VALLEY VIEWS

Potomac Valley Audubon Society

Volume 32, Issue 4 December 2013

Northern Saw-whet Owls

by Wil Hershberger



Northern Saw-whet Owls are off-the-chart cute.
Photos © Wil Hershberger

On most nights during the months of April and November, ghostly forms flutter over the trees of the panhandle. Invisibly, vast numbers of Northern Saw-whet Owls are winging their way to and from their breeding grounds to the north. This is one of the most common owls of forested landscapes in southern Canada and the northern United States. However, little is known about this secretive nocturnal species, and much remains to be discovered.

Saw-whet Owls are about the size of an American Robin with a rounded head, big yellow eyes, and fully feathered legs and feet. These beautiful little owls are fond of conifers and evergreens. They can sometimes be found roosting during the day hidden within the branches of a pine or cedar. They eat mostly mice, other small mammals, and insects. Starting in January, male Saw-whet Owls will begin to sing. The simple song is a repeated whistled, "toot-toot-toot-toot." See this link for a nice recording of this song by my friend Greg Budney: http://macaulaylibrary.org/audio/130470. During the breeding season, late February through July, males provide nearly all of the food for the incubating female and the young. Females select the nesting site and typically occupy an old Northern Flicker or Pileated Woodpecker cavity. They will also use nest boxes placed in appropriate habitats. Most of the 5 eggs will hatch and owlets will mature to fledge at an age of 56 days after the eggs were laid. The family remains together for another month and are fed mostly by the male.

Many migrate south during the winter. Leaving the northern most reaches of the breeding range, they move south as far as northern

Owls *continues on page 2....*

Birding 101

Interested in birding but not sure where or how to begin? Are you a novice birder who is looking to brush up on your birding skills? Then Birding 101 is the perfect class for you!

Birding 101 is geared towards beginning birders but is also a great place for those wanting to get better acquainted with birds. Birding 101 uses both classroom sessions and field trips to teach everything from bird identification to field etiquette to birding techniques and resources. This class will give you the basis to begin a lifelong hobby or become a better birder if you are already hooked.

Birding 101 is taught by local birding experts Bob Dean and Wil Hershberger. An impressive collection of images and recordings, many captured by the instructors, enhance the course.

The classroom sessions are held at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife's National Conservation Training Center just north of Shepherdstown on four Thursday evenings in April (April 3, 10, 17 and 24 in 2014). There are field trips to various locations around the Panhandle on the Saturdays following each Thursday class. These field trips usually last from 7 a.m. to 12 noon and give the students a chance to practice their new bird identification skills.

The Course is $95 per person. Class size is limited to 24 participants so that there is time for personalized instruction and individualized question and answer time. The course is open to people of all ages, but children younger than 15 must be accompanied by an adult. To register for Birding 101, go to the PVAS website, www.PotomacAudubon.org and look for the class in either of the blue tabs labeled Events Calendar or Birding.



There is no January issue of Valley Views.
The next issue will be published February 1, 2014.

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

Director's Report

by Kristin Alexander, PVAS Executive Director

2013 has been a busy one… and it looks like 2014 will be even more so!

My family used to do an annual "Year in Review" each New Year's Eve. There was always some eye rolling on the part of my brother and me, but in retrospect, it was a nice tradition.

So, at the risk of some eye rolling, I'd like to hit a few PVAS highlights from 2013.

- PVAS hired Krista Hawley in September as our new part-time Adult Programs Coordinator to provide support to the volunteers who provide so many programs.
- Our watershed program was recognized by the WV Division of Environmental Protection with their annual "Environmental Award" in the Education and Community Involvement category.
- PVAS launched a new "Grassland Birds Initiative." This program promotes land management practices that avoid mowing during nesting season of grassland birds – the populations of which are in rapid decline.
- The restoration of the Eidolon cabin is complete and can now be used as a shelter for programs and visitors in case of bad weather.

The annual report, coming soon to your mailbox, will hit these and other highlights from 2013. I hope you will take the time to read it. It provides a great summary of what PVAS has accomplished for the year. You, as a member and friend of PVAS, should be proud of the part you've played it those successes. Whether you are a member, donor, volunteer, or someone who cheers on the sidelines, we truly appreciate every role you play. We can't do what we do without you!

Of course with that annual report will be our annual appeal letter, asking you to support PVAS. As I mentioned, 2014 isn't going to be any less busy. We'll need your contributions to ramp up and prepare for a new onslaught of programs and services in the new year. Your donations help us match grants, support program staff, and provide the financial foundation that every non-profit needs to survive and thrive.

As you read the report, I hope you'll agree that it was another excellent year. Thank you in advance for your support to take us to the next level in 2014!

Announcing "This Race Is For The Birds!"

Saturday April 5, 2014

USFWS National Conservation Training Center

Registration is open at active.com

More information can be found at raceforthebirds.org

.... Owls *continues from page 1*

Florida and central Texas. In some years, most of these migrating owls are juveniles. Such flocks are referred to as irruptions. When the breeding conditions are exceptional, the numbers of young explodes. These young owls move south in search of food during the winter months, spreading out all through the south. These irruptions occur roughly every 4 years.

Little was known about these migratory movements until researchers started to catch and band the owls during the fall and spring migration. As with most bird banding efforts, nets are set up between poles within a forested habitat. However, the nets for the owls are set from sunset through the night. An audio lure is used to attract migrating owls toward the nets. Some of these owls are caught and banded, and measurements are recorded. Over the years the data showed a clear difference between the sizes of male and female owls, with the females being larger than males. It was also found that the age of the bird could be determined from the pattern of molt of the wing feathers. Juveniles have flight feathers that are all of the same age class. One-year olds have flight feathers of two distinct ages: new and old. After that, it is harder to tell the difference, but there are distinctly different age classes of feathers that allow for the classification of second year and after second year birds. The most amazing discovery, in 1982, was the presence of porphyrins in the chitin of new flight feathers of Barn Owls. It was subsequently demonstrated that porphyrins are found in the flight feathers of most owls, including Saw-whets. This compound fluoresces under UV light, showing as a bright pink hue, and fades with age and exposure to light. This tool allows banders to quickly assess the age of the bird by the age of its flight feathers. The under-wing of juvenile birds is completely pink. In older birds, the older feathers do not fluoresce creating a pattern of pink and not-pink feathers. Older feathers are examined on the upper surface of the wing to determine if they are one- or two-year-old feathers — amazing!



Little feet with very sharp talons for catching mice and insects

To learn more about the history of Northern Saw-whet Owl banding, see Project Owlnet's website: http://www.projectowlnet.org/?page_id=54



Bob Dean with a freshly banded Northern Saw-whet Owl

View from the Eagle's Nest

by Sandy Sagalkin

One of my favorite seasons to go birding is the fall, when our most charismatic birds, the raptors, head south to their wintering grounds. And my favorite place to watch them is Cape May, New Jersey. Unfortunately, this year's trip fell on Columbus Day weekend, the weekend of the big storm off the Atlantic coast, so we delayed our trip for two weeks until late October.

Cape May is a wonderful all-around birding destination. Known for its historic district, Cape May abounds in Victorian B&Bs and superb restaurants. If you want your fill of Peregrine Falcons, the best time to come is early October. On October 5, 173 Peregrines were counted flying past the hawk platform! This year, we had every hawk on our list except a Northern Goshawk – Bald and Golden Eagles, Ospreys, Northern Harriers, Red-tailed and Red-shouldered Hawks, Broadwing Hawks, Sharp-shinned and Coopers Hawks, Peregrine Falcons, Merlins and American Kestrels. We even had good looks at a Swainson's Hawk. Over 2500 raptors passed Cape May Point during our weekend. One of the more fascinating birding spectacles for the weekend were enormous kettles of Turkey Vultures – several appearing to include over a hundred birds.

Our day at Cape May is pretty relaxed and beginners as well as seasoned hawk watchers can enjoy these elegant birds. Our day usually begins after breakfast at the hawk watch platform at Cape May Point State Park. Cape May Point is an official watch site and reports its sightings on the website, www.Hawkcount.org. The official counter and other members of New Jersey Audubon and the Cape May Bird Observatory are usually on the upper deck of the platform and call out the raptors as they fly by. They also have naturalists roaming the platform providing helpful advice to new birders. In addition to the hawk watch platform, the Cape May Bird Observatory offers free mini-workshops in hawk identification and has a banding demonstration on the weekends.

After a couple hours at the platform, we usually move to other hawk watching venues, including the trails at Cape May Point State Park, the "Meadows" owned by The Nature Conservancy, the "Beanery," and Higbee's Beach. These are all shown on a helpful map put out by the Observatory.

Over the years, I have found a few of my own "hot spots." My favorite is an area along Delaware Bay where the raptors hunt for their breakfast. The accipiters – Sharp-shinned and Cooper's Hawks – and an occasional Merlin and Northern Harrier fly along the beach at eye level just a few yards from the viewing platform. It can take your breath away. It is also a good place to watch hawks decide on whether to attempt to cross Delaware Bay. Our group watched a juvenile harrier attempt a crossing in strong winds only to return to Cape May after making only about 200 yards in 15 minutes.

If you want to see a lifetime of hawks in just a weekend, join us next year when we return to Cape May. Or join us in other birding outings, including trips to the Eastern Shore on President's Day weekend and when the shorebirds are migrating in late spring and early fall.

Congratulations to Opequon Project Team

On November 2nd the West Virginia Watershed Network hosted the 15th annual Watershed Celebration day at Cacapon State Park. The 2013 Watershed Association of the Year was awarded to Opequon Creek Project Team (OCPT). This busy group sponsors Fun Floats, Make It Shine events, and regular educational programs to introduce residents to the beauty of the creek, help improve the stream, and to provide improved recreational experiences for the local residents who use the creek to canoe, kayak, wade, and fish.

They are active in educating the public about the need for natural buffers to protect the water quality. In fact, the group is responsible for planting over 3,000 new trees and shrubs and over 20 buffers in their watershed in the last 5 years! They are also an important resource for sharing the importance of rain barrels and providing them to the public at a reasonable cost. OCPT volunteers are active in workshops and conferences that promote the importance of protecting our rivers and streams. Their ongoing projects include numerous tree plantings as well as posting interpretive signs throughout the watershed including on the Route 9 bike path. Congratulations to this very busy group which includes several PVAS volunteers on their board including Lou Scavnicky and Gary and Diane Sylvester!

Winston Gardens Donation

PVAS has received a generous donation of $78.00 from the Winston Gardens Native Plant Nursery to support PVAS' Stauffer's Marsh Nature Preserve in Back Creek Valley. The donation represents 15 percent of the proceeds from the Nursery's sales in the month of September.

PVAS appreciates the generosity of the owners, Virginia Provenzano Winston and her husband Eldon Winston. They have generously donated $950 from their plant sales to date since May of 2011.

The nursery is located in northeastern Berkeley County, at 1121 Hollida Lane, one mile off Swan Pond Road. It specializes in trees and shrubs that are native to this region. For directions and a full list of the plants available, go to the Nursery's website at www.winstongardens.com. Or call the Winstons at 304-267-6924.

Audubon Discovery Camp

It's hard to even think about summer camp before Christmas, but plans are already underway for Audubon Discovery Camp in 2014! Our 12th season will feature programs at Yankauer Preserve and the Peter Burr Farm. We are also investigating other possible sites to provide closer locations to residents in southern parts of Jefferson County. Sessions will include the ever-popular "Camp Survivor" as well as nature and nature-art themes. We're working on a special surprise for older campers, but we're not revealing the details yet! Camp sessions will be held in June and July and registrations begin in early February. PVAS members always have the opportunity to sign up in advance of the general public, since many sessions fill quickly, so you want to make sure your membership is up to date!

Oktoberfest a Success!



"Oktoberfest at Wild Goose Farm" was, by any measure, very successful. The food was delicious, the music was great, it was fun and we raised a lot of money! Cricky and Michelle Shultz graciously opened their beautiful timberframe barn to us once again for our annual fall fundraiser. Thanks to their generosity and the generosity of many others, we were able to exceed our goal by a significant amount clearing close to $5,500. The proceeds from this event help to fund our educational programs.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to making this event successful. Special thanks to the Events Committee- Alice Barkus, Susan Brookreson, Gretchen Meadows, Diana Mullis, Deb Patthoff and Jane Vanderhook; all the cooks (which is just about everyone on the events committee), Josiah Corwin-Roach for help setting up; Bob and Tia McMillan (Jefferson Distributing Company) for donating the beer; Bob Dean and the Harlan Springs Band for providing the wonderful musical entertainment; Butler's Farm Market for pumpkins, mums and other event decorations; Jeff Feldman for taking care of whatever needed to be done; JJ for sweeping and loading; Jen Jones and Jean Neely for their auction contributions; Gary Sylvester for loading, hauling, unloading and then doing it all in reverse; Lex Miller for handling the money; Pam Miller and many others for clean up; and Joe Brookreson for bartending and hauling and loading and delivering. Of course, thanks to all of you who attended and to those who could not attend but sent in contributions nevertheless. If we have omitted anyone, please accept our apologies. Raising money is always a challenge and it is especially difficult at this time so we are pleased and grateful for those who continue to support our programs in such a tangible way.

Annual Christmas Bird Counts Set

PVAS has set December 14 and January 4 as the dates for this winter's annual Eastern Panhandle Christmas Bird Counts. These local-area counts are part of a volunteer-based Christmas Bird Count that has been conducted throughout the western hemisphere every year since 1900 under the auspices of the National Audubon Society. The purpose is to monitor the status and distribution of early-winter bird populations.

Count volunteers join teams that go out in the field and follow specified routes through a designated 15-mile diameter circle, counting every bird they see or hear all day. Experienced and novice birders are always welcome to join these teams. Novice volunteers will be teamed with those who have more experience. Alternatively, people who live within the circle areas can simply count the birds they see at their feeders during the day and submit a record of their sightings to PVAS.

The December 14 count (the Charles Town count) encompasses a circle that is centered near Charles Town and stretches from the Shannondale area at the east to near Middleway at the west. The circle for the January 4 count (the Inwood count) is centered near Shanghai in Berkeley County and includes the west side of Martinsburg and Inwood to the east and the Stotler's Crossroads/Greenwood section of Morgan County to the west.

To get more information about participating, either as a field team member or by recording the birds at home feeders, go to the PVAS website at www.potomacaudubon.org. All those who participate as a field team member must register beforehand with PVAS. To register, or to get additional information, contact Bob Dean at bobdean52@gmail.com or 304-754-3042.

Data collected from each year's Christmas Bird Count are folded into what is now the longest-running database in ornithology, representing over 100 years of continuous information. This database is used to help spot trends in bird populations, which in turn can help identify shifts in environmental conditions.

In the Eastern Panhandle, the Charles Town count has been held every year since 1952, and the Inwood count has been held every year since 1953.

The data from previous counts are available online through the National Audubon Society website at http://netapp.audubon.org/cbcobservation/#. Once there, click on "Historical" and "Results by Count". To view data from the Eastern Panhandle counts enter their official 4-letter Count Codes, WVCT and WVIN, in the appropriate field.

Potomac Valley Master Naturalist Honors Graduates and Members

Potomac Valley Master Naturalists held their annual meeting on Saturday November 2. Five members, who had completed all 64 hours of coursework and 30 hours of volunteer service, were



2013 Master Naturalist graduates

recognized as Certified West Virginia Master Naturalists. They are Bob Floren, Stan Oaks, Diana Pavlik, Shawn Walker and Flo Wilbik. Each received a certificate of completion, a West Virginia Master Naturalist patch, and a Potomac Valley Master Naturalist name badge.

Seven Master Naturalists, who have been active for five years, were honored as well, receiving a certificate and field bag. These members are Karen Fuegi, Kathryn Henry, Nan Johnson, Marcy-anna Millet, David Pennock, Kelly Wolf, and Carol Wood. All other recertifying members received a current membership card. (All Master Naturalists have until December 31 to complete their recertification requirements for this year.) Congratulations to all graduates and honorees this year!



5-year Master Naturalists 2013

One of the high points of this meeting is the silent auction which raises funds for Master Naturalist scholarships. This year's auction raised $574 which will be used for scholarships for next year's Master Naturalist class. More information about the Master Naturalist program can be found elsewhere in *Valley Views* and at www.PotomacAudubon.org/masternat.

You Can Become a Master Naturalist in 2014!

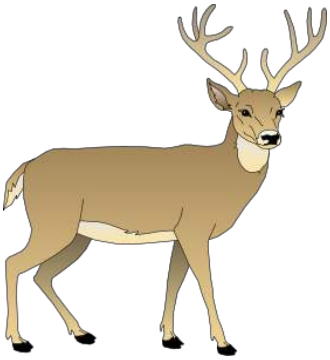
One of the most popular adult programs that PVAS sponsors is the West Virginia Master Naturalist course. Our eighth Master Naturalist class will begin in March 2014 and you can be a part of it! Students in the course receive 64 classroom/field hours on a variety of natural history topics including birds, mammals, amphibians and reptiles, terrestrial habitats, aquatic habitats, ecology, and nature interpretation as well as various electives. Students must also complete 30 hours of volunteer service before being certified as West Virginia Master Naturalists. We have over 85 active members in our chapter.

Whether they have a doctorate in a field of natural science (some of our members do!) or are just interested in nature, our Master Naturalists have one thing in common—an interest in the natural history of West Virginia. Each class seems to form a special bond among its members and participants enjoy learning in a casual, but challenging way. There are no tests, just opportunities for adults to learn from experts in the field. Most members also find ways to deepen their knowledge on favorite topics.

The 2014 program will begin in March and classes will continue one Saturday a month through October. Some students complete the coursework and volunteer hours in one year while others spread the experience over two years. The cost of the entire course, which includes all required class hours, is $300 and scholarships are available. Applications for next year's class are currently being accepted and can be found online at the PVAS website (www.PotomacAudubon.org/masternat).

Some classes will also be available on an individual basis for persons interested in sampling natural history topics without committing to the entire program. Individual classes cost $30 each on a space-available basis. All classes will be listed in the Events Calendar at www.PotomacAudubon.org. For more information about the Master Naturalist program, contact Krista Hawley at adultprograms@PotomacAudubon.org.

Reminder: Eidolon Hunting and Hiking Schedule for December



If you're planning to visit the Eidolon Nature Preserve in December, please remember that the main firearm season for deer continues through December 7 and there are brief special seasons for antlerless deer December 19-21 and December 28, 30 and 31. Please keep the following rules in mind:

• In accordance with state law, no hunting is permitted on Sundays, and hikers can use Eidolon's trails freely on those days during hunting season.

• During the early December portion of the main firearm season for deer, the trails will be closed to hikers on Saturday December 7.

• On all other days between December 2 and December 7, the trails will be open to hikers from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. only.

The preserve will be closed to hikers during the two special antlerless deer seasons.

• Hunters must be licensed by the state and follow all applicable state laws and regulations.

• For their part, hikers should exercise appropriate caution at all times during hunting season and wear at least one item of blaze orange clothing.

Full details can be found on the PVAS website.

Join Early Winter Bird Walk at Harpers Ferry

Take a break from the pre-Christmas frenzy by joining a morning bird walk in Harpers Ferry on Thursday, December 19.

The walk will be let by veteran birder Deb Hale. There will be no fee and anyone is welcome to come along, regardless of their birding skills. Children will be welcome.

Participants should plan to meet at 9:00 a.m. at the train station in Harpers Ferry National Park. Parking may be available along Potomac Street near the train station.

From there, participants will walk west along Potomac Street extension to the old dam at the far end of the street and back.

In all, the route will involve about 3 miles of walking along level but somewhat rough ground.

Birds likely to be sighted include raptors, waterfowl, and other winter birds.

Participants should bring water and dress appropriately for the prevailing weather conditions. PVAS will provide binoculars for those who do not have their own.

The walk may be cancelled in the event of inclement weather.

For more information, or to check on possible weather cancellation, contact Deb at debhale72@gmail.com or 304-535-2346.



Harpers Ferry
Photo by Don Henry

January Program Will Focus on Antietam Bluebird Trail

Our monthly evening program for January will feature a presentation about the Bluebird Trail at Antietam National Battlefield.

The program will be held Wednesday, January 8 in Shepherd University's Student Center on North King Street in Shepherdstown. It will be held in the Center's second floor Cumberland Room, and will begin at 7:00 p.m.

Admission is free and everyone is welcome to attend.

The speaker will be Judith Lilga, a retired educator and past president of the Washington County MD Bird Club who has assisted with monitoring of Antietam Bluebird Trail.

The Antietam Trail is an excellent example of a highly successful, citizen-led, all-volunteer conservation initiative.

The trail is one of the oldest Bluebird trails on the East Coast. It was established in 1979 by Sharpsburg MD residents Mark and Jean Raabe, who sought and received the National Park Service's blessing for the project.

The Raabes have continued to develop and maintain the trail throughout its history.

Today, it includes 100 paired nest boxes that stretch along the battlefield's tour roads from Miller's Cornfield at the north end of the battlefield to Burnside Bridge at the south end.

By the close of the 2012 nesting season, these boxes had fledged at total of 8,819 Bluebirds over the last 33 years.

Fall School Programs Report

Our school programs have been very popular this fall, stretching from September all the way up to Thanksgiving! Several classes have visited Yankauer Preserve, but many more have requested a visit to their classroom. We have presented programs to 250 Kindergarten students (*Insects* and *Habitats)*, 63 First Graders (*Scientific Senses)*, 279 Second Graders (*Plants v. Animals)*, 199 Third Graders (*Amazing Animal Adaptations)*, 642 Fourth Graders (*Watershed Program*), and 35 Fifth Graders. (*My Life as a Scientist*). Whew! It was a busy fall!

We were able to reach many of these students because of generous funding from Ecolab and the Eastern West Virginia Community Foundation, and we have more classes already setting dates for the spring. Teachers that would like to learn more about or schedule a program in the spring of 2014 should contact Ellen Murphy at Ellen@PotomacAudubon.org. Volunteers to help with these programs are always welcome!

Youth and Family Programs for Spring 2014

Once winter begins to fade and warmer weather returns in a few months, our Spring 2014 programs will return. Wee Naturalists, for preschoolers and caring adults, will resume in March.

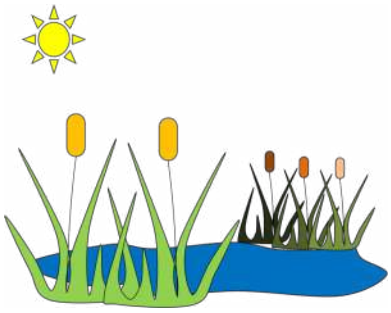
Our Spring Egg Hunt, featuring eggs painted like real bird eggs, will be held on Sunday afternoon, April 13.

StoryWalks® are being set up with local libraries, schools, churches, and rec centers, so look for those as they are advertised in the PVAS calendar and in local papers.

Outdoor Explore hikes and programs for families will be offered on an occasional basis and will be listed in the Calendar of Events on the PVAS website. If you have a favorite place that is an ideal place for families with younger children to explore, let us know!

Our Wildflower Festival at Yankauer Preserve will be held in April and families are invited to spend a bit of time wandering the trails as the wildflowers are showing off their finery. Guided tours area are also offered during this event.

Natural History Workshops



One of the many ways that PVAS provides educational opportunities for adults is through our series of Natural History Workshops. These programs provide in-depth training for a variety of topics and are offered throughout the year. Although the workshops can be used by Master Naturalists for recertification or elective class hours, all our workshops are open to the public. In 2014, workshops will include "Exploring Vernal Pools," "Nature Sketching for Naturalists," "Geology of Hardy County WV," and possibly "Leave No Trace." Other ideas for workshop topics include alternative energy, using dichotomous keys to identify plants and trees, and teacher trainings, but details are incomplete at present. In fact, this is the perfect opportunity for PVAS members to suggest a topic! If you have an idea for a topic that interests you, contact either Ellen Murphy (Ellen@PotomacAudubon.org) or Krista Hawley (adultprograms@PotomacAudubon.org).

16th Annual C&O Canal Winter Bird Survey

For 16 years, birds along the entire 185 miles of the C&O Canal have been counted and recorded. Join Nancy and Elliot Kirschbaum in conducting our part of the bird survey walk along a 3 mile stretch of the canal towpath. The group will survey miles 70, 71 and 72 from the Antietam Creek Campground area to about half a mile upstream from the Shepherdstown Rumsey Bridge. This walk will take place on January 25 and is an excellent walk for those still working on their bird identification skills, however intermediate/advanced birders are encourage to participate as well. More information on how to participate can be found at PotomacAudubon.org under the Events Calendar. We look forward to seeing you on the canal!



The C&O Canal
Photo by Don Henry

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.

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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 contact any of the board members listed here 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 and time will be announced prior to meetings. These meetings are open to all PVAS members.

PVAS Officers and Board Members

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Diana Gaviria (2014) ..... jpikester@comcast.net
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