

VALLEY VIEWS

Potomac Valley Audubon Society

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December 2012

White-throated Sparrow

Wil Hershberger

During the winter bird-feeding season, a typical visitor to many feeders is the handsome White-throated Sparrow. These ground-feeding birds like to stay near brush and scratch at seeds and debris on the ground with a hopping motion. They are fond of white millet, black-oil sunflower seed, and natural grass and weed seeds. They typically occur in groups and often stay together all day and night. One aspect of their behavior is puzzling — as night is falling the entire group will start giving call notes as they settle into to their night roosts. No one is certain what function this calling serves. It would seem to be a mistake to advertise to the predators in the area where you are going to spend the night. But, call they do, as do Northern Cardinals.



© Wil Hershberger

White-throated Sparrows are songbirds and therefore learn the songs that they sing from adults. Even though they certainly hear their parents singing—yes females sing too—they typically learn the nuances of the songs in the area where they will hold a territory for their first breeding season. You may have noticed that there are two color forms of the White-throated Sparrow, a white-striped form (WS) and a tan-striped form (TS). Interestingly, there is a marked difference in the behaviors of these two forms. The WS form sings more often during the day than the TS form. Males and females of the WS form sing but only males of the tan-striped form sing. WS males are more aggressive and spend little time caring for young. TS

males invest much more time caring for young and defending their mate from other males. WS females sing to defend their territory, just as the males do, until they are incubating eggs. Their songs are often shorter and the notes more variable in pitch than those of WS males. In 96% of mated pairs one is a WS form and the other is the TS form. This pairing keeps the WS/TS ratio fairly constant from year to year with WS males being more numerous than TS males by about 2:1. Two-thirds of all pairs are WS males and TS females.

An individual male White-throated sparrow sings only one song type his entire life. There are about 15 different song patterns that have been found throughout the range of the White-throated Sparrow with 80% being one of two forms—one that starts on a lower pitch and proceeds to a higher pitch and the inverse, higher to lower pitched songs.

Sometime in late January or early February you will start to hear the gorgeous song of White-throated Sparrows drifting on the morning's crisp, still air. "Oh sweet, Canada, Canada, Canada," they seem to say, as if longing for their summer homes to the north. This sweet song can be heard even in early May as some stragglers remain in our area.

Listening to the liquid, golden notes of the White-throated Sparrow drifting over a sphagnum bog in the north woods is pure magic!

http://www.natureimagesandsounds.com/assets/WTSP_BOG_NY.mp3

Birdseed Sale

Many thanks to all of our customers! We sold over 16 thousand pounds of birdseed and will be sending kids to camps with the profits. Many thanks also to our Birdseed Crew: John & Nancy Ostrowski for receiving orders and computerizing them, Wayne Braunstein for Order Form design, and Al Davis, David Miller and Susan Jones for pick-up day assistance. Thanks are also in order for Marvin and Judy Gower (Gower's Williamsport) and John Bir (Gower's Ranson) for all the many details that go along with our birdseed sale! Don't forget ... all seed needs to be picked up by April 1, 2013, and call me if you have questions or comments: Diana Mullis - [304-267-3482](tel:304-267-3482) - dianamullis@aol.com

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

Reflections on PVAS

Bob Reynolds, PVAS President

There is an expression in organizational development that “the most important dollar is the first dollar.” This truism reflects the fact that it takes a tangible expression of support to kick-start new initiatives and that others follow when someone leads.

While PVAS has diversified funding support for its programs and services, none of this support would be realized without the support PVAS receives from donors during our Annual Appeal. For PVAS, the donor support we receive during our Annual Appeal is our “first dollar” – the funding that gets us started. This core funding provides our heartbeat, and allows us to write the grants, provide the matching funds, design programs, and coordinate the volunteers necessary for us to provide community services.

In addition the donor support we receive during our Annual Appeal also provides the venture capital - the first dollar - PVAS needs to initiate new services. For instance, our volunteer leaders are currently designing a major new initiative to promote family-focused backyard birding in our four county region. A proposal will be presented to our PVAS Board of Directors in January, and the Board will have to grapple with a decision about investing in this initiative. Donor support during our current Annual Appeal will be a major determinant in the Board’s decision.

The PVAS 2012 Annual Appeal will be in the mail shortly. The accompanying Annual Report demonstrates that PVAS is a vibrant healthy organization providing a wide range of nature-focused services in our community. YOU make this possible. We are gratified by your past support, and we hope we merit your support again this year.

View from the Eagle’s Nest

Sandy Sagalkin

For those of you that go on PVAS bird trips, you will notice that starting in mid-September through mid-November, most of our trips were to hawk-watch sites. There was a reason for this: I have tried to schedule bird trips on the basis of which birds happen to be migrating through our region at a particular time of the year. In the fall, I like to focus on raptors. I also wanted to make this the year that I learned my hawks at a distance – which means learning the shapes, flight characteristics, time of the month, and general color scheme of birds, rather than focusing on details we might look at when identifying songbirds. This additional information is necessary because we have to make judgments regarding an identification in a matter of the few seconds we can observe the raptor flying by at a rapid speed a half-mile away.

Our local trips were to the Washington Monument in Washington County, MD and Snicker’s Gap in Virginia. If you were keeping an eye on the new PVAS Birder’s Blog at <http://wvbirders.org/blog>, you would have read about the incredible day we had at the Washington Monument when three Merlins hung around the monument for about 15 minutes. This long time is a rare occurrence; most Merlins do not hang around long enough for one to get a clear look at them, let alone to watch “Merlin” antics for 15 minutes.

Snickers Gap can be a difficult place to watch hawks. Sometimes the hawks appear as little more than black specks in the distance, but at other times they fly right overhead. We had some good but not memorable days at Snickers Gap. It is always a pleasure to go to a hawk watch site in mid-September at the height of the Broad-winged Hawk migration when large “kettles” of these raptors circle overhead, riding updrafts or thermals, before gliding off in single file like school children on a field trip, searching for their next thermal.

Cape May is always the high point for me in the fall. It is the best place I know of to watch hawks (other than trekking to Veracruz). Cape May, NJ acts as a funnel along the eastern seaboard, channeling raptors coming from the north over the Cape May Point Hawk Watch Platform. It is like watching an air show as hundreds or even thousands of hawks fly over often with wondrous aerial displays. We had seven PVASers on the trip plus my wife’s sister and brother-in-law. Even though the wind came from the south, not the most favorable conditions for hawk watching, we saw most of the raptors we had wanted to see, including all of the birds in the falcon family. The day before our trip, favorable winds from the north brought in over 1800 Sharp-shinned hawks, over 400 Merlins, and a bevy of other raptors.

The capstone of my season of hawk watching was at Waggoner’s Gap in early November, mentioned in another article. It’s hard having the most destructive hurricane of the century named after you, but after Hurricane Sandy quit, the Golden Eagles, Northern Goshawks, Red-tailed Hawks, and other raptors broke loose over the ridge that is the hawk watch, breaking previous records by miles.

This will be my last article until February. In the meantime, get ready for the Christmas Bird Counts.

PVAS Birder’s Blog



If you are a birder, interested in becoming a birder, or just interested in backyard birding, then check the new PVAS Birder’s Blog. at <http://wvbirders.org/blog>. It is a newly designed blog on which PVAS members can post information on the site and post comments. You can also add images and video and conduct searches for topics of interest.

Do you

- want to buy a new pair of binoculars but can't decide what to buy? Ask on the blog.
- want to know what the best field guides are? Just ask.
- want to know what that finch-like bird with a splash of yellow on the wings and tail is and doesn't look quite right to be an American Goldfinch? Ask the experts.

The blog is also the place to report recent trips, interesting sightings, review new optics, add images or videos, and general comments. Unlike the WVListserve, you do not have to confine your remarks to West Virginia sightings or trips.

Although the general public can browse all the content on this blog, only PVAS members can create posts or comments. To

become a member check out the main Potomac Valley Audubon Society web page at <http://www.potomacaudubon.org/member>. PVAS members who wish to contribute to this blog can contact Matt Orsie (wvbirdier@comcast.net) or Wil Hershberger (Wil@natureimagesandsounds.com) for a user account and you'll receive a short document on how to post entries and comments.

Potomac Valley Master Naturalists Hold Annual Meeting

About 45 members, family, and friends attended the Potomac Valley Master Naturalists annual meeting, pot-luck, and silent auction on November 10, 2012 at Orchard House. Ten Master Naturalist students who had completed their initial 64 hours of coursework and 30 volunteer hours received their WVDNR certificates and new membership pins. They are Kris O'Brien (from the 2010 class), Joette Borzik, Stephanie Diamond, Karen Eddleman, Linda Mercer, Tom Tsakeris (2011 class), Tanner Haid, Jennifer Jones, Mary Lynn Robinson, and Marie Van Valkenburgh (2012 class). Sandra Bloom, Laura Lee Clark, Debbie Crouse, Carol Del Colle, Eldon Winston and Virginia Winston were recognized for 5 years of active membership and service. Thirty-three Master Naturalists, who have already completed their class and volunteer hours for this year, were recognized with their new 2013 active membership card. All PVMN members have until December 31 to complete their recertification for 2012.

Members bid on a number of silent auction items that help provide scholarship funds for next year's class. "Hot" items that saw a flurry of bids included a telescope, several books, and a cardinal wind chime. This year's auction raised \$676.00, topping last year's total of \$528.

Become A Master Naturalist In 2013!

Persons interested in becoming a West Virginia Master Naturalist are invited and encouraged to apply for the next Potomac Valley chapter class which begins in March 2013. Applications for the class as well as scholarship applications must be postmarked by January 14, 2013, and applicants are notified of the status of their acceptance into the program by the end of January. Each class has is limited to 20 students, but candidates may take up to 2 years to complete the program. Applications can be downloaded at www.PotomacAudubon.org/masternat. Scholarship applications are also available there. Questions should be addressed to Melanie Snyder at littleowl48@hotmail.com.

Board of Directors Meeting

The PVAS Board will meet at 7 pm on January 17, 2013, in room 156, Instructional West, at the National Conservation and Training Center (NCTC). PVAS members are invited to attend.

Ode to Volunteers

Kristin Alexander, PVAS Executive Director

We've often written about how much we rely on and value volunteers. This time of year our reliance is particularly apparent.

The event committee (Jane Vanderhook, Alice Barkus, Susan Brookreson, Gretchen Meadows, and Diana Mullis) pulled off yet another wonderful event at Wild Goose Farm. Not only do these ladies know how to throw a wonderful party, they are fantastic cooks who donate all of the food and beverages, keeping PVAS' expenses incredibly low and making these events effective fundraisers. Through their generosity and the generosity of our invitees (even those who can't attend), this event made nearly \$6780, which will be used to support PVAS programs.

There are many examples of these volunteers. Sandy Sagalkin organizes numerous birding trips every month. Joette Borzik is developing a land management plan for our new Stauffer's Marsh Nature Preserve. Dan Cogswell has developed and manages a database that helps us track our members and donors. Don Henry edits and publishes this newsletter, which Wayne Braunstein did for many years prior. Kelly Heldreth organizes the non-birding field trips. Peter Smith continues to do PVAS' publicity. Wil Hershberger and Sandy Bloom manage the Potomac Valley Nature Photographers and Writers, respectively. Diana Mullis organizes the birdseed sale each year with other volunteer support. Tim Murphy and Joe Gentile have spearheaded land management at Yankauer and Eidolon respectively for years. Kathy Bilton manages our heads-up notifications. Gary and Diane Sylvester who will do just about anything and everything we ask of them, from hay rides to chain saw work to parking lot maintenance. Melanie Snyder and Susan Jones co-chair the Master Naturalist committee. The list goes on and on and on and on! This list is just a tiny (yes, TINY!) sampling of how volunteers contribute to the life force of PVAS. It doesn't even include the many ways our board members contribute, or our program volunteers, or.... Again, the list goes on.

I hesitate even writing this because I've had to leave out so many people who contribute in critical ways. We would truly have to take up the entire newsletter if we were to list everyone and how they contribute.

PVAS has a strong history of amazing volunteers, and it makes us the strong and active organization we are. I am humbled by the many and varied ways volunteers give. Please accept my sincere thanks for you volunteers have done for PVAS over the years.



Volunteers at Wild Goose Farm

No Valley Views in January

The next issue will be in February.
Watch the website for announcements
in the meantime!

Golden Eagle Day at Waggoner's Gap

The Potomac Valley Audubon Society introduced the PVAS Master Birder program this year. We decided to initiate the program this fall with a Raptor Workshop, consisting of one evening of classroom time and four field trips. Three of the trips were to the Snicker's Gap Hawk Watch site in northern Virginia and a fourth trip was to Waggoner's Gap, just north of Carlisle, PA. We had 12 participants in the pilot running of this workshop. Further workshops in the Master Birder program will include waterfowl, warblers, shorebirds, sparrows, gulls and bird song. Additional workshops are still in the discussion stage.

The PVAS raptor class held its forth and final field trip of the season by visiting Waggoner's Gap hawk watch site in Pennsylvania. The conditions were perfect for hawk migration with overcast conditions, snow showers, brisk NW winds 10-20 mph, and temperatures in the low 40's. The class was not disappointed. After an hour and half drive from Spring Mills, WV, to the rock out cropping overlooking the Cumberland Valley, we were never without a bird in the sky for more than 45 seconds the rest of the day. The Waggoner's Gap, started in 1952, site is one of the premier hawk watching locations in the east. On the day of our visit, a new single day record was set for Golden Eagles with 50. (We saw 36 during our time there.) On our first arrival the first birds seen were 4 Golden Eagles flying in concert. Wow, what a start! About 5 minutes after that our first Northern Goshawk came flying by. We stayed from 10am until 3:30pm. Also of note were Pine Siskins, Common Loons (71) and a few gulls. It will be a day to remember for all.

Raptor totals seen while we were there:

- Bald Eagle -- 12
- Northern Harrier -- 3
- Sharp-shinned Hawk --52
- Cooper's Hawk -- 4
- Northern Goshawk -- 6
- Red-shouldered Hawk -- 13
- Red-tailed Hawk -- 304
- Golden Eagle -- 36
- Peregrine Falcon -- 1



-- Matt Orsie

Potomac Valley Nature Writing Group

Potomac Valley Nature Writing Group was formed in 2009 to promote the art and appreciation of nature writing. We meet September through May to discuss a monthly book selection. Members can also participate by contributing reviews, comments or sharing their own writing online at the PVNWG blogspot. This season's author lineup is as follows.

December 2012/January 2013.....Henry Beston, *Outermost House*
 February 2013.....Edward Abbey, *Desert Solitaire*
 March 2013.....Gretel Erlich, *The Solace of Open Spaces*
 April 2013.....David Carroll, *Swampwalker's Journal*
 May 2013.....Tom Brown, *Nature Observation and Tracking*

For more details, email pvnaturewriters@gmail.com or visit <http://potomacvalleynaturewritinggroup.blogspot.com/>

Harpers Ferry Hike Set for December 8

The Potomac Valley Audubon Society will sponsor a hike at Murphy's Farm in the Harpers Ferry National Historical Park on Saturday, December 8, 2012. Participants will meet at the Harper's Ferry National Historical Park Visitor Center, which is on shoreline drive off U.S. 340, just west of Harpers Ferry.

The hike will be free and anyone with an interest is welcome to come along. The hike will last about 1 ½ hours and is about 2 ½ miles of easy to moderate walking, without any steep terrains. Pre-registration is not required. Children will be welcome.

Hikers will pass by civil war earthworks, a Shenandoah overlook and John Brown's fort.

Participants should wear sturdy footwear, dress appropriately for the prevailing weather conditions, and bring along water.

There is a \$10 Park entry fee or ask about an annual pass. Seniors can buy a Golden Age Passport for lifetime entrance to national parks and refuges.

For more information, contact Bob Floren at bobbythebobcat@comcast.net or 804-398-8052.

Harpers Ferry Birdwalk on December 12

The Potomac Valley Audubon Society will sponsor a bird walk at Harpers Ferry for Wednesday, December 12. Participants will meet at 8:00 a.m. in the parking area on Shenandoah Street just below the intersection with Route 340. The walk is free and anyone with an interest is welcome to come along, regardless of their birding skills. No pre-registration is required. Children are welcome.

The walk will focus on the riverfront, wetlands, and old canal areas of Virginius Island. Likely species to be sighted include herons, ducks, woodpeckers, kinglets, wrens, Yellow-rumped Warblers, sparrows, and perhaps raptors. About three miles of level walking will be involved. A portion of the walk will be along a railroad track. Consequently, our safety protocol requires pre-registration



New PVAS Hiking Club

The Adult and Family Services Committee has started a new PVAS Hiking Club. Dave Michener and Bob Floren co-chair the club, and they hope to be able to offer hikes monthly. Initially, the walks will be in the "easy" to "moderate" range in difficulty and last for a couple of hours. The idea is to give members a chance to get some fresh air and exercise in some of the scenic areas in our coverage area. The club will offer a hike at Murphy's Farm at Harper's Ferry in December and a hike to Maryland Heights in the spring.

for this trip. To pre-register, contact Deb Hale at [304-535-2346](tel:304-535-2346) or debhale72@gmail.com.

Participants should wear sturdy footwear and dress appropriately for prevailing weather conditions. Binoculars will be available for anyone who needs them.

The trip may be cancelled in the event bad weather. Various trip details could also change depending on weather or recent bird sightings.

Upcoming Christmas Bird Counts

The two local Christmas Bird Counts (CBC) are rapidly approaching and birders of all levels of interest and expertise are encouraged to participate. Beginners may wish to spend some time counting the birds at their feeders or in their neighborhoods and reporting those to the compiler, our own Bob Dean. If more involvement is wanted, part or all of the day may be spent surveying a sector of the count circle with a team in the field.

The CBC program was begun at the turn of the last century in New York City as a competition between the new breed of binocular birders and the traditional collectors who shot birds to confirm their identity. The binocular crowd won and the rest, as somebody said, is history. Local birders Clark Miller of Inwood and Dorothy Caperton of Charles Town started the Charles Town (1952) and Inwood (1953) counts.

This year the Charles Town count will be held on Saturday, December 15, and the Inwood count will be held on Saturday January 5. Those wishing to participate are encouraged to contact Bob soon so that he can get all of the teams organized ahead of time.

You can reach him by phone at 304 754-3042 or email him at bobdean52@gmail.com



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Bird Friendly Coffee

As someone who loves both birds and coffee, I have always looked for ways to use coffee dollars to support conservation values. Many Central and South American coffee plantations are in areas used by wintering migratory birds that we enjoy watching during their breeding seasons here, and there are similar bird habitat issues for coffee plantations in other parts of the world. Management practices on those plantations can greatly affect the habitat value they provide for both migratory and resident bird species, affecting population health in all parts of their ranges.

But how does one choose among the thousands of coffee sources and many coffee labeling efforts? Fortunately, for those who do not wish to spend the considerable time needed to wade through all the details, there is a simple tool for finding coffee that is grown in ways that provide high-quality habitat for songbirds – the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center's Bird-Friendly Coffee certification and label-

ing program. Currently, there are no businesses within the PVAS area that consistently stock Bird-Friendly Certified coffee. So, for now, you can read all about it and find mail order sources or nearby retail locations to purchase certified coffee at <http://nationalzoo.si.edu/scbi/migratorybirds/coffee/default.cfm>.

The PVAS Conservation Services Committee is working with local coffee retailers and roasters to provide local sources for Bird-Friendly Certified coffee, and we will update the membership when local sources become available. For those who would like to learn about how Bird-Friendly Certification compares to some other common certifications, check this web site: <http://www.birds.cornell.edu/roundrobin/2012/10/09/making-sense-of-coffee-labels-shade-grown-organic-fair-trade-bird-friendly/>. The site provides the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology's analysis of the bird conservation value of several common coffee certification programs, as well as links to more detailed analyses.

-- Heather McSharry

Cerulean Blues Author to Speak

Katie Fallon, the author of the nonfiction book, *Cerulean Blues, A Personal Search for a Vanishing Songbird*, will be our speaker for the PVAS meeting on May 8, 2013. Katie is one of the founders of the Avian Conservation Center of Appalachia, near Morgantown. She has taught Creative Writing at WVU and Virginia Tech and published many articles on environmental issues. Since the publication of *Cerulean Blues*, in October 2011, Katie has been a popular speaker throughout the Appalachian region.



© Wil Hershberger

The book details the life history of the Cerulean Warbler, the fastest declining warbler species in the US. These tiny blue and white warblers nest high in deciduous trees where they pick insects from leaves. They arrive at breeding territories at the end of April, and start their migration to South America in late August. Today there are eighty percent fewer of these birds than forty years ago. Much of their decline is attributed to forest destruction here and in their wintering grounds. Thirty-five percent of the world's population of this species breed here in West Virginia. In *Cerulean Blues*, the author documents the efforts of many people in the US and in South America to conserve the birds. While the species' decline is disturbing, Katie's descriptions of the passion and determination of the people fighting to save this bird are encouraging.

The Eidolon Preserve in Morgan County, managed by PVAS, is part of the conservation effort for the Ceruleans. Each spring several pairs of these beautiful birds nest high in the mature trees on the preserve. The males sing persistently on territory, so if you learn the song, you will know that they are present, but actually seeing them is a challenge. Be prepared to catch just a glimpse as they move from one tree to another.

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For more information about Katie Fallon, go to her website <http://www.katiefallon.com>. On the publications page, I recommend that you read her excellent article "Hill of the Sacred Eagles," which was a finalist for *Terrain.org's* creative fiction contest in the fall of 2011. A link to that complete article is provided on the page.

Katie Fallon's presentation will be one of the highlights of the PVAS celebration of International Migratory Bird Day this spring. Katie will also join us for a bird walk in the morning on May 9. Her book is available now online or at local bookstores. She will also have copies to sell and sign at the May meeting. I hope you will enjoy reading *Cerulean Blues* and meeting Katie Fallon in May.

Upcoming Events

To save paper, there is no calendar insert this month. Upcoming events are listed below. Check the PVAS website www.PotomacAudubon.org for details and registration.

- Dec. 3, 9:30-11am: Wee Naturalists, "Snowflakes and Snowbirds"
- Dec. 6, 9:30-11am: Wee Naturalists, "Snowflakes and Snowbirds"
- Dec. 8, 10am-1pm: Outdoor Explore, "Give Chase"
- Dec 8, 10-11:30am: Harpers Ferry Hike at Murphy's Farm
- Dec. 12, 8-11am: Harpers Ferry Bird Walk
- Dec. 12: NO PVAS MEETING THIS MONTH
- Dec. 14, 7-9pm: Potomac Valley Nature Photographers (NCTC)
- Dec. 15: Christmas Bird Count in Charles Town
- Jan. 5: Christmas Bird Count in Inwood
- Jan. 9, 7-9pm: PVAS lecture by Wil Hershberger (NCTC)
- Jan. 12, 10am-1pm: Outdoor Explore, "Winter Dens"
- Jan. 12, 10am-2pm: Natural History Workshop, "Backyard Birding"
- Jan. 18, 8-11pm: Outdoor Explore, "Pictures in the Sky"
- Jan. 25, 7-9pm: Potomac Valley Nature Photographers Potluck (location TBA)
- Feb. 15-18: The Great Backyard Bird Count

School Program Update

Most of our school programs for the fall have been completed, and we'll take a break until the first of the year. The watershed program was conducted for students at Ranson and Shepherdstown Elementary School. Fourth grade students at Tomahawk Intermediate School and St. Joseph's Parish School are continuing with their year-long version of the program. About 75 students have visited Yankauer Preserve this fall, but over 590 students from six schools invited PVAS into their classroom for an "in-school" field trip. PVAS began this program about two years ago with grants from the Eastern West Virginia Community Foundation and the WV Division of Natural Resources, that covered increased bus transportation costs. About 50 preschools and a loving adult have participated in monthly Wee Naturalist programs at Yankauer Preserve. Master Naturalists participated in the Jefferson County 6th grade Science Olympiad, which was attended by over 500 students.

FEATURE CREATURE REINDEER (a.k.a. Caribou)

- Reindeer, unlike Donner and Blitzen, are not "tiny"; they may reach 600 pounds!
- They use huge, paddle-shaped hooves, not "prancing little hooves", for shoveling deep snow to uncover lichens.
- Their migrations can cover 1600 miles, farther than those of any other land mammal, but only Santa's can fly to rooftops!
- During mosquito swarms a reindeer may lose a pint of blood in 48 hours.
- Their range is mostly Arctic and sub-Arctic; a remnant population also persists in the Selkirk Mountains of Idaho and Washington; but at the North Pole? Only those that work in the toy shop!

Source: "Earth Almanac" by Ted Williams, *Audubon*, November-December 2012, p. 43



FWS photo

United Way/CFC Fund Drives

The annual fundraising campaigns of the United Way of the Eastern Panhandle and the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) are underway. Both campaigns will last into the winter.

Because PVAS is an IRS-qualified non-profit agency, individuals who contribute to either United Way or CFC can designate all or part of those contributions to PVAS, if they wish.

To designate United Way contributions to PVAS, look for the section of the United Way contribution form that asks how you want your donation invested and indicate that you want to make a "Restricted Contribution" to "Potomac Valley Audubon Society, PO Box 578, Shepherdstown, WV."

To designate CFC contributions to PVAS, enter PVAS's CFC number (29061) on the CFC form that you file with your employing agency.

Please note that United Way and CFC deduct a percentage from all designated contributions to cover their administrative costs.

If you have any questions, please contact Kristin Alexander at Kristin@PotomacAudubon.org or 304-676-3397.

Eidolon Nature Preserve Fall 2012 Hunting and Hiking Schedule

The land now known as the Eidolon Nature Preserve has been hunted by neighboring families for generations, and when Marguerite Zapoleon willed the land to the Nature Conservancy, she stipulated that hunting should be allowed to continue there. Accordingly, and also in the interest of maintaining a healthy forest and viable animal populations, the Nature Conservancy and PVAS are permitting hunting on the property.

To balance the safety of hikers and the interests of deer hunters, we ask all visitors to observe the following rules during deer season:

- Hunters must be licensed by the state and follow all applicable state laws and regulations.
- For their part, hikers should exercise appropriate caution during hunting season and wear at least one item of blaze orange clothing.
- In accordance with state law, no hunting will be permitted on Sundays.
- The Eidolon Nature Preserve will close its trails to hikers for the entire first week of the firearm season for buck deer (November 19 through 24 this year), on the last day of buck season, December 1, and during two the antlerless deer seasons in December.
- On all other days during the firearm seasons for deer, the trails will be open to hikers from 10 am until 3 pm only.

Please see the schedule below for specifics.

2012 Eidolon Fall Hunting and Hiking Schedule

Saturday, December 1

Last day of firearm season for buck deer; trails closed to hikers all day

Sunday, December 2 through Wednesday, December 12
No hunting

Thursday, December 13 through Saturday, December 15
First antlerless deer hunting season; trails closed to hikers every day

Sunday, December 16 through Thursday, December 27
No hunting

Friday, December 28 and Saturday, December 29
Beginning of second antlerless deer hunting season; trails closed to hikers both days

Sunday, December 30
No hunting

Monday, December 31
Last day of antlerless deer hunting season; trails closed to hikers all day

“This Race is For the Birds!”

April 20, 2013

USFWS National Conservation Training Center
Register at Active.com

JOIN PVAS TODAY!

ALL of your dues will stay here to support local PVAS efforts and help us grow! And here’s what you’ll get:

- Access to a wide variety of PVAS programs and events for adults and children, including field trips, special events, workshops and courses, and environmental projects.
- A subscription to Valley Views, the PVAS newsletter
- E-mail alerts about events and programs of special interest
- Satisfaction of supporting conservation efforts, youth and adult nature education, individual and family recreation, and a wide array of programs in your community.

To become a local member, send in the form below and enclose a check for \$20 (\$15 for seniors and students). Make the check out to “PVAS.” This fee covers membership for everyone in your household for one year.

Membership Form

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: ____ Zip code: _____
Phone (optional): _____
E-mail: _____

To save postage costs, PVAS regularly sends its newsletter by e-mail. You can be assured that we do not share email addresses with anyone. If you would prefer to receive the newsletter by U.S. mail check here: ____.

Clip and mail this form to:

**Membership Chair, PVAS
PO Box 578
Shepherdstown, WV 25443**

Thank you for your support!



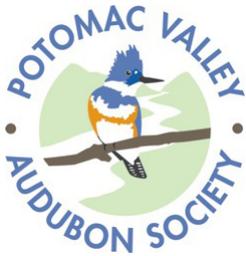
If you’d rather join the National Audubon Society:

Some people prefer National Audubon Society membership, which includes a subscription to the Society’s Audubon magazine. To become a National member, go to the Society’s website at www.audubon.org and click on “join.” If you join National Audubon and reside in Berkeley, Jefferson or Morgan counties in West Virginia, or in Washington County Maryland, you will automatically become a member of PVAS and have access to our events, an e-mail copy of newsletter and e-mail alerts. However almost all of your dues payments will go to the National Audubon Society; only a small percentage will go to PVAS.

RED TEXT - DOT ALERT



If red text or a red dot appears on your mailing label, your membership may have expired and this could be your last issue of Valley Views. Take action to renew your Local membership. If you are a National Audubon Society member, the National Society will notify you directly when your membership is up for renewal.



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The Potomac Valley Audubon Society meets at 7:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month, September through April. 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 her or see <http://www.potomacaudubon.org>. PVAS serves the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia and neighboring Washington County, Maryland.

PVAS BOARD
 The PVAS Board meets every other month on the first Thursday of the month (Sept.-June). Meeting location will be announced prior to meetings. These meetings are open to all PVAS members.

PVAS Officers and Board Members

- President: Bob Reynolds (2015)robert.reynolds40@gmail.com
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