

South Mountain Airs

The Newsletter of the South Mountain Audubon Society

August - September 2011, Volume XXXVI #3 – The E-mail Edition

Celebrating Our 30th Chapter Year

UPCOMING SPECIAL SMAS EVENTS

Two special South Mountain Audubon Society (SMAS) annual events are coming up. The first of these is the Annual SMAS Picnic. This occurs on Monday August 8th. The second is the Annual SMAS Luncheon which this year has been moved from its traditional April date to Saturday September 24th and combined with our 30th Anniversary celebration. Details on both of these events are covered below.

Monday August 8th - Annual SMAS Picnic

South Mountain Audubon Society will hold its Annual Picnic on our traditional picnic date, the second Monday in August, which falls on the 8th this year. It will again be held at the Hershey Campground in York Springs, PA, just off the US #15 interchange with PA #94, the exit marked for York Springs.

Date: Monday August 8, 2011

Time: 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm

All are welcome to come a bit early and relax and hang out. Bring a covered dish to share and place setting(s) for yourself and any others in your party.

The picnic will be held rain or shine as there is a covered eating area if needed. Drinks will be provided.

So mark your personal calendars and come on out.

Directions: Follow US #15 North to York Springs exit; Turn East onto PA #94 for 1/4 mile to Hershey Campground on the right: 8164 Carlisle Pike.

Saturday September 24th - Annual SMAS Luncheon and 30th Anniversary Celebration

As noted in our banner at the top of page one of the Newsletter, this is the 30th year of existence for our South Mountain Audubon Chapter. Given that this is our 30th Anniversary year, we plan to celebrate by combining our normal annual luncheon with our anniversary observance.

The scheduled date for this is Saturday, 24 September, 2011. The time is 12 Noon. We plan to hold this at Hickory Bridge Farm restaurant in Orrtanna, PA, the site where we usually have our annual luncheon.

The cost will be \$15.95. This total is all inclusive and includes tax and gratuity. We will provide complete information as soon as we are able to finalize the menu and other particulars. For those of you who are already signed up for emailing of the newsletter, or do so via the postcard method detailed in this edition of the newsletter, we will send you an e-mail.

So please mark your calendars for this date in September and look for full info in an upcoming e-mail. If you are without e-mail, contact someone via the information on the last page, Board Members and Committee Chairs.

We will have a great program for this luncheon with a special guest speaker, Walt Pomeroy, providing his presentation titled "John James Audubon – The Man and His Legacy."

As National Audubon's Mid-Atlantic Regional Vice President 30 years ago, Walt Pomeroy presented the South Mountain Audubon Society its original chapter Charter from National Audubon. Now retired from Audubon, but still active in numerous conservation causes and organizations (including the Board of Audubon-Pennsylvania), Walt lives just north of us in Mechanicsburg.

Join him for our 30th Anniversary banquet (he also attended and spoke at our 15th Anniversary Banquet as well) for "John James Audubon: The Man and his Legacy," his thoroughly researched history of John James Audubon and his conservation legacy that ultimately led to the creation of the National Audubon Society and the awareness of the need for bird conservation. The show includes early stories about "JJA," his travels in parts of Pennsylvania, and how he produced his famous "Birds of America" publication while living and traveling in the eastern US and sailing the Atlantic. The rest of the story is the conservation legacy he and his work created which also involves interesting Pennsylvania history. This show is designed to stir your interest including new Audubon stories about the saving of Mill Grove, JJA's first American home which is near Valley Forge, and which is now an Audubon Center for the national organization.

UPCOMING SMAS PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS

Unless indicated otherwise, all SMAS Programs are held at the Adams County 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.

Please note there are no regularly scheduled monthly Chapter meetings or other events in the summer months of July and August with the exception of the Annual SMAS Picnic in August.

Monday September 12th – "Peregrine Falcon Reintroduction"

Michael Kuriga with the Lycoming County Audubon group will be speaking on the topic of reintroduction of Peregrine Falcons accomplished through the Lycoming County club.

Monday October 10th - "The Natural History of the Galapagos Islands"

The Galapagos Islands are a great example of an island ecology and of evolution in action. Local SMAS club members Kathy King and Mike Bertram will be discussing the fascinating wildlife of the Galapagos Islands. The talk will be illustrated with the photographs taken on their trip to the Galapagos Islands earlier this year.

UPCOMING SMAS FIELD TRIPS / CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

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 Res / maddogobrien@gmail.com E-mail. Please let the Leader know in advance if you plan to attend any field trip.

Thursday September 22nd - "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 20nd - “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. Call the leader at 717.642.6676 as needed / for additional info. Meet at the leader's house, Mike O'Brien, #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 after this intersection.

Saturday December 17th - #112 Christmas Bird Count (CBC) - Gettysburg Areas

All are invited and welcome to join SMAS for the 2011 CBC. This will be the 112th Christmas Bird Count and is an example of Citizen Science at its best.

The SMAS 2011 CBC will be held Saturday December 18th. 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, maddogobrien@gmail.com

Feathery Factoid: Our last issue covered the 9 December 1967 observation record, of about 30 swans spotted by an airline pilot flying over the Inner Hebrides (off the coast of Scotland) at an altitude of just over 27,000 feet (8,230 meters). These were reported to most likely be Whooper Swans.

As promised in that issue, we looked for yet a higher altitude record. And we found that a migrating flock of Bar-Headed Geese was observed at 30,758 feet (9,375 meters) over Mt. Everest. No date was provided for this sighting, but it was reported that even at such a high altitude, the birds were honking.

Accessing the SMAS Newsletter

A great feature of having the Newsletter on-line and receiving it via e-mail, is that you can always access a misplaced or discarded issue at a future date.

You can access the Newsletter in several ways.

First, if you do not routinely discard your emails or you retain selected items in your in-box or transfer them to a saved information folder or similar, you can always access them at a future date on your own system.

Second, we post the electronic edition on the internet at the following url: perch.es

Simply copy the url and paste it into your browser search box.

The first header that appears is for the current (most recent) issue. In addition, there is a heading, by year, for past quarter issues which we archive on the site. We have put the past few issues here since we started the electronic edition.

Third, you can access it on the internet at the Yahoo.com Chat Group site, Adams County Nature Chat (AdCoNaChat).

For those who missed the recent Newsletter discussions on this option, AdCoNaChat, this information is repeated here following this topic, including the associated url. Please note that 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 area as well as other information in the Files section of this site. This information is more up to date than the newsletter edition produced once a quarter, as we make changes and corrections to times, dates, locations, room numbers, and other information that may occur. And, in some cases, an event may be added to or dropped from the schedule. A complete discussion follows.

AdCoNatChat - Do You AdCoNaChat? (pronounced 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, or just read about, birds, butterflies, plants 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. However, 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 most other sites, 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 may have to “join” to post your own items, read other members messages and view their photos, use the calendaring function, and access file applications, upload files and photos, and so on. You might possibly already be a Yahoo user.

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 add your thoughts on topics, ask a question or offer 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 and Christmas Bird Counts on the Files area. You can access the AdCoNaChat web-site at the link provided below. This is the link to the home page and from there you can access posts and messages by members, the Calendar and Files section, and much more. Copy and paste the following url into your browser search box:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AdCoNaChat/>

OTHER SMAS RELATED INFORMATION

<u>Board Members</u>	Point of Contact	Telephone	Email address
President	Melissa Deitz	334-5585	sdeitz1630@comcast.net
Vice-President	Cy Deitz	253-0297	sdeitz1630@comcast.net
Secretary	Vacant		
Treasurer	Vacant*		
Director At Large	Carole Simon	337-1662	carolesimon@embarqmail.com
Director At Large	Bob Brandt	677-8323	brantownb@aol.com

Committee Chairs

Conservation	Rusty Ryan	642-9293	rryan@adamscounty.us
Education	Vacant		
Field Trips	Mike O'Brien	642-6676	maddogobrien@gmail.com
Hospitality	Vacant		
Membership	Nancy Locher**	334-4768	nclocher@embarqmail.com
Programs	Deb Siefken	677-4830	siefkend@embarqmail.com
Publications	Vacant*		

* Mike O'Brien, pro tempore

** Ms. Locher for questions on joining as a member, etc., / Mr. O'Brien re statistics and detail information
See the respective contact information above for these asterisked areas.