

# VALLEY VIEWS

Potomac Valley Audubon Society

Volume 28, Issue 3

November 2009

## Eidolon Parking Lot and Road Work Completed

The new parking lot at our Eidolon Nature Preserve is now finished, and the roadwork inside the preserve has also been completed.

The parking lot is located about 200 yards inside the preserve's gated entrance. Designed to accommodate school and group visits to the preserve, it is gravel-surfaced and includes a bus turnaround and room for parking up to 24 cars and 2 buses.



*The new Eidolon Parking Lot*

For individuals visiting the preserve on their own, the small parking area just outside the gate has been expanded as much as possible and now includes room for two to three vehicles.



*Road Before*

The gravel road inside the preserve has been repaired and upgraded significantly, with new surfacing and greatly improved drainage.

The contractor for all this work was Clinton



*Road After*

Reed, of Berkeley Springs.

The total cost of the project was \$20,000. Funding has come from proceeds of the preserve's endowment, grants from the Tom and Virginia Seely Foundation and the Carl M. Freeman Foundation, a donation from CNB Bank, and donations from individuals in the community.

The next project at the preserve will be reroofing its old stone cottage, so the structure can be used as a shelter and educational pavilion.

Because of new concerns about the strength of the cottage walls,

this project has become somewhat more complicated than originally envisioned.

More specifically, a post and beam framework will have to be erected inside the cottage walls to support a new roof and this, in turn, will necessitate cutting through the cottage's concrete floor to provide proper footings for the posts.

The complexity and cost of the footing work won't be known until the floor is opened up.

Mountain View Builders, of Berkeley Springs, has stepped forward to help PVAS with the footing job.

If all goes well it may be possible to complete that job this fall.

In any case, if finances permit, PVAS hopes to move forward next summer with construction of the post and beam framework and roof.

## Yankauer Trail Grant Gets Final OK

The West Virginia Department of Transportation has given PVAS the final go-ahead to begin using a \$31,350 grant to make the Cedar Loop trail at the Yankauer preserve wheelchair accessible.

Governor Joe Manchin announced the approval of this grant more than a year ago, on September 5, 2008.

The Cedar Loop trail is 0.2 miles in length. The new grant will fund installation of a permeable but wheelchair-friendly surface as well as new interpretive signs and benches that are accessible to those in wheelchairs.

These improvements will allow visitation by and programs for patients from the Veterans' Administration hospital, local Senior Centers, special needs students from local schools, day care centers/preschools and families with strollers, and any visitor in a wheelchair.

Work on the improvements will begin shortly.

The grant is being provided through the West Virginia Recreational Trails Program, which is administered by the Department of Transportation, using Federal Highway Administration funds.

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

# President's Perch



Hello everyone:

Elsewhere in this newsletter, you'll note that we've now completed our first big capital projects at the Eidolon Nature Preserve: a large parking lot and bus turnaround near the entrance to the preserve and major improvements to the gravel road that runs from the preserve gate up to the old stone cottage near the top of the mountain.

These are the first steps toward providing the infrastructure needed to support group events at the preserve, primarily educational programming for children.

The next step will be to re-roof the preserve's old stone cottage, to provide sheltered space for educational programming and other activities. We're hoping to complete this project next year.

The last step will be to construct a small satellite parking lot and bus turnaround near the cottage, to further facilitate its use. That project will be undertaken as additional funds become available, hopefully in 2011.

Why do we bother with all this?

The answer is simple: it's what the donor of the Eidolon property, Marguerite Zapoleon, wanted.

Marguerite and her husband, Louis, were not only passionate about nature they were also passionate about education.

(Both of them were economists; she had studied at a variety of institutions, including the London School of Economics and Political Science, and he had studied at Cambridge and taught at Stanford University.)

And so Marguerite wanted to see Eidolon used to promote greater appreciation and understanding of the natural world, especially among children.

And to accomplish that in this day and age you need to provide facilities that meet certain commonly agreed upon standards.

We're not there yet but we're getting there, and we're looking forward to the time in the not-too-distant future when we can begin offering educational programming at Eidolon in earnest.

And we greatly appreciate the financial support we've received from the Tom and Virginia Seely Foundation, the Carl M. Freeman Foundation, CNB Bank, and individuals in the Morgan County community.

—Peter Smith

## Notice of Omission

The photo in last month's newsletter of the home that was the site of our October 24 fundraiser should have been credited to Sterling "Rip" Smith. PVAS regrets this omission.

## Pick Up Birdseed Orders November 7

REMINDER - Birdseed Pick-Up Day is November 7 from 10:00 am until Noon at the location you designated on your Order Form. If this is a problem for you, please let Diana Mullis know at [dianamullis@aol.com](mailto:dianamullis@aol.com) or 304-267-3482. Thank you for your order!!

## Eidolon Trail Blazes Being Upgraded

Improvements are being made to the hiking trails at the Eidolon Nature Preserve.

The trail paths and the blaze colors used to denote them will remain the same but the blazes are being re-done to bring them up to Appalachian Trail Maintenance Manual standards.

Tree bark is being scraped to provide a flat surface for the blazes, and all blazes will be perfectly rectangular and a consistent 2 x 7 inches in size.

This will make the blazes easier to spot and follow, and they should also be more durable.

All blazes will be located on the right-hand side of the trails.

An example of the new blazing system is shown in the photo above, which was taken at the lower entrance to the white trail.

The re-blazing of the White Trail is now complete and the Yellow Trail will be the next project.

Joe Gentile, the Eidolon caretaker, welcomes comments and suggestions regarding the project and invites volunteers to help. You can reach him at 304-258-3197 or [bigblackmare@yahoo.com](mailto:bigblackmare@yahoo.com) or 44 Elderberry Drive, Berkeley Springs, WV 25411-6363.



## PVAS & Master Naturalists Support Science Olympiad

PVAS and Potomac Valley Master Naturalists continue to be major contributors to the annual Jefferson County Science Olympiad. This year's event was held September 28-30, and October 5-7 at the For the Love of Children Outdoor Education Center near Shannondale. The Olympiad is sponsored by the Jefferson County school system. All of the county's sixth graders come to the site for a day of science-related activities.

This year, 15 of the stations over the two weeks were PVAS/PVMN led, meaning that we saw about 540 children at the Olympiad. Our stations included predator/prey games, molecule activities, bird walks, and other science-related activities.

The Science Olympiad continues to be a wonderful opportunity for sixth grade students to be exposed to a wide variety of science subjects and learn how they are applied in real-world situations.

## Eidolon Nature Preserve Fall 2009 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 deer hunting (November 23 through 28 this year) and every Saturday thereafter until the season ends on December 12.
- On all other days during the firearm season for deer, the trails will be open to hikers from 10 am until 3 pm only.

Please see the schedule below for specifics.

<b>2009 Eidolon Hunting and Hiking Schedule at a glance</b>	
Monday, November 23 - Saturday, November 28	<b>First week of firearm season for deer- Trails closed to hikers every day</b>
Sunday, November 29	No hunting
Monday, November 30 - Friday, December 4	Trails open to hikers 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. only
Saturday, December 5	<b>Trails closed to hikers all day</b>
Sunday, December 6	No hunting
Monday, December 7 - Friday, December 11	Trails open to hikers from 10 a.m.- 3 p.m. only
Saturday, December 12	<b>Trails closed to hikers all day Last day of firearm season for deer</b>

## Wee Naturalist Program at CraftWorks

The very popular preschool program we call “Wee Naturalists” is now available in southern Jefferson County thanks to a partnership with CraftWorks, a craft school six miles south of Charles Town.

The fields, forest and wetland CraftWorks offers are perfect for young explorers to discover nature with a favorite adult. Suzi Taylor, an environmental educator who offers the programs for PVAS, leads child/adult pairs in fun-filled activities with a different theme each month. November’s theme will be “A Little Bit of Art” and

December’s theme is “Snowflakes and Snowbirds.”

The program became so popular at Yankauer that a second session was added each month to meet the demand. The CraftWorks partnership allows us to expand the program further, and to reach Jefferson County residents for whom Yankauer is a significant drive.

The programs at CraftWorks will take place the third Thursday of each month in November and December. (These programs will be in addition to the monthly “Wee Naturalist” programs at Yankauer, held on the third Wednesday of each month.)

The times of the program, 9:30-11 a.m., and themes, are the same at both sites. The program is open to children ages 3 to 5. All participating children must be accompanied at each session by a parent, grandparent or other adult relative, or guardian.

The program is aimed at providing regular opportunities for small children and loving adults to explore nature together safely under the guidance of an experienced PVAS instructor. All sessions are conducted rain or shine and use a hands-on discovery approach. To ensure that everyone receives close, personal attention, enrollment is limited to ten child/adult teams per session.

Families may register for one, several, or all of the sessions at either the CraftWorks or Yankauer locations but pre-registration is required. The fee will be \$7 per child/adult team per session.

The Wee Naturalists program was initiated last January with start-up funding provided by a grant from the Eastern West Virginia Community Foundation’s Two Rivers Giving Circle.

Pre-registration is required for both locations. To register for the Thursday programs at CraftWorks, go to [www.CraftWorksatCool-Spring.org](http://www.CraftWorksatCool-Spring.org). Registration materials for the Wednesday programs at Yankauer can be found at [www.PotomacAudubon.org](http://www.PotomacAudubon.org). For more information, contact the Wee Naturalist Director, Suzi Taylor, at 301-432-1908.

## Master Naturalist Program Wraps up Third Year

PVAS’s Potomac Valley Master Naturalist (PVMN) program wrapped up its third year with an annual meeting on September 26 at Cacapon State Park. More than 40 members, families, and friends attended.

The event was held on National Public Lands Day, so the day included a volunteer project for Cacapon State Park and seed collection for the Growing Native program. Those who volunteered were presented with a certificate for free entrance into a national public area (national park, wildlife refuge, or forest) on a day of their choice in recognition for their service.

The annual meeting followed the volunteer activities where the group reviewed its many accomplishments over the past year. Kelly Smith of Cacapon State Park and Ora Dixon of the National Conservation Training Center were also present. The group recognized the two representatives and expressed appreciation for use of each facility, and Kelly and Ora in turn thanked the group for their contributions to their mutual sites and the community.

Following the annual meeting, the group held an awards ceremony recognizing those who completed their 64 hours of class work plus 30 hours of approved volunteer service to their communities.

The members of the 2009 class who received their certifications as Certified Master Naturalists were Sherry Arnold, Bland Campbell, Alison Dailey, Keith Dailey, MacDonald Duncan, Karen Fuegi, Kelly Heldreth, Jim Jenkins, Nan Johnson, Tamra Monroe, Joe Osterman, and Steven Warrick.

The following members of the 2008 class who chose to take two years to complete their certification were also recognized: Sandra Bloom, Laura Lee Clark, Sheri Cooper, Susan DiMarino, Helen Herlocker, Wendy Lee Maddox, Susan Marklin, and David Pennock. Bruni Haydl of the 2007 class was recognized for completing the certification requirements at the event as well.

Finally, all those Master Naturalists who completed all of the required coursework and volunteer hours in 2009 to remain certified were recognized:

Debbie Crouse (2008)	Cheryl Jennings (2006)
Barry Cutler (2008)	Nancy Little (2007)
Marika Cutler (2008)	Wanda Miller (2007)
Carol Del-Colle (2008)	Marcyanna Millet (2008)
Clark Dixon (2006)	Ellen Murphy (2007)
Ora Dixon (2006)	Diane Sylvester (2007)
Suzi Taylor (2007)	Eldon T. Winston (2008)
Don Henry (2008)	Virginia Winston (2008)
Kathryn Henry (2008)	Mary K. Youngblood (2007)
Leigh Jenkins (2008)	

The co-chairs of the Potomac Valley Master Naturalists, Wanda Miller and Ellen Murphy, expressed gratitude to the program's participants, instructors, and Coordinating Committee, and thanked PVAS and the West Virginia Department of Natural Resources for their continuing support.

PVAS's Master Naturalist program will offer its fourth year of instruction beginning in Spring of 2010. Watch upcoming issues of *Valley Views* and the PVAS website for details about the course schedule and application information.

The program is aimed at allowing individuals to increase their understanding and appreciation of the natural world while helping to serve their communities and the environment through organized educational programs and citizen-science research.

Participants receive classroom and field training in a broad range of topics in the fields of natural history and environmental education.

After completing their 64 hours of training and 30 hours of volunteer work, participants are certified as West Virginia Master Naturalists. They can then engage in such activities as leading interpretive walks at state parks, assisting biologists with research, and giving presentations to school children and other groups. To remain certified they annually must take 8 hours of training and participate in 16 hours of volunteer activity.

## November Program Will Focus on Monarch Butterflies

PVAS will sponsor a presentation about "The Magic of Monarch Butterflies" the evening of Wednesday, November 11, at the National Conservation Training Center outside Shepherdstown.

The program will be held at 7:00 p.m. in Room 151 of the Center's Instructional West Building.

The speaker will be Nicole Hamilton, of the Loudoun Wildlife

Conservancy.

She will review the lifecycles and habitats of these insects, with a focus on their annual winter migration to Mexico.

She will also provide information about creating local Monarch waystations and share tips on traveling to Mexico to view the Monarch winter sanctuaries there.

Admission is free and anyone is welcome to attend.

Ms. Hamilton's presentation will be preceded by a brief presentation by one of this year's summer camp scholarship winners: Zachary Barb, of Capon Bridge, WV, who was awarded a PVAS scholarship to attend the Burgundy Center for Wildlife Studies camp.

## Potomac Valley Master Naturalists Host National Conference

The Potomac Valley Master Naturalists served as the local hosts to the fifth annual national conference of the Alliance of Natural Resource Outreach and Service Programs (ANROSP) September 28-October 1. Held at the National Conservation Training Center, over 60 people involved in Master Naturalist or similar programs around the country gathered to learn from each other's experiences in administering the programs and training volunteers.

The week began with the ANROSP Board coming to the Yankauer Preserve where five representatives of our Potomac Valley Master Naturalists greeted the members and shared with the group how they are using their Master Naturalist training at the preserve and in surrounding communities. The Board members were duly impressed at the skills and dedication of these representatives! After the short presentation, the group went on a short, guided walk of the preserve to orient them to the ecosystem of our corner of West Virginia.

The conference opened the next day with a welcome from Jim Fregonera of the WV Division of Natural Resources who oriented all conference participants to the unique natural history of the state. Over the week, participants attended sessions on volunteer management, partnerships, risk management, and open discussion forums.

Many Potomac Valley Master Naturalists attended the workshops to increase their own skills for our local program. Some of our own chapter members even presented at the conference. Ellen Murphy presented a session on the "Passports" developed and used by Master Naturalists at the NCTC Open House in 2008, Suzi Taylor showed the group the "Nature Explorer Backpacks" she developed for PVAS, and Clark Dixon, Nancy Little, Wanda Miller, Ellen Murphy, and Kelly Smith led a panel discussion about PVMN's "Kickoff Weekend" at Cacapon State Park.

PVMN members arranged a variety of field trips for conference participants including tours of Ice Mountain, The Conservation Fund's Freshwater Institute, Geology of Harpers Ferry, Cacapon State Park, and the National Zoo Conservation and Research Center in Front Royal. They also arranged for music, campfires and storytelling at social events through the week.

The conference was a tremendous success and groups from across the country were duly impressed at what our very young Master Naturalist chapter can do. A special thank you goes to the local committee of Master Naturalists for pulling together a most

impressive conference: Clark Dixon (chair), Ora Dixon, Barry and Marika Cutler, Kathryn Henry, and David Pennock. Other PVMN members who provided valuable logistical and organizational support during the conference included Kristin Alexander, Marilee Cunningham, Nan Johnson, Ellen Murphy, Diane Sylvester, and Eldon and Virginia Winston. Many thanks to all for representing our chapter so well.

## **PVAS Taking a Winter Break in December**

This year we are taking a winter break from our regular monthly meeting in December. There will be no general meeting on the second Wednesday for that month. In addition, the January issue of Valley Views, which is prepared in mid-December, will also be taking a break; so there won't be a January issue of Valley Views.

That doesn't mean that all activities will stop so make sure to check the calendar of events that will be published in the next issue of Valley Views for dates and times of scheduled events and activities. If you haven't already subscribed, you can also stay in touch with current events by asking to be put on our 'Heads Up' list for email notices. Request to be added by sending an email to [PVASmail@aol.com](mailto:PVASmail@aol.com) containing your name, the email address you wish to use, and the words 'Heads Up'.

## **Matt Orsie to Lead November 7 Eagle and Hawk Watch**

PVAS will sponsor a field trip to watch migrating eagles and hawks in the Harpers Ferry area on Saturday, November 7.

Anyone with an interest is invited to participate.

The primary migrants at this time should be Golden Eagles and Northern Goshawks, and the site selected for this trip will offer a prime vantage point to watch these magnificent birds as they ride the thermals along ridgelines.

Local birding expert Matt Orsie will lead the trip and help identify the birds seen.

Participants will gather at 8:30 a.m. at the entrance to the Martin's Supermarket in the Jefferson Crossroads shopping Center on Route 340 across from Charles Town Races and Slots just east of Charles Town.

From there, Matt will lead the group to a location in southeastern Jefferson County that offers access to a stunning overlook of the Shenandoah Valley.

Getting to the overlook will involve a short but moderately strenuous three-eighths mile hike up to the Appalachian Trail, so the trip is not suitable for anyone who needs assistance.

The length of the stay at the monument will depend on how the hawk flight is going. If conditions are good, the trip may last until about 4:00 p.m. Participants can leave whenever they wish, however

Participants should bring a packed lunch, water, and binoculars if they have them and be prepared for possibly very cold and windy

weather conditions.

No pre-registration is needed for this trip and there is no fee.

Hawks do not fly if it is raining, so the trip may be shifted to November 18 (or cancelled altogether) if conditions warrant.

For more information contact Matt at 304-261-5602 or [wvbird-er@comcast.net](mailto:wvbird-er@comcast.net).

## **Annual Owl-banding Trip Set for November 7**

PVAS is once again sponsoring a special nighttime field trip to watch an expert catch, band, and release migrating owls on South Mountain, in Washington County, Maryland.

The trip will be held on Saturday, November 7. It will start at about 9:15 p.m. and last until about 11:00 p.m.

These trips have long been a favorite for whole families, and anyone with an interest is invited to participate. There is no fee.

The expert who will conduct the banding is Steve Huy, who has been banding owls on the mountain for many years as part of Project OwlNet.

The owls he will be banding are the Northern Saw-Whet Owl, the smallest owl in eastern North America. Visits to his banding site offer a unique opportunity to see these birds up close and learn about their life history.

Pre-registration is essential because space for the trip is limited to 20 persons.

To pre-register or get more information contact Carolyn Thomas at 304-267-3115 or [webethomas@aol.com](mailto:webethomas@aol.com).

This trip involves a walk over uneven ground and it is therefore not recommended for anyone who needs assistance.

Participants should bring a flashlight and be sure to dress warmly.

The trip will be cancelled if it is raining.

## **Winchester Birding Festival Set for November 7**

The Northern Shenandoah Valley Audubon Society (Shenandoah Audubon) will hold its ninth annual Birding Festival on November 7 in Winchester, Virginia.

The event will include bird walks at 8:00 a.m., noon and 4:00 p.m.; basic birding classes; children's activities including a youth art contest; two live raptor presentations; and talks about local birds and their nests.

Birdseed, birdhouses and other birding items will be offered for sale.

All of the events except for the morning and afternoon bird walks will take place at Winchester's Jim Barnett City Park.

All events will be free.

For more information contact Judy Hagan at [hagansan@yahoo.com](mailto:hagansan@yahoo.com) or 540-667-6778.



## Don't Miss American Conservation Film Festival

The Seventh Annual American Conservation Film Festival will be held in Shepherdstown November 5-8.

Held in cooperation with the National Conservation Training Center and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the festival is always inspiring.

It encompasses local and national feature-length and short films and includes thought-provoking talks and panel discussions, children's films, a student filmmaker forum and competition, and a meet-the-filmmaker reception.

This year's festival will feature dozens of different films at various locations, including NCTC, Shepherd University, and downtown Shepherdstown.

Festival organizers will maintain an information center throughout the festival period at Shepherdstown's War Memorial Building.

Most showings are free of charge.

For the schedule and full information, visit the festival website at [www.conservationfilm.org](http://www.conservationfilm.org) or call 304-876-7373.

### Remember United Way/CFC Fund Drives

Remember that the annual fundraising campaigns of the United Way of the Eastern Panhandle and the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) are underway.

Both campaigns will last through December 15.

PVAS receives funding from United Way and CFC each year and encourages its members to give to their campaigns.

CFC is, of course, the mechanism for federal employees to contribute to their local United Way. PVAS members who are federal employees can designate PVAS as the recipient of all or part of their CFC contribution by entering PVAS's CFC number (29061) on the CFC form that they file with their employing agency.

If you have any questions, please contact Kristin Alexander at [pvasmail@aol.com](mailto:pvasmail@aol.com) or 304-676-3397.

### "Leave No Trace" Master Naturalist Workshop

PVAS will offer its final Master Naturalist Workshop of the year, a Leave No Trace Program trainer course, on November 14 and 15.

The workshop will be held at the 350-acre For the Love of Children Outdoor Education Center in Jefferson County, off Mission Road past Shannondale.

It will begin at 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, November 14, include an overnight stay that evening, and ends at 4:45 p.m. Sunday.

Participants will earn credits toward becoming a certified trainer in the Leave No Trace program, which teaches individuals and groups how to reduce their impacts while they enjoy the outdoors.

The workshop is intended primarily as an elective course for individuals enrolled in PVAS's Potomac Valley Master Naturalist Program. However, it is also open on a space-available basis to PVAS members and others who are interested.

Enrollment is limited to 20 persons.

The fee to participate is \$25 per person and pre-registration required.

A Saturday evening snack, Sunday breakfast and Sunday lunch will be provided at no extra cost.

See the PVAS website for details or contact PVAS at 304-676-3397 or [pvasmail@aol.com](mailto:pvasmail@aol.com).

### The Cornell Lab of Ornithology Help Project Feeder-Watch Track Backyard Birds

*Bird watchers needed to help scientists discover changes in bird populations*

***There was a massive southern movement of Pine Siskins during the 2008-09 season.***

*Ithaca, NY*—What happens in the backyard should not stay in the backyard—at least when it comes to bird feeders. By sharing information about which birds visit their feeders between November and April, backyard bird watchers can help scientists track changes in bird numbers and movements from year to year, through [Project FeederWatch](http://ProjectFeederWatch.org), a citizen-science program from the [Cornell Lab of Ornithology](http://CornellLabofOrnithology.org) and [Bird Studies Canada](http://BirdStudiesCanada.org).

Project FeederWatch begins on November 14 and runs through early April. Taking part is easy. Anyone can count the numbers and kinds of birds at their feeders and enter their information on the FeederWatch website. Participants submitted nearly 117,000 checklists last season. Since 1987, more than 40,000 people from the United States and Canada have taken part in the project.

"To get the most complete picture of bird movements, we always need new sets of eyes to tell us what species are showing up at backyard feeders," says David Bonter, leader of Project FeederWatch. "Participants always tell us how much fun it is and how good it feels to contribute to our understanding of birds by submitting their sightings."

Project FeederWatch is for people of all ages and skill levels. To learn more and to sign up, visit [www.feed-erwatch.org](http://www.feed-erwatch.org) or call the Cornell Lab toll-free at (866) 982-2473. In return for the \$15 fee (\$12 for Cornell Lab members) participants receive the *FeederWatcher's Handbook*, an identification poster of the most common feeder birds, a calendar,



*Photo of Pine Siskins by Steve Gillespie © Cornell Lab of Ornithology*

complete instructions, and *Winter Bird Highlights*, an annual summary of FeederWatch findings.

Participant Nancy Corr of Harrisburg, Oregon, sums up her Project FeederWatch experience: “Thanks for the wonderful opportunity to share our love of birding and to participate in something meaningful!”

Regional highlights based on 2008-09 FeederWatch reports:

- **Southwest & California:** On most lists: House Finch. Fewer reports: Western Scrub-Jay. Increasing: Lesser Goldfinch and Eurasian Collared-Dove.
- **Southeast & South-Central:** On most lists: Northern Cardinal. Increasing: White-winged Dove and Eurasian Collared-Dove. Rare bird: Yellow-headed Blackbird (Florida).
- **Pacific Northwest & Rocky Mountains:** On most lists: Dark-eyed Junco. Increasing: Anna’s Hummingbird and Golden-crowned Sparrow. Rare bird: Yellow-throated Warbler (Alberta).
- **Northeast quarter of U.S. & Southeastern Canada:** On most lists: Black-capped and Carolina Chickadees. Fewer reports: Evening Grosbeak. Rare bird: Green-tailed Towhee (New Jersey).
- **North-Central & Mid-Central:** On most lists: Downy Woodpecker. Fewer reports: American Crows. Increasing: American Robin and Cedar Waxwing. Rare bird: Cape May Warbler (Saskatchewan).
- **Alaska & Northern Canada:** On most lists: Common Redpoll. Increasing: Pine Grosbeak and Bohemian Waxwing. Fewer reports: Steller’s Jay. Rare bird: Purple Finch (Alaska).

*The Cornell Lab of Ornithology is a membership institution dedicated to interpreting and conserving the earth’s biological diversity through research, education, and citizen science focused on birds. Visit the Cornell Lab’s web site at <http://www.birds.cornell.edu>.*

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 Questions or Comments?  
 Call us toll-free at (800) 843-BIRD (2473)

**Calendar of Events**

- Oct 30-Nov 2:** Weekend trip to the Great Smoky Mountains
- Nov 1:** Potomac Valley Nature Writers meeting
- Nov 7:** Pick up bird seed 10-12am at 3 locations
- Nov 7:** Eagle and hawk-watching trip in Harpers Ferry area
- Nov 7:** Field trip to owl-banding station on South Mountain
- Nov 11:** PVAS program: Monarch Butterflies
- Nov 14:** Volunteer Day at Yankauer
- Nov 14-15:** Master Naturalist Workshop—*Leave No Trace Trainer Course*
- Dec 6:** Potomac Valley Nature Writers meeting
- Dec 9:** **NO PVAS MEETING IN DECEMBER**
- Dec 11:** Potomac Valley Nature Photographers
- Dec 19:** Jefferson County Christmas Bird count
- Jan 2:** Berkeley & Morgan county Christmas Bird Count

**JOIN PVAS TODAY!**

We now offer two kinds of memberships:

**1. PVAS Local Membership**

Here’s what you get:

- Access to a wide variety of PVAS programs and events for adults and children.
- Discounts for selected chapter activities, like children’s summer camps.
- A subscription to PVAS’s newsletter and e-mail alerts about events and programs of special interest.
- ALL your dues stay here to support local PVAS efforts!

To become a local member: Enclose a check for \$20 (\$15 for seniors and students). Please make check out to “PVAS.” This fee covers membership for everyone in your household for one year.

**2. Dual Membership with National Audubon**

You get all the benefits of PVAS membership plus membership in the National Audubon Society, which includes a subscription to *Audubon* magazine. If you select this option, almost all of your dues will go to National Audubon. To obtain a dual membership, enclose a check for \$20 if you are joining NAS for the first time or \$35 to renew an existing NAS membership (\$15 in either case for seniors and students). Make check out to “National Audubon Society.”

**Membership Form**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_ Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone (optional): \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail: (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

**Membership Type (check one):**

**PVAS Local Membership** \_\_\_\_  
 (For PVAS local membership, check the box following if you do NOT want PVAS to share your contact information with National Audubon: \_\_\_\_)

**Dual Membership with National Audubon** \_\_\_\_

I’d like to get *Valley Views* by e-mail \_\_\_\_ US mail \_\_\_\_ (check one)

..... (Audubon chapter code C9ZY540Z)

**Clip and mail this form to:**

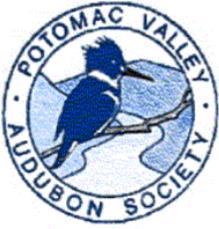
Membership Chair, PVAS  
 PO Box 578  
 Shepherdstown, WV 25443

**Thank you for your support!**



**RED DOT ALERT**

● If 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 Dual membership or Local membership.



Potomac Valley Audubon Society  
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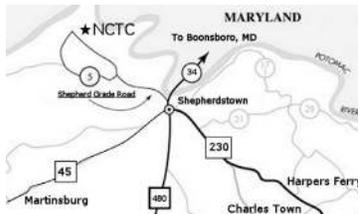


MAIL TO:

November 2009

Printed on 100% post-consumer waste recycled paper

Volume 28, Issue 3



The Potomac Valley Audubon Society meets at 7:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month, September through April, at the US Fish and Wildlife Service National Conservation Training Center (NCTC), Shepherdstown, WV, in the Instructional West Building. 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 Wednesday of the month (Sept.-June). Meeting location will be announced prior to meetings. These meetings are open to all PVAS members.

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