

South Mountain Airs

The Newsletter of the South Mountain Audubon Society

October - December 2011, Volume XXXVI #4 – The E-mail Edition

UPCOMING SMAS EVENTS

Saturday December 17^h **Annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC)** - Gettysburg Areas

All are invited and welcome to join the South Mountain Audubon Society (SMAS) for the 2011 CBC.

The SMAS 2011 CBC will be held Saturday December 17. 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

For those returning or newly interested in counting at their feeders or immediate property areas, contact Charlotte O'Brien at 717.642.6676.

This will be the 112th Christmas Bird Count and is an example of Citizen Science at its best. Click on the link below to learn more about the CBC 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>

Annual SMAS Luncheon and 30th Anniversary Celebration

SMAS had a successful 30th Anniversary Luncheon Celebration on 24 September. For those of you who missed it, you missed a really fabulous program after the dinner. Special guest speaker, Walt Pomeroy, provided his presentation titled "John James Audubon – The Man and His Legacy." This was particularly well received by the crowd and all had a great time throughout the event.

Walt is giving this program occasionally across the Susquehanna Valley areas. All should try to see it if they get the opportunity.

Bob Moul = 1940 - 2011

We sadly report the recent death of Bob Moul. We at SMAS often referred to Bob as the "Official Nature Photographer of Adams County, PA." Bob's love was nature photography. He not only shot pictures of birds but all things nature; butterflies and moths, mammals, insects, flowers, everything. His work appeared at times in publications and periodicals including at the national level. When he received payment for his photos he donated the money to nature related organizations. Bob became an accomplished birder as well.

Posted below are a couple of excerpts from traffic on the PABIRDS list.serve having to do with Bob's passing. The first provides a link to his obituary. The obituary is at the Newsletter's end but you may not be able to view the photo of Bob in this transmission on your device. If not, click on the link below. Thanks you Dick Cleary.

The second provides comments on Bob and a link to his on-line photo gallery. He also posted and maintained his work on Picasa and Flickr, sharing his photos across the web. Thanks to Larry Usselman for this link. Bob concentrated on photographing his subjects within the Adams and York County boundaries.

from: Dick Cleary rlc74@aol.com [via](mailto:rlc74@aol.com) list.audubon.org
to: PABIRDS@list.audubon.org

Just a note to inform PA birders of the passing of Bob Moul. Bob was an active birder and nature photographer in the York/Adams Co. area. His obituary can be read here:

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/york/obituary.aspx?n=robert-c-moul&pid=153616508>

Dick Cleary

from: Larry Usselman via list.audubon.org
to: PABIRDS

Very sad to hear this...I was wondering why I haven't seen much recent work from Bob.

I had the pleasure of birding and photographing with Bob on a few occasions. He will be missed, not only as a truly fine and generous gentleman, but also as an excellent birder and a wonderful nature photographer. His work was an inspiration to me.

His online gallery (<http://www.pbase.com/rcm1840>) is well-worth an extended visit.

Larry Usselman

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, usually the second Monday.

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 South Mountain Audubon 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.

Monday November 14th "The Beauty, Fascination, and Humor of Nature"

This presentation is a collection of interesting and unusual nature photos of the flora and fauna of Pennsylvania and other states. Being "in the right place at the right time" is what many times allows any photographer of the natural world to capture great or fascinating shots. Included will be photos of numerous birds that are "up close and personal" including many that present in a humorous manner. Enjoy colorful photos of some wildflowers such as trillium and lady slipper as well as other flora, fascinating fungi, busy insects (including butterflies and

moths), and a few mammals caught in funny poses. Several different photo sequences capture snakes in action as well.

The speaker, Jon Dale, a Pennsylvania native and resident of Northern York County, has been a lifelong lover of the natural world. The son of a Pennsylvania Game Commission Wildlife Conservation Officer and Land Manager, Jon learned to appreciate the flora and fauna of Pennsylvania at a very early age. By his early thirties, he had developed a keen interest in birds and wildlife photography as well. Over the ensuing years Jon became a serious birder, pursuing birds both locally and out of state. To date, he has seen over 600 North American bird species recognized by the American Birding Association, and photographed many of them in their natural habitats. Jon has traveled to many states and numerous countries photographing the natural world, and shares his photos and experiences with many different audiences.

December - SMAS has no December Program or Meeting.

UPCOMING SMAS FIELD TRIPS / CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Contact Mike O'Brien, Field Trip Chair, as necessary for more information on all Field Trips, the annual Christmas Bird Count and the Spring Migration 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, especially if you plan to go direct.

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.

November TBD – We have not established a field trip for November as of this date. A possible trip for Waterfowl may be scheduled if enough interest is shown. If you have an interest in such a trip contact the field trip leader per the information above. This would be an out of area field trip involving a full day. Departure would be before and return after daylight.

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.

Please see the opening paragraphs at the beginning of the Newsletter for complete information and details on this year's CBC.

Feathery Factoid: “How Low Can You Go”

For the past few issues of the Newsletter we have explored extreme examples of how high birds can fly by examining several instances of birds reported at great heights, the “winner,” a flock of Bar-headed Geese at just over 30,758 feet (9,375 meters), flying over Mt. Everest.

Continuing our avian trivia for this edition, we now know how high some of them can fly, so this begs the question: How low can they descend? This puts us into the category of water or water related bird species. Research varied on this by family type of bird species and we have selected three examples from the many birds that go further than just “underwater.” These are diving waterfowl: (specifically ducks); the alcids nicknamed the “flying swimmers” (Auks, Murres and Puffins); and the divers (Penguins).

A Long-tailed Duck (former name Oldsquaw) was caught in fish nets at 240 ft (73 m) and King Eiders are reported to go nearly as deep. Flying swimmer records include a Thick-billed Murre fitted with instrumentation that dove 689 ft (210 m). King Penguins have been recorded at least down to 1,000 ft (305 m). And an Emperor Penguin reached 1,772 ft (540 m) and remained submerged for 18 minutes before returning to the surface.

We noted that mammals dive much deeper. Elephant seals have gone to depths exceeding 5,000 f (1524 m) and Sperm whales to depths approaching 10,000 ft (3048 m). A mile is 5,280 feet.

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 or just type it in.

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).

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.

OBITUARY

Robert C. Moul



ABBOTTSTOWN Robert C. Moul, 71, died Sunday, September 11, 2011, at his residence. He was the husband of Arlene L. (Davis) Moul. He was born January 8, 1940 in Abbottstown, the son of the late Harry L. Moul, Sr, and the late Reba P. (Fair) Moul Britcher. Bob was a member of St. John's Lutheran Church in Abbottstown and the Abbottstown Fire Co., now United Hook & Ladder. He began his career at the Keystone Weaving Mills in York where he worked for 16 years. During this time, he cultivated his gift for technology by completing a self-training program in electronics through the National Radio Institute. This led to a career at Eicholtz Company in New Oxford where he has been employed as an electronics technician for the past 38 years. He retired from full-time employment in 2002. Bob was an avid nature lover and accomplished photographer. His

nature photography websites in the U.S. and France have had over 5 million visits from fans around the world and his work has appeared in countless nature magazines and books. He is the holder of numerous state and county records for first sightings of various rare birds, dragonflies and butterflies.

Bob's amazing collection of photography can be viewed at his website at www.pbase.com/rcm1840, which he established to share his love of nature with all of us. In addition to his wife Arlene, Bob is survived by a daughter, Kathy L. Bowers and her husband, Terry of York; a daughter, Susan E. Maier-Moul and her wife, Margo of New York, N.Y.; a son, Robert L. Moul and his wife, Diane of Devon; a daughter, Rebecca A. Lenington and her husband, David of Chicago, Ill.; a step daughter, Kimberly A. Petrie and her husband, Peter of Abbottstown; a step son, Kevin L. Moul and his wife, Julie of Abbottstown; and 10 grandchildren. He was predeceased by a brother, Harry L. Moul, Jr, and a sister, Delores Zeigler. Funeral services will be held Thursday at 11 a.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church, 100 E. Water St, Abbottstown, with his pastor, the Rev. Shawn Berkebile officiating. Burial will be in the church cemetery. There will be no viewing, however, the family will receive friends at the church on Thursday from 10 a.m. until the time of the service. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to VNA/Hospice, 440 N. Madison St, Hanover, PA 17331; or to the [American Cancer Society](http://www.AmericanCancerSociety.org), P.O. Box 3535, Gettysburg, PA 17325. Feiser Funeral Home, Inc, 302 Lincolnway W., New Oxford, is in charge of arrangements. Memories may be shared at www.feiserfuneralhome.com

Bob and your Newsletter editor, Mike O'Brien, shared the same birthday, January 8, along with Elvis and others.