



Kingfisher Courier

DECEMBER 2013 | JANUARY 2014

APPALACHIAN AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

AAS PROGRAM | DECEMBER

Holiday Social

*Note earlier date:
December 12th at 7:00pm*

Please join us on Thursday, December 12th, for an evening of fun and socializing at our third annual Holiday Social. Past AAS President Paul Zeph will again serve as Master of Ceremonies. Activities will include:

- Pine Cone Feeder Craft Station
- Bird Call Contest
- Photo display of AAS activities and member favorites

To include one or two of your best nature photos please email them to Susan Miller at millerscorner@msn.com.

We will also be holding a Silent Auction, with proceeds benefitting our Scholarship Fund. Who knows? You may be able to find gifts for the birders on your list! If you have a nature-related or seasonal item to donate to the auction please contact Kathy Kuchwara at 319-0828.

There will be a variety of holiday treats for snacking so please bring your appetite. Please bring a dish to share if you would like.

The format of this gathering gives us an opportunity to get to know one another in a less structured, more social setting and should make for an enjoyable evening. We hope to see you there.



AAS PROGRAM | JANUARY

Priceless Ponds for Three Seasons

Presented by Gene Wingert

Gene Wingert is well known to the members of Appalachian Audubon as both a former President and the presenter of many monthly programs for our group. His career includes teaching Biology/Biochemistry at Cumberland Valley High School, Harrisburg Area Community College and Dickinson College, where he has taught since 1991.

Gene's program will focus on the ecology of an Autumnal Vernal Pond through a typical year cycle. These ponds are waterbodies that fill in the spring from rain and melting snow and then dry out in the summer. They are a significant habitat for species such as wood frogs, marbled salamanders and spring peepers,



Marbled salamander

which are important in the ecology and food chain of the forests and have adapted to seasonal variations in the environment of these ponds. The program will include a timeline of how these and other species mate and the role the ponds play in their propagation cycle.

Gene also will discuss the challenges that land development, logging and other environmental hazards pose to the health of these ponds as well as the ecological balance of the forests where they are found.

Please join us on Thursday, January 16th, at 7:00pm for refreshments and social time. A brief meeting starts at 7:30 with the program to follow.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!
Holiday Social: December 12 @ 7:00pm

SAVE THE DATE!
Thursday, January 16, 2014 @ 7:00pm

The Most Wonderful Time of the Year

By Ramsay Koury

Many people look forward to this season of the year for a variety of reasons. In addition to all of the other great things that happen in December, many birders are anxiously awaiting Christmas Bird Count season! Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs) were first conducted in 1900. Ornithologist Frank Chapman of the newly formed Audubon Society wanted to propose an alternative to the Christmas Side Hunt. This was a tradition where people would hunt birds on Christmas Day to see who could shoot the most birds! Mr. Chapman convinced birders in 25 locations in the U.S. to instead count birds on Christmas Day, and so was born the Christmas Bird Count! On that day, 27 observers found 90 species of birds. CBCs have grown tremendously in size and enthusiasm since then. More than 2,000 CBCs are now conducted by more than 60,000 observers in over a dozen countries.

In addition to being a lot of fun, this huge citizen science project collects a vast amount of data on bird populations. To illustrate this, here is a comparison of the number of birds and species found in the 1970 Harrisburg CBC, the year I first participated, to the 2012 CBC.

Species	1970	2012
Canada Goose	0	2,127
Ring-necked Pheasant	240	0
Ring-billed Gull	28	1,122
Red-tailed Hawk	7	88
Red-bellied Woodpecker	8	238
Carolina Wren	4	303
Eastern Bluebird	2	273
House Sparrow	990	484

We know that many changes in species populations can be explained by climate changes and loss of habitat, and data from the CBCs can really help us to pinpoint areas where species are in dramatic decline, as well as to help us to gauge some of the more subtle and long term changes in populations.

Listed below are the CBCs that are conducted in our area each year. If you want a break from the busyness of the holiday season, consider joining one.

Count	Date	Contact
Harrisburg	December 14	Deuane Hoffman, 564-7475 or corvuscorax@comcast.net
New Bloomfield	December 21	Ramsay Koury, 761-1871 or rkoury123@aol.com
Curtin	December 27	Nancy Juris, hbgbrdrs@verizon.net
Newville	December 28	Bill or Linda Frantz, 776-4463
York Springs	December 30	Vern Gauthier, 385-9526 or pabirder@gmail.com



President Susan Miller
millerscorner@msn.com
717-697-6696

Vice President Kathy Kuchwara
kathykatbird2@comcast.net
717-319-0828

Secretary Judy Bowman
bowma99@aol.com
717-761-3815

Treasurer Andy Groff
andygroff@comcast.net
717-686-6564

DIRECTORS

Term ending May 2014

Sue Strassner 717-243-5731
strassneri@aol.com

Jane Barnette 717-657-2055
jbird558@aol.com

Vacant

Term ending May 2015

Ann Glasscock 717-695-2738
hglasscock07@comcast.net

Arlene Buchholz 808-779-5200
abvetlab@aol.com

Rick Price 717-657-1950
rprice210@comcast.net

COMMITTEES

Bird Seed Sale

Vacant

Conservation

Vacant

Education

Arlene Buchholz 808-779-5200

Field Trips

Rick Price 717-657-1950

Hospitality

Lorrie Preston 717-732-5615

Membership

Marcia Wilson 717-215-0633

Newsletter

Kathy Kuchwara 717-319-0828

Nominating

Vacant

Programs

Susan Miller 717-697-6696

Publicity

Sue Strassner 717-243-5731

Trout Run

Andy Groff 717-686-6564

Wondering Again

By Susan Miller

Last November (2012) I had the good fortune to be visited by a female Rufous Hummingbird that used a feeder at my home for about 2 weeks. The bird was banded by Sandy Lockerman and continued to hang around until the day before Thanksgiving. I was thankful for that experience and have often wondered how the little bird did on the trip to her next destination and what the chances were that she might find her way back here sometime. This fall, I didn't see any hummers for many weeks until one showed up at the feeder the morning of November 12th, just as I was leaving for work. After banding a Gray-chinned Hummingbird (a very exciting find) in Greencastle on November 13th, Sandy stopped at my home, caught the little visitor, and confirmed that it was the same one that she banded last year! The bird weighed in at 4.26 grams (up from 3.56 in 2012), had lots of stored fat around her throat area, had 40 gorget

feathers (up from 19), and was doing well in spite of migration and cold weather. It is really gratifying to know that this tiny feathered friend made it through to another year.

Now the wondering starts again. Where did she spend the past year? Did she have any offspring? What made her return to this specific place? What did she tell her family and friends about being captured by aliens in south

central PA? Will they believe that it happened to her again or suggest that she seek professional help? Whatever her story, she has made life a bit more interesting. I'm grateful for that and for her unintended contribution to science. Many thanks to Sandy Lockerman and others who go to great lengths to learn and share what they can about the stories of these amazing creatures.



Photo courtesy of Sandy Lockerman

Below: A Black-chinned Hummingbird photographed near Greencastle by Meredith Lombard



THANKS FOR BIRDSEED SALE HELP

Mother Nature was kind to us during the 2013 birdseed sale when warm weather and clear skies made for a very pleasant event. Raindrops held off until about 20 minutes after we finished closing up on Saturday. The folks listed below volunteered a lot of their time to make the sale go smoothly and all managed to have a good bit of fun in the process. Many thanks to them, and to those of you who supported the sale with your purchases!

Volunteers: Chris Atwood, Karen Atwood, Arlene Buchholz, Kay Cribbs, Jon Dale, Joe Faschetta, Ann Glasscock, Bob Glasscock, Andy Groff, Ramsay Koury, Kathy Kuchwara, Gary LaBelle, Annette Mathes, Marci Mowrey, Hank Osborn, Lori Preston, Joan Renninger, Thyra Sperry, Sue Strassner, Marcia Wilson, and Paul Zeph.

Our appreciation is also extended to the following businesses and organizations that provided services or space to help with the sale. We couldn't do it without them!

- **Boscov's Camp Hill** (sale space, tables and chairs)
- **The Equipment Depot** (forklift)
- **Lower Allen Township** (traffic cones)
- **Isaac's Famous Grilled Sandwiches** (meals for volunteers)
- **Wood and Myers Oral Surgery** (sign placement)
- **Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art** (loan of activities for kids)
- **Tim Lehman and Davis Country Living** (seed, feeders, and assistance with the sale)

Happy feeding, and we hope to see you next year!



Pine cone feeder fun with Karen Atwood.

Jon Dale loads a seed order.



Teen and Educator Scholarships to Hog Island — Apply Now!



AAS will sponsor two scholarships to the 2014 Audubon Camps at Hog Island, Maine:

A partial \$500 scholarship will be provided toward **Sharing Nature: An Educator's Week**, July 20–25

A full scholarship will be provided to a teen, age 14–17, to **Coastal Maine Bird Studies for Teens**, June 15–20 or June 22–27

Past scholarship recipients have described their Hog Island experiences as life-changing. Please share this opportunity with science/conservation educators and young people who you think would be interested in expanding their knowledge of nature and birding. Camp participants will enjoy a beautiful setting, receive instruction by nationally known educators, and share the experience with like-minded campers.

Anyone interested in being considered for a scholarship should complete the application form that is available on the AAS website, www.appalachianaudubon.org. Preference in awarding scholarships will be given to AAS members and those who reside in the AAS chapter territory.

Learn more about the exciting Hog Island Camps at <http://hogisland.audubon.org/learn-explore>.

LEGISLATION UPDATES AVAILABLE

If you want to receive alerts and updates on legislation that may have local or state-wide environmental impacts, please notify Paul Zeph at pzeph@audubon.org to be included on an email distribution list.

A "Thank You" From Some Grateful Friends

We recently received the following Thank You letter from the Friends of Forsythe in recognition of our members' donations to help with the restoration of the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge site. It was severely damaged by Superstorm Sandy last fall. Our Chapter had designated this New Jersey wildlife refuge as our Annual Appeal recipient.

Thank you to all our members who responded so generously to the appeal.

A huge thanks to the members and board of the Appalachian Audubon Society for your generous donation of \$1,645.00 to Friends of Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge for Hurricane Sandy repairs.

We have consulted with our refuge manager and these funds will be used to replace the Welcome Kiosk at the entry to our Holgate Wilderness Area. This area is a prime nesting site for beach nesting birds, including Piping Plover, Least Tern, and American Oystercatcher. The original kiosk was carried away in the storm surge. It served as the public education point and is visited by more than 10,000 people per season.

Our Friends group and refuge staff sincerely appreciate you kind thoughtfulness.

*Mary Harper, Secretary
Friends of Forsythe NWR*



Example of erosion along south dike of Wildlife Drive.
Photo: Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge Facebook homepage.

SAVE PAPER!

Receive a full-color version of the *Kingfisher Courier* via email and help the environment. To sign up, email Susan Miller at millerscorner@msn.com.



JOIN OUR NEW FACEBOOK GROUP PAGE!

Our new FB page not only will inform and remind you of our events, it also will allow you to post your comments and photos and see what other AAS friends are up to! Please go to the following link <https://www.facebook.com/groups/515034908575016/> and click to join the group. An administrator will add you to the group promptly.



Kingfisher Courier

APPALACHIAN AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2013 / JANUARY 2014

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.



Printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper.



Appalachian Audubon Society

P.O. Box 234

Camp Hill, PA 17001-0234

www.appalachianaudubon.org

NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
HARRISBURG PA
PERMIT NO. 486

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

AAS Programs • 1

December: Holiday Social
January: Priceless Ponds for Three Seasons

The Most Wonderful Time of the Year • 2

Christmas Bird Counts Approach

Wondering Again • 3

A Second Annual Visit by a Female Rufous Hummingbird Inspires Many Questions

Thanks for Birdseed Sale Help • 5

Loyal Vendors and Volunteers Pair Up to Make This Year's Bird Seed Sale a Success



REMINDER JANUARY FIELD TRIP

Juniata County Winter Birding, Saturday January 18th, 2014

Join Aden Troyer and Chad Kauffman in search of Short Eared Owls, Lapland Longspurs, Pine Siskins, and other winter birds. Contact Aden at 463-3117 or Chad at chadkauffman@earthlink.net, 436-8257 or 994-6715. Meet at the Lost Creek Shoe Shop, where you can browse their extensive selection of birding optics, with hands-on testing and expert advice from the owners. Carpooling is required from the meeting place.

WINTER STORM CANCELLATION OF AAS PROGRAMS

If severe weather is forecast for the evening of an AAS program, please check one of the following for possible cancellation information:

- Our Facebook Page
- WHTM ABC27 at www.abc27.com
- Or call 717-697-6696