



Sunflower Nature Notes



Unless otherwise noted, photos by Betsy Betros.

Greetings to the Staff at Sunset!

Welcome to the eighth newsletter of nature happenings around our Sunset offices!

We welcome contributions from other staff here at Sunset of photos and/or stories about your nature adventures at Sunset!

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Spotlight on Nature



This beautiful Luna Moth was recently spotted on the ceiling of the smoking balcony at Sunset. The Luna's beautiful green coloration combined with its large size, 3 to 4.5 inch wing span, makes this a spectacular moth to behold!

Although common throughout eastern North America, they only fly at night. The adults are short-lived, 1 to 2 weeks, and do not feed. Around midnight, females start "calling" by releasing a scent that will attract a male(s).

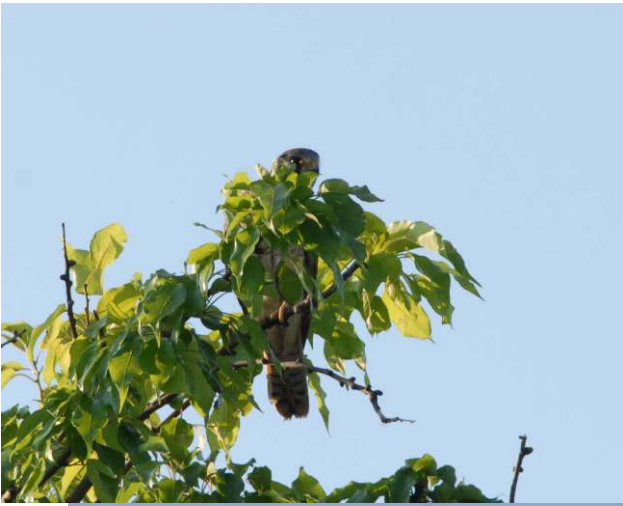
The female lays up to 250 eggs and 8 to 13 days later they hatch and then spend 5-6 weeks feeding, growing up to 3.5" long! Three broods can emerge each year, April through August. The late summer caterpillars form a pupa in a cocoon to stay in over the winter, emerging in early April.

The caterpillars feed on a variety of tree leaves including walnut, hickory, persimmon and sweet gum.

High Flyer

Betsy Betros, Environmental

Walking in to work the other day I noticed an aerial "dog-fight" between crows and an American Kestrel (a falcon). I wasn't sure who was chasing who, but it was fun to watch!



The American Kestrel is a small falcon that can commonly be seen along roadways. A full grown Kestrel weighs only around 4 ounces and measures nine to twelve inches in length. Falcons have distinct facial markings including a 'mustache' and 'sideburns'. The Kestrel is easily distinguished by the presence of double black stripes on a white face.

Learn More About Birds of Prey at
<http://www.hawkmountain.org/>

From Hawk Mountain webpage: "History of Hawk Mountain Sanctuary As the world's first refuge for birds of prey, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary has a dramatic and telling history that started during the Great Depression with an amateur ornithologist by the name of Richard Pough. In 1929, Pennsylvania's Game Commission

placed a \$5 price tag on the goshawk's head—a grand sum in Depression years. Two years later, while Pough was a recent college graduate living in Philadelphia, he became one of a growing number of conservationists opposed to the widespread movement to eradicate wildlife predators, including predatory birds

Pough heard of the place locals called "Hawk Mountain" and decided to visit. There he saw gunners stationed, shooting hundreds of passing hawks for sport. He returned to gather the carcasses lying on the forest floor and take photographs. Pough unsuccessfully tried to stop the shooting himself, but his photographs were eventually seen by a national conservation activist—New Yorker Rosalie Edge.

In 1934, Mrs. Edge came to Hawk Mountain and leased 1,400 acres. She installed a warden on the property, a New England bird enthusiast named Maurice Broun, and Maurice's wife and bird conservation partner, Irma Broun. The shooting stopped immediately and the next year, Mrs. Edge opened the Sanctuary to the public as a place to see the beautiful but persecuted birds of prey. She purchased and deeded the 1,400 acres to Hawk Mountain Sanctuary Association, incorporated in 1938 as a non-profit organization in Pennsylvania.

Read more about Rosalie Edge, Maurice and Irma Broun and learn more about the fascinating history of Hawk Mountain through their eyes."

Editor's Note: Rosalie Edge was also a key figure in the formation of Olympic National Park in Washington state.



Critters in and Around the Gardens at Sunset

Betsy Betros, Environmental

Delaware Skipper



Tawny Edged Skipper



Common Sootywing



Female Whitetail Dragonfly



Common Sootywing



Male Eastern Forktail Damselfly



Hummingbird Clearwing Moth



Bluet Damselfly

