



# Kingfisher Courier

Newsletter of Appalachian Audubon Society

May 2013

## May 16 is the AAS Annual Banquet! Snowy Owls—the Ultimate Nomads of the Canadian Arctic

**J**ean-Francois Therrien, PhD, joined the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary as Senior Research Biologist in September 2011, working on various aspects of raptor conservation science such as satellite tracking of Peregrine Falcons, Turkey Vultures, American Kestrels, and Snowy Owls. A native of Sherbrooke, Quebec, he spent years of doctoral research studying Snowy Owl breeding grounds in the high Arctic.

Dr. Therrien will tell us about his work with the Snowy Owls and explain how these highly mobile and unpredictable predatory birds are monitored over several years. His program also will give us a taste of field work situations in this highly remote and hostile environment.

Join us for this very special program at the AAS Annual Banquet!



Jean-Francois Therrien with a Snowy Owl

See inside for banquet reservation form and details.  
**Reservations must be received by May 9!**

### May and June Field Trips

**May 4: Warbler Walk in Stony Creek Valley**  
Meet at 7 AM at the PPL substation along Stony Creek Valley Road. Contact Tom Smith at 921-2461.

**May 5: Warbler Walk at State Game Lands 230 (Carlisle Springs)**

Meet at 7 AM in the easternmost parking lot. Contact Pete Lusardi at 243-6419 or [pjlusardi@aol.com](mailto:pjlusardi@aol.com).

**June 8: NEW! Hershey Gardens**

*Note: The Garden entrance fee is \$10.* Explore the butterfly house and the beautiful gardens that attract many species of birds. Meet at 9 AM at the entrance to Hershey Gardens. Contact Arlene Buchholz at 808-779-5200 or [abvetlab@yahoo.com](mailto:abvetlab@yahoo.com).

**June 14 (Friday): Fort Indiantown Gap Grasslands**

A unique opportunity to observe grassland birds and the rare Regal Fritillary Butterfly. Contact Dave McNaughton at 861-8408 or [davmcaugh@pa.gov](mailto:davmcaugh@pa.gov).



Blackburnian Warbler

### Pennsylvania Migration Count

The 22nd Pennsylvania Annual Migration Count (PAMC) is **Saturday, May 12**. The PAMC was established to gather annual data on migratory bird populations and to help answer some fundamental questions regarding their distribution throughout Pennsylvania.

Similar to the Christmas Bird Count, participants spend time in the field counting all of the birds encountered in the area assigned by the county compiler, keeping track of miles traveled and time spent. The information is gathered and reported in *Pennsylvania Birds*, the annual report published by the PA Society for Ornithology. Birders of all skill levels are welcome!

If you'd like to help, please contact:

Dauphin County: Carl Juris, 564-1479 or [hbgbrdrs@verizon.net](mailto:hbgbrdrs@verizon.net)

Cumberland County: Vern Gauthier, 385-9526 or [pabirder@gmail.com](mailto:pabirder@gmail.com)

## OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

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*Term Ending May 2013*

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### Publicity

Susan Miller: 697-6696

### Trout Run

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## President's Perch

Annette Mathes

### Appalachian Audubon

I remember so clearly how I used to page through my *National Audubon Society's Field Guide to Eastern North American Birds* (the small green plastic-covered book with the photos), looking at birds like the Scarlet Tanager and the Hooded Warbler again and again, and thinking that I probably would never see such birds in my lifetime. It just seemed impossible that these gorgeous birds with their brilliant colors could be accessible to me. But a whole new world opened up when I discovered Appalachian Audubon.



Scarlet Tanager

Although I've lived in Harrisburg all my life, I never knew AAS existed until the summer of 2007, after my life had taken an unexpected turn and I was looking to fill an empty space. I knew when I found AAS that it was just what I was looking for. My first opportunity to get involved was to volunteer for the Fall Native Plant Sale. I was apprehensive about throwing myself into a group of strangers, but each and every person I met that day was warm and welcoming, and before I knew it I had established a new group of friends.

Life got even better when I began joining the field trips. I was astonished at the expertise of the trip leaders, and amazed to discover that we had such accomplished and passionate birders in the Harrisburg area. Not only did I see Hooded Warblers and Scarlet Tanagers, but I saw Blackburnian Warblers, Snow Buntings, Harlequin Ducks, and Bobolinks. I was introduced to many wonderful birders who have continued to share their knowledge of how to listen for and identify Winter Wrens, Cape May Warblers, Broad-winged Hawks, and Bonaparte's Gulls.



Hooded Warbler

It's hard to believe now, barely six years later, that I am finishing up my two-year term as president of Appalachian Audubon. Truly it has been an honor and a privilege for me. Yes, there was a lot of work involved and a lot of responsibility, but it has been one of the most rewarding challenges I've ever experienced. Of course it's the people that have made it so great and so much fun, and I want to take this opportunity to sincerely thank each and every Board Officer, Director, Committee member, and volunteer who have so willingly contributed their time and talents and have been so helpful and supportive.

If you've ever considered volunteering for AAS, or coming to our meetings, the Holiday Social, or the Annual Banquet, or joining one of our field trips, hesitate no longer! New life, new ideas, and your positive energy are the keys to our continued success. Please join us!

And thank you all for a great two years!

# Join Us on May 16 for the AAS Annual Banquet!

**RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY THURSDAY, MAY 9**



## Snowy Owls

*The Ultimate Nomads of the Canadian Arctic*

Jean-Francois Therrien, PhD, Senior Research Biologist at the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary, will share his experiences of the years he has spent studying Snowy Owls on their breeding grounds in the high Arctic. Dr. Therrien will explain how these highly mobile and unpredictable predatory birds are monitored over several years and give us a taste of what field work is like in a remote and hostile environment..

**NEW LOCATION and only \$25 per person!**

**When:** Thursday, May 16

6:00 pm Silent Auction, Cash Bar, Appetizers *(Doors won't open until 6:00 sharp!)*

6:45 pm Buffet Dinner, followed by speaker

**Where:** West Shore Elks Lodge #2257

108 N St. John's Church Road, Camp Hill, PA *(Just off the Carlisle Pike)*

*Buffet dinner features Marinated Char-grilled Italian Chicken Breast, Braised Roast Beef in light au jus, a vegetarian option, Fresh Steamed Vegetables, Mixed Greens and Mesclun Salad, Rolls, Beverages, and Dessert. Cash Bar.*

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## AAS Banquet Reservation Form

*Must be received by Thursday May 9!*

Name(s)

Address

Phone

Email

Please make reservations for \_\_\_\_\_ persons @ \$25 each

\$

I would like to donate to the AAS Annual Appeal and help the Forsythe NWR recover from Hurricane Sandy (see reverse)

\$

I would like to donate to the AAS Camp Scholarship Program

\$

Total included

\$

*Mail this form, along with your check payable to AAS (Appalachian Audubon Society), to:  
Andy Groff, AAS Treasurer, 1508 Carlisle Road, Camp Hill, PA 17011*



# AAS 2013 Annual Appeal

## Help the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge Recover from Hurricane Sandy

Many of us have visited the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge in southern New Jersey on Appalachian Audubon's annual field trip. We've enjoyed the numerous species of songbirds, waterfowl, shorebirds, raptors, and even owls.



But this past October, Hurricane Sandy left behind a 22-mile debris field in the marshes and wetlands along Forsythe's coastal boundary. The freshwater impoundments were over-topped by the storm surge and are now contaminated by salt water. Wildlife Drive was severely damaged. Salvage operations by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are attempting to recover the 176 boats, which potentially carried 6,500 gallons of fuel and other hazardous materials that were stranded on Forsythe NWR.

After clean up, additional work will be needed to restore these wetlands, which are critical migratory stopovers for waterfowl and important buffers against storms and sea level rise for coastal communities. The effects on plants, marine life, and wildlife will be an ongoing evaluation. To help in this effort, Appalachian Audubon is raising funds for Friends of Forsythe NWR (<http://friendsofforsythe.org/>), a non-profit organization whose sole mission is to support the NWR. Please join us by making your tax-deductible contribution to AAS. 100% of your contribution will be sent to Friends of Forsythe and dedicated to the clean up.

*Wildlife Drive is scheduled to re-open this spring! Before you visit, check out <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/forsythe/> for an update on the status.*

**Yes, I want to help the Forsythe NWR Recover from Hurricane Sandy.**

*(If you are attending our Annual Banquet, you can make your donation on the Banquet reservation form.)*

Name(s)

Address

Phone

Email

I would like to donate to the AAS Annual Appeal and help the Forsythe NWR recover from Hurricane Sandy.

\$

I would like to donate to the AAS Camp Scholarship Program

\$

*100% of your contribution is tax-deductible.*

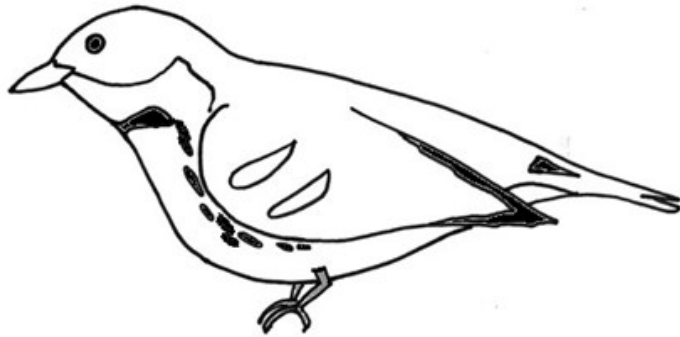
Total included

\$

*Mail this form, along with your check payable to AAS (Appalachian Audubon Society), to:  
Andy Groff, AAS Treasurer, 1508 Carlisle Road, Camp Hill, PA 17011*

# Kingfisher Kids

by 12-year old Gabe Tiday



Gabe drew this male Cerulean Warbler. Find a Cerulean Warbler in your field guide, then color Gabe's drawing with the correct colors.

## Warbler Word Hunt

W M Y Q P E W R Y O L B  
 W B E W B Q C Z K A L U  
 F Q L T R F C A N A D A  
 A I L O N G A M C G F C  
 N U O W F H P K A O N G  
 W R W N P G B U P L V C  
 U I A S K U L A R R E Z  
 M O C E R U L E A N O U  
 Y T L N A M W K I M J Z  
 X T I D M E C P R C Z I  
 Z A W S W G P C I C Z J  
 N Y H J H O O D E D L G

Find these warblers!

- BLACKBURNIAN
- CANADA
- CERULEAN
- HOODED
- MAGNOLIA
- PALM
- PINE
- PRAIRIE
- TOWNSEND'S
- YELLOW

Created using [Puzzlemaker](http://www.discoveryeducation.com/puzzlemaker) at DiscoveryEducation.com

Gabe says: Last week I saw a Bald Eagle. Have you spotted something?

Visit Gabe's blog at <http://gabetiday.blogspot.com/>

## Silent Auction Items Needed

Just a reminder that our **May Annual Banquet** activities will include a silent auction of nature-related items.

If you have new or gently used items to donate, please contact Sue Strassner at 243-5731 (Carlisle area), Jane Barnette at 657-2055 (Harrisburg area), or Susan Miller at 697-6696 (West Shore and Mechanicsburg area). Please call by May 13th.

## Fall for Hummingbirds!

Nearly all of the hummingbirds that breed in our area are Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, but during the fall and winter other species sometimes pass through as they travel from breeding grounds in Alaska to their wintering grounds on the Gulf Coast.

Last fall, Kaufmann Insurance Agency and Lost Creek Shoe Shop sponsored a contest and awarded prizes to birders who were able to confirm a visit by a hummingbird. Five Ruby-throats and four non-Ruby-throats were reported between October and January! Thanks to Dan Bogar of Marysville for contributing his \$25 prize to AAS!



This male Rufous Hummingbird visited Dan Bogar's Marysville feeder last fall. Photo by Wayne Laubscher.

Check out:

<http://www.facebook.com/FallForHummingbirdsContest>

Thank you to our generous sponsor:

## LOST CREEK SHOE SHOP

QUALITY OPTICAL EQUIPMENT



643 Oakland Road  
 Mifflintown, PA  
 717-463-3117

**Aden Troyer**  
**David Troyer**





## Volunteers Needed for Harrisburg Falcon Watch

For the past 13 years, Peregrine Falcons have nested on the top of the Rachel Carson Building in downtown Harrisburg, with over 40 fledglings hatching and establishing nests of their own as far away as Delaware and Ohio.

The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) makes sure the fledglings stay on the building ledges or in the air—not on the ground where dangerous traffic and other hazards could harm them. Volunteers help DEP monitor the nest from dawn to dark during the two-week fledge season.

**Volunteer Coordinator Sue Hannon is looking for volunteers to watch the falcons for any amount of time on evenings and the first weekend in June.**



Top and left: Two of Harrisburg’s juvenile Peregrine Falcons that were rescued by volunteers.



Sue predicts that the fledging will occur after Memorial Day this year. With the eggs hatching in the last half of April, the Falcon Watch probably will begin about May 30. It will run until all the chicks are fledged and able to return to the ledge. Depending on the hatch order and gender mix, the Falcon Watch could run for anywhere from three days to two weeks. (Male Peregrine Falcons are smaller and tend to fledge a few days younger than females.)

If you are interested in spending a few hours sitting in a lawn chair with fellow volunteers, keeping your eye on the newly-fledged Peregrine Falcons, and then scurrying to rescue any youngsters that somehow end up on the ground, please contact Sue Hannon at [HbgFalconWatch@gmail.com](mailto:HbgFalconWatch@gmail.com).

## Field Trip Report: Haldeman Island



Painted Turtle found on Haldeman Island. Photo: Arlene Buchholz

On April 20 Scott Bills of the PA Game Commission guided 37 AAS members and friends on a field trip to Haldeman Island (State Game Lands 290). The group walked around the island from 9 AM until about noon looking for a variety of songbirds, shorebirds, and waterfowl.

Sightings included two juvenile Bald Eagles and a pair of adult Bald Eagles, with one of the adult eagles sitting on the nest. Other birds seen include Common

Snipe, Tree Swallows, Gadwall, Great Blue Heron, and Great Egret. The group also found a baby painted turtle and a garter snake.



Looking for birds on Haldeman Island. Photo: Arlene Buchholz

Report submitted by Arlene Buchholz.

## Consider an Appalachian Audubon Chapter-Only Membership

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When you join National Audubon, you automatically are assigned to be a member in the local Audubon chapter nearest your mailing address. Appalachian Audubon receives a small portion of the dues that its members pay to National Audubon.

If you would instead like to join Appalachian Audubon as a chapter-only member, please complete the form below. Thank you!.

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### Membership Form APPALACHIAN AUDUBON SOCIETY CHAPTER-ONLY \$15

Appalachian Audubon Society Chapter-Only Memberships run from  
July 1 through June 30.

*When you join as a Chapter-only member, 100% of your membership fee is retained by Appalachian Audubon and used for activities such as the newsletter, programs, scholarships, etc.*

Application is for **NEW** members joining Appalachian Audubon Society for the **FIRST** time or for National members switching to a Chapter-only membership. **RENEWAL** information will be mailed to you annually.

As a member of Appalachian Audubon Society, you will receive our own *Kingfisher Courier* newsletter and be notified of all of our events. Please send the information below, with a **check for \$15** made payable to **Appalachian Audubon Society**, addressed to:

**Appalachian Audubon Society**  
**PO Box 234**  
**Camp Hill, PA 17001-0234**

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| Name          |  |
| Address:      |  |
| Email address |  |
| Phone         |  |

|   |                          |
|---|--------------------------|
| Check if you are a new member.  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Check if you were a member of National Audubon and are switching to a chapter-only membership.  | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| <b><i>Check here if you would like to save valuable resources and receive your Kingfisher Courier via email and in full color instead of by U.S. mail</i></b> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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For information on the status of your National or Chapter membership, please contact Marcia Wilson at 717-215-0633 or [rmwmfw@aol.com](mailto:rmwmfw@aol.com).

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# Kingfisher Courier

May 2013

AAS monthly programs typically take place on the 3rd Thursday of each month at the **Christ Presbyterian Church, 421 Deerfield Road, in the Allendale neighborhood of Camp Hill.** *Join us at 7:00 pm for socializing and refreshments. The program begins at 7:30.*

### Directions to Christ Presbyterian Church:

**I-83 Southbound**, take exit 40B towards New Cumberland. Stay straight, cross Carlisle Road to Cedar Cliff Dr. Turn left onto Allendale Way and turn left onto Deerfield Road. The Church is on the left. Park in the second lot.

**I-83 Northbound**, take exit 40B, turn left onto Carlisle Road/Simpson Ferry Road and go under I-83. Turn left again at the light onto Cedar Cliff Drive. Turn left onto Allendale Way and turn left onto Deerfield Road. The Church is on the left. Park in the second lot.

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Appalachian Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 234  
Camp Hill, PA 17001-0234

[www.appalachianaudubon.org](http://www.appalachianaudubon.org)

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## AAS Annual Banquet Reservation Form Inside!

Join us on Thursday, May 16, for

*Snowy Owls—the Ultimate Nomad of the Canadian Arctic*

NEW LOCATION! West Shore Elks Club

\$25 per person



Also inside: Help the Edwin B. Forsythe NWR recover from Hurricane Sandy through the

**AAS Annual Appeal**

Like us on Facebook!  
Go to [www.appalachianaudubon.org](http://www.appalachianaudubon.org)  
and click the **Like** button!

Save valuable resources and receive your full-color **Kingfisher Courier** via email instead of paper!

Just send an email to: [amathes19@verizon.net](mailto:amathes19@verizon.net)

Thanks!