

Valley Forge Audubon Society & John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove



Calendar of Events

*Bird Walks, Hikes, Programs, & Special Events
January – March 2019*

1201 Pawlings Road, Audubon, PA 19403 • Phone: 610-666-5593

www.valleyforgeaudubon.org • <http://johnjames.audubon.org> • Follow us on Facebook!

Legend



Bird Walks



Programs and Special Events



Young Birder
Walks



Hikes

General Information

For information and registration, call or Email the event leader. For information on Thursday morning hikes, call Ann Lane at 443-472-8716 and leave a message. If extreme weather conditions are forecast the day of the event, phone the event leader.

For last minute changes and pop-up events, please check the MeetUp Calendar of Events at

www.meetup.com/Valley-Forge-Audubon-Society-Calendar-of-Events/

January



Hike: BATONA/ VFAS Wissahickon Gorge
January 1, New Year's Day Hike; 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Join us for our annual New Year's Day hike through this spectacular gorge. This is a combined hike with the BATONA Hiking Club. An optional "Dutch Treat Dinner" at the Yu Hsiang Gardens, 7630 Germantown Avenue, will follow the hike.

DIRECTIONS: From the west side of the creek, take Ridge Ave. east to Henry Ave. and drive about 1 mile. Turn left on Wise's Mill Road to parking lot by creek.
OR, take Germantown Ave. to Chestnut Hill and turn west onto Springfield Ave. and then onto Valley Green Road. Follow to parking lot on right and walk down hill to Valley Green Inn.

Leaders: Gary Rigg, cell: 610-716-7654, and Al Male, cell:267-733-7607



Bird/Nature Walk: Exton Park, Exton, PA
January 3, Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Formerly known as Church Farm Pond and now a part of Exton Park, this pond and surrounding wetland had been a popular birding spot for years. This walk will join the Friends of Exton Park for their weekly bird walk. Beginners are welcome. Bring binoculars. Directions at the end of the calendar.

Various Leaders



Bird/Nature Walk: Barnet Inlet State Park
January 5, Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.

Barnegat Inlet SP lies at the northern tip of Long Beach Island, NJ. We will meet birders at the State Park lot behind the famous lighthouse at 10 am. After scanning Barnegat Bay, we will walk alongside the jetty bordering the Inlet, birding there and along the Atlantic Ocean beach, returning to the lighthouse by 12:30 pm through the dunes. Low tide will occur at 1:30pm, allowing us easier access to the outer jetty. Target birds include Harlequin and Long-tailed Ducks, Common Eider, Purple Sandpiper, and Great Cormorant. Birders should anticipate cold and windy conditions, and dress accordingly. Water and sunblock recommended. This is a joint walk with Delaware Valley Ornithological Club (DVOC)

Leaders: Joe Hudson and Dan Sullivan, jchudson41@gmail.com; (484) 988-1140



Bird/Nature Walk: Exton Park, Exton, PA
January 10, Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Formerly known as Church Farm Pond and now a part of Exton Park, this pond and surrounding wetland had been a popular birding spot for years. This walk will join the Friends of Exton Park for their weekly bird walk. Beginners are welcome. Bring binoculars. Directions at the end of the calendar.

Various Leaders



Hike: Hershey's Mill, 5 miles
January 10, Thursday 10:00 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Hershey's Mill is a huge 55+ community which has kept a great deal of land open, including woods, ponds, wetlands and a serpentine barren. We will wander through, mainly on paved trails. Bring water and lunch or money to buy lunch at Giant or elsewhere nearby.

DIRECTIONS: From Route 202, take the Boot Road exit. If going south on Route 202, turn left. If coming north on 202, turn right. Drive southeast on Boot Road, about 0.9 miles to the light for the shopping center on your left. We will meet at the far end in front of Giant. OR, take Paoli Pike to Boot Road. If coming from West Chester, turn left onto Boot Road and drive about 1.1 miles to the shopping center on your right. If coming from Paoli, turn right onto Boot Road and follow as above.

Leader: Ann Lane: 610-429-0129, cell (day of hike only) 443-472-8716, lane822@verizon.net.



Bird/Nature Walk: Exton Park, Exton, PA
January 17, Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Formerly known as Church Farm Pond and now a part of Exton Park, this pond and surrounding wetland had been a popular birding spot for years. This walk will join the Friends of Exton Park for their weekly bird walk. Beginners are welcome. Bring binoculars. Directions at the end of the calendar.

Various Leaders



Hike: Chester Valley Trail, 6 miles
January 17, Thursday 10:00 a.m. – 1 p.m.

The Chester Valley Trail will be clear of snow, so this will be an easy out-and-back hike on pavement. Bring water. You can eat at the Brew House afterwards.

DIRECTIONS: From Route 202 south coming from King of Prussia: Take the Devon exit. Turn left at the light after coming off the ramp. Drive under 202 to the next light. Turn right onto West Swedesford Road (Route 252). Drive 0.4 miles to a brown sign that says “Valley Fair.” Turn left into that strip mall. Drive to the right side of Mackenzie's Brew House.

Please drive down to the official CVT parking area **BEHIND** the Golf Galaxy store. (If that parking lot isn't plowed, park in nearby parking that is clear.)

Leader: Ingrid Cantarella-Fox, cell: 484-432-2150, ingridcf@verizon.net.



Bird/Nature Walk: Exton Park, Exton, PA
January 24, Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Formerly known as Church Farm Pond and now a part of Exton Park, this pond and surrounding wetland had been a popular birding spot for years. This walk will join the Friends of Exton Park for their weekly bird walk. Beginners are welcome. Bring binoculars. Directions at end of calendar.

Various Leaders



Hike: Perkiomen Trail, 5-6 miles
January 24, Thursday 10:00 a.m. – 1 p.m.

We will start at the southern terminus of the Perkiomen Trail. This hike is out-and-back, an ideal choice for anyone who wants a shorter, slower hike. Come early and use the bathrooms at the end of New Mill Road (where we park for the Audubon Loop hikes). Bring lunch and water or eat nearby.

DIRECTIONS: From King of Prussia, take Route 422 West to the Oaks exit. At the bottom of the ramp turn right onto Egypt Road. Make an immediate right into Lower Perkiomen Valley Park. Turn left into the FIRST parking lot. We will meet at the map of the Perkiomen Trail nearby.

Leaders: Pat and Jeff Robbins, cell: 610-952-2136.



Bird/Nature Walk: Exton Park, Exton, PA
January 31, Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Formerly known as Church Farm Pond and now a part of Exton Park, this pond and surrounding wetland had been a popular birding spot for years. This walk will join the Friends of Exton Park for their weekly bird walk. Beginners are welcome. Bring binoculars. Directions at end of calendar.

Various Leaders



Hike: First State National Monument, 5 miles
January 31, Thursday 10:00 a.m. – 1 p.m.

The former Brandywine Creek State Park is now part of First State National Monument. We will walk meadows, woods, and hills to Thompsons Bridge. Bring water and lunch. There are portable toilets at Thompsons Bridge and picnic tables near the creek.

DIRECTIONS: From the intersection of Routes 1 and 202, take 202 south 1.8 miles to the light at Smithbridge Road (immediately after Chadds Ford Pool Care on the right). Turn right onto Smithbridge Road and drive 2.3 miles to Brandywine Creek Road (just before the covered bridge). Turn left onto Brandywine Creek Road and drive 0.2 miles to parking lot on your right.

*Leader: Esther Underhill, 610-827-7776, cell: 267-615-1577 (hike day only),
underwalt@aol.com.*

February



Bird/Nature Walk: Warwick County Park
382 County Park Road, Pottstown, PA,
February 2, Saturday 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

The 535-acre Warwick County Park in northern Chester County includes dense hardwood forest, wetlands, meadows, and riparian areas along a section of French Creek, an "exceptional value" stream. This diversity provides excellent habitat for birds. This walk on mainly flat (and possibly muddy) terrain on unpaved trails will cover approximately 2 miles. A modern restroom is on site. This is a joint walk with West Chester Bird Club. Directions at the end of the calendar.

<http://www.chesco.org/1747/Warwick-Park>

Leaders: Patty and John Werth, 484-985-8164 (home) or 215-859-1148 (cell), or pattyww@comcast.net



Bird/Nature Walk: Exton Park, Exton, PA
February 7, Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Formerly known as Church Farm Pond and now a part of Exton Park, this pond and surrounding wetland had been a popular birding spot for years. This walk will join the Friends of Exton Park for their weekly bird walk. Beginners are welcome. Bring binoculars. Directions at end of calendar.

Various Leaders



**Hike: John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge At Tinicum (4-5 miles)
February 7, Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

Tinicum Marsh is the largest remaining freshwater tidal marsh in Pennsylvania and only about a mile from Philadelphia International Airport. Hike around the impoundment, see newly restored wetlands, and visit the “green” Environmental Center. Bring lunch and water or eat at a local restaurant.

DIRECTIONS: Take I-95 to Exit 10 (Route 291 East, Airport). At the first traffic light, turn left onto Bartram Ave. Drive 1.6 miles to 84th Street. Turn left on 84th Street. At the 2nd light turn left onto Lindbergh Blvd. Turn right at the stop sign into the Refuge.

Leaders: Jeff and Pat Robbins, cell 610-952-2136, jrobbinsbuffalo@yahoo.com



**Bird/Nature Walk: Exton Park, Exton, PA
February 14, Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.**

Formerly known as Church Farm Pond and now a part of Exton Park, this pond and surrounding wetland had been a popular birding spot for years. This walk will join the Friends of Exton Park for their weekly bird walk. Beginners are welcome. Bring binoculars. Directions at end of calendar.

Various Leaders



**Hike: Valley Forge National Historical Park (5 miles)
February 14, Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.**

Join us for another in a series of interesting and varied VFNHP hikes. We will walk the Chapel Trail to bathroom facilities on the hike. Bring lunch and water or eat in the Chapel Cabin Shop after the hike.

DIRECTIONS:

- Drive east or west on Route 23 to get to the Chapel.
- Park at the Chapel parking lot.

Leader: Marilyn Furfari, cell: 610-945-5228.



Bird/Nature Walk: Great Backyard Bird Count
John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove
February 16, Saturday 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Join us as we take part in Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Great Back Yard Bird Count. This citizen science project is a nationwide program in which volunteers can help ornithologists track movements of birds over North America over a given 4 day period. The program will take place outdoors so dress for the weather. Children welcome.

Leader: Vincent Smith, 484-410-1157, nyctea34@aol.com



Bird/Nature Walk: Exton Park, Exton, PA
February 21, Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Formerly known as Church Farm Pond and now a part of Exton Park, this pond and surrounding wetland had been a popular birding spot for years. This walk will join the Friends of Exton Park for their weekly bird walk. Beginners are welcome. Bring binoculars. Directions at end of calendar.

Various Leaders



Hike: Harmony Hill Nature Area (5 miles)
February 21, Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

We will hike down to the East Branch of the Brandywine and back to the parking lot, then, depending on hunting restrictions, we may cross Skelp Level Road into a section of Paradise Camp Preserve. Bring sticks, water and lunch or money to buy lunch in Downingtown.

DIRECTIONS: From West Chester: West on Rt. 322, turn right onto Skelp Level Road, go 1.6 miles to the driveway on the left. Or, From Downingtown: East on Rt. 322, turn left onto Boot Road (Wawa is at the intersection). Then continue for approximately 0.6 miles. Turn right onto Skelp Level Road and continue for approximately one mile. The entrance to the Harmony Hill Nature Area (1200 Skelp Level Road) will be on your right. If you reach Winchester Trail, you went a little too far. Bring snack and water.

Leader: Bev McGeehan, gbten@comcast.net, cell: 610-764-0494



Bird/Nature Walk: Exton Park, Exton, PA
February 28, Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Formerly known as Church Farm Pond and now a part of Exton Park, this pond and surrounding wetland had been a popular birding spot for years. This walk will join the Friends of Exton Park for their weekly bird walk. Beginners are welcome. Bring binoculars. Directions at end of calendar.

Various Leaders



Hike: Horseshoe Trail (5.5 miles)
February 28, Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

We'll meet on Rees Road where we meet to maintain the Horseshoe Trail. Join us for 5.5 miles of this scenic and interesting trail. The leader promises wonderful weather.

DIRECTIONS: If you have E-Z Pass, take the PA Turnpike to slip exit 320. Turn north onto Route 29. Drive under the Turnpike and take the first right onto Whitehorse Road. Drive 0.6 miles to top of hill. The sign says Union Hill Road on your left. Turn right onto Rees Road. After a stop sign, drive a short distance to the HST grass parking lot on the right. OR, from Route 202 take the Route 29 North exit. Take Liberty Blvd. to Route 29. Turn right onto 29. Follow as above.

Leader: Gary Rigg, cell: 610-716-7654

March



Bird/Nature Walk: Exton Park, Exton, PA
March 7, Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Formerly known as Church Farm Pond and now a part of Exton Park, this pond and surrounding wetland had been a popular birding spot for years. This walk will join the Friends of Exton Park for their weekly bird walk. Beginners are welcome. Bring binoculars. Directions at end of calendar.

Various Leaders



Bird/Nature Walk: Exton Park, Exton, PA
March 14, Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Formerly known as Church Farm Pond and now a part of Exton Park, this pond and surrounding wetland had been a popular birding spot for years. This walk will join the Friends of Exton Park for their weekly bird walk. Beginners are welcome. Bring binoculars. Directions at end of calendar.

Various Leaders



Bird/Nature Walk: Exton Park, Exton, PA
March 21, Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Formerly known as Church Farm Pond and now a part of Exton Park, this pond and surrounding wetland had been a popular birding spot for years. This walk will join the Friends of Exton Park for their weekly bird walk. Beginners are welcome. Bring binoculars. Directions at end of calendar.

Various Leaders



Bird/Nature Walk: Exton Park, Exton, PA
March 28, Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Formerly known as Church Farm Pond and now a part of Exton Park, this pond and surrounding wetland had been a popular birding spot for years. This walk will join the Friends of Exton Park for their weekly bird walk. Beginners are welcome. Bring binoculars. Directions at end of calendar.

Various Leaders

Directions

John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove, 1201 Pawlings Road, Audubon PA

The entrance is at the junction of Audubon and Pawlings Roads. From Route 422 West: Follow Route 422 West to third exit, Rte 363 North – Audubon/Trooper. Bear right at the end of the ramp, and move into the left traffic lane. Turn left at the first light, onto Audubon Road. Follow to the end, to the Mill Grove entrance at Pawlings Road (approximately $\frac{3}{4}$ mile). From Route 30: Follow Route 202 North to exit for 422 West (Pottstown). Follow directions for “Route 422 West” above. Phone 610-666-5593 x101. (more parking on first right after main entrance heading towards Phoenixville)

Exton Park, Exton PA

Exton Park is located on former Church Farm School property on Swedesford Road in West Whiteland Township. From the intersection of Routes 30 and 202, drive west along Route 30 and turn right on Valley Creek Blvd. At the end of the road, make a left on Swedesford Road. Park in the gravel parking lot on your left where the perimeter trail starts.

Coventry Woods, Pottstown PA

Directions from Audubon: Take Route 422 W toward Pottstown
Get off the PA 100 S exit in Pottstown Turn Right onto W. Cedarville Road
Slight Right onto Laurelwood Road Take a left onto W. Cedarville Road
Left onto Sheep Hill Road 1st Right onto Temple Road
Take 2nd left onto St. Peters Road. Parking lot is across from Fernbrook Road.

Hopewell Furnace National Historic Site, Elverson PA

Take Route 422 West to the intersection of PA Route 82. Take Route 82 South through the town of Birdsboro where it is joined by PA Route 345. Take Route 345 South until you reach the park entrance.

An alternative way is to take PA Route 23 West from Valley Forge Park through the towns of Valley Forge and Phoenixville. Continue on Route 23 West (it forks from the main roadway just west of Phoenixville) until you reach the intersection of PA Route 345. Turn onto Route 345 North and continue on it until you reach the park entrance.

Warwick County Park, Pottstown PA

From the intersection of Routes 100 and 23, proceed west on Route 23 for 3.4 miles. Turn left onto County Park Road (entrance is somewhat hidden) and continue 0.3 miles to the entrance to Warwick County Park, on the left. Follow the drive to the last parking lot on the left.