

APPALACHIAN AUDUBON SOCIETY

MARCH 2006

ISRAEL: BIRDS AND WILDLIFE

THURSDAY, MARCH 16TH, 7:30 P.M.



Program Presenter Terry Neumyer taught in the Susquehanna School District for many years, and has served Appalachian Audubon in a variety of capacities, including president, vice-president, field trip and program chair. Now retired from teaching, he enjoys traveling with his wife and giving presentations.

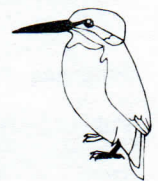
Terry's story begins: "In 1998, we flew into Tel Aviv, Israel and toured the coast of the Mediterranean Sea from Tel Aviv to Haifa, our final destination. On the first morning in Israel, I birded the garden of the Dan Carmel Hotel while waiting for my first birding guide to arrive... I found Rock Pigeon, Blackbird, Great Tit, Hooded Crow, Krynicky Jay, Nile Valley Sunbird, Palestine Sunbird, Palm Dove, Yellow-vented Bulbul, a chipmunk... The view from the hotel was tremendous. The hotel overlooked all of Haifa and was adjacent to the Baha'i Center and Garden...

At around 8 a.m., Menachem Adar, a very well known and respected birder in Israel and my birding guide and driver for several days, arrived with my rental car. He was instrumental in developing the Israeli birding atlas and in birding conservation within the Israeli government.

On our journey towards the Golan Heights of northern Israel, we met some Bedouins. As we reached the Golan Heights, an Israeli army platoon joined us...so we could visit several secure areas where tour groups are not allowed... The next day we hiked on an old road that Jesus and Abraham used, on Mount Hermon... We birded every day from dawn to dusk. After spending great times with Menachem and his armed friend I returned to Haifa [where] ...my new birding guide David Glaser picked me up at the hotel and transported me to another area of Israel. David specializes in teaching high school kids and in creating habitat for Barn Owls. He fledged 15 young from his self-designed and constructed Barn Owl boxes. If anyone would like the box design, please plan to pick up a copy of David's design following this program... The Kibbutz where we were headed is called Kfar Ruppin ... [which has] ponds for fish farming. We saw Whiskered Tern, several other Terns, Bee eater, Pied Kingfisher, Smyrna Kingfisher, Black-winged Stilt, Spur-winged Plover, and Black-crowned Night Heron..."

To hear the rest of this unusual birding tale and enjoy Terry's slides, **JOIN US, THURSDAY, MARCH 16th at 7:30 p.m.!**

(for location and directions, see page 2)



NEXT MONTH: THURSDAY, APRIL 20:
"BATHING BEAUTIES OF THE BIRD WORLD," aka, WARBLERS WITH ART KENNEL

Appalachian Audubon Society (AAS) is a National Audubon Society chapter. *Kingfisher Courier*, (copyright AAS; please request reprint permission) is a membership benefit, published monthly, September to May, by AAS: P.O. Box 15123; Harrisburg, PA 17105-5123. Email submissions to editor by the 15th of month prior to desired publication (files < 100KB requested; otherwise, contact editor). Editor & Board reserve publication decisions, per chapter mission and space available.

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atwoodphoto@onemain.com

(Please contact before emailing files > 100KB)

Newsletter Mailing Team

- Ron and Marcia Wilson: 737-7973
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REMEMBERING



ANNE KUTZ

Appalachian Audubon lost a long-time member when Anne Kutz passed away recently at the age of 96. For many years Anne was active in our chapter, attending many meetings and field trips. She participated in the Harrisburg Christmas Bird Count for many decades and was the Count's compiler for a few years. She helped out with Pennsylvania's first Breeding Bird Atlas and many other birding projects. She enjoyed birds and birding, but never became obsessed with listing. Anne knew a great deal about nature in general, especially botany, which was her first love. She shared her interest in nature with her students -- I got hooked on birds in her third grade class! Every Monday morning Mrs. Kutz would share her weekend birding experiences with our class. There were bird feeders right outside the classroom window, and she often pointed out interesting birds coming to the feeders. I am sure I learned many things in third grade, but gaining a lifelong passion for birds is what I remember most. I have Anne to thank for being such a great teacher and friend.

Ramsay Koury

GIFT CARD PROGRAM

As a fundraiser, Appalachian Audubon is selling gift cards to Giant and Weis grocery stores. These stores are kind enough to give non-profit organizations a discount on gift cards to their stores. We will have them for sale at our monthly programs and hope you will consider using these cards to purchase your groceries. There is *no additional cost to you*, beyond the face value of the cards, but your use of them will help our chapter in its fundraising efforts. Thank you!

Appalachian Audubon monthly (Sept.-May) programs normally take place on the 3rd Thursday of each month in Christ Presbyterian Church, 421 Deerfield Road, in the Allendale neighborhood of Camp Hill, at 7:30 p.m. **Exceptions are announced in this newsletter**, as are field trips and other activities.

PROGRAMS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

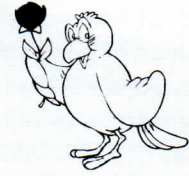
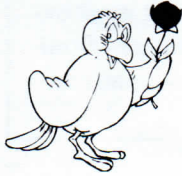
Program Location: Take New Cumberland exit off I-83; cross Carlisle Road. Turn left onto Allendale Way; take first left at Deerfield Road (from the south, take New Cumberland exit, turn left onto Carlisle Rd., left on Cedar Cliff Rd., left on Allendale Way, then left onto Deerfield Rd.), to the church.

A BELATED BUT HEARTFELT *THANK YOU* TO ALL OF OUR BIRDSEED SALE VOLUNTEERS!

Chris Atwood
Julia Atwood
Karen Atwood
Jane Barnette
Denna Claypool
Alex Dale
Jon Dale
Dale Darkes
Maggie Dewane
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Megan Spay
Thyra Sperry
Sue Strassner
Marcia Wilson
Ron Wilson
Paul Zeph



SAVE THE DATE!

Mark your calendar today for the environmental event of the year! Coming this fall, on **Saturday, September 23rd, 2006: Walkin' Jim Stoltz** — long-distance wilderness hiker and folk singer from Big Sky, Montana — brings his **FREE, multi-media, 20th Anniversary, "Forever Wild-2006"** public concert to the Mechanicsburg Middle School auditorium. View breath-taking images of America's wild places and wild critters; hear songs and stories of his experiences on the trails. Enjoy educational displays from local environmental organizations. Get inspired to protect our rich natural resources, and enjoy an unusual evening out! For more information about Walkin' Jim Stoltz, visit his website: www.walkinjim@walkinjim.com.

Co-sponsors to date include Appalachian Audubon Society, Gov. Pinchot Group of the Sierra Club, the Appalachian Trail Conservancy, the Nature Conservancy in PA and others. More details to follow as they become available. Seating will be first-come, first-served. Tell your friends; help us fill the auditorium!

UPCOMING FIELD TRIPS

MARCH:

Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art's 12th Annual Waterfowl Survey: Sunday, March 12. Join Scott Bills of the PA State Game Commission for this true Ned Smith tradition as we survey for waterfowl around the *old Millersburg Gun Club Headquarters*, at the mouth of the Wiconisco Creek. We especially invite families to attend and learn the basics of waterfowl identification. Please dress appropriately for the weather. Telescopes and refreshments will be provided. Survey time: 8am – 1pm. Phone trip leader Pete Fox at 583-2639 (please call earlier than 9:00 PM), or email pfox@raiderweb.org.

Directions to the old Millersburg Gun Club HQ: Coming from the south, immediately after the bridge coming into Millersburg, turn left off Rte. 147 onto Keystone Street and follow it to the river. The headquarters building is on the corner of Keystone Street and River Street, at the mouth of the Wiconisco Creek.

APRIL:

Spring Wildflowers at Shenk's Ferry: Saturday, April 22. Target species include Trillium and Virginia Bluebells. For details, contact trip leader Walter Koerber at 938-9618, or wakoerber@yahoo.com.

Beginners' Neighborhood Birding at Italian Lake Park, Harrisburg: Saturday, April 29. This walk is geared for beginners, children, or birdwatchers of any level. Contact trip leader Ed Chubb at 233-4807 (home) or 599-5188.

Continued from page 6... Juniata Field Trip Report:

We proceeded from Belleville towards Aden's *Lost Creek Shoe Shop* in Oakland Mills. Traversing some back roads, the group was treated to Red-tailed Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Sharp-shinned Hawk, and several American Kestrels. Members of our group shopped at the store while others birded outside. We saw a handful of handsome White-crowned Sparrows from the deck of Aden's shop, and heard a Common Raven passing by.

We finished the day by standing vigil at a spot where Short-eared Owls have been spotted this winter, but, as with many other birds that day, lady luck just wasn't smiling on us. It was refreshing to visit great expanses of good habitat for birds. The countryside, dotted with Amish farms, remains far less hampered from development than the Harrisburg area. The friendly, accommodating leadership of Aden and Chad made an enjoyable day of birding. -- Pete Fox

Bluebird Society of PA - Annual Conference 2006



"The Next Generation of Bluebirders"

March 31/April 1, 2006; Morgantown, PA (Berks County)

Join fellow bluebirders for a wonderful bluebird event! Learn more about bluebirds and share ideas and trail monitoring tips; discover new ways to inspire the next generation of bluebirders into active bluebird conservation activities.

The conference will offer fantastic speakers, vendors, educational displays, a luncheon, an Amish quilt raffle, and a live auction of bluebird and nature-related items, in a Friday Night Program and Social, and an all-day Saturday program. Scheduled presenters include:

- Karen Lippy ("Bluebird Education for Children")
- Warren Lauder ("50-Year Bluebird Trail" - http://www.delawareaudubon.org/about/cons_year04.html),
- Jane Kirkland (www.takeawalk.com)
- Dr. Corinne Litzenberg (schoolyard bluebirds).

Please visit the Bluebird Society of PA website for details: www.thebsp.org, or contact Nancy Putt, phone: 432-2647; email: bluebirds@pa.net, or Joan Watroba, phone: 766-2102, email: sunshinebb@msn.com.



Join Appalachian Audubon Society AND National Audubon Society

AT THE SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY RATE OF \$20 (\$15 FOR SENIORS & STUDENTS)

This application is for **NEW** members joining Appalachian and National Audubon for the **FIRST** time (*for members renewing, renewal information will come to you directly from National Audubon*). This Introductory Offer includes membership in both National and Appalachian Audubon societies, the beautiful *Audubon* magazine, and our own *Kingfisher Courier* newsletter. Please send the form below, with **check** payable to **National Audubon Society**, to: Appalachian Audubon, PO Box 15123, Harrisburg, PA 17105-5123.

New Member's Name: _____
 Address: _____ E-mail address: _____
 Phone: _____ Senior Membership? _____ Student?: _____ **U07 7XCH**

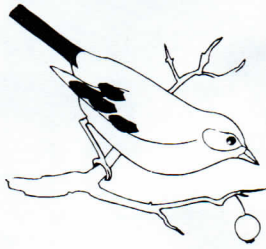
Chapter-Only Membership: \$12.00 per year

Chapter-Only members receive the *Kingfisher Courier* and support the local Chapter. Make **check** payable to **Appalachian Audubon Society**; send to: Appalachian Audubon, PO Box 15123, Harrisburg, PA 17105-5123

Chapter-Only Member's Name: _____
 Address: _____ Phone: _____
 Email address: _____ **U07 7XCH**

LIVING GARDENS

— Lorrie Preston, Penn State Master Gardener - Cumberland County



Many birds will soon return to our area for the breeding season, hungry after their long flights and searching for **food to**

sustain them until the weather warms and insects become active again. Robins and other thrushes, cedar waxwings, catbirds, thrashers, bluebirds, grosbeaks, mockingbirds and others depend on the **berries that have persisted over the winter** on certain plants to supply their food during this still chilly time of the year. The fruits of inkberry hollies, winterberry hollies, and American hollies, as well as junipers, cedars, crabapples and hawthorns were all largely ignored by these same birds last fall, due to their bitter autumn flavor, tough seed coats, and lower nutrition levels. Now however, they have ripened, softened, and provide a welcome feast. Include these plants in your backyard wildlife garden to attract our early season visitors. As an additional bonus, these berries and fruits add color and interest to your garden all winter long.

Another way you can provide a supplement food source for these early spring arrivals is by feeding mealworms. **Mealworms** are actually the larval form of a member of the darkling beetle family (*Tenebrio molitor*). There are over 1,400 species of darkling beetles in North America, most of them occurring in the west. Protein-rich, nutritious, rigid-shelled mealworms are available in bulk for purchase at most pet stores, bird specialty stores, and over the Internet. They are clean, easy to raise, and can be an enjoyable way to attract birds to your property.

Mealworms can be stored dormant in your refrigerator in a plastic container filled with oatmeal, cornmeal, or wheat bran for periods of several weeks, requiring no attention and are available to use as needed. Or you can keep them in a plastic container, with a well-ventilated lid, at room temperature, preferably in the dark, filled with the same grain source and occasionally add small pieces of lettuce, or a piece of apple or potato as a source of moisture to allow them to grow and fatten up before feeding them to the birds.

Mealworms can be placed in a shallow-sided container outdoors, or a commercial mealworm feeder, in an area frequented or visible by birds, with protective cover nearby. I have used the top to a bird bath in past years, laid on the ground or boulder beneath a tree. Robins and other birds relish these juicy little morsels during those late winter snowstorms and cold snaps. Even overwintering birds like chickadees and nuthatches will enjoy a mid-winter snack of mealworms from time to time. Start by feeding a dozen or so mealworms to attract attention, then increase, as needed, when you see they are being devoured.



Once the mealworms are discovered, birds can make a habit of showing up for a free meal. Try to choose a consistent time of day – perhaps morning, dinner-time, or both, and soon you will have birds waiting for your arrival. Mealworms can make a great supplemental meal for bluebirds during nesting season, as well. Visit www.nabluebirdsociety.org/mealworm2.htm for more detailed information.





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MARCH 2006

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JUNIATA BIRDS FIELDTRIP REPORT

On Saturday, January 14, fourteen hearty birders met Aden Troyer and Chad Kauffman for an afternoon of winter birding in Juniata and Mifflin counties. Rain, snow, and high winds made the conditions difficult for finding birds.

First the group traveled to Belleville in search of a Snowy Owl, sighted earlier in the month. Unfortunately we didn't find it; the owl may have left the area earlier that week. In the course of searching for the owl, however, we spotted a flock of Horned Larks flying over the road. One of our day's highlights was finding a Red-headed Woodpecker in the "Big Valley" area of Belleville. This handsome bird has become increasingly difficult to locate in recent years, which added to the appeal of this sighting. Unfortunately, the snow was flying almost horizontally in the stiff wind when we found the bird! *(continued on page 4...)*

MOVING...? GOING ON A LONG VACATION...?
To receive AAS mailings when away on long vacations or after moving, PLEASE contact our AAS chapter membership chair (see page 2) with your address change information – this saves us money while keeping you current with our activities. Filling out a change of address with the US Post Office (USPS) will **NOT** accomplish this; our USPS address database is handled by National Audubon. We incur a \$.37 charge per item for each piece of incorrectly addressed, returned mail. Please help!

Mary Middle School Magazines