

Valley Views

Potomac
Valley
Audubon
Society

Volume 24, Issue 5

February 2006

▼ *Check out the Field Trips & the Monthly Program* ▼

Area Waterfowl Trip

● *Sunday, February 12*

The Potomac Valley Audubon Society's February field trip will focus on wintering waterfowl along the Shenandoah River in Jefferson County, WV.

This popular annual trip, which will be held Sunday, February 12, is known as the Cathy Shewbridge Memorial Waterfowl Outing. The trip route will cover the Bloomery Road area south of Harper's Ferry and possibly Shannondale and the Potomac River. Anyone with an interest is welcome to participate.

Participants should plan to meet by 1:00 p.m. on Bakerton Road where it intersects with Route 340, just west of Harpers Ferry, and should park on the broad (west) side of the road.

The trip group will leave that location at 1:00 p.m., carpooling as much as possible because parking areas along the trip route will be limited. Participants should dress warmly and be prepared for muddy terrain if the ground is not frozen.

The trip will be led by birders Lynne Wiseman, Tess England, and Bruni Haydl.

For further information contact Lynne or Tess at 304-876-2539. The day of the event, Lynne can be contacted via cell phone at 304-676-2725.

Altoona Marsh

● *Saturday, March 25, 8:00 am*

We will explore The Nature Conservancy's Altoona Marsh in Jefferson County and neighboring ponds for over-wintering passerines, raptors and waterfowl. We will walk on railroad tracks at the marsh. The footing is uneven, so wear appropriate shoes. We will meet at the Martins parking lot opposite the Sherwin Williams store off Route 340 in Charles Town. Please let us know if you plan to come; we would like to let you know if we have to postpone due to weather. Call Ken or Patsy Hunter 304-725-3936 or phunter@npca.org.

Race to Save the Lord God Bird

● *Wednesday, February 8, 7:30 pm*



PVAS and The Nature Conservancy in West Virginia are sponsoring February's speaker, author Phillip Hoose. He will present "The Race to Save the Lord God Bird: The Ivory-billed Woodpecker" in the Byrd Auditorium **at the National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, WV.**

The tragedy of extinction is explained through the dramatic story of a legendary bird, the ivory-billed woodpecker, and of those who tried to possess it, paint it, shoot it, sell it, and, in a last-ditch effort, save it. Hoose's presentation covers the woodpecker's tangled history as it was made extinct throughout much of the South and then recently rediscovered.

Phillip Hoose is the widely-acclaimed author of books, essays, stories, songs, and articles, including the multi-award-winning *The Race to Save the Lord God Bird*, the National Book Award Finalist *We Were There, Too! Young People in US History*, and the Christopher Award-winning manual for youth activism *It's Our World Too!*

Hey, Little Ant, co-authored with his daughter Hannah, has been translated into seven languages and was hailed by *Teaching Tolerance Magazine* as "A masterpiece for teaching values and character education." His *Hoosiers: the Fabulous Basketball Life of Indiana* was called by *Sports Illustrated* "the one book about high school basketball in Indiana that has lasted and will last." A graduate of the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Sciences, Hoose has been a staff member of The Nature Conservancy since 1977, dedicated to finding and protecting habitats of endangered species. A songwriter and performing musician, Phillip Hoose is a founding member of the Children's Music Network. He lives in Portland, Maine.

The talk is free and open to the public. No tickets or reservations are required. It is part of a monthly series of "Conservation & Community" public lectures held at the National Conservation Training Center. For more information on the series please visit the web site: <http://training.fws.gov/history/publiclectures.html> or contact Mark Madison (Mark_Madison@fws.gov; 304 876-7276).

*Potomac Valley Audubon Society is people dedicated to preserving, restoring,
and enjoying the natural world through education and activism.*



President's Perch

Hello Everyone and Happy New Year!

Hope you are enjoying some after-the-holiday quiet time. It's hard to keep up with all the details of life these days.

I was thrilled to be able to sit in the sun on the back porch for a bit AND I found two snowdrops blooming in the garden...hard to believe that we had a couple 60+ degree days in January. Spring will come, but the howling winds and snow flurries that followed that sunny day were a reminder that winter isn't finished yet. Just the same, Patsy and Ken Hunter are busy lining up things to guard against cabin fever (check out the field trips, page 1). In addition, PVAS has a new Nature Photography Group forming (details page 3).

Please note that our February and April meetings are at the US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Conservation Training Center (NCTC), outside Shepherdstown (see page 1 for information on February's speaker).

I enjoy watching my bird feeders year round, and it is fun to participate in the various backyard bird counts. There are a couple coming up that you might be interested in: Audubon has their "Great Backyard Bird Count," February 17-20 (see below), and the WV DNR has a bi-weekly Winter Bird Count that goes all winter (www.wvdnr.gov). If you are willing to go farther than the backyard, the National Park Service is looking for folks to count birds on the C&O Canal January 21 (see column 2).

As we cycle into the new calendar year, PVAS is also beginning to work on Board nominations for the Audubon new year that begins in July. It is a rewarding experience to be on the Board, so consider volunteering to help us chart our course for the future.

I look forward to seeing you at NCTC on February 8!

Diana Mullis, President

Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) February 17-20

The 9th annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is scheduled for February 17-20, 2006.

Everyone can participate, from beginning bird watchers to seasoned experts. During the GBBC, bird watchers tally up birds for as little as 15 minutes, or for as long as they like, keeping track of the highest number of each bird species they see together at one time.

In 2005, participants sent in more than 52,000 checklists, with a record-breaking 613 species and more than 6 million birds counted. These millions of sightings generate what would be impossible otherwise--continent-wide information about where the birds are and how their numbers compare with those of previous years. People can view results from past counts and learn how to participate at www.birdsource.org/gbbc.

Contact the Cornell Lab of Ornithology at cornellbirds@cornell.edu or (800) 843-2473 for more information.

Coming Soon: Summer Camp Scholarships

Now that the winter solstice has passed and the daylight is increasing, PVAS is thinking ahead to summer camp time! We will offer scholarships to several camps which, in the past, have included Maine Audubon Youth Camp and the following camps in West Virginia: Burgundy Center for Wildlife Studies, Mountain Institute, State Conservation Camp, and our own Yankauer summer day camp. Proceeds from our fall bird seed sale support our scholarship program. Start thinking now about eligible youngsters that you can encourage to apply. For further details on specific camps, dates, ages, and application forms, watch future issues of Valley Views, or check at our web site, www.potomacaudubon.org. Kathryn Henry will be our scholarship coordinator. You may contact her at 304-876-6681, or dhenry@myexcel.com.

Bird Count Volunteers Needed

Skilled and experienced birding volunteers are needed to count the number of birds identified in a given mile segment along the C&O Canal towpath Saturday, January 21, as part of the 8th annual midwinter bird survey. To participate, contact Kristen Berry, by email at: Kristen@birdpac.org or by calling 202-549-1032. Participants will receive official confirmation of their count area, data sheet, and other details. You may also get information at the website at <http://dcaudubon.org/canal.shtml>.



RED DOT ALERT

Please note that if a red dot is on your mailing label for this newsletter, your membership has expired and this may be the last PVAS newsletter that you receive. Please renew your membership using the form below.

JOIN PVAS TODAY

When you join PVAS, you automatically become a member of the **National Audubon Society**. Your membership includes:

- One year (six issues) of award-winning **Audubon Magazine**
- Eight issues of **Valley Views**, PVAS's newsletter of field trips, programs, and local issues
- Advance notice of all PVAS events



Enclosed is my check for:
\$20 Individual SPECIAL OFFER (1st time members only)

\$35 Individual (renewal)
\$15 Seniors and full-time students

Make checks payable to
National Audubon Society

Mail to:
Membership Chair, PVAS
P.O. Box 578
Shepherdstown, WV 25443

Name _____

Address _____

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News From Yankauer

PVAS Scholarship Winners Describe Camp Experiences at December PVAS Meeting



from left to right: Amber Printz, Joseph Niks, and Sarah Gilroy

Amber, a Jefferson HS student from Kearneysville, and Joey, a Muslimman HS student from Hedgesville, both attended the WV State Conservation Camp at Camp Caesar in Webster County, WV. Sarah, a student at Harpers Ferry Middle School, attended the Burgundy Center for Wildlife Studies in Capon Bridge, WV. The three young folks were very positive about and grateful for their camp experiences.

Audubon Applauds Senate Action to Protect Arctic Refuge

On December 21, 2005, the U.S. Senate blocked drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The Senate rejected a measure allowing drilling that Senator Ted Stevens (R-AK) added to the Department of Defense appropriations bill. Senator Stevens added the provision to the Defense bill in a desperate, last minute attempt to push forward the Arctic drilling provision, after earlier efforts to insert it into the budget reconciliation process were defeated in the House.

Annual Appeal Donations Close to Goal

We'd like to thank the following people for their support of our programs through contributions to the annual appeal and multi-year pledge program. (Donations made through the United Way and the Combined Federal Campaign will be recognized in a later newsletter.) Our goal of \$12,000 through our annual appeal was nearly met with donations and pledges totaling \$11,600. Considering the fundraising challenges with which all non-profits were faced this year, we are grateful that actual donations came so close to meeting our goal. Many thanks for your support in this difficult year.

Supporter (\$1,000 to \$4,999)

John & Jenny Allen; Jeanne Baden (in memory of Rt. Rev. John Baden); Gat and Susan Caperton; Mona L Hayford; Richard E. McCleary; Diane and Gary Sylvester

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Donor (\$25 to \$99)

George Athey; Patricia & Simon Barber; Anonymous; Suzanne Bucci; Kathy Campbell; Dabney Chapman; Mathew Grove & Lisa Dall'Olio; Sara Denby; Anonymous; Chris & Judy Funke; Fiona Harrison & Chuck Dunkerly; Bill & Jean Hartgroves; Jessie Hendrix; Barbara Herrman (in memory of Sylvia Rubin Herrman); Phil and Lily Hill; Joseph Horky; Mrs. A. R. Hoxton; Ken & Patsy Hunter; Elizabeth H. Hyman; Mark Benedict & Georgia Jeppesen; Kenneth and Donna Jones; Tom & Anne Kerfoot; David Klinger (in honor of "The Five Litigants in the Case of 'Concerned Citizens of Whiting's Neck vs. Berkeley County Planning Commission'"); Lisa LaCivita; Michael Lacome; Robert Landis; Richard L Latterell; C. David & Barbara Miller; Diana Mullis; Frank Muth; Don & Amy Owen; Thomas Owens (in honor of Joe and Susan Brookreson); Anonymous; Babulal Prangani; Millie Riley; Ivan Severson; Becky Shaffer; Mary Helen Staley; Anonymous; Ruth Tomsuden; Frank & Annette Van Hilst (in memory of Dan and Anne Fisher); Dennis Wright (in memory of Laura E. Gallagher); Richard K. Zimmerman

Other

Evelyn Brydges; Karen Kelley; Allen Swope

Introducing Potomac Valley Nature Photographers Club

PVAS is happy to announce the formation of the Potomac Valley Nature Photographers for anyone interested in nature photography, from beginners to professionals. An initial, organizational meeting will be held on Friday, January 27 at the National Conservation Training Center (NCTC) from 7-9 pm in the Robert C. Byrd Auditorium. The purpose of the meeting is to finalize the group's future activities such as presentations from professional photographers, peer review of members' works, and field trips. Check out the new website for more information: www.potomacvalleynaturephotographers.org. The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 24 at 7 pm, also at NCTC. The topic/speaker for that meeting will be announced on the website once set.

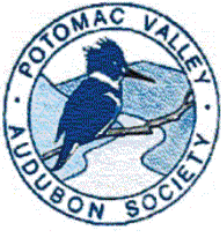
Nature Photography Workshop April 28-30

This workshop, taught by Wil and Donna Hershberger and held at NCTC, will focus on wildflowers. Explore the grounds at NCTC and Yankauer Nature Preserve for spring wildflowers. Instruction will include: seeing the light, reading tonalities, metering the light with your camera, making a pleasing composition, what equipment you really need and how to use it. Tuition is \$100 and includes a course notebook, snacks, and instruction. Meals are available at NCTC but are not included in tuition. Space is limited to 10 people of all experience levels. Send in a \$25 deposit and registration form to PVAS, PO Box 578 Shepherdstown, WV 25443. Registrations will be accepted in the order they are received. For the registration form and additional information, go to www.potomacaudubon.org or call 304-676-3397.



Introducing Amy Mason, Watershed Instructor

PVAS is proud to announce the hire of Amy Mason as the Watershed Instructor this spring. Amy graduated from Shepherd University with a degree in Elementary Education in December. She will be teaching the watershed program at all of our participating 4th grade classrooms this spring. The classrooms are located at North Jefferson Elementary, Potomack Intermediate, Shepherdstown Elementary, TA Lowery Elementary, and Tomahawk Intermediate. This program will provide over 500 4th graders with 10 hours of watershed education. She will also be helping Kristin with other education programs and projects this spring when possible. We're excited to have you on board, Amy!



Potomac Valley Audubon Society
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DATED MATERIALS

A proud partner of the United Way of Berkeley and Morgan Counties, United Way of Jefferson County, and the Combined Federal Campaign.

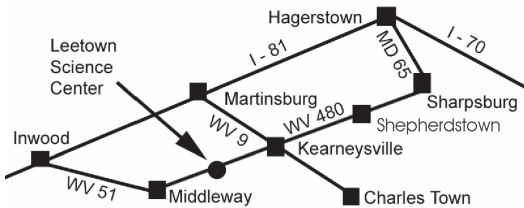


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The Potomac Valley Audubon Society meets at 7:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month, September through April, in the auditorium at the USGS Leetown Science Center, Leetown/Kearneysville, WV. Programs are free and open to the public. For additional information about PVAS or its programs and activities, please call any of the board members listed here or see <http://potomacaudubon.org>. PVAS serves the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia and neighboring Washington County, Maryland.

PVAS BOARD
 The PVAS Board meets the first **Wednesday** of the month (Sept.-June) at Shepherd College, Snyder Hall, Room 317, 7PM. These meetings are open to all PVAS members.

PVAS Officers and Board Members

President:	Diana Mullis 304-267-3482dianamullis@aol.com
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PVAS Wildlife Rescue Coord:	Diana Mullis304-267-3482 & 304-724-4500(day)