



# The Mountain Chat

Newsletter of the Mountaineer Chapter of the National Audubon Society

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Fall 2012

## Christmas Bird Count Scheduled for December 15th this Year

On Saturday, December 15, 2012 Mountaineer Audubon volunteers take part in an adventure that has become a family tradition among generations. Families and students, birders and scientists, armed with binoculars, bird guides and checklists go out on an annual mission - often before dawn. For over the past quarter century, the desire to both make a difference and to experience the beauty of nature has driven dedicated people to leave the comfort of a warm house during the Holiday season.

Each of the citizen scientists who annually braves snow, wind, or rain, to take part in the Christmas Bird Count makes an enormous contribution to

conservation, both nationally and locally. Audubon and other organizations use data collected in this longest-running wildlife census to assess the health of bird populations - and to help guide conservation action.

From feeder-watchers and field observers to count compilers and regional editors, everyone who takes part in the Christmas Bird Count does it for love of birds and the excitement of friendly competition -- and with the knowledge that their efforts are making a difference for science and bird conservation. If you are interested in participating, contact LeJay Graffious at [lejay@oldhemlock.org](mailto:lejay@oldhemlock.org) or 304-379-7505.

## In Memory of Bob Burrell, Lifelong Conservation Leader

Bob Burrell, 78, died on July 23, 2012 as a result of brain cancer.

Bob was born in Springfield Ohio, was educated in Springfield schools, and earned bachelor, masters, and doctoral degrees in bacteriology and microbiology from The Ohio State University in Columbus. From 1958 to 1961 he served on the faculty of Carnegie Institute of Technology in Pittsburgh, and came to West Virginia University as an Assistant Professor of Microbiology in the School of Medicine in 1961. Bob taught at WVU for 35 years, achieving the rank of Professor, retiring to the Outer Banks of North Carolina in 1996, then returning to Morgantown in 2004.

Bob held a special interest in wildlife and the environment. Though his research centered on lung diseases and their immunological implications, he provided immunological laboratory support to the West Virginia DNR while in Morgantown, and led field trips in conjunction with the North Carolina DNR while

living on the Outer Banks. He was active in the West Virginia Highlands Conservancy, served as President of Mountaineer Audubon in 1983-84, and as field trip chairman and active member of the Mountaineer Audubon Board since his return to Morgantown in 2004. He became a certified Master Naturalist in 2007 and continued to lead field trips for the Master Naturalist program, as well as for Mountaineer Audubon and the West Virginia Botanic Garden.

Bob is survived by his wife, Elaine, and two children, Doren of Charleston, WV, and Chara Burrell Wittemore of Friendsville, MD. He is also survived by a grand-daughter, Sierra Ellyse O'Brien of Friendsville and by a sister, Patricia Burrell Ream of Cambridge, OH.

Bob played an active role in the development and maintenance of Mountaineer Audubon. We will miss him very much.

## President's Message

As fall rolls around, Mountaineer Audubon kicks off its 2012-2013 schedule of programs, field trips, and other activities for its members to enjoy.

This year we are planning an expanded schedule of Saturday field trips to observe and learn about the birds, other wildlife, and plant life of this area. I hope many of you will be able to participate.

If any of you would be willing to lead one or more of these trips, please let me know. Or if you have another destination and date that you would be willing to lead a trip to, let me know that as well and I'll try to fit it in. When final, the details will be posted on the Mountaineer Audubon web site, [www.mountaineeraudubon.org](http://www.mountaineeraudubon.org).

We are also planning to offer again in the winter and spring a birding course for beginners and those with limited experience with birds. Details still to be finalized, but it will be similar to the course we conducted earlier in 2012.

Of course, with winter to be here sooner than we would wish, it's time to think about obtaining bird seed and suet to feed the birds in your yard over the winter. Our annual bird seed sale is our major fundraiser for the year, so look for the order form in this newsletter and get your order in as soon as possible.

And winter means that it's time for the annual Audubon Christmas Bird Count. See the article by Count Compiler LeJay Graffious for details.

I look forward to seeing you at the various activities in the coming months.

*Terry Bronson*  
President

## Programs Calendar

**September 11: 7:00 pm** at WVU Percival Hall, Room 316. WV University students Cristina Slover, "Impacts of Fire Management on Bird Communities in the Central Appalachians" and Andrew Dennhardt: "Modeling migration counts to approximate abundance: a population estimate for Golden Eagles in eastern North America."

**October 9: 7:00 pm** at WVU Percival Hall, Room 316. Jesse and Katie Fallon: Avian Conservation Center of Appalachia.

**November 4:** bird seed pick-up

**November 13: 7:00 pm** at WVU Percival Hall, Room 316. WV DNR Biologist Sue Olcott: Winter Birding in WV.

**December 15:** LeJay Graffious: Christmas bird count. See separate article for details.

## Field Trips Calendar

For further information on all field trips, contact Terry Bronson, [bronsonwv@gmail.com](mailto:bronsonwv@gmail.com), or phone 304-225-0999.

**September 22:** Pleasant Creek WMA field trip. Meet at 7:30 am at Mountaineer Mall near water tower.

**October 6:** Decker's Creek Trail field trip. Meet at 7:30 am at Mountaineer Mall near water tower.

**October 20:** Core Arboretum field trip. Meet at 8:00 am at Core Arboretum parking lot next to WVU Coliseum.

**December 1:** Cheat Lake field trip. Meet at 8:00 am at Ruby & Ketchy's Restaurant, Route 857 south of Cheat Lake Animal Hospital, or at 7:00 am for breakfast.

<b><u>WILD BIRD SEED ORDER FORM</u></b>				<i>Please note: Orders postmarked after October 5, 2012 will be returned</i>					
<p><u>Mountaineer Audubon 2012</u></p> <p><b>LAST DATE TO ORDER IS:</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>October 5, 2012</b></p>		<b>Customer Name</b>				<b>Circle Pickup point</b> Morgantown Clarksburg, Hopwood, PA			
		<b>Information Address</b>							
		(all required)		City, State & Zip				Check if you qualify for <b>FREE DELIVERY</b> (Order over \$200)	
				Phone Number					
		Email							
Description				Quantity	Unit Price \$	Total			
<b><u>Bird Seed Products</u></b>									
<b>Mountaineer Audubon Custom Mix</b> – 45% black oil sunflower, 4% striped sunflower, 33% cracked corn, 17% safflower, 1% peanuts									
20 lbs.					14.00				
40 lbs.					26.00				
<b>Regional Mix</b> – 33% black oil sunflower, 5% striped sunflower, 47% white proso millet, 12% wheat, 2% canary seed (no cracked corn)									
20 lbs.					13.00				
40 lbs.					24.00				
<b>Black oil sunflower</b>									
20 lbs. (NOTE SMALLER SIZE)					14.00				
50 lbs.					28.00				
<b>Chickadee Select</b> – Black oil sunflower, peanut pieces, mixed nuts, sunflower kernels, grey striped sunflower									
8 lbs.					11.00				
20 lbs.					28.00				
<b>Safflower</b> – 20 lbs.					24.00				
<b>Nyger</b> – 20 lbs.					20.00				
<b>Whole peanuts in shell</b> – 25 lbs.					44.00				
<b>Whole corn on the cob</b> – 20 lbs. (NOTE LARGER SIZE)					13.00				
<b>Cracked corn</b>									
10 lbs. medium					6.00				
20 lbs. medium (NEW LARGER SIZE)					10.00				
<b><u>Suet Products</u></b>									
Regular – beef suet, cracked corn, white proso millet, chopped peanuts – case of 12					14.00				
Peanut butter – beef suet, cracked corn, chopped peanuts – case of 12					17.00				
<b><u>Specialty and Gift Items</u></b>									
<b>Fruit, berry and nut bell</b> – black oil and striped sunflower, white proso millet, peanuts, safflower seed, sunflower hearts, dried blueberries in bell shape with hanging net					4.00				
<b>Birdie Wreath</b> – black oil sunflower, peanuts, safflower, red millet and blueberries in a wreath shape w/raffia bow					12.00				
<b>Make your check payable to: Mountaineer Audubon. Thank you!</b> Mail this form and your check to: Susan Olcott, 305 Paul Davis Road, Independence, WV 26374						<b>Total</b>			

**Seed pick-up will be at the following locations on Sunday, November 4, 2012.**

Morgantown - (11 am - 3 pm) - Southern States (BFS) at their new location on Earl Core Rd at the old Sterling Faucet site next to I-68.

Hopwood, PA - (4:30 pm - 6:30 pm) - Adrian's Market on Old Rt 40.

Clarksburg - (1 pm - 3 pm) - Meadowbrook Mall parking lot next to Outback Steakhouse.

**JOIN MOUNTAINEER AUDUBON TODAY!**

Chapter Code: C2ZY510Z

(Do not use this form if you are currently a member of National Audubon)

Join Mountaineer Audubon and receive all the benefits of Chapter membership. For \$5 more also receive a National Audubon membership and receive the AUDUBON magazine. Mark your choice below.

\_\_\_\_\_ \$15 – Mountaineer Audubon Membership Only

\_\_\_\_\_ \$20 – Mountaineer & National Audubon Membership

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

*Mountaineer Audubon does not share email addresses with anyone. Your email will be added to the Mountaineer Audubon listserv to receive Chapter updates on trips, bird sightings, etc. If you do not want to receive these emails, please check here: \_\_\_\_\_*

**Clip and mail this form with your check made payable to Mountaineer Audubon**

Mountaineer Audubon  
P.O. Box 422  
Morgantown, WV 26507-0422

**Thank you for your support!**

*Mountaineer Audubon Directory*

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**www.mountaineeraudubon.org**

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