

## South Mountain Airs

### The Newsletter of the South Mountain Audubon Society

October Through December 2010, Volume XXXV #4 – The Email Edition

#### Celebrating Our 30<sup>th</sup> Chapter Year

#### UPCOMING SMAS EVENTS

Saturday December 18<sup>th</sup> **Annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC)** - Gettysburg Areas

All are invited and welcome to join South Mountain Audubon Society (SMAS) for the 2010 CBC.

The SMAS 2010 CBC will be held Saturday December 18. SMAS seeks volunteers to participate in counting both species and individual numbers in the field, alone or on a team, as well as those wishing to count birds at their feeders and home property area.

Check out your calendar and mark us in. Contact Mike O'Brien, SMAS CBC Coordinator, to join us or for information for new participants or confirmation of areas/times for previous & returning individuals and team participants. Call, 717.642.6676, or Click, [mike@maddogobrien.com](mailto:mike@maddogobrien.com)

This will be the 111th Christmas Bird Count and is an example of Citizen Science at its best. Click on the link below to learn more at the Audubon CBC web-site. If you are receiving our hard copy newsletter in the mail or if clicking the link does not work, just cut and paste or type the link into your web browser and press enter. The CBC is in lieu of a December field trip. <http://birds.audubon.org/christmas-bird-count>

#### UPCOMING SMAS PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS

Unless indicated otherwise all SMAS Programs will be held at the Agricultural Resource Center, 670 Old Harrisburg Road, Gettysburg, PA at 7:30 PM. A room number for the SMAS meeting will be posted on the front door.

Monday October 11<sup>th</sup> ***"Birds of the Boreal Barrens of Northeast Pennsylvania"***

The Pocono plateau in northeastern Pennsylvania embodies the region's boreal heritage, harboring species tolerant to cooler temperatures reminiscent of its glacial past. It is a vast landscape of glacial till barrens interspersed with swamps, bogs, marshes and shallow ponds surrounded by red spruce, balsam fir and eastern hemlock – woodlands more characteristic of Canada's northern climate. The bird life has a decidedly northern flavor, including many species that are rare or absent elsewhere in the state. **Bud Cook**, Director of The Nature Conservancy's Northeastern Pennsylvania Office, will describe the three major barrens sites in the region: Long Pond, Moosic Mountain, and Arbutus Peak. They have many similarities, but each has its own distinctive features, its own rarities. Each has public access, trails and great birding. The Nature Conservancy and other organizations have been actively conserving and managing habitat at each place.

Monday November 8<sup>th</sup> **Conrad Richter**, a Gettysburg resident, will share his and his wife's photos from three trips to Africa in the last decade. They have visited South Africa, Zimbabwe, Botswana, Zambia, Tanzania and Kenya. In addition to pictures of wildlife, he will discuss the social interactions they had with the native peoples in their villages. He will also talk about the resorts, tent camps and tree-houses in which they stayed. Conrad is retired from Duke University Medical Center where he was involved in the veterinary field of biomedical research.

**Feathery Factoid:** Did you know that data collected for virtually every Great Crested Flycatcher nest on record indicates shed snakeskin was used in the nest construction; entire skins and or portions of one to several skins.

## UPCOMING SMAS FIELD TRIPS

Contact Mike O'Brien, Field Trip Chair, as necessary for more information on all Field Trips and the annual Christmas Bird Count: 717.642.6676 or [maddogobrien@gmail.com](mailto:maddogobrien@gmail.com) Please consider letting the Leader know in advance if you plan to attend any field trip.

### Thursday September 30<sup>h</sup> **The "Pulpit" Hawk Watch at Tuscarora Ridge**

Hawkwatching trip to Tuscarora Ridge summit where US #30 passes over the crest of the ridge near McConnellsburg, PA. Long called "The Pulpit," this site provides good views of approaching raptors. Broad-winged Hawks will still be going through at this time. Kestrels and Red-tailed Hawks should be present in good numbers and most other raptors are possible. Short and easy access from where we will park to the observation area.

Meet in parking area between Burger King and CVS on US Rte #30 (York Street) near its intersection with US #15 in the shopping area where Staples and CVS are located - across the street from Walmart. We will carpool to the extent possible. Bring a chair if you wish as well as personal/food/drink items. Bring apparel as dictated by the weather. Meeting time is 8:30 AM with return in mid-afternoon.

### Thursday October 14<sup>th</sup> **Antietam National Battlefield**

We will visit the Antietam National Battlefield at Sharpsburg, MD. We hope to see resident birds and mid-fall passage migrants. Bring binoculars, appropriate clothing per the weather and snacks/drink as per personal needs. Contact the leader, Mike O'Brien at 717.642.6676 / [mike@maddogobrien.com](mailto:mike@maddogobrien.com) as needed / for additional info. Meet at the leader's house, #231 Carroll's Tract Rd, Fairfield, PA at 8 AM. We plan to return by 2 to 3 PM.

Directions: To reach the leader's house: Coming from Gettysburg on PA Rte 116 (Fairfield Rd) turn right on Carroll's Tract Rd at the "Tee" intersection at the Fairfield Post Office immediately before entering the town. Proceed about 1/2 mile to #231 passing an intersection with Mt. Hope (on left) and Bullfrog (on right) Roads. #231 is the second driveway on right after this intersection.

### Thursday, November 18<sup>th</sup> **Huntsdale State Fish Hatchery**

Located approximately 12 miles southwest of Carlisle, PA in the Village of Huntsdale in Cumberland County, Penn Township, Huntsdale State Fish Hatchery is situated on approximately 80 developed acres (167 total acres) of land owned by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and managed by the Fish and Boat Commission. There is a Visitor Center. We will bird the general area hoping for waterfowl in particular as well as other "water" related birds. We will also check out the visitor center areas and displays; other sites may also be visited.

Click this link to view the Huntsdale web site: <http://www.fish.state.pa.us/images/fisheries/fcs/huntsdale/fcs.htm>  
If reading from a hard copy mailing/link does not display correctly, cut and paste or type the link in your web browser.

Meet in parking area between Burger King and CVS on US Rte #30 (York Street) near its intersection with US #15 in the shopping area where Staples and CVS are located - across the street from Walmart. We will carpool to the extent possible. Bring a chair if you wish as well as personal/food/drink items. Bring apparel as dictated by the weather. Meeting time is 8:00 AM with return in mid-afternoon.

### Saturday December 18<sup>th</sup> **Annual SMAS Christmas Bird Count - Gettysburg Areas**

See earlier area above under Upcoming Events for full details and contact information.

### SMAS Board Member Officer Elections

It's that time again. The yearly elections process is fast approaching. These are held in January of each year to officially provide for duly elected officials to carry out the work of our Audubon Society Chapter – South Mountain. The elections are the easy part. The hard part is finding people willing to help out. As you read this please give some thought to volunteering to run for any of the positions on the Board. You do not have to be a bird expert or any other kind of expert or need any special talents in any area to qualify and certainly not to be an effective member.

## AdCoNatChat - Do You AdCoNatChat? (add coe natch it)

AdCoNatChat is the Adams County Nature Chat site, a Yahoo Groups Chat Site. Are you a Member yet? If not and you like to trade information on birds, butterflies and other things out there, you should consider joining the group. If you just want to see what is it about and not post to the group that is fine too. Many people just browse the site. But these days most sites require you to join as they want to count you as a user of their site. This simply requires a user ID and a password like any other site and you probably already are in this position on numerous sites. On some such sites you can still read the message boards, but on almost all, you now have to "join" to post items, use the calendaring and file applications, upload files, and so on.

Some members of this site have an interest in photography, others in birds and birding, butterflies, native plants, and the list goes on. Of course, much of it relates to Adams County and nearby. The nice thing is you can ask a question or for opinions on whatever, and people will join in and everybody learns something.

We post our SMAS field trips, meeting dates and topics, special events like an annual picnic, a spring luncheon, an owl prowl, and other club news on the calendar. There are directions uploaded to the files section for some areas we have trips to, and also, we often upload the species list from completed field trips on the files area.

## WHERE TO GO BIRDING LOCALLY?

A frequent question here at an Audubon Chapter! We'd like to know too. If you have a favorite spot, don't keep it a secret. Please send us your thoughts on where to go, and we will publish them in this newsletter.

One of our favorite close-in places is the Spangler Spring area of the Gettysburg National Battlefield Park. We use this site for our May field trip every year when our chapter participates in the International Migratory Bird Day, an international event undertaken to counts spring migrants; and it is accessible right from the Gettysburg town center.

Directions: Turn off Middle Street in Gettysburg at its intersection with with Liberty Street and go one short block to the park entrance, a left turn on Confederate Avenue. Follow the one-way road to the small parking area at the "Spring" itself. Easy walking on mostly paved areas in several directions including a creek with a couple of paths to it. The area often produces Red-headed Woodpeckers, Bluebirds and sometimes nesting Red-shouldered Hawks. Most landbirds are fair game in migration here. We've seen 80 species here on a May morning.

## OTHER SMAS RELATED INFORMATION

### SMAS Board Members

			Email address
President	Nancy Locher	334-4768	<a href="mailto:nclocher@embarqmail.com">nclocher@embarqmail.com</a>
Vice-President	Frances Parker	334-6823	<a href="mailto:fparker43@comcast.net">fparker43@comcast.net</a>
Secretary	Frances Ann Gilbert	339-0414	<a href="mailto:frangbrt1@comcast.net">frangbrt1@comcast.net</a>
Treasurer	Mike O'Brien	642-6676	<a href="mailto:mike@maddogobrien.com">mike@maddogobrien.com</a>
Director At Large	Arlene Sandstedt	334-2805	
Director At Large	Carole Simon	337-1662	<a href="mailto:carolesimon@embarqmail.com">carolesimon@embarqmail.com</a>

### Committee Chairs

Conservation	Rusty Ryan	642-9293	<a href="mailto:rryan@adamscounty.us">rryan@adamscounty.us</a>
Education	Open		
Field Trips	Mike O'Brien	642-6676	<a href="mailto:mike@maddogobrien.com">mike@maddogobrien.com</a>
Hospitality	Frances Parker	334-5718	<a href="mailto:fparker43@comcast.net">fparker43@comcast.net</a>
Membership	Judie Hogan	642-5718	<a href="mailto:judie685hogan@yahoo.com">judie685hogan@yahoo.com</a>
Programs	Deb Siefken	677-4730	<a href="mailto:seifkend@embarqmail.com">seifkend@embarqmail.com</a>
Publications	Mike O'Brien	642-6676	<a href="mailto:mike@maddogobrien.com">mike@maddogobrien.com</a>