

Book step on guides, motor coach, birding, and wildlife tours now by contacting:

Waxwing Associates

Hollidaysburg, PA

814-693-6563

[twentz@waxwingassociates.com](mailto:twentz@waxwingassociates.com)



**Waxwing Associates**

140 Queen Ann Drive

Hollidaysburg, PA 16648



## Alleghenies Adventures

### DECEMBER 20, Saturday – AUDUBON ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Juniata Valley Audubon Society participates in this bird count event held nationally by conducting a bird count in the greater Altoona area. Join a group of fun loving bird observers for 3 hours at Canoe Creek State Park with lunch at a local restaurant followed by a covered dish dinner and fellowship at a members home to tally the days activities. Leader: Terry Wentz 693-6563 Meet Canoe Creek State Park Education Center 9AM

### JANUARY 1, Thursday—NEW YEAR'S DAY TREK

Get out and enjoy the Lower Rail Trail in the winter. Activity will depend on the weather, be it walking, biking, skiing, or snowshoeing. Enjoy some crisp air and exercise before settling down for a long afternoon of football. Leader: Bob Richers 942-0680 Meet Flowing Spring parking lot near Canoe Creek along U.S Route 22, 11AM

### JANUARY 20, Tuesday – EUROPEAN ADVENTURE

Join Juniata Valley Audubon members for a program about a summer visit to western Europe with one members family in Germany. See western Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, France, and Zurich Switzerland from a native prospective with looks at landscapes, birds, energy production and much more. Information contact: Terry Wentz 693-6563 Meet Bellwood Antis Library, Bellwood Exit 41 I-99 , 7PM

### JANUARY 24, Saturday – FISH PRINTS—GYOTAKU

Come learn this innovative way of preserving records as we create beautiful art. Dress for "the mess" as we learn about PA fish and their adaptations. Leader: Heidi Mullendore, EES Canoe Creek State Park 695-6807 Meet Canoe Creek Education Center near Hollidaysburg 10 AM \$3 Fee per person

### JANUARY 31, Saturday— BARRENS BIRDING

Need some relief for cabin fever.? Spend the day looking for winter birds in the State College area with the first signs of spring as days grow longer. Waxwing Associates will lead this trip. Leader: Terry Wentz 693-6563 Meet at Uncle Joe's Woodshed in Altoona 9 AM to carpool.

### FEBRUARY 9, Saturday—I-CONSERVE : FAMILY PROJECTS

Join the park educator to learn how families can work together to educate and involve the kids in making choices about conservation. Practical tips and sources for getting your kids off on the right foot... Leader: Heidi Mullendore, EES 695-6807 Meet Canoe Creek State Park Education Center near Hollidaysburg 3 PM

### FEBRUARY 21, Saturday – PITTSBURGH AQUARIUM & CARNEGIE MUSEUM

Visit the acclaimed aquarium and educational Carnegie Museum on this trip to Pittsburgh. Juniata Valley Audubon is sponsoring this day trip with van service from Altoona. Costs will include admissions to sites, food, and transportation. **Pre-paid reservations required. Call Terry Wentz for costs and reservations** Leader: Terry Wentz 693-6563 Meet at Uncle Joe's Woodshed in Altoona 8 AM for van. Last year's trip filled.

### MARCH 21, Saturday—WOODCOCK MATING RITUAL

Canoe Creek has a variety of wetlands and old fields that provide excellent habitat for woodcock nesting. Observe this unique ritual as the male tries to find a mate as the light of day fades to night time. Leader: Dr. Stan Kotala 946-8840 Meet Canoe Creek State Park Pavilion 1, 6:30 PM



**Red headed  
woodpecker**

**Get out and enjoy  
Central  
Pennsylvania  
through out the  
seasons. The  
Alleghenies has  
lots to offer.**

**Take a look at our new  
webpage. Completely  
redone, easier to use  
and lots of good  
information and links.  
[www.waxwingassociates](http://www.waxwingassociates)**



**Red breasted nuthatch**



# Waxwing Newsletter

WAXWING  
ASSOCIATES LLC

Volume 3, Issue 4

Dec 2008, Jan. Feb. 2009

## Feeding Wildlife

Over the winter months the desire to feed wildlife increases because of the concern that some animals, other than birds, will not survive the barren months without help. The truth is, wild animals are adapted to life when food is scarce by storing fat reserves in their bodies for the winter and metabolism changing to digest and take advantage of types of food available. Feeding wildlife during this time of year has a negative impact on the very animals people are trying to help.

Feeding an unnatural diet to animals can make them sick by disrupting the animals digestive system prepared for the winter months over a period of time as fall leads to winter. Providing a feeding station also cause animals to congregate together and they are more likely to pass on diseases as a result of their close association with each other. Competition exists between large numbers of animals for easily available food often resulting in young animals not getting food. This congregation of animals provides an easier opportunity for predators to make easy pickings of the concentration around food sources. Predators will soon learn to hang out near the animals, knowing they do not have to spend time hunting for their own food.

Other reasons to not feed wildlife during the winter include wildlife become comfortable with human presence. This can be bad for the animals as well as you. Animals often have to cross roads to get to residences setting up the possibility of collisions. Animals easily learn about trash cans and create a unsightly mess not wanted by homeowners. Often conflicts are created between wildlife and domesticated pets resulting in pets injured, undesirable odors, or diseases.

The biggest complaint from homeowners living near good wildlife habitat is wild animals eating shrubs, bird food, and garden vegetables during the summer. Obviously, a wild animal learns where an easy food source exists and continues to frequent these locations throughout the year, not just during the winter months. When food is not there, destruction of property can occur during the search for food. **Remember these are WILD ANIMALS and cannot be trained as domestic pets!**

**Wildlife agencies suggest feeding only birds.** Birdfeeders require animals to have very limited contact with humans so the danger of becoming habituated to human presence is minimized. Please keep the bird feeders clean to avoid unhealthy conditions and the spread of disease among birds,

Pennsylvania  
White tail Deer



## Waxwing Nature Tours for Winter

Waxwing Associates is offering complete Nature Tour packages in the Alleghenies Region of Central Pennsylvania.

Wildlife topics will take advantage of what's happening at that particular time of the year. Some examples include spring bird migrations, nesting birds, bat observations, elk bugling, and fall foliage.

**All tours are by reservations and must be fully paid in advance. Call today for prices!**

### HERE'S WHAT'S ON THE AGENDA:

January 31

#### Barrens Birding

Some relief for cabin fever. Spend the day looking for winter birds in the State

College area with the first signs of spring as days grow longer. Free!

February 21

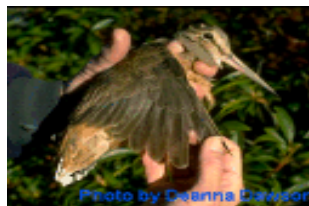
#### Pittsburgh Carnegie

Join Audubon members as we travel to Pittsburgh to visit the aquarium and Carnegie Museums.

March 21

#### Woodcock Ritual

Learn how this unique bird attracts its mate for early nesting at Canoe Creek State Park. Free!



Woodcock

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Bald Eagle on ice

**PLEASE NOTE: GUIDES DO NOT PROVIDE**

**BINOCULARS**

PLEASE BRING YOUR OWN BINOCULARS AND

*BIRD IDENTIFICATION FIELD BOOKS*

Coming in next issue  
March 2009:  
Migratory Bird Day  
Ice Is Out



# Early Spring

Spring is my favorite time of the year because of the gradual emergence of life from the depths of the seemingly lifeless winter months. This winter begin looking for signs of early spring in late January, you will be surprised at your observations of life.

Skunk cabbage is probably the first harbinger of life and may be easily missed. The flower of skunk cabbage appears as early as the end of January in Central PA. Look in a swampy place and you will observe a single leaf like sheath called a "spathe". It is hood-shaped and maroon streaked with yellowish green.. The large leaves emerge later and grow to the size of rhubarb leaves lasting throughout the summer months. Break off a piece of the leaf and crush it near your nose and you quickly realize its name is appropriate.

A second plant that tells you spring is just around the corner is coltsfoot. Many people mistake this plant for the common dandelion which blooms later in the spring and is much more prolific in lawns and fields. Coltsfoot blossoms long before it sends up leaves as opposed to the dandelion that has nice green leaves while blooming. Coltsfoots likes to grow on poor soil sites particularly along the edges of roadways. Later in the spring the leaves develop which resemble the size and outline of a colt's hoof (small horse); whereby the name coltsfoot.

Trees also indicate the coming of spring. Look for red maple trees as their twigs begin to turn red and red flower buds turn into red fuzzy flowers. Another early indicator is the weeping willow tree as its long flowing twigs begin to turn a mellow yellow, then bright yellow as the days continue to warm. **Spring is just around the corner!**



**Trough Creek State Park  
Copperas Rock**

## Spotlight on Central Pennsylvania

### TROUGH CREEK STATE PARK

The 554 acre state park is a scenic gorge formed as Great Trough Creek cuts through Terrace mountain and empties into Raystown Lake. Rugged hiking trails lead to geological wonders like Balanced Rock, Rainbow Falls, Copperas Rock, and Ice Mine.

Evidence of past history within the park includes the ruins of the Paradise Iron Furnace and iron masters house which is now available as a daily rental. The park itself was developed during the CCC era of the 1930's when a camp occupied much of the largest picnic area.

Today there is a nice campground with electrical hook-ups (no showers), picnic areas, pavilion rentals and miles of beautiful hiking trails.

Rothrock State forest and Raystown Lake Recreation Area border the park, making a large, contiguous area of public land for recreation.



**Terry Wentz, Owner  
Waxwing Associates**

# Birding Guides Available

Waxwing Associates has a staff of expert guides available to seek out any wildlife species, cultural resources, or historic sites in the Alleghenies. We are able to cater a 2 hour outing to an all day event including transportation from a local motel. We have the capability to plan an entire tour for van size to motor coach size groups including transportation to the Alleghenies, motel reservations, meals, and of course expert guides.

**RATES BY GROUP SIZE:**

**Van size groups**

Minimum: 10 people / 2hours

\$150 plus transportation, amenities.

**Motor coach groups**

Maximum:

50 people/ 2 hours

\$350 plus transportation & amenities

For detailed information contact :

**Waxwing Associates**

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**com**



**Skunk Cabbage Flower**

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