



# Kingfisher Courier

Newsletter of Appalachian Audubon Society

April 2013

April 18

## Golden Eagles and Wind Power

To better understand the risk from wind power development to the small population of Golden Eagles in eastern North America, **Mike Lanzone** and his wife **Trish Miller** trapped and fitted 42 Golden Eagles with telemetry devices and studied them for seven years.



Trish Miller

Mike and Trish will tell us about their research and how the information they gathered can be used to recommend changes in turbine placement to reduce the risk of collision to low-flying eagles.

Please join us for what promises to be an excellent program!



Mike Lanzone

*Program time, location, and driving directions are on the back page.*

## Spring Native Plant Sale Meadowood Nursery

Saturday, April 27 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Spring has sprung! It's time for the Native Plant Sale at Meadowood Nursery in Hummelstown. Come join us for an hour or two or three and check out all the great plants at the nursery.

Spring is a wonderful time for planting native plants, and planting even just a few will bring all kinds of wildlife to your yard. Birds, butterflies, little critters, and big critters are all drawn to yards hosting native plants.



Volunteers will be there to help you with questions about the plants and help you make selections that will be just right for your yard.

### Directions to Meadowood

24 Meadowood Drive  
Hummelstown, PA 17036  
[www.meadowoodnursery.org](http://www.meadowoodnursery.org)

### From the South

At Hershey Park's Giant Center, take PA-39 West for 3 miles. Turn left on Red Top Road and go 1.1 miles. Turn Right on Long Lane, then Left on Meadowood. Drive to the end where two driveways split into a "Y." Take the paved drive on the left, up the hill to the nursery.

### From the North

On Route 81 take Exit 77. Follow PA-39 East for 3 miles. Turn Right on Red Top Road and go 1.1 miles. Proceed as above.

## Silent Auction Items Needed

Once again our **May Annual Banquet** (*see inside*) 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).

Past auctions have included field guides, binoculars, scopes, jewelry, outdoor equipment, native plants, bird feeders and houses, and artwork. Please call by May 13th so that we can arrange to get the item from you ahead of time.

Thanks!

## OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

**President:** Annette Mathes  
514-4512; amathes19@verizon.net

**Vice-President:** Susan Miller  
697-6696; millerscorner@msn.com

**Secretary:** Judy Bowman  
761-3815; bowma99@aol.com

**Treasurer:** Andy Groff  
350-9391; AndyGroff@comcast.net

## DIRECTORS

*Term Ending May 2013*

**Ann Glasscock:** 695-2738;  
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**Arlene Buchholz:** 808-779-5200;  
abvetlab@aol.com

**Ramsay Koury:** 761-1871;  
rkoury123@aol.com

*Term Ending May 2014*

**Kathy Kuchwara:** 319-0828;  
kathykatbird2@comcast.net

**Sue Strassner:** 243-5731;  
sue.strassner@exel.com

**Jane Barnette:** 657-2055;  
jbird558@aol.com

## COMMITTEES

### Bird Seed Sale

Annette Mathes: 514-4512

### Conservation

Vacant

### Education

Arlene Buchholz: 808-779-5200

### Field Trips

Judy Bowman: 761-3815

### Hospitality

Lorrie Preston: 732-5615

### Membership

Marcia Wilson: 215-0633

### Newsletter

Susan Miller: 697-6696

### Nominating

Ramsay Koury: 761-1871

### Programs

Annette Mathes: 514-4512

### Publicity

Susan Miller: 697-6696

### Trout Run

Andy Groff: 350-9391

## President's Perch

Annette Mathes

### Birding Like a Pro

If you've ever been on an AAS field trip, you've probably had the experience of trip leaders producing birds seemingly out of nowhere—a lone Eastern Meadowlark way out in the middle of the large grassy field, a Hooded Warbler in the dark underbrush of the forest, a tiny Brown Creeper camouflaged against a tree trunk deep in the woods. How do they do it?

Well, I guess the most obvious explanation is that our best birders go birding A LOT, and many have been birding for decades. There's no question that the skills and knowledge that they've acquired over the years is how they find so many birds. But even an inexperienced birder can bird like a pro by focusing on the basics.

One thing I've learned is that you have to understand a bird's habitat, and whether a bird will most likely be on the ground, at eye level, or high in the canopy. It helps to be thinking about what birds you can expect to see when you pass a grassy field, a gentle stream, or a woodland edge. Combined with this, you need to know when you can expect to see a bird—what is its migration pattern, when does it arrive in our area, when does it leave, or does it stay around all year? Knowing that a Common Yellowthroat will stay for the summer and breed while a Palm Warbler likely will be here for only a few weeks in the spring and fall helps you to know what to look for and also narrows your choices when you're trying to make an ID.

Some birds are very specific to a very small region. Experienced birders know almost precisely where to find breeding Kentucky Warblers and Red-breasted Nuthatches in our area. They can find a Savannah Sparrow on the Christmas Bird Count by going to a certain hedgerow on a certain road, or a Wilson's Snipe near a bridge on a certain creek. How can you learn this information? The PABIRDS Listserve, [http://www.pabirds.org/PA\\_BIRDS\\_Listserve.htm](http://www.pabirds.org/PA_BIRDS_Listserve.htm), and eBird, <http://ebird.org/content/ebird/>, are great resources, and they will point you in the direction of other birders.



Wilson's Snipe

If you learn their songs, the number of birds you find increases as much as the pleasure that comes from birding by ear. Some songs are easily learned, but others, like that of the White-crowned Sparrow, require practice to hear. Good birders listen for the tiniest chip notes, and learn to distinguish the metallic *chink* of a Hooded Warbler from the *tcht* of the Common Yellowthroat. I learned many songs from the *Peterson Field Guides Birding by Ear* CDs, but the more subtle call notes, like the double *jip-jip* of the Winter Wren, I've learned—and am still learning!—from experienced birders.

I do think that some of our best birders are naturally gifted with a passion and love of birding that gives them a "sixth sense." I truly believe that some birders have an aura that attracts the birds to them! Still, if you learn the fundamentals, bird as often as you can, and join a field trip or two with an experienced birder, you soon will find that birds begin to appear out of nowhere for you, too!



Eastern Meadowlark

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

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



## Snowy Owls

*The Ultimate Nomad 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)

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Address

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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*

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# 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.



Some of the boats stranded on the shores of Forsythe NWR may be impossible to remove.

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.*

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**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 \_\_\_\_\_

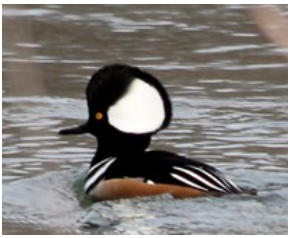
Email \_\_\_\_\_

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	\$
<i>100% of your contribution is tax-deductible.</i>	<b>Total included</b> \$

*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

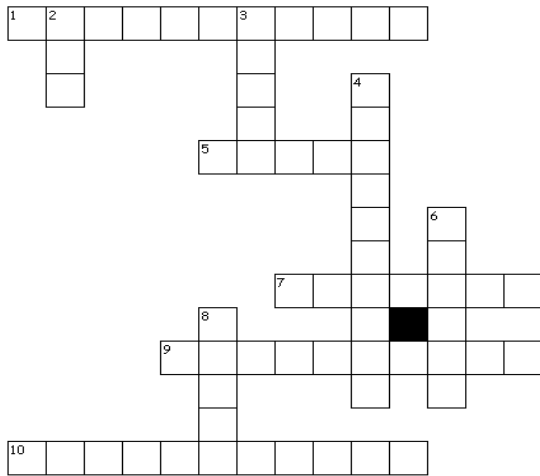
Here's a new column for kids suggested by and created by 12-year-old AAS member Gabe Tiday!



Can you name this bird that Gabe photographed during the GBBC? (answer below)

See more of Gabe's pics at <http://gabetiday.blogspot.com/>

## Bird Crazy Crossword



### Across

1. It mimics the calls of other birds and mechanical sounds such as car alarms.
5. Eats fish, stands in the water on stilt like legs.
7. The smallest falcon and it likes to sit on telephone poles.
9. This bird uses a long tongue and a strong beak to eat insects from trees.
10. It hovers and can fly backwards.

### Down

2. Hunts for prey at night, nocturnal.
3. Honks and gathers in large groups along the water's edge.
4. The bird this newsletter is named for is the \_\_\_\_.
6. Sticks insects on thorns to attract a mate and show territory.
8. It eats worms from the ground and has a red breast.

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

Gabe says, "Without birds, bugs might take over the world!"

Answers (read backwards!)

Photo is a: resnagreM dedooH

### Across

1. dribgnikcoM
5. noreH
7. lertseK
9. rekcepdooW
10. dribgnimmuH

### Down

2. lwO
3. esooG
4. rehsifgniK
6. ekirhS
8. niboR

# Annual Election of Officers

AAS will hold its annual election of officers at the May 16 annual banquet. The nominees are:

**President** (2-year term): Susan Miller

**Vice President** (2-year term): Kathy Kuchwara

**Treasurer** for a third 1-year term: Andy Groff

**Secretary** for a third 1-year term: Judy Bowman

**Director** for a second 2-year term: Arlene Buchholz; for a first 2-year term: Rick Price

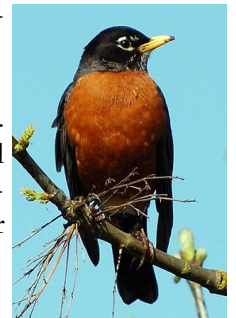
We still have vacancies for Directors. If you would like to nominate a member for one of the positions above, or if you would like to volunteer for chapter activities, please contact any of the board members listed on page 2 of this newsletter.

## April Field Trips

**April 6 Wildflower Walk at Pine Hill.** Jane Earle takes us to the Pine Hill Arboretum to look for early wildflowers such as Dutchman's breeches and trout lily. Contact Jane at [janeearle7@msn.com](mailto:janeearle7@msn.com) or 728-4241.

**April 20 Haldeman Island.** Scott Bills guides this 2- or 3-mile walking trip to look for ducks, a Bald Eagle nest, and other birds. Contact Arlene Buchholz at [abvetlab@yahoo.com](mailto:abvetlab@yahoo.com).

**April 27 Reservoir Park Highspire.** Jane Barnette takes us on a new trail to see a variety of spring birds. Contact Jane at 657-2055 or [jbird558@aol.com](mailto:jbird558@aol.com).



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# Kingfisher Courier

April 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



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!

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

**AAS Annual Appeal**