



The Tiadaghton Raven

November 2005

Tiadaghton Audubon Society

Vol. 38 Number 4

P.O. Box 605, Wellsboro, PA 16901

Picture of the Raven from : The Otter Side, P.O. Box 370, Ingra, Texas 78025

ANNUAL DINNER

The Annual Dinner for the Tiadaghton Audubon Society will be held on Wednesday, November 16th at Holy Child Church on South Main Street, Mansfield. Reception at 6:30, dinner at 7 p.m.

The dinner will be a choice of stuffed chicken breast, swiss steak and a vegetarian entree. The cost is \$15.00 per person.

This year we are asking that all dinners be paid **in advance** no later than Monday, November 14th. Please mail checks payable to the Tiadaghton Audubon Society to Ann Vayansky, 199 Fourth St., Mansfield, Pa. 16933 Please specify your choice of entree with your check.

The guest speaker this year will be Stacy Small, Audubon PA Director of Bird Conservation. She will speak on "The Statewide Bird Conservation Movement: What is happening throughout the state of Pennsylvania and what you can do locally." It will be an interactive program in which she will present and also engage those in attendance.

MONEY CRUNCH

BY Phil Krajewski, President

At our last business meeting Treasurer Ann Vayansky outlined our present and past financial status. The central theme of her presentation is that we are and have been operating "in the red" at a deficit. Obviously if we continue on this track we will deplete our savings and run out of money. We came up with two ideas:

The shopping list/benefactor plan – Our biggest expenses concern two very viable efforts:

The Raven – our monthly newsletter. It costs approximately \$500 per year to communicate with our members and other interested parties. The National Audubon Society requires individual chapters to have a newsletter.

Audubon Adventures – Each year we offer this informative environmental educational program to schools. At present seven middle and elementary schools involving thirteen classes utilize this information. The yearly cost is approximately \$500. We would be enormously grateful if any individual/s would consider underwriting either of these efforts.

The orange hat plan – Be the first on your block to have a bright orange ball cap with the Audubon/Great Blue Heron logo for the low price of \$15. The bright

Nov. 16th – annual dinner, speaker Stacy Small

Dec. 21st – regular meeting, speaker TBA

Meetings are held September through May on the third Wednesday of each month. Board meeting at 6:30 pm, general meeting at 7:30 pm; all are welcome. Meetings are at the Gmeiner Center unless otherwise announced.



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orange will help protect you from errant projectiles while birdwatching and also foster a common cause between birders and hunters. Wood Thrushes will be forever grateful.

NOTE – One of the goals of the “orange hat plan” is our own website. In the future we will be able to communicate with each other and read the Raven (save \$\$) by going on line.



If you would like to donate as an underwriter or purchase an “orange ball cap” please send checks made out to the Tiadaghton Audubon Society to Ann Vayansky, 199 Fourth Street, Mansfield, Pa. 16933 or call Phil Krajewski at 570-324-2492

AUDUBON MEMBERS BUILD MANSFIELD UNIVERSITY’S AVIAN TEACHING COLLECTION

by Leslie Clifford, Professor of Biology

In April of 2005 I requested your help in establishing a collection of avian study skins (the preserved remains of a bird’s skin and feathers) that could be used to teach ornithology at Mansfield University. I asked those of you that found dead birds in good condition, either from window strikes or some other source of mortality, to place the dead bird in a plastic bag with a piece of

paper noting species, date, and location. I then requested that you place the bird in your freezer and notify me so that we could arrange a pick up. Your response was wonderful and to this date I have added twenty-one individual birds (18 different species!) to the Mansfield University collection, as well as several eggs, a nest, and a skeleton. The species I have collected include: Mourning Dove (juvenile), Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Tree Swallow, White-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Eastern Bluebird, Chestnut-sided Warbler, American Redstart (female), Common Yellowthroat, Northern Cardinal (juvenile), Rose-breasted Grosbeak (female), Song Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Rusty Blackbird, Baltimore Oriole and Purple Finch (female). Some of the contributions came from as far away as Ulysses and Sabinsville. I sincerely thank all of you that have taken the time to help me in this effort.

While the collection has been greatly augmented this summer, it is by no means complete and I ask that you keep your eye out for any additional contributions that could be made. If you find a dead bird in good condition, please notify me (Leslie Clifford) at work (570) 662-4527, at home (570) 724-3172, or by email Lcliffor@mansfield.edu. Please note that I do have the appropriate State and Federal permits giving me permission to salvage dead migratory birds (otherwise prohibited under the Migratory Bird Act).

THE MUCK...A CALIFORNIA PERSPECTIVE

By Dianne Franco

On March 5th of this year, after having been in California for 5 days, Bob Ross found the Coachella Valley Wild Bird Center and its Saturday morning bird walks..are we surprised? I wasn’t expecting to lead this bird walk, having only been birding for a few years. However, I am a volunteer at this Center and the leader didn’t show up so the director asked if I would try. It was a very undesert day, cold and windy. I knew 4 of the 10 birders there, but had no idea who this tall lanky guy was. The four I knew were good



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birders, all British, who agreed to help find and identify the birds if I would just lead them to the good sites. So I agreed.

Long story short, I am now birding the Muck. I first visited the Muck in June...east coast birds! Reading the journal was a great start for a Western birder. It gave me an idea of what to expect to see. And I had Bob Ross, who hears all the sounds and is quite a good teacher. But watching beaver and muskrats was super wonderful. Remember, I'm from the desert! Never saw either of these creatures before in my life. I loved the hours of being in the blind when another birder was there.... sharing sights of snapping turtles and dragon flies along with the warblers and flycatchers which were new to me.

I have an observation for PA birders. You have MANY trees. All with MANY leaves. I don't think you realize how much you depend on and have developed your ears for bird ID. That is a very new skill for me. I learned to bird in the desert. We have few trees. Our birds are visible and therefore we bird much more by sight. Even in our forested areas the trees are old, high, but not as thick as here. There are not as many deciduous at all. Our pines and cedar are very tall but the branches start quite far off the ground. I am happy that it's fall now and I can see THROUGH your trees and find the birds!

Saw my first pileated, thanks to the leaf free trees! Birding by sound is a very hard skill for me to start acquiring, and very frustrating. I'm not very good at it, but I am paying much more attention and learning. There's always something to learn in this birding game, isn't there

Now I'm birding the Muck in October, watching bald eagles, Canada geese, red tails and hords of black birds. Thanks, Tiadaghton Audubon, for building this precious place. Come to California and you can bird our muck...the 23 acres of wetlands shared by our Wild Bird Center and the Coachella Valley Sanitary District, right on the Pacific flyway. I'll find you our California quail and roadrunners!

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

When it's time to renew your annual membership in the Audubon Society, please use the form below and send your check directly to the Tiadaghton Audubon Society. This way far more of your membership dollars go to the local chapter. In addition to the quarterly newsletter, the Raven, our chapter pays for the distribution of "Audubon Adventures" magazine to local school, as well as hosting a series of speakers and conducting local birding walks. You will continue to receive all national Audubon

Name: _____

Renewal dues: \$35.00

Address: _____

Contribution: _____

Email: _____

Total : _____

Please make checks payable to Tiadaghton Audubon Society and mail to P. O. Box 605, Wellsboro, Pa. 16901



The Raven

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MEMBERSHIP NEWS

by Beth Walker

Joanne Bockus, Joseph J. Derenzis, Dorothy Griffin,
and Steven Owlett.

Welcome also to Ryan Bower who has transferred
into our chapter.

Please check out our programs and join us at our
monthly meetings. A special thank you goes to all
of you who have renewed membership in
Tiadaghton Audubon.



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