

# The Gnatcatcher

## Newsletter of Juniata Valley Audubon

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as a benefit for members of the...

JUNIATA VALLEY AUDUBON SOCIETY



### President's Message:

I have gotten many requests for the recipes for food that I bring to the JVAS chapter and the board meetings, so I am going to publish some here. I use food as a way to bring people together, so I make simple, and fulfilling meals.

At the last chapter meeting I made **Butternut Squash Bisque**. It is a very simple and quick one pot soup that is perfect for fall and it won't leave you standing over the stove.

#### Ingredients:

2 Cloves Garlic	2 Medium Carrots
2 Stalks Celery	2-3 Medium Sweet Potatoes
1 Small Onion	1 Medium Butternut Squash
8 Cups Water	1 15 oz can Diced Tomatoes or 2 Freshly Diced Tomatoes
Salt and Pepper to taste	

In the bottom of a soup pan, brown the chopped onions, celery, carrots, and garlic. Peel and dice the sweet potatoes, and butternut squash. When the onions are cooked clear, add the potatoes, squash, tomatoes, salt, pepper, and water. Let boil until the potatoes and squash are very soft, about an hour. Blend or mash the soup with an electric blender or potato masher until it is smooth. Serve immediately.

I like to add any other leftover veggies in the frig into this soup because it all gets cooked down and blended together and you don't even know they are in there. Fresh tomatoes tend to be a little more bitter than canned tomatoes.

At the last board meeting I served a **Bacon-wrapped Pork Tenderloin**.

2-3 lbs. Pork Tenderloin	1 lb. Bacon
6-8 Cloves Garlic	Salt and Pepper to Taste

Preheat the oven to 400 °F. Salt and pepper the entire pork loin.  
Place the pork loin on a baking pan on a rack with the fat side up.  
Slice the garlic and place it on the fat side of the loin.  
Place the bacon in individual slices covering the top of the loin.  
Bake for 40 minutes or until the internal temperature of the loin is 145 °F.

Cook the tenderloin with the fat side up and the bacon on top to keep the pork moist. It also carries the flavor of the salt, pepper and garlic down through the rest of the meat.

Join us at our next chapter meeting on November 19<sup>th</sup> to enjoy what I am cooking next. Thank you, *Catie Farr*

### In This Issue:

President's Message:	1
Evening Programs:	2
Fall Field Trips:	3
Our New Education Chair:	3
Christmas Bird Count:	4
West Nile Virus:	5 & 6
Did you know:	6
Conservation Crossroads:	7 & 8
Audubon Climate Report:	9 & 10
Chapter Gathering Report:	11
Shade-Grown Coffee:	11
Membership Form:	12

**INSERT: IT'S TIME TO RENEW!**

Juniata Valley Audubon Society (JVAS) is a chapter of the National Audubon Society and is dedicated to the conservation and restoration of natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the Earth's biological diversity. Juniata Valley Audubon accomplishes its mission through advocacy, science, land stewardship, and education - working directly with Audubon Pennsylvania, the Pennsylvania state office of the National Audubon Society.

The JVAS is a tax-exempt, not-for-profit, educational organization as described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Gifts are deductible for income tax purposes (Tax ID # 25-1533496).

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## Juniata Valley Audubon Society Evening Programs

Our evening programs are designed for a general audience; all programs are free and open to the public. **A free dinner, including hot, shade-grown, organic coffee, starts at 6:00 PM, followed by the meeting at 6:45 PM.** We meet in the Bellwood-Antis Library at 526 Main Street, Bellwood, PA., except in December when we meet at the Altoona Library in the Theater room. Please join us!

**Directions:** Take Interstate I-99 to the Bellwood/Route 865 Exit (Exit 41). Follow Rt. 865 through the Sheetz/Martin's intersection. Proceed about 4 blocks and turn right at the "Business District" sign, just before the railroad overpass. Turn left at the "T" and travel to the stop sign. Continue straight a short distance; the library is on your right.

### Program: Tuesday, November 19, 2019

Dinner: Pasta Bar with gluten-free option, meatballs, chicken, salad, rolls, apple pie bars and gluten-free cookies for dessert

***Shale Play* reading by author Julia Spicher Kasdorf, illustrated by Steven Rubin's photographs**

Their book, *Shale Play*, will be on sale for a discounted \$20. See more details at <https://www.psupress.org/books/titles/978-0-271-08093-2.html>

**Julia Spicher Kasdorf** is the author of four books of poetry: *Sleeping Preacher*; *Eve's Striptease*; *Poetry in America*; and *Shale Play: Poems and Photographs from the Fracking Fields*. Her awards include the Agnes Lynch Starrett Poetry Prize, the Great Lakes College's Association Award for New Writing, a Pushcart Prize, and a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship in Poetry. She is Professor of English and Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies at Penn State, where she teaches creative writing.

**Steven Rubin** is an Associate Professor of Art at Penn State. He was a freelance photojournalist and documentary photographer for over twenty years, traveling on assignment in Iraq, Rwanda, Kosovo, Pakistan, Thailand, Chile, Cuba, throughout Central America and across the United States. His photographs have been published in *The New York Times Magazine*, *National Geographic*, *Time*, and many other well-known publications.

His current projects investigate the rise of wind energy in the Midwest, the precarious conditions of Burmese Chin refugees in India and the upsurge of diabetes in Sub-Saharan Africa.

**Program: Thursday, Dec. 19, 2019 6:30pm**  
**Altoona Library, Theater Room**

**Night at the Movies: "Our Planet" w/David Attenborough**

Experience our planet's natural beauty and see how climate change impacts all living things.

No dinner, but lots of Christmas cookies, popcorn and juice will be available for all to enjoy.

## JVAS Field Trips Fall 2019

Field trip chair is Susan Braun: [braun3112@gmail.com](mailto:braun3112@gmail.com) (814)574-0795

Check our Facebook page for updates or contact Susan.

VISIT

[www.ShaversCreek.org](http://www.ShaversCreek.org)  
to learn more

**Saturday, Nov 9, 2019: 1pm – 4pm**

### Shaver's Creek Walk and Live Raptor Tour

We will take a bird walk before enjoying a guided tour of the Raptor Center, followed by a visit to the native animal exhibits in the new Center.

**Directions:** Shaver's Creek is located at 3400 Discovery Rd, Petersburg, Pa. Contact Susan Braun if you want to carpool.



**Friday, November 29, 2019: 11am – 2pm**

### Post-Thanksgiving Day Hike

Join Randy Caber to shed those turkey and pumpkin pie pounds while enjoying an easy hike (about 6 miles) from Mount Etna to Alfarata on the Lower Trail.

**Directions:** Any volunteers to carpool should park at Alfarata by 10:30am.

Msg/text Randy at 814-207-4893. All others should meet at the Mt. Etna parking lot at 11am.

Optional: bring water and a snack. **Blaze orange must be worn.**

**Tuesday, December 31, 2019: 11am - 2pm**

### Last Day Resolution Hike

If your New Year's Resolution is to get outdoors, get started on it a day early! End your year at the Peace Chapel Trail System in Huntingdon as we hike approximately 3 to 4 leisurely miles together on the last day of 2019. As we hike, we can search for animal tracks in the snow (hopefully) and winter plants (definitely). Meet at Detwiler Field in Huntingdon at 11am. Bring a snack and drink for the hike.

Optional: we can visit one of the local venues in nearby Huntingdon for hot chocolate and warm food after the hike! If you need more information or have questions, contact trip leader, Kristin Joivell, at 814-386-6267 or at [kristinjean@hotmail.com](mailto:kristinjean@hotmail.com).



A big welcome to Laura Palmer, our new Education Chair.

Laura is an Associate Professor of Biology at Penn State Altoona, where she has taught since 2004. She holds a PhD in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from Penn State University College of Medicine and a B.S. in Biochemistry from Ohio Northern University. Most of her research interests have been focused on yeast molecular biology and genetics. As an avid nature photographer and volunteer at a local state park, she has recently developed an interest in studying the ecology of native cavity-nesting birds, such as the Eastern bluebird. Dr. Palmer teaches courses in introductory biology, cell and molecular biology, genetics, and immunology. She has received numerous teaching awards, including the George W. Atherton Award for Excellence in Teaching, Penn State University's most prestigious undergraduate teaching award.



Beginning/Intermediate birders are welcome! We'll team you up with experienced birders for an exciting day.

## CALLING ALL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTERS: Saturday, Dec. 14, 2019

The JVAS Blair County Christmas Bird Count (CBC), centered at Culp, will be held on **Saturday, December 14, 2019** with a Tally Dinner to be held at **the Olive Garden Italian Restaurant** starting at **5 pm**. All are invited to attend – even if you aren't a counter.



The Olive Garden is located at **3315 Pleasant Valley Blvd. Altoona, Pa.** Each person will order from the menu and pay for their own meal. There is something for everyone –with delicious options for vegetarians, vegans, and even those allergic to gluten!

**Sign up soon to be a counter! Call or email Laura Jackson by Monday, Dec. 2.**  
**Phone: 814-652-9268 Email: [jacksonlaura73@gmail.com](mailto:jacksonlaura73@gmail.com)**

Participation is free, but you must count within the established circle, which is located within 7.5 miles of Culp. If you live inside the circle, you could count birds at your feeder and on your property, but please sign up so we know your property is covered. Counters will receive a map, a species checklist, and pointers on any hotspots that might be in your part of the circle. We hope you will spend most of the day counting birds in your area of the circle or observing the birds at your feeder if you live in the circle.

If you have a favorite part of the circle, then don't wait to call as the "early birders" get first pick of the count area. Below are the historic count areas, but anyone who lives in the circle can cover their property, just be sure to sign up so we don't overlap count areas.

<b>Northern Altoona</b>	<b>Sinking Valley</b>
<b>Bellwood</b>	<b>Canoe Creek State Park</b>
<b>Tyrone-Tipton</b>	<b>Canoe Valley</b>
<b>Park Forest/Watts Road</b>	<b>Tyrone Treatment Plant</b>
<b>Brush Mountain (NE end)</b>	<b>Juniata River Corridor</b>

There are 3 other Christmas Bird Counts that need counters:

**Huntingdon Co. CBC** is centered at Donation, Pa.  
 Contact compiler Deb Grove: 814-643-3295 or [dsg4@psu.edu](mailto:dsg4@psu.edu)

**Bedford Co. CBC** is centered at Manns Choice, Pa.  
 Contact compilers Mike & Laura Jackson:  
 814-652-9268 or [jacksonlaura73@gmail.com](mailto:jacksonlaura73@gmail.com)

**Raystown CBC:** Contact compiler Greg Grove: [gwg2@psu.edu](mailto:gwg2@psu.edu)



*Later in this issue you will read about a new report from Audubon that details Climate Change impacts. Many bird populations are also declining due to West Nile Virus (WNV). Our October speaker, Nick Bolgiano has done some impressive research on WNV. Here is a summary of his presentation:*

### **Evidence for West Nile Virus-Related Declines in Pennsylvania Birds** by Nick Bolgiano

West Nile Virus (WNV) was first detected in Pennsylvania in 2000, a year after its continental discovery in New York City. WNV is spread by a mosquito-bird cycle: an infected mosquito bites a bird, which can sicken and die, sicken and recover, be unaffected, or sufficiently replicate the virus so as to infect new biting mosquitoes. WNV can spread when these infected birds fly to new locations and infect biting new mosquitoes. The finding of dead birds, particularly American Crows, often indicated WNV's arrival to a new location. There was great concern about the effect of WNV upon humans, who can also be sickened by WNV. Pennsylvania soon began monitoring the prevalence of WNV in mosquitoes and whether dead birds were positive for WNV. Horses are also known to be affected.

WNV initially peaked in Pennsylvania during 2002-2003, with declines in American Crow numbers being observed. WNV dropped to low levels in 2004-2010, American Crow numbers recovered and some thought that the disease threat was over. At the end of Pennsylvania's second breeding bird atlas in 2009, the Great Horned Owl was the only bird species whose population was thought to be declining from WNV.

However, WNV re-amplified in mosquitoes, beginning in 2012 and reached its highest recorded level in 2018, a year of record rainfall. The Pennsylvania Game Commission found that Ruffed Grouse, our state bird, was susceptible to WNV and grouse declines were linked to the virus. Nick examined Christmas Bird Count (CBC) and Breeding Bird Survey (BBS) data and found that, in addition to Ruffed Grouse and Great Horned Owls, there was strong evidence for WNV causing declines in American Crow, Black-capped and Carolina Chickadees, and Tufted Titmouse. The American Crow, Carolina Chickadee, and Tufted Titmouse trends closely tracked the WNV level in mosquitoes, dropping when WNV levels in mosquitoes increased, and recovering several years after the WNV level in mosquitoes fell.

For American Robin, Eastern Bluebird, and House Wren, there is evidence of short-term declines in population numbers when WNV is high, but populations subsequently appear to have compensated for the losses by producing more young birds.

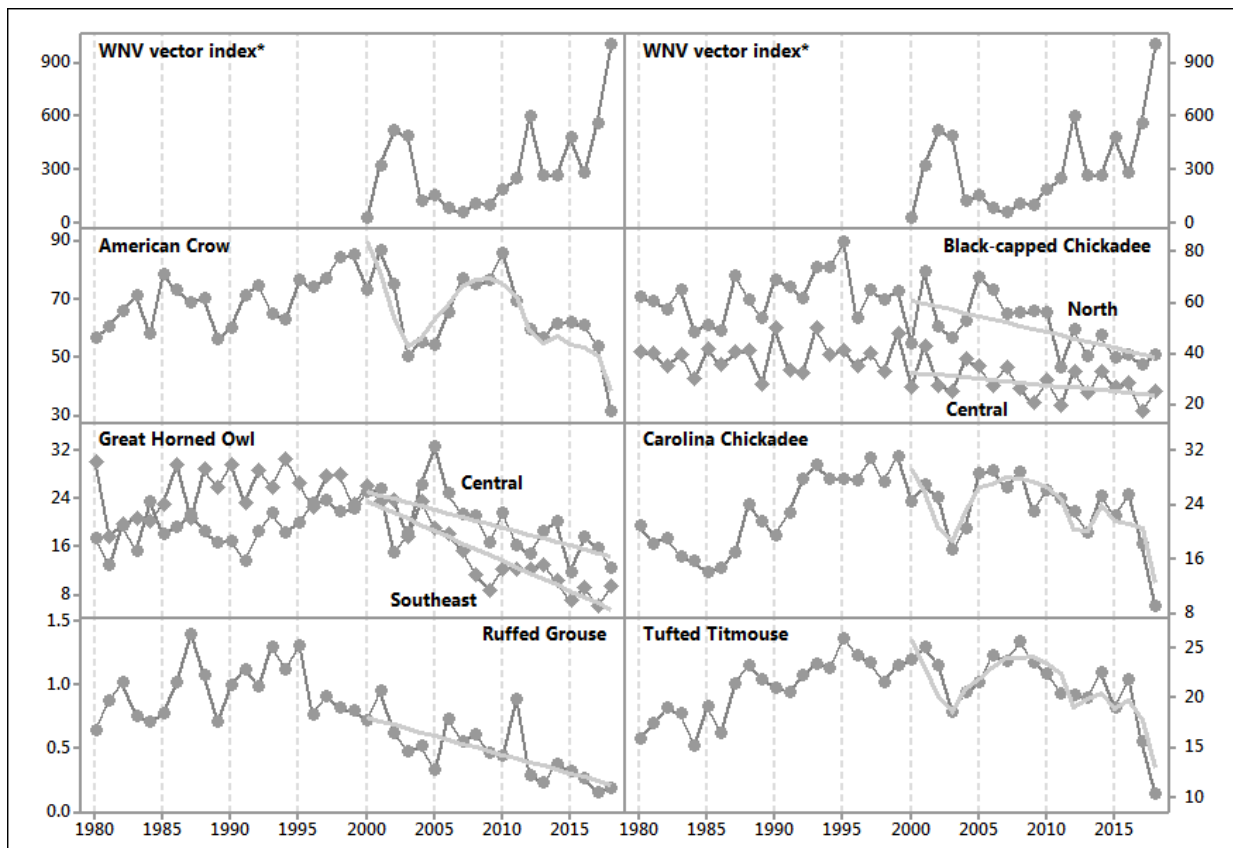
Declines in House Finch, Mallard, Northern Mockingbird, and Killdeer have been observed in Pennsylvania, but research is needed to determine the cause of these declines. WNV has caused House Finch declines along the West Coast, but in the East, conjunctivitis, a bacterial eye disease, has been known to affect population numbers. The challenge is to determine if WNV is additionally affecting House Finch numbers.

Finally, raptors are known to be sickened and die from WNV, but apart from Great Horned Owls, it is not known how WNV is affecting population levels. For Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, and Northern Goshawk, the three North American accipiters, and for Red-tailed Hawk, declines have been observed at some Eastern hawk watches that coincide with the WNV period. For Cooper's Hawk and Red-tailed Hawk, discerning cause is complicated by evidence that individuals are increasingly likely to stay farther north over time. More research is needed into the cause of these declines.

*Nick graphed the data for six bird species in Pennsylvania to show how the increase of mosquitoes correlates with the decline of six bird species – see graph on next page.*



The WNV vector index in mosquitoes (including the estimated 2000-2002 values) and Pennsylvania count data for six bird species for which there is strong evidence of WNV effects, along with model predictions (light gray lines). Data are CBC mean count/10 party hours, except Great Horned Owl data are CBC mean count/10 nocturnal hours.



## Did you know?



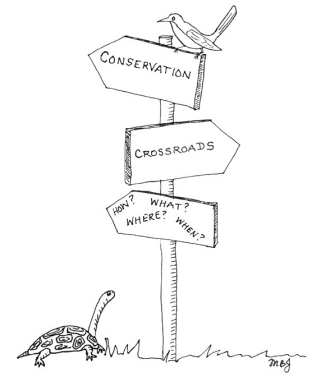
According to Axios.com: Oil, natural gas, and coal account for 81% of the world's energy consumption – a figure that hasn't changed in 30 years despite the rapid growth of renewables like solar and wind power.

But many researchers feel the future is bright with solar. Not the typical solar panels you see now. I'm talking about "thin-film" solar that will be just fifty cents a watt. At that price solar could compete with utilities. True, solar needs a lot of space. At present levels of efficiency it would take about 10,000 square miles of solar panels – but all of those panels could fit on less than a quarter of the roof and pavement space in cities and suburbs.

Then there's the promise of wind, biomass, nuclear, and fusion....and politics.

Want to read more? Go to [www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/global-warming/powering-the-future/](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/global-warming/powering-the-future/)

**CONSERVATION CROSSROADS** is a section of *The Gnatcatcher* that features environmental issues across a spectrum of local, national, and global concerns. Contact JVAS Vice-President Laura Jackson, if you know of an issue that deserves our attention and subsequent action. More information on these concerns is found at [www.JVAS.org](http://www.JVAS.org) Click on the Conservation tab.



## 1. Industrial Wind Project Proposed for Dunning/Evitt's Mountain in Bedford County: CPV Kettle Wind Project

JVAS Conservation Chair Laura Jackson completed an environmental review using the new COA Tool and researched the Natural Heritage Inventory that was updated by Western Pennsylvania Conservancy for Bedford County in

2018. **The area of the proposed wind project is recognized as a Natural Heritage Area of GLOBAL SIGNIFICANCE.**

To read the full report: [www.jvas.org/category/conservation-news/wind-energy-development/](http://www.jvas.org/category/conservation-news/wind-energy-development/)

## 2. Pumped Hydro Storage Projects:

A **pumped hydro storage project** is designed with two reservoirs – upper and lower. Like every other **hydroelectric** plant, a **pumped-storage** plant generates electricity by allowing water to fall through a turbine generator during the day. Daytime-produced electricity is then sold to the grid at a higher cost than what is used to pump the water to the upper reservoir at night. Consequently, these projects make a profit, although more electricity is used than produced. Pumped hydro storage projects are sometimes described as a “liquid battery.” While these projects are a type of renewable energy, they destroy wild habitats, farmlands, and use more electricity than they produce.

Merchant Hydro Developers, LLC wants to build three projects on the Allegheny Front: **Bacon Ridge** and **Allegheny** projects in Blair Co. and **Snoosh Mountain** project in Bedford Co. – all three will destroy forested areas on the Allegheny Front and degrade habitat for birds and other wildlife. The reservoirs do not provide suitable habitat for wildlife and actually put birds at risk since the upper reservoir in each project is built near a wind project. The Bacon Ridge project is near Sandy Ridge wind project, Allegheny is near Allegheny Ridge wind project and the Snoosh Mountain project is near the Stoney Creek wind project.

An identical progress report was submitted on 6/12/19 for all three proposed projects: No. 14820 (**Allegheny**), No. 14823 (**Bacon Ridge**), and No. 14833 (**Snoosh Mountain**). We are waiting to see what the fall progress reports state.

## 3. Proposed Rutter's Gas/Convenience Store upslope from Old Crow Wetlands near Huntingdon, Pa.

Greg Grove, David Kyler, Stan Kotala, Alice Fleischer, and other JVAS members have expressed their concerns and opposition to the Smithfield Township supervisors.

The supervisors are waiting to hear from PennDOT, which is currently reviewing the traffic changes proposed by Rutter's. The supervisors meet on the first Tuesday of each month, at 7:00 pm.\* The location is the township building in Smithfield, on the corner of 13th Street and Mt. Vernon Avenue, or 2 blocks south of Rt 26 (Pennsylvania Ave.). You are encouraged to attend the township meeting.

**The November township meeting will be on Tuesday, Nov. 12 since Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> is election day.**

## **CONSERVATION CROSSROADS, continued:**

### **4. Great news: Hawn's Bridge Area in Raystown Lake will remain undeveloped!**

**Please send comments on the Raystown Lake Draft Master Plan (pages 8-125, 126).**

<https://www.nab.usace.army.mil/Portals/63/docs/Recreation/Raystown/Master%20Plan/Raystown%20Lake%20Master%20Plan%20DRAFT%2010-23-2019.pdf?ver=2019-10-23-154723-453>

To send comments, go to: [www.nab.usace.army.mil/raystown-master-plan-revision/](http://www.nab.usace.army.mil/raystown-master-plan-revision/)  
and scroll to the bottom of the first page: fill in the form or email the USACE.

The form will ask you to “select the section of the draft Plan your comment refers to.” Choose “Summary of Recommendations”

**Use the following excerpts from the Plan as talking points to support the draft Master Plan:**

The draft plan states that, "The proportion of public comments received specifically opposing the proposal to develop and/or reclassify the Hawn's Bridge area was significant. This indicates that expressed public desires at this time do not support the reclassification to High Density Recreation." Justification for this decision was based on factors that changing the area to “high density recreation” would potentially negatively affect the following:

- 1) Proximity to Bat Conservation Area
- 2) Impact on fisheries
- 3) Proximity to Shale Barren area
- 4) Impact on hunting
- 5) Impact on timber resources or tree cover
- 6) Topographic impacts to infrastructure construction

The USACE applied objectives in the classification analysis with the following results:

- “The proposal would support the objective to identify and evaluate increased opportunities to provide and implement education and outreach on the missions of the RLP.
- It would not preserve the unique scenic beauty and aesthetics of the project by minimizing development and maintaining the undisturbed natural buffer between the shoreline and all future development.
- It would not achieve recreation goals in conjunction with the USACE Recreation Strategic Plan and the Pennsylvania SCORP.
- It would not actively manage and conserve fish, wildlife, and special status species or enhance biodiversity.
- In addition, it would not support goals to manage invasive species, promote forest health, or prevent erosion and sedimentation.”

There is already pushback from the developer who wants to turn Hawn's Bridge area into a resort. Janet Chambers, spokesperson for the proposed resort, is quoted in a recent issue of the Huntingdon Daily News. Chambers maintains that the Corps ignored the WIIN Act, which instructed the Corps to increase recreation areas. She also is quoted as stating that any conflicting issues can be “worked out.”

**Please let the USACE know that you support their decision, which is based on sound science versus a desire for economic gain. Comment deadline is Dec. 7, 2019.**



Please note: The press release below from Audubon contains a lot of bolded hyperlinks. If you are a paper subscriber and don't get the digital version of *The Gnatcatcher*, go to our website if you want to click on the links to read more details: [www.jvas.org/gnatcatcher-archive/](http://www.jvas.org/gnatcatcher-archive/)

## Audubon Report: SURVIVAL BY DEGREES



“On October 10, 2019, National Audubon Society announced a groundbreaking climate report, **Survival by Degrees: 389 Bird Species on the Brink**. “Two-thirds of America’s birds are threatened with extinction from climate change but keeping global temperatures down will help up to 76 percent of them. There’s hope in this report, but first, it’ll break your heart if you care about birds and what they tell us about the ecosystems we share with them. It’s a bird emergency,” said David Yarnold, CEO and president of Audubon.

“A lot of people paid attention to last month’s report that North America has lost nearly a third of its birds. This new data pivots forward and imagines an even more frightening future,” Yarnold said. “And, you can use a first-of-its kind web tool to find threatened birds in your zip code, as well as a list of things everyone can do.”

Audubon scientists studied 604 North American bird species using 140 million bird records, including observational data from bird lovers and field biologists across the country.

Audubon’s zip code-based tool, the **Birds and Climate Visualizer**, helps users understand the impacts to birds where they live, making climate change even more local, immediate and, for tens of millions of bird fans, deeply personal.”

*Note: be sure to try the **Birds and Climate Visualizer** since you can enter your location by zip code or state to see how climate change will impact birds in your area. For example, in Bedford County under the +1.5°C warming scenario, there are just three high vulnerability species: Henslow’s Sparrow, Yellow-throated Warbler, and Black-throated Green Warbler. At a warming scenario or +3.0°C there are 23 High Vulnerability Species!*

## Audubon Report: SURVIVAL BY DEGREES, continued



“Birds are important indicator species, because if an ecosystem is broken for birds, it is or soon will be for people too,” said **Brooke Bateman, Ph.D.**, the senior climate scientist for the National Audubon Society. “When I was a child, my grandmother introduced me to the Common Loons that lived on the lake at my grandparent’s home in northern Wisconsin. Those loons are what drive my work today and I can’t imagine them leaving the U.S. entirely in summer but that’s what we’re facing if trends continue.”

“Dr. Bateman and her team also studied climate-related impacts on birds across the lower 48 states, including sea level rise, Great Lakes level changes, urbanization, cropland expansion, drought, extreme spring heat, fire weather and heavy rain.”

“We already know what we need to do to reduce global warming, and we already have a lot of the tools we need to take those steps. Now, what we need are more people committed to making sure those solutions are put into practice,” said **Renee Stone**, vice president of climate for the National Audubon Society. “Our elected officials at every level of government must hear from their constituents that this is a priority. Audubon is committed to protecting the places birds need now and in the future and taking action to address the root causes of climate change.”

### “Audubon has outlined five key steps:

1. Reduce your use of energy at home and ask your elected officials to support energy-saving policies that reduce the overall demand for electricity and that save consumers money.
2. Ask your elected officials to expand consumer-driven clean energy development that grows jobs in your community – like solar or wind power.
3. Reduce the amount of carbon pollution released into the atmosphere. In order to drive down carbon emissions, we will need innovative economy-wide solutions that address every sector of the economy – like a fee on carbon. Another option is to address carbon emissions one sector at a time like setting a clean energy standard for electricity generation.
4. Advocate for natural solutions, from increasing wetlands along coasts and rivers that absorb soaking rains to protecting forests and grasslands that are homes to birds and serve as carbon storage banks and putting native plants everywhere to help birds adapt to climate change.
5. Ask elected leaders to be climate and conservation champions.”

Access the full report: [www.audubon.org/sites/default/files/climatereport-2019-english-lowres.pdf](http://www.audubon.org/sites/default/files/climatereport-2019-english-lowres.pdf)

## Audubon Pennsylvania Chapter Gathering Report Saturday, October 19, 2019

Here are a few highlights from that meeting, as reported by Mike and Laura Jackson:

1. Greg Goldman, Executive Director, Audubon Pennsylvania welcomed everyone and gave an overview of statewide initiatives, which include: A. Delaware River Watershed Programs B. Healthy Forests Initiative C. Statewide Climate Initiative

Although Juniata Valley Audubon Society (JVAS) is not geographically part of the Delaware River Watershed, or the Healthy Forests Initiative, it was encouraging to learn about these programs. The Healthy Forests Initiative is located in northcentral Pennsylvania.

- A. Greg invited every chapter to visit the newly renovated John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove, which opened in June 4, 2019 and the award-winning Discovery Center in Philadelphia.
- B. Audubon PA's budget is about \$2 million, and has been in the black for the past two years – a positive change from all the years it was in the red.
2. JVAS is part of the Statewide Climate Initiative, which focuses on Community Solar Legislation and is handled by Kirstin Snow, Campaign and Communications Manager, Audubon Pa. We learned that Pa. is one of seven states funded to achieve state-level wins for renewable energy, namely a **community solar bill** that is similar to what South Carolina and Arkansas are pursuing. The statewide goal is to get **H.B. 531** passed in this legislative session, which runs through Dec. 2020. **H.B. 531 currently has 75 cosponsors in the House and 25 in the Senate.**
3. Robyn Shepherd, Communications Director, Advocacy, for National Audubon Society gave an overview of the Survival by Degrees Report, explaining that this is a science-based issue and we should focus on how to help birds.
4. There are 5 main opportunities for chapter engagement and advocacy: 1) Plants for Birds 2) Watershed Health 3) Bird-Friendly Buildings 4) Climate Change/Community Solar 5) Healthy Forests
5. Each chapter was asked to share one project. We discussed JVAS' efforts to promote native plants for birds and shade-grown coffee sales with proceeds going to Neotropical Bird conservation.

### Honduran Coffee for sale at JVAS meetings and on-line

Speaking of Shade-grown Coffee: The PiNBC Committee recently turned in a profit of **\$721.50** from coffee sales to JVAS for future Neotropical Bird Conservation Projects. Thanks to everyone who supports this project through coffee purchases!

Emilio Garcia, our partner who produces shade-grown coffee in Honduras, has expanded his coffee sales to include sustainably harvested, shade-grown coffee from other countries. You can order online at

**Lenca Coffee Roasters:** <https://lencacoffeeroasters.com>

Emilio also sells his green coffee beans through <https://lencafarms.com>

## JUNIATA VALLEY AUDUBON

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ALTOONA, PA 16603

*Address Service Requested*



### Juniata Valley Audubon Society Chapter-only Membership

Chapter-only membership includes membership in the Juniata Valley Audubon Society ONLY. You will receive the chapter newsletter, *The Gnatcatcher*. It does not include membership in the National Audubon Society. If you want to join National Audubon, go to [www.Audubon.org](http://www.Audubon.org)

**Chapter-only Memberships: Individual - \$15/year Family - \$20/year Supporting - \$35/year  
Friend - \$50/year Corporate - \$100/year Life-time - \$500**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please provide your e-mail address:** \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to receive a digital copy of *The Gnatcatcher*? \_\_\_\_\_yes \_\_\_\_\_no

Return this form with your check payable to **JVAS** to: **Juniata Valley Audubon Society**  
**Debra Grim, Membership**  
**8844 Boonie Lane**  
**Petersburg, PA 16669**