

South Mountain Airs

The Newsletter of the South Mountain Audubon Society

August - September 2012, Volume XXXVII #3 – The E-mail Edition

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 lobby entry inner 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 held the second Monday. This year it is August 13th; details provided below.

SMAS does not normally hold an April program meeting. We have instead, traditionally held an annual luncheon every April; however, last year we moved the luncheon to September and combined it with our 30th Anniversary in celebration. The last newsletter edition indicated that since it was well short of a year, we were not holding a luncheon in April. We stated at that time that we were considering moving the luncheon to September on a regular basis. However, please note we have decided against that change and will continue having the luncheon in the April timeframe; no luncheon in September.

We've posted the information on our total activities' schedule at the end of this edition again this quarter. This proved popular last time; some addressees erased their email edition or tossed their hard copy mailing, but had meant to keep the information provided. So if this applies to you, save this edition or copy that portion for later use.

UPCOMING SMAS EVENTS

SMAS Annual Picnic

Monday August 13th – The Annual SMAS picnic will be held at Laura Hershey's home, 8164 Carlisle Pike, York Springs, PA, 17372. Dinner will be at 6pm. Please bring a dish to share. All are welcome to come at 5pm. Bring a place setting for yourself.

And do not forget to psych yourselves up for the “Annual SMAS Bean Bag” competition.

Directions: Northbound on US #15 at the York Springs exit, go East on PA #94, Carlisle Pike. #8164 will be on the right shortly East of the interchange.

UPCOMING MONTHLY PROGRAMS

Please note that due to availability issues at the Adams County Agricultural Resource Center, both the September and October programs will be held on the third Monday vice the second Monday of the month.

Monday September 17th - “PA State Parks Cavity-nesting Volunteer Program”

State Parks Citizen Science- making a difference for cavity-nesting birds

The Cavity-nesting program in Pennsylvania State Parks is the longest running citizen science program in the agency. Started in 1981 as a response to declining bluebird populations, the program has grown in focus on other cavity-nesting species and focuses more on producing usable data for research purposes. The volunteers in the program have fledged over 91,000 cavity-nesting species. Tara Gettig, the Environmental Education Specialist at Pine Grove Furnace State Park will speak about the history of the program, the vision for the future and opportunities nearby to get involved with.

Monday October 15th - "**Dairy of a Duck Hunter**" presented by Gene Wingert.

Hardie Disney was a duck hunter from West Fairview, a small town at the mouth of the Conodoginet Creek in Cumberland County. Between 1898 and 1938 he shot 17,000 ducks on the Susquehanna River at Harrisburg. He kept a record of every duck he shot. This diary is in the State Archives. The program covers a bit of river history and then compares Disney's figures with today's abundance and modern observation records. The results are surprising. Gene teaches environmental science at Dickinson University.

UPCOMING SMAS FIELD TRIPS

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. Trips are subject to weathering out, especially in the colder months, or otherwise being changed. In addition, if we have only one or two known attendees, we may cancel or reschedule a given field trip. We cannot alert you unless we hear from you.

Friday September 28th **The "Pulpit" Hawk Watch at Tuscarora Ridge**

Hawk watching 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 at this time. Short and easy access from where we will park to the observation area. No facilities (McConnellsburg within driving distance).

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.

Information on the 4th Quarter SMAS Schedule:

October - TBD. Tenative trip is to visit Antietam National Battlefield, Sharpsburg, MD

November - TBD

December (Saturday) 15th The SMAS CBC

Mark your calendars now for the 113th Audubon Christmas Bird Count.

Feathery Factoid; The Quiz: We thought we would change things up this edition and provide a short quiz in lieu of a discussion on flying distance, diving depth, etc. The quiz is a mixture of topics but are all mostly easy and deal with North American species, categories or something “birdy.”

1. What shorebird has the longest bill? How long might it be?
2. Who had the lead role in the 1991 Hollywood movie Hudson Hawk?
3. In golf parlance, what is a “birdie”?
4. What is the common group name for mostly nocturnal species best identified by their vocalizations for which many are named. Can you name a second group name used for these birds?
5. Name two birds that were recorded and named on the Corps Of Discovery Expedition circa 1804 – 1806?
6. What is a furcula? Think about it. Everybody knows it by its common name.
7. Name the mascot of the U.S. Air Force Academy?
8. Name the only subterranean breeding and roosting bird found throughout the Americas?
9. More Hollywood. Who starred in the 1998 movie, Good Morning Vietnam?
10. Which species is the most widely distributed American gamebird?

Answers appear at the end of the Newsletter.

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 (Clicking will not work).

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 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). Presence of the information on this site may lag the Newsletter somewhat.

We post our SMAS field trips, meeting dates and topics, special events like an annual picnic, annual luncheon, 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	Elizabeth Weller	339-8443	amazingheartfarm@comcast.net
Treasurer	Mike Bertram	352-7936	the2nomads@hughes.net
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.

Volunteers needed:

We do not currently have a Hospitality Coordinator for the refreshments we provide at our regular program meetings. You need no specific experience. The duties involve canvassing for volunteers willing to bring refreshments to the regular month program meetings, 6 or 7 times a year; maintaining the list of people scheduled by month, and giving them a reminder call before the meeting they are volunteering to provide for. We will provide a list of people who have helped out in the past for you to contact if anyone is willing to do this.

Please consider volunteering. Contact Mike O'Brien for info or any questions: call 717.642.6676 or click maddogobrien@gmail.com

SMAS Annual Schedule Information

Regular SMAS Monthly Program Meetings are held Jan / Mar / May / June / Sep / Oct / Nov.

Unless indicated otherwise, all meetings are held on Mondays at 7:30 PM at the Adams County Agricultural Center. Please see complete information at the beginning of this and every Newsletter in case there is any variation by quarter. Please check individual programs in each issue in the event of a change in times and / or venue.

Field Trips are normally held monthly in Jan / Feb / Mar / April / May / Jun / Sep / Oct / Nov. In December we substitute the annual Christmas Bird Count for the monthly field trip.

Some of these monthly field trips traditionally repeat each year, such as the Christmas Bird Count and the Migration Count in May. We usually go to a nearby hawk watch site in late September or early October.

The Annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is held by design between 14 Dec and 5 Jan. For SMAS, this is in lieu of a regular field trip. We schedule our SMAS CBC on the first available Saturday after 13 Dec. In the event of really bad weather, we may cancel and reschedule.

The Annual Luncheon has been traditionally held in April, in lieu of, the regular monthly meeting.

Our SMAS Annual Picnic and get together is held in August on the second Monday. This is "Bring A Dish" to share and the kickoff is 5 PM with dinner at 6 PM. In addition to bringing a dish to share, attendees should bring their own place setting materials. Drinks and some type of main dish(es) will be provided. See the summer Newsletter edition for details on times and directions.

All meetings, field trips and other activities are subject to weathering out or other cancellation reasons. If you are on our email list (receiving our Newsletters and other information) you will get an email notification as soon as the decision is made. Otherwise, if there is some question based on the weather or some other issue, please contact the field trip leader or someone from the list of Board Members / Committee Chairpersons applicable to your question(s).

Answers to Feathery Factoid: *The Quiz*.

1. The Long-billed Curlew. The bill averages 4 to 8 and ½ inches. 8 and ¾ inches has been recorded.
2. Bruce Willis.
3. One (stroke) under par.
4. The Nightjars. Or the Goatsuckers. In the old world it was believed they obtained food by sucking milk from goats, but they were probably hawking insects stirred up by the goats.
5. Lewis' Woodpecker, named after Meriwether Lewis, and Cark's Nutcracker (William Clark).
6. The two fused collar bones (clavicles) in an avian species, i.e., the *wishbone*.
7. The Prairie Falcon.
8. The Burrowing Owl.
9. **Robin** Williams.
10. The Mourning Dove.