



Valley Forge
Audubon Society

Calendar of Events
Bird Walks, Hikes, Programs,
& Special Events
September 2019 – February 2020

www.valleyforgeaudubon.org
www.facebook.com/ValleyForgeAudubon/

About Us

The Valley Forge Audubon Society (VFAS) is a chapter of the National Audubon Society serving residents of Chester County, Delaware County, and Montgomery County in Southeastern Pennsylvania. The society sponsors a variety of programs and events related to birds, wildlife, and conservation including bird and nature walks, hikes, and educational programs.

Since its inception, VFAS has been closely associated with The John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove. John James Audubon, an artist, painter, and naturalist made Mill Grove his first home in America. This 175-acre estate is maintained as a museum and wildlife sanctuary in Audubon PA.







General Program Information

For last minute changes, cancellations, or pop-up events, please check our website

www.valleyforgeaudubon.org/my-calendar, our Facebook page www.facebook.com/ValleyForgeAudubon/ or our MeetUp Calendar of Events at (www.meetup.com/Valley-Forge-Audubon-Society-Calendar-of-Events/)

Legend

	Bird or Nature Walk
	Hike For hike registration, call or email the event leader. For general 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 or check our MeetUp page for cancellations (www.meetup.com/Valley-Forge-Audubon-Society-Calendar-of-Events/)
	Brewbirding After each bird walk, anyone interested in adding a new beer to their life list is welcome to join us at a local craft brewery for brews and bites
	Photo Walks Bring your camera and spend time photographing local birds and other wildlife. Non-photographers are welcome but these walks will be at a slower pace to accommodate photographers
	Special events and educational programs

Recurring Walks



Bird/Nature Walk: Exton Park, Exton, PA
Every Thursday Year-Round
8:30 am – 10:30 am

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. The group often goes to breakfast afterwards

Various Leaders



Bird/Nature Walk: John James Audubon
Center at Mill Grove, Audubon, PA
Every Saturday until October 26
9:00 am – 11:00 am (Note fall time change)

Join us for a free guided bird walk at Mill Grove. We'll visit the creek, cross the meadows, and hike through the woods on both paved and unpaved trails. Children and beginners are welcome! We have extra binoculars, so don't worry if you forget yours, or don't have them. Walks begin in the main parking lot. Walk will be cancelled in inclement weather. No registration needed.

Various Leaders

September



Hike: Waterloo Mills Preserve

Devon, PA (4+ miles)

**We will NOT be meeting at the Preserve,
please follow directions below.**

Thursday September 5, 10:00 am

Meet & park at Eastown Township lot (Hilltop House), at the corner of Beaumont & Newtown Rds. in Berwyn, Chester Co., PA. There is a water fountain and toilets at the meeting spot. We will carpool a short distance to the Waterloo Mills entrance on Waterloo Rd. If it has rained the day before, there will be some squishy spots to negotiate. Shady, but two open meadows and stream crossings (by 2 bridges and level stepping stones).

Bring water and your lunch for after the hike. There is a picnic area on the Township grounds. The leaders will bring desert and iced tea for all hikers. Make sure to let us know you are coming, please!

*Leaders: Jenny Kirkpatrick, 610-999-7977 and John Herzog,
651-206-3107*

What It's Like to be a Bird: How Birds See the World
A Talk by Rob Fergus
Bald Birds Brewery, 970 Rittenhouse Rd, Suite 400
Audubon, PA
Monday September 9, 5:45 pm – 8:00 pm

In this presentation, we look at how birds see the world—including their field of view, color perception, ability to focus, and differentiate moments of time--and what that can tell us about what it is like for them to experience the world around them.

Doors open at 5:45 pm. The talk will begin between 6:15 and 6:30 pm. Afterward there will be time for questions and socializing. A variety of beers will be available for purchase. Feel free to bring dinner or snacks, or order in. Bald Birds is a member of Brewers for the Delaware River, a coalition of craft brewers in the Delaware River Watershed united to promote the protection of the watershed as a reliable, clean water source that benefits the people, birds, and communities of the region. Our friends at the John James Audubon Center will be stopping by with one of their education birds.

Rob Fergus studies human-bird interactions and received his Ph.D. in geography from the University of Texas at Austin in 2008. Rob is the former executive director of Travis Audubon Society, founder of the Hornsby Bend Bird Observatory in Austin, Texas and National Audubon Senior Scientist for Urban Bird Conservation. He currently teaches geography and environmental studies at Rowan University and is president of the Birding Club of Delaware County.

Please RSVP at <https://valleyforgeaudubon.org/shop/> OR www.meetup.com/Valley-Forge-Audubon-Society-Calendar-of-Events/



Hike: Haverford College
(2–4 miles)
Thursday September 12, 10:00 am

A leisurely walk through a mostly wooded area of the campus, along a pond with geese and ducks. Miles depends on number of loops.

DIRECTIONS: From the intersection of Routes 476 (Blue Route) and Route 30 (Lancaster Ave.) turn east onto Lancaster Ave. and drive about 3 miles to Haverford. Turn right into the stone gated entrance of Haverford College and follow the signs to the first visitor parking lot (on your left) after the stop sign. Park in the back of the lot at the NE corner, near where the trail is. Administrative building with facilities faces the parking lot. Bring water and lunch or alternatively have lunch in one of the nearby restaurants.

Leader: Gail Harp, cell: day of hike 610-529-1309



Brewbirding: Wolf's Hollow County
Park/Victory Brewing Company
(Parkesburg)
Sunday September 15, 8:30 am

The 569-acre park (1399 Schoff Rd, Atglen) lies along the uppermost reaches of the Octoraro Creek. Natural features provide beautiful bluffs where visitors can overlook the creek and glades of Mountain Laurel. Nearly 10 miles of trails wind through varied topography. Birders appreciate the several hundred acres of mature woodland habitat.

Join us afterwards for brews and lunch at Victory Brewing Parkesburg (3127 Lower Valley Rd).

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

Wellness, Waterways, and Wildlife
Native Plant Pop-Up Garden
Furness Free Library
100 North Providence Rd, Wallingford, PA
Tuesday September 17, 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm

Discover the role of native plants in maintaining clean water for people, birds, and other wildlife at a pop-up garden. Valley Forge Audubon will be hosting a native plant pop-up garden at the Furness Library in Wallingford, PA in support of PA Audubon's conservation work in the Delaware River Watershed and associated tributaries.

Join the experts to discuss ways you can help build healthy habitats for your family, community, and wildlife.

The pop-up garden installation can be seen at the library until Sept 27.

Plants provided by Redbud Native Plant Nursery in Media, PA



Hike: Wissahickon and 101 Steps
(6-7 miles)
900 Magdalena Street, Philadelphia
Thursday September 19, 10:00 am

Woodland hike through the Wissahickon Valley, visiting lovers leap, Kelpius cave and Rittenhouse town.

DIRECTIONS: From Henry Ave, Philadelphia, go north at Walnut Lane (light). Next light is Magdalena Street. Turn left and left again into Public Golf Club Parking lot. Facilities at golf club house. Definitely bring lunch and water. We will briefly take a break at Rittenhouse town.

Leader: Evamarie Malsch, 215-984-8377 home, (610-212- 7186 cell, on day of hike only)



Hike: Horse-Shoe Trail Maintenance
Rees Rd, Charlestown, PA
Thursday September 26, 10:00 am

The semi-annual work trip to keep the trail corridor open. Wear old clothes, a long-sleeved top and gloves. We will be refreshing yellow blazes, so, wear your paint clothes. Bring clipping tools. There are no bathrooms. Bring lunch and water.

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 Rd. Drive 0.6 miles to top of hill. The sign says Union Hill Rd on your left. Turn right onto Rees Rd. 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. **OR:** From the intersection of Routes 23 and 252 in Valley Forge NHP, drive west on Route 23 for 2.9 miles to Whitehorse Rd on east side of Phoenixville. Turn left onto Whitehorse Rd and drive 3.0 miles to Rees Rd. Turn left and follow as above.

Leader: Ingrid Cantarella-Fox, cell: 484-432-2150

Birds, Books, and Brews
Furness Free Library
100 North Providence Rd, Wallingford, PA
Friday September 27, 6:00 pm – 8:00 pm

Taste local craft brews and peruse related books at the closing celebration of our native plants garden. Raffles, prizes, and a chance to take home beautiful native plants for your yard. Beer will be provided by 2SP Brewing, a member of the Brewers for the Delaware River Association.

Plants provided by Redbud Native Plant Nursery in Media, PA

October



**Hike: A Tredyffrin Township Trail Sampler
(5 miles)
373 Hilltop Rd, Paoli, PA
Thursday October 3, 10:00 am**

We will walk in several small preserves in Tredyffrin Twp., car-pooling between them. Meet at the Leader's house. Bring lunch and water. Hot drinks and dessert will be provided after hike.

Directions: From 202 Southbound: Stay to the right and take the 252 South Exit to Paoli. (This is past the 252 North-Devon Exit by Gateway Shopping Center.) Follow Route 252 South. At the 4th traffic light, turn left onto Friendship Drive (Friendship Drive on left, Central Avenue on right). Make first right onto Hilltop Rd. Go to top of the hill, #373 is on the right (blue mailbox). OR: From 202 Northbound: Take the exit for Swedesford Rd to Route 252 South. (This is past the Route 29-Great Valley exits.) Turn right off the exit ramp, then right again at traffic light. You will be on Route 252 South. At the next light, turn left onto Friendship Drive. Follow as above.

Leader: Barbara Bushman, 610-644-5715; cell (hike day only) 484-881-2173, fbushman@verizon.net.

**Hawk Identification for Beginners
John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove,
Audubon, PA
Sunday October 6, 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm**

Fall is raptor migration season and PA offers many great hawk watching spots. Join us for an introduction to some of the tips bird watchers use to identify hawks. Dress for the weather.

Please RSVP at <https://valleyforgeaudubon.org/shop/> OR www.meetup.com/Valley-Forge-Audubon-Society-Calendar-of-Events/

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



**Hike: First State National Historical Park
near 79 Brandywine Creek Rd,
Wilmington, DE (5-6 miles)
Thursday October 10, 10:00 am**

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 Rd (immediately after Chadds Ford Pool Care on the right). Turn right onto Smithbridge Rd and drive 2.3 miles to Brandywine Creek Rd (just before the covered bridge). Turn left onto Brandywine Creek Rd and drive 0.2 miles to parking lot on your right.

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

**eBird: How Citizen Science Impacts Conservation
Science, and How You Can Make a Difference –
A Talk by Holly Merker
John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove, Classroom
Audubon, PA
Thursday October 10, 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm**

Come learn about how eBird is benefiting birders and researchers alike, and how community citizen science efforts are making a difference in what we know about where birds are, and how critical habitats are being conserved in Pennsylvania and beyond using eBird data.

Doors open at 6 pm and refreshments will be served.

Holly Merker has been Pennsylvania's eBird State Coordinator since 2005, is both an eBird data reviewer and hotspot reviewer, and avid eBirder herself. When not eBirding, or working with the eBird database in other capacities, she can be found leading birding tours in Delaware for Red Knot Outfitters Birding Guides and the American Birding Association, or instructing adult birding camps for National Audubon's Hog Island Audubon Camp in Maine. Holly also is an environmental instructor for a Chester County non-profit and has the honor of teaching water ecology programs to elementary and middle school students.

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**Brewbirding: Warwick County Park
/Stickmam Brews @ Tony Joe's House of
Great Eats**

Saturday October 12, 8:30 am

The 535-acre Warwick County Park (382 County Park Rd, Pottstown) 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.

Join us afterwards for brews and lunch at Tony Joe's (1161 Ridge Rd, Pottstown).

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



**Hike: The Nature Place
575 St. Bernardine Street, Reading, PA
(5 miles, class A)**

Thursday October 17, 10:00 am

We will do a 5-mile hike on the trails by the center and Alvernia College. Bring, water & snack. Restrooms available.

DIRECTIONS: Meet leader at the Clocktower Plaza. From turnpike exit at Morgantown, go south on Route 10 to the intersection of Route 23, then turn right and proceed to the intersection of I-176. Then turn left into the Clock Tower Plaza. We will car-pool to The Nature Place just off Route 10.

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



**Hike: Myrick Conservation Center
(Brandywine Valley Association)
1760 Unionville-Wawaset Rd (Route 842)
West Chester, PA (5 miles)
Thursday October 24, 10:00 am**

This 314-acre center was the first small watershed association in America, established to improve conditions of the Brandywine Creek. It contains fields, forests, meadows and demonstration gardens and orchards. Bring lunch and water or eat in West Chester after the hike.

DIRECTIONS: From the intersection of Rt 202 and Rt 3 or Paoli Pike, drive west into West Chester. Turn left (south) onto High Street. Drive 2 blocks and turn right onto Miner Street (Rt 842). Follow Rt 842 West out of West Chester through several twists and turns. 6.5 miles from Rt 202, you cross a railroad track. Continue 1.2 miles to a marked pedestrian crossing. The entrance to the center, with a large Brandywine Valley Association sign, is on your left. **OR:** From the intersection of Rts 202 and 926, take Rt 926 West 2.8 miles to Creek Rd. Turn right and follow Creek Rd as it joins and separates from Rt 52 to Rt 842 West. Turn left on Rt 842 West across the Brandywine, and, continue as above.

Leader: Ann Lane 610-793-6815. Cell: 443-472-8716
lane822@verizon.net

**Citizen Science: Learn About Project FeederWatch
Wild Birds Unlimited, Providence Town Center,
Collegeville, PA
Saturday October 26, 11:00 am – 1:00 pm**

Project FeederWatch is a winter survey of birds that visit feeders in backyards, nature centers, community areas, and other locales in North America. All you need to participate is a bird feeder, birdbath, or plantings that attract birds. From early November to early April, participants can count birds as often as every week (for as little as 15 minutes each day for 2 consecutive days). Participants then enter their data onto the FeederWatch website where scientists analyze it to assess winter bird abundance and distribution, to track broad scale movements of winter bird populations, and long-term trends.

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Long-time participants Vince Smith nyctea34@aol.com and Pat Nastase patmastase@comcast.net will provide an overview of the program.



Hike: Wolf's Hollow County Park
1399 Schoff Rd, Atglen, PA
(5-6 miles)
Thursday October 31, 10:00 am

A western Chester County park with well-maintained trails, several good hills to climb and a stream crossing. There are portable toilets in the parking lot. Bring lunch and water.

DIRECTIONS: Take the Route 30 Bypass west to Route 10. Turn left onto Route 10 at the West Sadsbury Commons shopping center. Drive south on Route 10 for about 3.7 miles to Highland Rd. Turn right onto Highland Rd and drive about 3.3 miles to the "T" intersection. Turn left onto Bailey Crossroads Rd. Drive about 0.1 miles and turn right onto Schoff Rd. Drive about 1 mile to park entrance on right. Drive down Wolf's Hollow Drive to parking lot on left. Park as close to other cars as you can (the lot is small).

Leaders: Esther Underhill, cell: 267-615-1577 and Maria Brooks, cell: 610-597-5133.

November



**Bird/Nature Walk: Hopewell Furnace NHS,
2 Mark Bird Lane, Elverson PA
Saturday November 2, 9:15 am**

Established in 1938, this 848-acre park is a beautiful mix of dense woodlands, open pastures and edge habitat surrounding the historic and scenic Hopewell Village. Our walk will begin at the Visitor's Center and will be approximately 1 mile in length, travelling toward Hopewell Lake in adjacent French Creek State Park. Bring binoculars and dress for the weather. Trails are unpaved but well-maintained. The terrain is mostly gently sloping, although there are a couple of short steep sections. A modern restroom is on site. Beginners and children (accompanied by an adult) are welcome.

Note: Gates do not open until 9:00 AM. There is no access until that time This is a joint walk with West Chester Bird Club.

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



**Hike: Audubon Loop Trail
John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove
1201 Pawlings Rd, Audubon, PA (4 miles)
Thursday November 7, 10 am**

If you haven't already seen the beautiful new 13 million dollar building shaped like a bird in flight, this is the hike for you. After walking the loop become a tourist. If you are not a member there is a \$12 fee (for seniors) to tour the museum and house. There are picnic tables by the house or bring a blanket to enjoy your lunch and surroundings. There is ample parking and restrooms.

DIRECTIONS: Take Rt 422 west to the Oaks exit. At the bottom of the ramp turn right onto Egypt Rd. Continue on Egypt Rd to Pawlings Rd. Take a right on Pawlings Rd to the John James Audubon Center at 1201.

Leaders: *Carolyn Woyak*, home: 610-635-0174, orcjwoyak@gmail.com; *Carol Votto*, cell: 610-220-7835, carolannvotto@gmail.com.



**Bird/Nature Walk: State Game Lands 234
Linfield, PA
Sunday November 10
8:30 am – 11:00 am**

This eBird hotspot is a great location to see numerous sparrow species during the Fall. The terrain there is flat. The trails are relatively wide. There are no restroom facilities on site.

Directions: **Turning off of Route 724**, head east on Linfield Rd. (which becomes Main St. within Linfield) for 0.9 mile to Pennhurst Rd. where you turn right.

Exiting Route 422 at N. Lewis Rd, proceed a short way to turn onto Linfield-Trappe Rd (which becomes Main St. within Linfield) for 1.65 miles to Pennhurst Rd. where you turn left.

The intersection of **Pennhurst Rd. & Main St. in Linfield PA** is where to turn into the parking area for PA State Game Lands 234. Google Maps puts you correctly on the spot to turn if you give it that intersection. The parking is on the left side exactly 0.1 mile down Pennhurst Rd. which is its terminus.

Leader: Rick Keyser ([rick.keyser@verizon.net](mailto:rck.keyser@verizon.net))



**Hike: Rushton Woods and Okehocking
Preserves
911 Delchester Rd, Newtown Square, PA
(5 miles)
Thursday November 14, 10:00 am**

The Willistown Conservation Trust manages the 86-acre Rushton Woods Preserve. We will hike its trails, walk to Okehocking Preserve, make a loop there and then head back to Rushton. Bring water. There are no restrooms.

DIRECTIONS: From Route 3 (West Chester Pike) turn north onto Delchester Rd. (Turn right if going west on Route 3.) Drive about 1.2 miles on Delchester Rd to Rushton Woods Preserve entrance on right.

Leader: Dave Martin, cell: 610-659-4945.

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**Bird/Nature Walk: Valley Forge Park –
Pawlings Farm Area
Saturday November 16, 8:30 am**

We will explore some of the fields looking for fall residents and migrants. This will be a 2.5-hour trip with moderate walking.

Directions: From Rt 202, take Rt 252 north about 2.5 miles to Rt 23. Turn left on Rt 23. Go about 1.5 miles, turn right on Ferry Lane, then right on Pawlings Rd. Go about 1 mile then turn right at Pawlings Farm sign. Park in lot after the farm house.

Leader: Rick Wolf (610-933-6414) randewolf@icloud.com

Winter Bird Identification

**John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove, Audubon, PA
Saturday November 16, 9:00 am – 11:00 am**

Have you ever wondered what birds are in your yard come winter? Or what those these odd ducks are on the river during a deep freeze? Join us for a class on how to identify our winter birds. We will talk about plumages, molts, migration, and more. This is also practice for those who might be interested in helping with the Christmas Bird Count.

**Please RSVP at <https://valleyforgeaudubon.org/shop/> OR
www.meetup.com/Valley-Forge-Audubon-Society-Calendar-of-Events/**

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



**Hike: St. Peter's Village West
3471 St. Peters Rd,
St. Peters, PA (5.5 miles)
Thursday November 21, 10:00 am**

DIRECTIONS: From intersection of Rt 23 and Rt 100 go West on Rt 23, 3.5 miles and make a right onto St. Peter's Rd, drive about a mile up through St. Peter's Village to parking lot on left. From parking lot, we will walk West on various trails and return on other various trails to parking lot. About 5.5 miles, not very hilly. Reward is being able to eat at St. Peter's Bakery afterwards. Yum!

Leader: Gary Rigg, 610-716-7654.

December



Hike: Lake Galena at Peace Valley Park
230 Creek Rd, Doylestown, PA 18901 is the
GPS address, but don't park at the
Maintenance Office. Follow the directions
below. (6 miles)
Thursday December 5, 10:00 am

Carpool to this loop hike around beautiful Lake Galena. Bring a snack and water. Eat lunch in Ambler. There are bathroom facilities during the hike.

DIRECTIONS: Take the Blue Route (476) to Exit 20 near the Mid-County tolls. Turn right onto Plymouth Rd and drive to the first light. Turn left onto Butler Pike. Stay on Butler Pike until it ends at Route 152 (Limekiln Pike.) Turn left onto 152 North. Stay on Route 152. Route 152 turns right onto W. Butler Ave. in the town of Chalfont. Then it makes an immediate left onto N. Main Street. As soon as you see the Chalfont SEPTA station on your left, slow down. Take the second right onto Park Ave. Park Ave. becomes Callowhill Rd. Take Callowhill Rd to Creek Rd. Turn right onto Creek Rd. Drive past 230 Creek Rd and the first parking lot to the main parking lot. Look for a sign on left saying "Peace Valley Park, Galena Village, Boat Rental." Park near the lake.

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



Bird/Nature Walk: Crow's Nest Preserve
201 Piersol Rd, Elverson PA
Saturday December 7, 9:00 am

Crow's Nest (620 acres) is the gateway to the Hopewell Big Woods. The pristine French Creek runs through Crow's Nest, flowing from French Creek State Park's Hopewell Lake on its way to the Schuylkill River. The preserve is part of the Hay Creek/French Creek Forest Block "Important Bird Area". Red-headed woodpeckers have been seen here.

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



**Hike: Kennedy Bridge / French Creek,
Kimberton, PA
(6 miles)
Thursday December 12, 10:00 am**

We'll do the rougher bushwhacking part of this hike above French Creek before lunch. Bring water, lunch and/or money to purchase lunch at the Camp Hill Coffee Shop, the half-way point in hike!

DIRECTIONS: From the intersection of Routes 23 and 113, west of Phoenixville, take Route 113 south 1.4 miles to a right fork onto Kimberton Rd. Go a short distance and make a right and fast left onto Seven Stars Rd, then go about 1/4 mile to East Pikeland Elementary School on the right, make a left there onto Hares Hill Rd, then make a quick right on Mill Lane, drive to the end of it and park on the right. **OR:** If going north on Route 113, from the South and Route 401, make a left onto Hares Hill Rd and then a left onto Mill Lane. If you hit Seven Stars Rd you've gone too far. Go back 150 ft.!

Leader: Gary Rigg, cell: 610-716-7654, gar.dean@verizon.net.



**Hike: Longwood Gardens
Kennett Square, PA (variable total miles)
Thursday December 19, 2:00 pm [Note time]**

Meet inside the Visitor Center. We will walk (about 4 miles) through the expanded meadow and the outside gardens. Take a self-guided tour through the Conservatory to see the beautiful indoor Christmas displays and have a snack in the cafeteria. About 4:00 p.m. they turn on the spectacular outdoor Christmas light displays. Admission Fee: \$23 (adults) \$20 (seniors 62+). Members can obtain discounts on entrance and food for non-members. As admission tickets can sell out ahead of time, I will send out an email about 2 weeks before the hike to gather information to match up non-members who will be coming with members who can get discounted tickets for them.

DIRECTIONS: Longwood Gardens is located on Route 1, 0.4 miles south of the intersection of Routes 1 & 52 North.

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

119th Christmas Bird Count
Various locations near the John James Audubon Center
at Mill Grove, Audubon, PA
Saturday December 28, 7:00 am – 12:00 pm

Join us for the 119th Christmas Bird Count. The count is the longest continuous census in the new world. The count stretches from the high Arctic to South America. By volunteering for this event you are helping scientists determine the long-term population trends for birds in our area.

The annual event includes teams of birders surveying eleven sections within a prescribed 15-mile diameter circle, the center of which is the John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove. Beginning and experienced birders are welcome. Section leaders will notify past participants. New volunteers, please register by December 15 to be assigned to a team.

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

January



**Hike: Batona/ VFAS Wissahickon Gorge,
Valley Green Inn, Philadelphia, PA
(6 miles)
Wednesday January 1, 1:00 pm
[NOTE THE DAY AND TIME]**

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 Rd to parking lot by creek

OR: Take Germantown Ave. to Chestnut Hill and turn west onto Springfield Ave. and then onto Valley Green Rd. 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



**Hike: Valley Forge National Historical
Park, Route 23
(approx. 5 miles)
Thursday January 9, 10:00 am**

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.

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**Bird/Nature Walk: John James Audubon
Center at Mill Grove, Audubon, PA
Saturday January 11, 8:00 am**

Join us for a free guided bird walk at Mill Grove. We'll visit the creek, cross the meadows, and hike through the woods on both paved and unpaved trails. Children and beginners are welcome! Walks begin in the main parking lot. Walk will be cancelled in inclement weather. No registration needed.

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



**Hike: Chester Valley Trail
(Use the McKenzie Brew House address:
324 West Swedesford Rd, Berwyn, PA (6
miles)
Thursday January 16, 10:00 am**

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 Rd (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 the 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.*



**Hike: John Heinz National Wildlife
Refuge at Tincum (4 miles)
8601 Lindbergh Blvd. Philadelphia, PA
Thursday January 23, 10:00 am**

Tincum Marsh is America's first urban refuge and the largest freshwater tidal marsh in Pennsylvania. Hike on a flat paved trail and through a wooded area if weather permits. We may see some birds and water fowl wintering in the marsh. Bring water and we will have lunch after the hike in a nearby restaurant.

Directions: Take I-95 to Exit 10 (Route 291 East, Airport). At the first 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.



**Hike: Harmony Hill Nature Area
Route 322 and Bradford Ave.,
Downingtown, PA (5-6 miles)
Thursday January 30, 10:00 am**

This hike will hopefully be all on trails, some flat creek side (Brandywine Trail) some rolling hills in the Harmony Hill area. There are lots of options for us depending on the weather as far as terrain, and for bad weather, the paved Brandywine Creek trail is always an option. Bring sticks, water and snacks. Opportunity to eat lunch in Downingtown after the hike.

DIRECTIONS: From West Chester: Go West on Rt. 322, pass Skelp Level Rd and continue to the East Branch Brandywine Trailhead on right, opposite Bradford Ave. OR: From Downingtown go East on Rt. 322. Shortly after the railroad Trestle, and crossing the Brandywine Creek, the parking lot will be on the left.

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

February



Bird/Nature Walk: Warwick County Park
Saturday February 1
9:00 am

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 1.5 to 2 hour 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: 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.

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



Hike: Schuylkill River Trail, Philadelphia
Art Museum West
(5 miles)
Thursday February 6, 10:00 am

We will walk out and back from meeting point to East Falls Bridge. This is a dead level hike.

Meet at the parking area behind the Philadelphia Art Museum's West side, off of Kelly Drive. NOTE: Not the lot that goes around the Museum or its underground parking lot, they cost money. Visit of Museum afterwards is an option, as well as dining in its cafe. Car pooling strongly suggested.

Leader: Gary Rigg, 610-716-7654



Hike: Crow's Nest Preserve
201 Piersol Rd., Elverson, PA
(4-5 miles)
Thursday February 13, 10:00 am

A Natural Lands Trust property of about 600 acres.

DIRECTIONS: Going west on Rt 23, turn right to St. Peters. After 1.5 miles, turn left to Harmonyville Rd and bear left to remain on Harmonyville Rd for 1.1 miles. Right to Piersol Rd. Parking is beyond visitor center on left.

Leader: Evamarie Malsch: 215-984-8377 (home), 610-212-7186 (cell, on day of hike only)

Great Backyard Bird Count
John James Audubon Center at Mill Grove
Audubon, PA
Saturday February 15, 8:00 am – 10:00 am

Join us as we take part in Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Great Backyard 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 or nyctea34@aol.com



**Brewbirding/Photo Walk:
Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area
Kleinfeltersville, PA**

**Saturday, Mid- Feb to Mid-March:
Date to be Announced**

Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area is a great location to see and photograph migrating snow geese, swans, and other waterfowl.

Since the migration is highly dependent on the weather, we will keep an eye on the migration counts and post to our website, Meet Up page, and Facebook page when the walk will take place.

On the selected day, we will meet at the visitor center at 8 am. We will be driving the tour route, stopping at each point to look for birds. We will walk the Willow Point Trail to the lake where it is possible to observe a wide variety of waterfowl and possibly nesting bald eagles.

Join us afterward for lunch at Stoudt's Brewery. 2800 North Reading Rd, Adamstown, PA.

*Leaders: Tony and Pat Nastase (patnastase@comcast.net)
610-574-0498*



Hike: Natural Lands Cheslen Preserve
1199 Cannery Rd, Coatesville, PA
(5-6 miles)
Thursday February 20, 10:00 am

This NLT preserve has 1,282 acres of woods, hills, farm fields, streams, wetlands and native grasses. We will hike some of the 13 miles of trails in this varied terrain. Bring water and snacks.

DIRECTIONS: Take the Route 30 Bypass west to Route 340. Take Route 340 East. At Business Route 30, continue straight onto Marshallton-Thorndale Rd. Drive to Route 162 (fairly soon after Highland Orchards on right). Turn right onto 162 West. After passing Embreeville Mill and crossing the Brandywine Creek, slow down and then turn left up the hill onto Cannery Rd (no light). It's less than 0.5 miles to the Preserve entrance on the right. Meet at the Lenfest Center. There are restrooms at the Center.

*Leader: Esther Underhill, 610 827-7776; cell: 267-615-157
7 (day of hike, note new number), underwalt@aol.com.*



Hike: Ridley Creek State Park
351 Gradyville Rd, Newtown Square, PA
(5 miles)
Thursday February 27, 10:00 am

Depending on the weather we may try a few gentle hills or walk the paved multi-use trail—or do both. Bring water and a snack. We will go for lunch after the hike.

DIRECTIONS: From the intersection of Routes 252 and 3 in Newtown Square, drive west to the next light. Turn left onto Bishop Hollow Rd and drive to the four-way stop at Gradyville Rd. Turn right onto Gradyville Rd and follow signs to Park Office. Park in the upper parking lot OR: Drive to intersection of Route 352 and Gradyville Rd and drive east on Gradyville Rd. Follow as above.

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

Coming in the Spring

Native Plant Garden Tour

Visit 3 local gardens in 3 different settings and learn how to turn your yard into a haven for birds, butterflies, and pollinators by using native plants. Take home a plant.

Photo Walks

Spring migration photo walks to Valley Forge Park and Ridley Creek Park

Bird Walks

Spring migration walks at local hot spots including Coventry Woods, Warwick County Park, and Meng Sanctuary

Wine and Warblers

Our Brewbirding walks have been a success so we want to expand our horizons to some local wineries.

If you have any suggestions, let us know at valleyforgeaudubon@gmail.com.

JOIN US

Valley Forge Audubon Society is looking for Board members and Committee members to help with communications, program planning, advocacy, and conservation/citizen science.

We are also looking for people with knowledge of birds, wildlife, ecology, or conservation who have an interest in leading a nature walk or presenting an educational program.

Please reach out to us at valleyforgeaudubon@gmail.com for additional information

Wildlife Rehabilitation Centers

Have you found an animal that appears to be injured or abandoned and you are not sure what to do? Not all animals that appear abandoned need our help. Our new webpage valleyforgeaudubon.org/wildlife-rehabs-rescues/ walks you through the process of deciding when it is appropriate to intervene or to leave the animal alone.

Here is a list of local rehabs if you need one.

Thanks for caring about our local wildlife!

[Aark Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center](#)

1531 Upper Stump Road, Chalfont PA | 215-249-1938

As a rehabilitation center, the Aark sets broken bones, treats illnesses, and provides food and shelter for birds and mammals that have been injured or orphaned and are unable to care for themselves. The goal is to return these creatures to their natural environment as quickly as possible. Every effort is made to avoid interfering with the development of those natural characteristics that enable each wild creature to survive in the wild.

[Diamond Rock Wildlife Rehabilitation Clinic](#)

2030 Diamond Rock Road, Malvern PA | 610-240-0883

Diamond Rock Wildlife Rehabilitation Clinic (DRWRC) rehabilitates injured and orphaned wildlife mammals and releases them back into the wild. The Clinic specializes in native Pennsylvania mammals and specifically the Rabies Vector Species (RVS) which are raccoons, foxes, coyotes, skunks, bats, and groundhogs.

[Helping Hands Wildlife Center](#)

41 W 2nd Mountain Rd, Pottsville, PA | 570-497-6414

They specialize in rabies vector species (raccoons, foxes, coyotes, skunks, bats, and groundhogs). They also take birds.

Philadelphia Metro Wildlife Center

400 East Dekalb Pike, King of Prussia, PA | 267-416-9453

Philadelphia Metro Wildlife Center (PMWC) is a non-profit, wildlife rehabilitation organization serving Philadelphia, Montgomery, Chester and Delaware counties. Their mission is to provide healing and temporary refuge to injured and orphaned wild animals, with the single goal of release back into their native environment, and to educate and encourage people to care about and coexist with wildlife.

Red Creek Wildlife Center

300 Moon Hill Drive, Schuylkill Haven, PA | 570-739-4393

They take in several thousand wild animals annually, from the tiniest hummingbird, to the largest eagle, from chipmunks to deer.

Tri-State Bird Rescue and Research

170 Possum Hollow Rd, Newark, DE | 302-737-9543

The mission of Tri-State Bird Rescue & Research is to achieve excellence in the rehabilitation of injured, orphaned, and oiled native wild birds, with the goal of returning healthy birds to their natural environment.

