



Kingfisher Courier

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2016

APPALACHIAN AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

AAS PROGRAM | September 2016

Red Creek Wildlife Rehabilitation Center

Once again this year, AAS is kicking off our new season with a program that features live animals. It will be enjoyable for the entire family. This year our presenter is Red Creek Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, located in Schuylkill County.

The program will focus on raptors. We will meet a hawk, an owl, a vulture, and perhaps another bird, learn their stories, and hear about the work Red Creek does in caring for sick and injured wildlife.



PLEASE NOTE

Because this is a program that will interest young people, it will start earlier than usual. Social time will begin at 6:00pm, followed by our meeting at 6:30pm and the Red Creek presentation at 7:00pm.



Photo courtesy Red Creek Wildlife Rehabilitation Center

AAS PROGRAM | October 2016

Exploring Honduras by Ian Gardner

With a high murder rate and a history of violence against environmental activists, Honduras is not the first destination that comes to mind for tropical birding. However, from its lowland wilderness to its high mountain peaks, it hosts 60+ species of neotropical migrants, many of which spend their summers in Pennsylvania.

This past winter Appalachian Audubon board member Ian Gardner explored Honduras to learn about birds and local conservation efforts. His trip included the Juniata Valley Audubon Society Birding for Conservation tour and a study of Golden-winged Warblers with Ruth Bennett, a PhD candidate at Cornell.

At the October meeting, Ian will share his experiences birding in verdant cloud forests, ancient Mayan ruins, and cacti-filled deserts, as well as life on a coffee plantation, and conversations with local environmental activists.

Join us at 7:00pm for social time. The meeting starts at 7:30pm and will be followed by Ian's program.



Photo courtesy Ian Gardner

SAVE THE DATE!
Thursday, SEPTEMBER 15 @ 6:00pm

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!
Thursday, OCTOBER 20 @ 7:00pm



OUR CHAPTER HAS A LOT GOING ON

We've planned some fun and interesting programs for you that begin with Red Creek Wildlife Rehab Center (featuring live raptors) and end at our banquet with Scott Weidensaul talking about Project SNOWstorm. In between we're taking you to Honduras, talking about Bird-friendly Communities and offering an important program on native plants and landscaping in conjunction with Manada Conservancy. Rick Price has provided us with a variety of interesting field trips — some of your favorites and several new ones. Information on all of our activities is available in the Program/Field Trip Brochure.

OUR BOARD CONTINUES TO EVOLVE

I was thrilled when Jane Webster and Ian Gardner accepted the nominations for Vice President and Director, respectively. Tracey Ash has joined the Board as Treasurer and is working hard to minimize unnecessary charges and fees while streamlining our chapter finance records. I would again like to thank John Latsha for his service as Treasurer for the 2014–2016 board seasons and Sue Hannon for her service as Director as well. It takes time and effort to do the job you elected us to do and we take our responsibilities seriously. Our chapter faces many challenges and opportunities, which the board strives to meet in a responsible and realistic manner.

I hope you will join me in taking advantage of all we have to offer.

Thank You,
Kathy Kuchwara

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Vacant

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Trout Run
Vacant

AAS Schedules Fall Native Plant Sale

Appalachian Audubon has partnered with Diakon Wilderness Greenhouse & Native Plant Nursery to offer our members and friends the opportunity to purchase plants at the nursery located at 571 Mountain Road in Boiling Springs, PA. This sale will be held on Saturday, September 24, from 9am–3pm.

Fall is a great time to purchase your native plants. This sale gives you an opportunity to ask questions about the plants and meet others who have discovered the benefits of going native in their gardens. Our chapter will be receiving a portion of the profits of all sales, which helps us continue the educational programs that we offer. Please plan on attending.

Directions to the Greenhouse: heading west on 174 (Boiling Springs Road) cross route 74 and turn left onto Bucher Road. Then make a left onto Mountain Road. Proceed to 571 Mountain Road and make another left. **Follow the signage carefully.**

Note: this is a dirt road that proceeds up a gradual hill in a wooded area. If you are coming from another direction proceed to the back of the Children's Lake at Boiling Springs and turn onto Mountain Road. Continue until you see the sign for 571 Mountain Road. Turn left and follow the signs.

See you there.

Hog Island: The Experience That Changed My Life

by Dominic Mirarchi

When I was notified that I was the recipient of a 2016 Audubon Hog Island Scholarship, I couldn't have imagined how this experience would change my life forever. I was thrilled beyond belief. When the day finally came to check in, I was eager to get started, to say the least.

Once all the campers arrived, we gathered to introduce ourselves. There were campers from Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, New York, Wyoming, Ohio, and more. We made an imaginary map of the U.S. and stood in the state we were from. I realized that for the first time in my life, I was surrounded by people just like me. They were all about the birds.

During my week on Hog Island, we went on early morning bird walks. There were Northern Parula, Black-throated Green, Pine, Chestnut-sided, and Blackburnian Warblers, as well as Common Eiders, Black Guillemots, Common Loons, Common Terns, and Herring Gulls. We were lucky to hear a Northern Saw-whet Owl, Great Horned Owl, and Black-crowned Night-herons calling in the night. On the Shakedown Cruise (boating around islands) we spotted a Red-necked Grebe, a Bald Eagle, and Surf Scoter. We also had the rare opportunity to watch the banding of a Golden-

crowned Kinglet and Red-breasted Nuthatches.

On the all-day land trip we went to the Damariscotta River Association where we spotted Bobolinks in the field, a Yellow Warbler, an Alder Flycatcher, Mallards, Double-crested Cormorants, and heard a Marsh Wren. At the Blueberry Barrens, we spotted Savannah and Vesper Sparrows and a Bald Eagle. On a brief stop at Weskaeg Marsh we saw a Snowy Egret and Blue-winged

I REALIZED THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME IN MY LIFE, I WAS SURROUNDED BY PEOPLE JUST LIKE ME. THEY WERE ALL ABOUT THE BIRDS.

Teal. We also spotted Great-crested Flycatchers, a Canada Warbler, and a Nashville Warbler. It was a great day.

The most memorable part of the experience was the day trip to Eastern Egg Rock. Our guest lecturer was Dr. Stephen Kress, director of the Seabird Restoration Program, Project Puffin, which advances seabird conservation and habitat awareness worldwide. There were puffins on the rocks and in the water, terns nesting and dive

bombing the campers, and Laughing Gulls mobbing the group. We took turns going to an observation deck where I spotted nesting puffins and Common/Roseate/Arctic Terns and a Black-legged Kittiwake. The researchers who brought Leach's Storm-Petrels from their burrows spoke with passion when describing life as researchers on the island.

Imagine a place where you can meet and connect with others that have a passion for birds and the environment; a place where you can learn from the country's best-known birders and ornithologists; a place where you are surrounded by birds on every trail or boat ride; where it's peaceful from dusk to dawn. That place is the Audubon Hog Island Teen Camp in Maine.

I would like to thank the staff and volunteers at Hog Island, National Audubon Society, and the Appalachian Audubon Society for making this camp a once-in-a-lifetime experience for me and my fellow campers. I would also like to thank my parents for turning the Hog Island Teen Camp into a New England birding experience. In addition, I would like to thank Mr. Jon Dale, Mr. Eli DePaulis, and my science teacher, Ms. Miller for their help, guidance, and support over the years.



Field o' Teens.

Photo courtesy Hog Island staff

Volunteer Opportunities Abound

Fall is a great time to begin new ventures. If you've been thinking about doing something that will give you an opportunity to meet new people and have fun — we've got the perfect job for you!

We are looking for volunteers to assist us at our Native Plant Sale on September 24 and our Birdseed Sale on October 14 and 15. You can sign up for one event or both. We have a variety of needs that we can match with your talents. We even provide food!

For more information, please contact Kathy Kuchwara at kathykatbird2@comcast.net or 319-0828. We will get back to you to find out your availability and preferences.

Thanks in advance for your help!



Happy volunteers.

A "Once and Done" Way to Help Our Chapter

Each month our members are welcomed to our meetings with beverages and goodies to enjoy while socializing for half an hour before the meeting begins. We invite you to volunteer to provide beverages and snacks and oversee the refreshment table for just one month during our AAS year. Refreshments can be as simple or as creative as you wish. Three gallons of beverage, something healthy, something sweet, and something crunchy will do it. Paper goods are provided by the chapter. For questions or to sign up for a particular month, please contact Lorrie Preston, Hospitality Chair, at lpreston5156@gmail.com or 580-8993.

Audubon Scholarship Opportunities

Appalachian Audubon Society offers full and partial scholarships for youth and adult camps. For application deadlines and materials, monitor this newsletter and our website (under the Education and Scholarships tabs), and contact Education Chair Karen Atwood at atwoodphoto1@verizon.net for more information. Scholarships are available for:

Goddard Legacy Leadership Institute, Carlisle, PA

This camp for middle school youth includes field experiences in South Mountain, a central PA farm, and the Chesapeake Bay.

Wildlife Leadership Academy, western PA

Field schools for high school youth offer hands-on learning about wildlife, habitat management, and conservation taught by wildlife professionals.

Wildwood Park, Harrisburg, PA

A variety of day camps for ages 5–14 provide outdoor experiences including hiking, canoeing, plant and animal identification, and survival skills.

Hog Island Audubon Camp, Maine

Teen, family, and adult educator camps offer birding and natural history experiences on the coast of Maine.

We welcome suggestions for other camps consistent with our chapter mission to be considered for our scholarship program.



Bird banding at Hog Island

Photo courtesy Hog Island staff



SEPTEMBER FIELD TRIPS

new

Sunday, September 18, 2016

Birding Oasis at the Former Harrisburg State Hospital *(Cancelled last year due to inclement weather.)*

Join AAS Board member Ted Nichols II in search of fall migrants on the grounds of the former Harrisburg State Hospital, with its stately historic buildings and century-old trees.

Meet at 7:15am in the Department of Agriculture parking lot, across Cameron Street from the Farm Show Building in Harrisburg. Participants must register with Ted at tanicholsii@gmail.com.

Sunday, September 25, 2016

Annual Ralph Kinter Memorial Wildflower Walk

Wildflower expert Dan Welte will lead a trip to the Cornwall area to search for gentians and other fall wildflowers. In the past, participants on this annual walk have seen Fringed and Bottle Gentians in bloom, as well as other fall flowers. Fauna have included White-tailed Deer, a beautiful little Ring-necked Snake, and interesting birds.

Meet at 12:30pm at the Harrisburg Wal-Mart parking lot off Route 322 to carpool. Contact Dan at 717-728-0421 or dcmawelte@verizon.net.

OCTOBER FIELD TRIPS

new

Wednesday, October 12, 2016

A Day at Hawk Mountain with Bill Anderson *(Cancelled last year due to inclement weather.)*

Spend a day at historic Hawk Mountain with Bill Anderson. Tentatively, we will begin with a talk by one of the scientists at the Acopian Center, and then visit the Irma Braun Education Center, where we'll have lunch. Bill will present a short history of Hawk Mountain Sanctuary.

In the afternoon, there will be a live raptor display and time to go to the Visitor Center and walk to the lookouts. There is now a handicapped-accessible trail to the South Lookout, which permits motorized wheelchairs and makes walking to the lookout easier. The shorter, steeper trail is still available for those who wish to use it. Restrooms are available along the trail and in the Visitor Center. The schedule may change due to weather conditions.

We will meet at the south end of the Radisson Hotel parking lot in Camp Hill (across from McDonalds) at 7:45am, and carpool to the mountain. Register with Bill Anderson at 717-579-2049.

Sunday evening, October 16, 2016

Owl Banding with Sandy Lockerman at Small Valley

Bird bander Sandy Lockerman has again graciously consented to demonstrate owl banding to a small group of participants, provided an owl is caught that evening. No guarantees! Three years ago no owls were caught. The last two years two Saw-whet Owls were netted. Participation is limited to a maximum group of 10 and carpooling is required and limited to no more than three vehicles. No children under six please.

The group will meet near Harrisburg at 6:30pm. Contact Rick Price to register at 717-657-1950 or rprice210@comcast.net The demonstration should be over before midnight. Dress in warm layers, as the small cabin is unheated.



Photo courtesy Will Webster



Photo courtesy Will Webster



Photo courtesy Will Webster



Photo courtesy Rick Price



SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2016

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

DIRECTIONS

I-83 southbound — take exit 40B towards New Cumberland. Stay straight, cross Carlisle Road to 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.

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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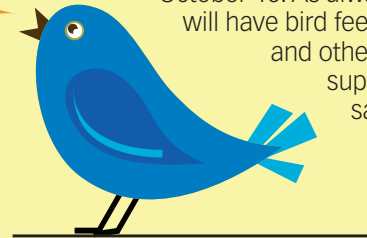


Bird Seed Sale Changes

You may notice that there is something missing from this newsletter. Traditionally you would get your order form for our Annual Birdseed Sale with the September newsletter.

However, this year we are trying something new. You will receive your order form in a separate mailing that should arrive about September 20. You will have until Friday, October 7, to order. The sale will be at Boscov's in Camp Hill on Friday, October 14 and Saturday, October 15. As always, we will have bird feeders and other related supplies for sale as well.

Dates of Sale:
October 14-15



SPECIAL ELECTION

At our September 15 program meeting we will be holding a special election for a one-year board director opening that was created when Jane Webster was elected as Chapter Vice President in May. This is to complete the term that runs from May 2015–May 2017 of which Jane had served one year.

Chapter member Mary Brenner has been nominated for this position. As per Chapter By-Laws we will also accept nominations from the floor.

NOTE

- The brochure for 2016/17 AAS programs and field trips is included in this mailing.
- Look for new programs and field trips, as well as a few favorite outings.
- The Birdseed Sale flyer and order form will be sent later in September.