we arrived, I was always able to contact them and got an answer back in 24 hours. It was a beautiful camp, with a great staff who came from all over the world. I know you were interested in our experience, since you had never sent a camper there before. From a parent’s point of view, I would highly recommend this camp to any family.

Our sincerest appreciation,
The Grieve-Carlson Family
Famed Hog Island Reopens

The National Audubon Society will reopen Hog Island for one teen bird studies session and four adult ornithology sessions during the summer of 2010. Dr. Steve Kress, Audubon’s VP for Bird Conservation, will direct the sessions. He will be joined by some of the country’s top ornithologists who will serve as instructors, including - Kenn Kaufman, Pete Dunne, and Scott Weidensaul.

Hog Island was closed during the summer of 2009 to permit planning for the future. This process led to Project Puffin bringing back the popular ornithology programs for teens and adults. Any youth, 14-17 year of age, who has a keen interest in birds, may apply for a QAS scholarship to the teen session. Visit www.QASAudubon.org for an application which must be returned by February 19.

Small field groups will go on a variety of trips and boat cruises, and attend workshops and presentations on topics ranging from migration and the identification of warblers to the restoration of Atlantic Puffins and terns on nearby Eastern Egg Rock. Visit www.projectpuffin.org for dates, sessions, costs, instructors, etc. To read testimonials and see photos from previous Hog Island programs, go online to www.naturecompass.org/iohi

Sponsors Always Appreciated for Audubon Adventures for Classrooms

-Linda Toth, Education Co-Chair

Each year, students in classrooms in Lebanon County and the Hershey/Hummelstown area benefit from reading Audubon Adventures. This activity helps them to improve their informational reading skills and broadens their awareness of the environment. The classroom kits are provided by our local Quittapahilla Audubon Society and are sponsored through donations.

If you would like to continue making this valuable resource available to local children, please complete the form to the right and send it to QAS. A label indicating your sponsorship will be placed on the Audubon Adventures kit.

Hersheypark Fundraiser

-Rosemary Spreha

QAS participated once again 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: Bonnie and Bill Chambers, Sharon Fruland, Kay and Rachel Knep, Ken Light, Rosemary Spreha, Linda Toth, Patty Van Scyoc, and Jo Ann Yeagley. Special thanks to Kay Knep who worked over 100 hours. Volunteers receive a voucher good for a day pass to the park for each shift worked.

Thanks from the Seed Sale Coordinators

-Jim and Kitty Logan

A big thank you to everyone who purchased QAS wild bird seed this year. We had a very successful sale and there will be a lot of very happy birds this winter. This year QAS supporters purchased over 23,000 pounds of seed, the profit of which is used to support our local chapter’s great programs in environmental education. A special word of thanks goes out to those volunteers who helped with unloading and distributing 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.

AUDUBON ADVENTURE SPONSORSHIP FORM

Yes, I wish to sponsor an Audubon Adventure classroom for a donation of $40. 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
Attn: J. A. Yeagley and L. Toth
PO Box 123
Palmyra, PA 17078
Welcome to our new QAS members . . . Hope to see you at many of our events!


Stormy Weather Meeting Cancellations

-Rosemary Spreha

When bad weather forces our chapter meeting to be cancelled, you can hear about it on the radio or television. Check CBS-WHP TV-21 or WLYH-15 on the television or WHP Talk Radio 580, The River 97.3 WRVV, Bob 94.9 or KISS 99.3 on the radio.

These stations have agreed to broadcast cancellation announcements. This information will also be available on the stations’ websites.

More Conservation News …

Raising the Bar for Recycling
-Audubon Newswire
Vol 7, No 8 - Thursday, August 13, 2009

Audubon magazine is taking its environmental commitment to new heights. Despite the many glossies that talk a good game on Green issues, fewer than 1% of the 17,000 magazines published in the U. S. contain any recycled paper. With the Sept-Oct issue, Audubon magazine’s body stock has tripled its use of post-consumer recycled paper to 90%. Recycled paper uses less water and energy, emits fewer greenhouse gases, and preserves carbon dioxide-absorbing trees. The change saves Audubon $18,000 a year, and saves trees, particularly in Canada's boreal forest, home to 300 species of birds.

Join the Great Backyard Bird Count
-Patricia Leonard,
Cornell Lab of Ornithology

Throughout North America, bird and nature fans may participate in the 13th annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), February 12-15, 2010. This is a joint project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society and is made possible, in part, by support from Wild Birds Unlimited. It offers all ages of novice to expert bird watchers an opportunity to discover the wonders of nature in backyards, schoolyards, and local parks, and, at the same time, make an important contribution to conservation. Participants count birds for as little as 15 minutes or as long as they wish during this four day period. A report of sightings should be made online at www.birdcount.org or to your group leader.

QAS will be conducting its count on February 14, 2010. Anyone, young or old, wishing to join our group for its count in the Lebanon County area is asked to meet at 2pm at the Union Canal Tunnel Park parking lot off 25th Street, Lebanon. Fritz Heilman will serve as the leader – 273-0487

Conservationist of the Year
-Evelyn Hoppel

Dick Brown, QAS member, received the Conservationist of the Year award by the Lebanon Conservation District at their annual awards banquet on October 15, 2009. Dick, who resides in Mt. Gretna, received the award for his work in establishing blue bird trails at both the Greater Lebanon Refuse Authority and at Middle Creek; founding and serving as chairman of South Londonderry Township’s Environmental Advisory Council; chairing the Natural Areas Committee; and for his work in establishing the Native Plant Action Alliance. The Alliance recruited volunteers to collect seeds of native plants and to plant meadows on public and private lands in the county in order to preserve habitat for local insects, birds, and animals. The Conservation District
showed an inspiring video highlighting Brown’s work. Congratulations, Dick!

Volunteers Needed for TreeVitalize  
-Rosemary Spreha

Swatara Township, Lebanon County, is looking for help planting trees in the spring of 2010 as part of the TreeVitalize project. They will be planting 30 4-6 foot tall trees in a new park located south of Rt. 22 behind the Our Lady of Fatima chapel, next to the Woodcrest development. Planting will take place on two Saturdays. If you are interested in volunteering, please call Jennifer Harding at 865-4803.

Rare Bird Sighting in Mt. Gretna  
-Evelyn Hoppel

On November 20, Sidney Hostetter and Randy Miller spotted an unusual bird on the regular Friday Mt. Gretna Bird Club/QAS Walk. Sid noticed the oddity - a flycatcher in November? Randy made the identification. It was an Ash Throated Flycatcher quite a bit off course for a western bird that should have been in Central America by now. Fortunately one of the birders with the group had a camera and took a picture.

The picture was sent to others and posted online. Quickly confirmation of the identification came in. It was indeed an Ash Throated Flycatcher, only the fourth sighting ever in Pennsylvania. By Saturday morning birders were arriving from across the state to view and confirm the sighting. The bird remained cooperative and was easily visible by those who came for a look or to take a photograph.

While in Mt. Gretna, most of the visitors also went to observe the Sandhill crane affectionately called Icabod by the locals. The bird, which has been at Duffy Lake since March 2009, has become so habituated to people that he runs to greet visitors and hangs out within three feet of them, causing both delight and concern. This is only the 14th time a Sandhill crane has been spotted in Lebanon County; and this is the longest time one has ever stayed.

Bald Eagles Are Sighted

In early November Kathy DiFava reported there was a pair of Bald Eagles in the area behind Brightbill Body Works, 2701 E. Cumberland St., Lebanon. Kathy, who is an employee of Brightbills, had been watching them for several weeks.

In the afternoon of December 12, two adult bald eagles were seen perched in a tree along the Tulpehocken Creek, just east of Halfway Drive, which is not far from Brightbill Body Works.

“Bringing Nature Home” by Douglas W. Tallamy  
-reviewed by Fritz Heilman

QAS’s annual banquet to be held on May 26 will feature Douglas Tallamy, professor and Chair of the Dept. of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware. Tallamy’s program, Bringing Nature Home, is based on his book of the same name. This 2007 publication, updated and expanded in 2009, discusses restoring native plants to suburbia and the benefit this would provide to native wildlife and ultimately to humanity as well.

He presents numerous concepts in his book including: the future of biodiversity being threatened unless we restore native plants to our suburban ecosystems; native plants provide food for insects and many animals depend partially or entirely on insect protein for food; and each of us can make a difference in these concerns as our individual plot of land connects to others, creating a cumulative effect.

Tallamy points out the need to protect biodiversity because “ecosystems with more species are better able to withstand disturbances” to the environment. Attention is given to the use of lawns which provide a monoculture that tends to enhance the problem of pest species. Discussed as well is the problem with “pest free” plants as those which are unpalatable to native insects and so “do not pass the energy they capture from the sun up the food chain” – they essentially “do not become functioning members of the ecosystem”.

An additional and notable point made twice in the book is that “knowledge generates interest, and interest generates concern”. The lands we depend on for our sustenance would be better served if more of us had this knowledge; the kind contained within this exceptional book.
Christmas Bird Count
-Fritz Heilman

Weather shortened the QAS Christmas Bird Count on December 19 several groups and canceled it for others. Nevertheless notable sightings were made of a red-headed woodpecker, 8 horned larks, an adult bald eagle, several screech owls, and turkeys.

This year in addition to the various CBC field birding groups, we had reports from several backyard feeder watchers. We’re also expecting a report from Dave McNaughton’s group who covered restricted property at Fort Indiantown Gap for the first time. Look for a summary of the entire Lebanon County CBC in the next newsletter.

The National Audubon Christmas Bird Count takes place annually across the United States and the Americas. A Rufous hummingbird was spotted visiting a feeder during this year’s CBC in Hamilton County in Indiana. The Rufous is rarely seen in Indiana (only 61 sightings in the past 30 years). By this time of the year Rufous hummingbirds are wintering in Mexico.

An article by Ad Crable which appeared in the December 13, 2009 issue of Lancaster Intelligencer Journal/Lancaster New Era reported on a hummingbird who has been visiting a feeder in Leola, PA this December. Scott Weidensaul’s identification of it as an Allen’s hummingbird was confirmed. This is the first verified sighting of this bird in Pennsylvania. The Allen’s hummingbird breeds in coastal California and southwestern Oregon. It winters on a mountainous plateau in central Mexico. Several of our QAS members felt very privileged to be able to see this tiny visitor.

Some Things of Interest

*The Pennsylvania Agricultural Conservation Easement Purchase Program reported they recently set aside an additional 3,332 acres on 31 farms in 19 counties for permanent agricultural production.
*The census of butterflies in 2009 was less than half of the normal annual average. Cool weather and toxic sprays are two of the supposed reasons. To help them make a come-back, plant joe-pye weed, purple coneflower, butterfly bush, and phlox.
*"The Birder", a new e-zine may be viewed by visiting www.lifers-birding.com/monthly-e-zine/
*BirdsEye is a new birding application for the iPhone® and iPod touch®. Visit BirdsEye at www.getbirdseye.com for more info.
*The Wyoming state board of Land Commissioners withdrew one million acres of state land within sage grouse population areas from wind energy development.

New Global Warming Field Coordinator

Hello Pennsylvania Audubon chapters!

For those of you who don’t know me yet, I’m Victoria Ford, Audubon’s new Global Warming Field Coordinator for Pennsylvania. If you have questions or want to be of more help, please contact me at vford@audubon.org.

Climate change poses an imminent danger to the survival of many species of birds and wildlife and the integrity of the ecosystems on which they depend. Recently over 100 of Audubon’s state offices and local chapters endorsed a letter to the Senate requesting that they pass climate legislation that includes crucial funding to protect wildlife and natural resources from the ever-growing threat of climate change. Thanks to all for supporting this critical initiative!

We must continue to let our senators know that we want legislation to reduce gas emissions, and we need revenue to help protect birds, wildlife, and ecosystems.

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
-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.
3. 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 Boulder, CO.

Some members tell us that they don’t get time to read the Audubon magazine but want to support the local chapter. Thank you for considering this option.

Five-Year Survey of Road Kill
-Tom Powers

This survey, conducted by Cal Butchkoski, Richard Light, and myself (Tom Powers), began in 2002 as a one-year survey of bats killed on a five mile stretch of 322. It extended to a five-year survey which ended in November 2008. In addition to bats, I decided to keep a record of all animals, reptiles, amphibians, and butterflies killed on the road. All of the bats we found were given to Cal Butchkoski.

A listing of the bats along with frogs/toads, mammals, butterflies, moths, and salamanders was published in the Fall 2009 newsletter. Following is the remaining list of road kill which was recorded.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Snakes</th>
<th>Birds (continued)</th>
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<tr>
<td>14 Black Rat</td>
<td>19 Catbird</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 Black Racer</td>
<td>3 Yellow Throat</td>
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<tr>
<td>25 Garter</td>
<td>1 Tufted Titmouse</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 Ringneck</td>
<td>8 Indigo Bunting</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Copperhead</td>
<td>19 Ovenbird</td>
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<td>4 N. Water</td>
<td>2 Field Sparrow</td>
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<td>1 Milk</td>
<td>1 Saw-whet Owl</td>
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<td>1 Smooth Earth</td>
<td>1 Bobwhite Quail</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Smooth Earth</td>
<td>1 Starling</td>
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<th>Turtles</th>
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<td>27 Box</td>
<td>1 N. Water Thrush</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Painted</td>
<td>1 Grackle</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 Snapping</td>
<td>4 Scarlet Tanager</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Smooth Earth</td>
<td>5 Goldfinch</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Woodcock</td>
<td>1 Pileated Woodpecker</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Smooth Earth</td>
<td>3 Yellow-billed Cuckoo</td>
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<td>1 Smooth Earth</td>
<td>2 Blue Jay</td>
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<td>1 Smooth Earth</td>
<td>2 Dove</td>
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<td>1 Smooth Earth</td>
<td>1 White-throated Sparrow</td>
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<td>1 Smooth Earth</td>
<td>2 Baltimore Oriole</td>
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<td>1 Smooth Earth</td>
<td>1 Acadian Flycatcher</td>
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<td>1 A. Redstart</td>
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<tr>
<th>Birds</th>
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<tr>
<td>3 Turkey Vulture</td>
<td>3 Yellow-billed Cuckoo</td>
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<tr>
<td>24 Screech Owl</td>
<td>2 Blue Jay</td>
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<tr>
<td>2 Red-tailed Hawk</td>
<td>2 Dove</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Broad-winged Hawk</td>
<td>1 White-throated Sparrow</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Hairy Woodpecker</td>
<td>2 Baltimore Oriole</td>
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<tr>
<td>3 Black-capped Chickadee</td>
<td>1 Acadian Flycatcher</td>
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<tr>
<td>6 Robin</td>
<td>1 A. Redstart</td>
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<tr>
<td>26 Wood Thrush</td>
<td>1 Winter Wren</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 Hermit Thrush</td>
<td>1 N. Flicker</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 Veery</td>
<td>1 Sharp-shinned Hawk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Cardinal</td>
<td>2 House Wren</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 Golden-crowned Kinglet</td>
<td>1 Rose-breasted Grosbeak</td>
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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, please contact Rosemary Spreha, President.
National Audubon Society  CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION  

Local Chapter Quittapahilla Audubon (C9ZU16OZ)  

☐ Yes, I would like to join. Please enroll me as a member of the National Audubon Society and my local chapter at the INTRODUCTORY MEMBERSHIP cost of $20. Please send AUDUBON magazine, my membership card, and the chapter newsletter to the address below.  

Name: ________________________________________________________  

Address__________________________________________________________________________  

City_____________________________State_______Zip__________________  

☐ Introductory Membership $20.00. My check for $ ________ is enclosed.  

Please make all checks payable to: National Audubon Society  
PO BOX 422250  
PALM COAST FL 32142-2250 C9ZU  

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