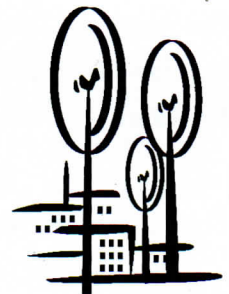


February Program – Wind Turbines, IBAs, and Wildlife

Presenter: Kim VanFleet
 Thursday, February 21st at 7:30 pm
(for directions to meeting location, see page 2)



Renewable sources of energy have recently become more readily accepted as viable alternatives to the burning of fossil fuels, in light of a general acknowledgement that global warming is an important issue. However, as in any form of energy production, there are pros and cons to be considered in selecting and siting different types of renewables, including solar and wind. Although wind energy is generally emission-free, there are potential impacts on birds, bats, other wildlife, and habitats that must be taken into consideration to ensure that the siting, construction, and operation of industrial scale wind turbine complexes have minimal short and long term environmental impacts at local, regional, statewide, and continental levels.

Kim Van Fleet is the Important Bird Area (IBA) Coordinator and staff biologist with Audubon Pennsylvania. Her early work as a field ornithologist with Audubon involved siting, installation, and maintenance of point counts, habitat characterization, and monitoring breeding populations of birds in a number of IBAs throughout the central and western regions of the state. In addition, she worked in the capacity of IBA volunteer coordinator. Prior to Audubon she was employed as a biology instructor at both Shippensburg and Penn State (Harrisburg) Universities. She received her B.S. and M.S. in biology from Shippensburg University where her undergraduate and graduate research focused on diurnal raptor migration across the Ridge and Valley Province of central Pennsylvania. Kim has worked on a number of field studies and research projects primarily focused on bird and mammal populations from 1991-present. She has made numerous presentations to groups and organizations across the state and currently serves on the board of directors of the Hawk Migration Association of North America.

And remember... prior to all monthly AAS programs is social time (with snacks) at 7:00 pm, followed by "Sightings of the Month" at 7:20 pm. Please join us for this fun get-to-know-you time!

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 the month prior to desired publication (files <100KB requested; otherwise contact editor). Editor & Board reserve publication decisions, per chapter mission/space available.

AAS WEBSITE:
www.appalachianaudubon.org/

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Honoring Grace Randolph

In this issue of Kingfisher Courier, we pay special tribute to a very dedicated birder and member of the AAS family, Grace Randolph. On pages 5 and 6, Grace's friends and family share with us what makes this woman so very special, and why AAS created a scholarship in her name. Thank you Grace, for all that you have done for AAS and for the field of birding!

Volunteer for AAS

Do you have a little extra time and the desire to make a difference in the world of nature? Please share your gifts and talents with our club. We are looking for an individual to help our Publicity Chairperson publicize our events. We are also looking for someone to line-up our monthly program schedule for 2008-2009. Director and other positions may be opening up at the end of the AAS year, as well. Please join our excellent team of Board Members and Committee Chairs. Contact Lorrie Preston at mitandpak@aol.com or 732-5615 to let us know how you would like to be involved and join us in making a difference.

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.

Directions: 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 Road, left onto Cedar Cliff Road, left on Allendale Way, then left onto Deerfield Road) to the church.



AAS Field Trips



Leader's Choice – Saturday, February 9

This unusual format trip will be determined by what birds are being seen in the Harrisburg area, but could mean traveling as far afield as Philadelphia. Participants should contact Deuane Hoffman at 564-7475 or email at corvuscorax@comcast.net for the most up-to-date trip details.



Middle Creek Waterfowl Trip – Saturday, March 8

Late winter is the peak time to visit this wildlife management area. Tens of thousands of Snow Geese and other waterfowl can be seen. Call Ramsay Koury at 761-1871 for more details.

Ned Smith Waterfowl Watch – Sunday, March 16

The Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art holds this annual river watch for waterfowl and other birds of interest along the Susquehanna River in Millersburg at the Riverfront Park. Excellent views of various Eastern Flyway waterfowl as well as Bald Eagles can be seen from the park's vantage point. Contact Ed Chubb at 233-4807 for additional information on this joint field trip with Ned Smith Center members.

Wildwood Lake Sanctuary Joint Field Trip – Saturday, April 12

Art Schiavo will lead this trip with Quittapahilla Audubon to witness the season's arrival of the Great Egret. Other early season migrants will be sought. This outing offers two choices for the length of the day's hike around the sanctuary. Check with Art at 520-5711 or 533-1978.

Pinchot State Park Spring Wildflower Walk – Saturday, April 19

This outing will feature early wildflowers of this popular state park. Dan Welte will lead participants to find what spring offerings are showing. Call Dan at 728-0421 for meeting time and location.

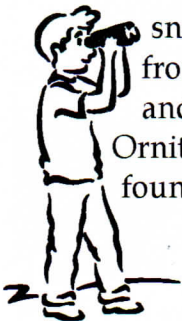


Nescopeck State Park Early Spring Birding – Saturday, April 26

Highlights of this trip to include thrushes and warblers in this Luzerne County State Park. Al Mercik will lead, and he can be reached at 657-8548 for more details.

Participate in the Great Backyard Bird Count - Feb. 15 to 18th

It's almost time to grab the binoculars and start counting up the birds in your own backyard or favorite location. The Great Backyard Bird Count is an annual four-day event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where the birds are across the continent. Anyone can participate, from beginning bird watchers to experts. It takes as little as 15 minutes. It's free, fun, and easy – and it helps the birds. The GBBC is a joint project of Cornell Lab of Ornithology and Audubon. Details, previous year reports, photos, and much more can be found at www.birdsource.org/gbbc.





Calling all Pre-teens, Youth and Educators - Audubon 2008 Camp Scholarship Applications Available!

If the sound of waves lapping against rocks and the song of the loon calls to you, consider applying for an Appalachian Audubon scholarship to the Audubon Camp in Maine. We award scholarships to applicants seeking to learn more about the outdoors and who show a strong interest in conservation. Camp sessions include a Youth Camp in August, a Teen Camp in June, and an Educators Camp in July.

Educators and young people alike will gain valuable experiences in the outdoors while they gain a sense of stewardship for the natural world. The curriculum includes marine studies, pond life, oceanography, geology, forest ecology and ornithology. Campers from all over the United States attend, creating lasting friendships around the nation. Dormitory sleeping accommodations and hearty meals create a memorable experience.

Scholarships include tuition to camp, but all campers must provide their own transportation to and from camp, as well as the cost of any souvenirs. All scholarship recipients are expected to attend an Appalachian Audubon meeting prior to attending camp, and to share their experience at a meeting after camp.

Visit the website www.maineaudubon.org to find out more. **Deadline to apply is March 1, 2008.** For more information, or for an application, contact Marci Mowery at 717-371-2155 or at mmowery-ppff@pa.net.



Endangered Species Program for Children

Appalachian Audubon is sponsoring a FREE special event for children of all ages. An educator from Hershey's Zoo America will bring some of the zoo's animal residents to the community room of the Cleve J. Fredricksen Library on **Sunday, March 2nd, at 3:00 pm.** The library is located at 100 North 19th Street in Camp Hill. While the presentation will be geared toward children, everyone is invited to attend, and young children should be accompanied by a parent or guardian. For more information you may contact Lorrie Preston at 732-5615 or Susan Miller at 697-6696. Refreshments will be served. Join us for this fun and exciting learning opportunity!

Plenty of Wintertime Activities – With or Without the Snow!

Are your children or grandchildren going stir-crazy, being cooped-up inside all weekend long?!

Never fear; there are many activities for all ages taking place at various state parks throughout PA. To find an activity or event near you, visit www.dcnr.state.pa.us/stateparks/calendar.



A Walk Down Memory Lane . . . Honoring Grace Randolph

In last month's *Kingfisher Courier*, we promoted the Grace Randolph Scholarship that was established by our chapter in 2002. To anyone that knew Grace while she was an active member of our club, it is obvious why we honor this special lady. But others may ask, "Who is Grace Randolph?" We asked some AAS members that are lucky enough to know Grace well, and Grace's adult children, to share some memories about this hard-working, energetic, enthusiastic, expert birder, that took so many of us under her wings. Their responses are filled with respect, friendship, and appreciation.

Ramsay Koury says... "Grace was certainly one of the most dedicated members we have ever had. She recruited many members to AAS. She was an excellent field trip chairman for us - she had a trip almost every week. Many people remember her dedication to the newsletter mailings. She worked tirelessly on many birding projects: the first Breeding Bird Atlas, many Christmas counts, and Audubon's IBA program.

My favorite story about Grace involves the first Breeding Bird Atlas. Atlas headquarters sent out a letter encouraging volunteers to go looking for certain grass-land species in August. Grace asked me what I thought about looking for Sedge Wrens. I told her she was nuts; she wasn't going to find any near Harrisburg. Undeterred by my "expert" advice, she learned their song on her tapes at home and went looking for them out in the field. Lo and behold, she found Sedge Wrens on what is now Trout Run!" (*Grace's discovery of the Sedge Wren protected this land from development and led to the land being donated to AAS to create the Trout Run Nature Preserve.*)

"Another good birding story involved her discovery of a Swainson's Warbler in Clark's Valley. She was out birding and heard a song she didn't recognize. She came home and upon listening to the tape decided she had heard a Swainson's Warbler. Not wanting to sound a false alarm she went back and tracked down the bird to confirm its identity before spreading the word to others. Many people got to see that bird."

Jan Getgood remembers... "Grace and I spent many lovely hours together up in Clark's Valley and on the river birding. She loved sitting at Meadowood's kitchen table when Siskins and Purple finches filled the yard, or listening for the Woodcock at the edge of the property. On the first day in spring we would drive up to Peter's Mountain to hear the returning Cerulean Warblers. Grace, with many others, worked hard at getting the St. Anthony's Wilderness IBA designation, in part because of the Breeding Bird Atlas work on the Cerulean Warbler habitat there."

Jon Dale writes... "In the early to mid 80's, I became serious about birding and began participating in the annual Christmas Bird Count. I was "assigned" to work with Grace's team in Area 11 of the Harrisburg region. Grace took her responsibilities as a team leader very seriously, and ran a "tight ship." I learned much from her in this citizen science activity. She stressed accuracy and documentation when necessary, which paid off when we found a Northern Shrike, which turned out to be one of the best birds of the count that year. Years later, Grace handed off the leadership of Area 11 to me, which I continue to lead to this day. Grace was my role model, and each year I look forward to continuing this important endeavor."

Dale Darkes adds... "Grace moved here from the Washington D. C. area in 1978. While there she was a National Audubon Society member and went into schools presenting programs. In our chapter, she led a couple of our bird seed sales in the early 1980's. She served as Membership Chairman, and continued for many years after to head a group of members who prepared our newsletter for mailing. She was a very good birder and a nice person."

Karen Atwood recounts... "Grace was always good at finding bird nests -- she paid attention to what was around her, and she took the time to learn habitats, plant species and specific bird species' habits and behaviors. When I birded with Grace I knew we would always find something interesting; she left no habitat unturned! In addition to just rejoicing in what she observed, she was also a meticulous record-keeper and a "keeper" of the scientific guidelines of birding.

Why a scholarship in her name? Top among my thoughts: that our scholarship honors her infectious enthusiasm and passion for birds and birding, her devotion to both the science and the "sport" of birding, and because she made so many contributions to local bird life documentation records -- and like others in our chapter, she put countless hours and driving miles into Atlasing and was good at it!

I will always be grateful for Grace's friendship, her generosity of spirit and person, and for the shared joys of birding. She finally drummed into me the Indigo Bunting's song, after many attempts -- she would say, "Karen, listen -- paired notes, PAIRED NOTES!" and I finally got it. To this day, when I hear the Indigo sing, Grace's face flashes into my mind and I see her standing there, hear her saying, "Karen, paired notes, PAIRED NOTES!"

Grace Randolph story continued...

Grace's son, Raymond, writes... "Thank you for honoring my mother with the Scholarship. My sisters and I are very grateful for all that the AAS has done and is doing for my mother. Her life-long love of birding and conservation culminated in her years of active membership in AAS, and were a delight to her. My two sisters and I can never recall a time when mom wasn't watching for birds wherever we went. Like most birders, she developed an amazing ability to see the tiniest details at high speeds or great distances.

My mom spent her later years and some of her retirement going on bird-watching tours in the U.S. and to other countries. I think her last major trip was to Iceland. She did a cruise up the Amazon, went to Belize and Guatemala, and a host of other locations. One highlight from 1985 was a tour to Churchill, Manitoba. Both Victor Emanuel and Roger Tory Peterson were participants on that trip.

Mom kept a Sibley's "Birders Life List and Diary." Her earliest dated entry is for 1942, when she was 12 years old. During WWII, she lived in Annapolis, MD. She lists a "Great Crested Flycatcher" as species #92 and notes, "Nested in a mailbox; used a snake skin." There are many new birds listed during the summer of 1948, when Mom was 18, including a number of species seen at Lake Ontelaunee, near Reading, PA. Her last life-list entry (species #618) was a Sage Sparrow, which she saw in 1998 in San Diego County, CA."

Grace's daughter, Ann, recalls... "I have a memory from the late 1960s of going with my mother on a day trip to Teddy Roosevelt Island in the Potomac River. She was leading a group of inner city children on a nature hike. I remember tagging along, slightly bored, and thinking that it was pretty tame compared to some of the hikes and rambles our family had taken while camping in the Blue Ridge Mountains. I was amazed that these kids, although they lived only about 30 minutes from me, had never walked in the woods or seen the birds my mother was pointing out. But the difference between their lives and mine was probably pretty stark.

The thing that really amazed me, though, was that my mother wasn't talking to them any differently than she talked to me. She was showing them the things that delighted her with every expectation that they would be delighted, too. Clearly, she thought they had just as much right to enjoy nature as her own children did."

Daughter, Elaine, adds... "When we were younger, some of Mom's 'idiosyncrasies' were the stuff of much family laughter -her ability to look at a small black speck in the sky, and say "Oh that's a red tailed hawk - see the markings!"; her lamentable habit of bird watching while she drove; or even her 'crack of dawn' forays into the woods. I particularly remember the time she woke me up in the middle of the night to fix her small tape recorder, so she could go out and record owls. When I got it working, the controls had been changed in the process. Ever heard the screech owl call on high volume/fast forward at 4:00 in the morning? It is a rather drastic way to wake up!

I will never have her storehouse of knowledge, but she has certainly passed on her love of nature, and her passion for habitat and wildlife preservation. I am so thankful for this."

These memories of Grace give us all a glimpse into a life well-lived...a life filled with meaning, passion, and purpose. AAS has been very fortunate to be the beneficiary of Grace's gifts, time, and talents, and we thank her profusely. It is our pleasure to award the Grace Randolph Scholarship, and an honor for those that receive it. The AAS Board will soon announce an exciting new direction for this Scholarship, so read your March Kingfisher for all of the details.

Grace currently lives at Copper Ridge in Sykesville, MD. She still enjoys hearing from her Audubon friends. Cards, notes, and photographs can be sent to her son, Mr. Raymond Randolph, 52 Henry Dr., New Providence, PA 17560. He will share them with his mother during his regular visits.

AAS Members Invited to Special Evening at Oakes Museum

Please join fellow AAS members at the Oakes Museum at Messiah College on Tuesday, February 26, 2008 for a limited time showing of Ned Smith's greatest originals called "A Lifetime in Art." Among Smith's greatest works hangs a never-before-seen charcoal original of an African bull elephant. A tour guide will accompany us through the excellent natural history exhibits in the museum, as well, which include 200 bird nests and 17,000 bird eggs, the largest bird egg collection in Pennsylvania. We will meet at the Museum at 6:00 p.m., and the exhibit closes at 8:00 p.m. Admission is \$3.00 a person—a special discount rate (usually \$6.00)!

Parking can be found just outside the Jordan Science Center, which houses the Museum. Those wishing to carpool can meet at 5:15 p.m. near the Sovereign Bank in the Camp Hill Mall parking lot, in front of Boscovs. For Museum directions and to learn more about their exhibits, go to www.Messiah.edu/Oakes.



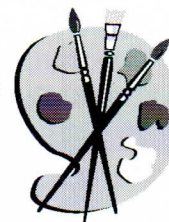
If you are unable to join us that night, but still wish to visit the Ned Smith exhibit, it will be open to the public each Tuesday and Thursday from 3:00–8:00 p.m., and on Saturdays until the exhibit closes on March 7th.

Last Chance to See Zickefoose Exhibit at Ned Smith Center

Don't miss the wonderful Julie Zickefoose nature art exhibit, "Letters of Eden," which consists of pencil drawings, watercolors, and excerpts of her book by the same name, at the Ned Smith Center for Nature and the Arts through Saturday, February 16th. Zickefoose is host of "All Things Considered," a popular commentary on National Public Radio about the natural world of her 80 acre farm in Whipple, Ohio.

Her works include more than 40 articles and 19 cover paintings for Bird Watcher's Digest, and she was one of the lead illustrators of the 19-volume "Birds of North America." Her work is said to present the personality and activity of her subjects.

Following the showing at the Ned Smith Center, her show begins a national tour, starting out at Cornell University. For more information visit www.nedsmithcenter.org or call (717)692-3699.



A Sense of Wonder: A Rachel Carson-Based Play, Coming to HACC

Saturday, March 8th, 6:30 pm



Best known for her book *Silent Spring*, Rachel Carson has been called "the patron saint of the environmental movement." Nationally acclaimed actress, Kaiulani Lee, stars in this one woman show which has toured throughout the U.S. The program will be held at Harrisburg Community College, Wildwood Conference Center. Please call the Ned Smith Center for tickets and more information at 717-692-3699. (*This show comes HIGHLY recommended by a friend of AAS that has seen this excellent actress perform.*)



Tune in for Inclement Weather News

Weather-related postponements or cancellations of AAS activities will be reported on TV Channels WGAL8, WHP21, and CW15, and well as Radio Station WHP580 AM. We will also place the information on the homepage of our website, www.appalachianaudubon.org as soon as we are able. If you have provided your e-mail or phone number to us on the "Name Tag Sign-Up Sheet," we will try to contact you to let you know of the change. If in doubt, please call an officer of the club.

Nature Book Sale

During the month of February, take a moment to visit Wildwood Lake Sanctuary's gently used Nature Book Sale in the basement of the Olewine Nature Center. Browse through donated field guides, books on nature and the outdoors as well as nature videos. Proceeds from the sale help support programming at Wildwood. The Olewine Nature Center is open Tuesday through Sunday from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.



Field Guides Donated to Wildlife Refuge

Thank you to everyone that donated new and used field guides to the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge in Philadelphia. Our chapter members donated a total of 28 field guides on subjects including birds, spiders, butterflies, wildflowers, and trees. These books will be used by a 4th grade birding club that meets at the refuge weekly, and other inner city school and community groups that are learning about nature.



"Last Child in the Woods" Book Discussion Group to be Held

A one-time book discussion group based on best-selling book, *"Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Kids from Nature Deficit Disorder,"* by Richard Louv, will be held for chapter members and friends on Monday, February 25th at 7:00 p.m. Currently about a dozen readers have indicated an interest in meeting to share thoughts and ideas about the book. You are invited to read the book and join us. Please contact Lorrie Preston at mitandpak@aol.com or 732-5615 ASAP, if you plan to attend. Location details will be given later, based upon how many people respond.

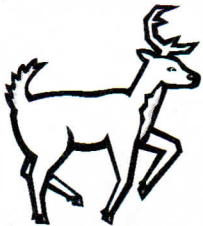


Conservation Leadership Experience for PA Teens



Spend a week in the field learning about deer from some of the top wildlife biologists and managers in the state! The *Wildlife Leadership Adventures* is a cooperative program that empowers high school aged students with the necessary skills and knowledge to become ambassadors for conservation in their home communities. The goal of this program is to equip future leaders from all walks of life with a better understanding of wildlife and conservation. Audubon PA is a partner in this program.

The 2008 Bucktails field camp will be held July 8-12 at the Raystown Lake in Huntingdon County.



Tuition is \$350, which includes room, board, and educational materials. Don't let tuition costs stop you from applying -- scholarships are available to help defray tuition costs. Scholarship application information can be found on the general application form. For more information and to download application materials visit www.PICEweb.org and follow the Youth Programs hyperlink or contact the program director, Gail Farmer, at 610-756-3194; gfarmer@piceweb.org.

Join Appalachian Audubon Society AND National Audubon Society

AT THE SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY RATE OF \$20 (\$15 FOR SENIORS AND 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: _____ Today's Date: _____

Address: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Phone: _____ Senior Membership? _____ Student? _____

Is any of this contact information new? If so, place an X here: _____ **U07 7XCH**

Chapter-Only Membership: \$12.00 per year

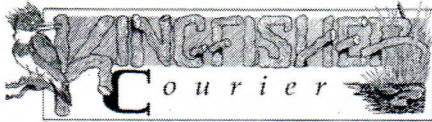
Chapter-only members receive the *Kingfisher Courier* and support the local chapter. Make **check** payable to **Appalachian Audubon Society**; send to Appalachian Audubon, PO Box 15123, Harrisburg, PA 17105-5123.

Chapter-Only Member's Name: _____ Today's Date: _____

Address: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Phone: _____

Is any of this contact information new? If so, place and X here: _____ **U07 7XCH**



February 2008

www.appalachianaudubon.org/

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MOVING? TAKING AN EXTENDED VACATION?

To receive AAS mailings when away on long vacations or after moving, PLEASE contact our AAS chapter Membership chair (see p.2) with your address change. This saves us money while keeping you current with our activities. Giving a change of address form to the US Post Office (USPS) **will NOT help**; our USPS addresses are handled by National Audubon. We incur a \$.41 charge per item for each piece of incorrectly addressed, returned mail.

Please help us help you!