



# Kingfisher Courier

SEPTEMBER 2014

APPALACHIAN AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

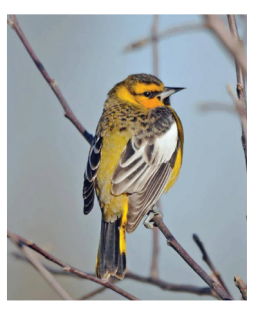
## AAS PROGRAM | SEPTEMBER

### When Birds Become Vagrants

When most people hear the word "vagrant" they think of an undesirable person who has shown up in their neighborhood. However, to birders the sighting of a vagrant creates a flurry of excitement: phone calls are made, emails go out on bird lists, and impromptu road trips are arranged.

Over the past few years birders in our area have been treated to such rarities as the Scott's Oriole in Mechanicsburg, a Western Grebe on the Conodoguinet, and the Black Throated Gray Warbler on the Big Spring. This has increased many life lists. But what brings these birds so far from home?

Howard Eskin will discuss several current theories as to what causes these birds to wander. He will also



Bullock's Oriole visitor to Montgomery County for the past 4 years.

*Photo by Howard Eskin*

share many of the photographs he has taken of vagrants (or extralimitals) in the tri-state area. Many of Howard's photos have been posted on the PA Bird List.

Howard (Ph.D. and Professional Engineer) is a retired corporate vice president and technical officer from Automated Data Processing. He has been married to Rosemarie for 57 years (a rarity in itself) and is a proud parent and grandparent.

**Please join us on Thursday, September 18th, at Christ Presbyterian Church in Camp Hill for our first meeting of the 2014-2015 season.**

We will have a social time at 7:00pm followed by a short chapter meeting starting at 7:30 with Howard's program to follow.

### Fall is for Planting

This fall will be Meadowood Nursery's final sales period before closing the nursery by the end of 2014.

Appalachian Audubon Society volunteers will be helping with the going out of business sale on September 6 from 9am to 1pm. All plants will be offered at 25% off regular prices.

Our goal is to help Meadowood move as many native plants as possible into our regional landscapes. Come join us. Get wild. Grow native.

If you would like to volunteer to help with the sale, please contact Sue Strassner at strassneri@aol.com or 243-5731.

### Birdseed & Feeder Sale Scheduled

The dates for this year's sale are Friday, September 26, from 3pm to 8pm, and Saturday, September 27, from 9am to 2pm. Boscov's in Camp Hill has again offered us the use of their former garden center for this event.

Enclosed in this newsletter you will find the birdseed order form as well as a guide to help you select the seed most appropriate for the birds that you feed. This will also be available on our website in the near future. There will be a complete selection of feeders, squirrel baffles, and related items for purchase during the sale. This is our major fundraiser for the year and we appreciate the support of AAS members and friends.

If you would like to help during the sale, please contact Kathy Kuchwara at 319-0828 or kathykatbird2@comcast.net. Volunteers are always appreciated and it's a great way to get involved with our chapter!

We hope to see you at the sale.



Welcome to the 2014–2015 season of Appalachian Audubon Society activities. Our program meetings will offer the opportunity to learn about vagrant birds, monarch butterflies, wolves, Borneo, and more! Another great lineup of field trips gives you the chance to explore good birding spots in South Central PA. The annual birdseed sale and other events will provide volunteer opportunities. There's something for everyone!

For many years AAS and other environmental organizations have promoted the importance of using native plants in our landscape planning. An integral partner in this effort has been Meadowood Native Plant Nursery near Hershey. In addition to plants, nursery owners Jan Getgood and Ernie Johnson have provided



Jan Getgood and Ernie Johnson

educational activities, offering the opportunity for Central PA residents to learn about including natives in their home gardening. Long-time AAS members, Jan and Ernie have supported our chapter with numerous plant sales and donations to fundraising activities. They recently decided to retire from the nursery operation at the end of this fall's planting season. We extend our deep appreciation to Jan and Ernie for their generosity, sharing of time and knowledge, and commitment to

returning natives to our landscapes. It has been a pleasure to work with them and we'll look forward to seeing them at AAS events throughout the coming year.

We hope to see you, too!

*Susan Miller*

## Scholarship Recipients Enjoyed Their Camp Experiences

An important goal of our chapter is to encourage the interest of young people in birds and nature as a whole. One of the ways we can best accomplish this is to sponsor scholarships to camps with that focus.

This year we awarded scholarships to three individuals, each of whom attended a camp that met their particular interests. One of our requirements for the scholarship recipients is that they report back to us about their experience. Nathan Vorodi went to Hog Island in Maine and he will share his experience at an upcoming chapter meeting. Daniel O' Brien attended the Goddard Leadership Camp at Pine Grove Furnace and his enthusiastic article is included here. Jane Webster prepared an article about Abby, the young lady who attended the Day Camp at Wildwood as a recipient of the Grace Randolph scholarship. Abby has a disability that makes it difficult for her to express herself; however, when you read Jane's article you will get a sense of how important this experience was to her. In fact, for those of us who knew Grace, I am sure she would be thrilled by Abby's selection.

Please check future newsletters for information about scholarships for the 2015 camp season.

*Continued on page 3*

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Vacant

## Scholarship Recipient Daniel O'Brien's Experiences at Goddard Leadership Camp

The camp was one of the best experiences I have ever had. My original goal was to learn how to be a leader and I achieved that. But looking back I realized that I got much more: I made new friends, understood that I could make a difference both in my life and my community, and learned how people's decisions and actions can positively affect our wildlife. I also got a sense of the history connected to Pine Grove and other state parks in the system.

If you asked me how camp was, I'd have to say IT WAS GREAT!!

The Goddard Camp provided activities in an atmosphere that encouraged learning. We went kayaking and I learned that wetlands and plants such as the lily pad are one of nature's ways of managing water pollution. Other things I learned included how many trees in the area were cut down when Pine Grove Furnace was still running and that there was a World War II prisoner of war camp in an adjacent park. One of the highlights was traveling to Carlisle on the "Party Bus" for an educational program. We spent time at Dickinson College where I learned how biodiesel is made and what's needed to build a sustainable house. Part of our experiences included "nature journaling," which I grew to really like.

Our rooms were great. In the morning around 6:30AM the birds (usually hummingbirds and cliff swallows) would appear and start flying around. There was a great view of the mountain and on cold mornings you could see the fog covering it. But the real beauty was the forest with its tall trees and clear waters. To see the waters of these lakes start out clear at the edges and then get darker as the depth increases is truly unforgettable.

There were plenty of challenges I had to face such as trying to work as a group and not be mean to others just because I was "competing against" them. The most challenging activity was called the "brown fields" project. In this I had to plan and plot land development using green techniques but taking into consideration such variables as community needs, job opportunities, etc.

The camp was fun but short, great but educational too. I learned a lot. For anybody who is interested and meets the requirements I would say it is worth it.

## Grace Randolph Scholarship Recipient's Experience at Wildwood Park

By Jane Webster

A young girl named Abby came to Wildwood Park's Wetlands Festival and spent most of the day looking at the animals in aquariums and learning about them from the "critter tent" naturalists. At the end of the day, I ran into her again when I went to the boardwalk to release a frog. She was walking barefoot in the mud looking for frogs. I checked with her mother and then asked if she would help me release the others. Abby's eyes widened at the prospect.

We walked along the towpath and released a few more critters in appropriate places. The last to go was a young garter snake. Abby carefully considered the perfect spot for it before gently letting it go. When it stayed frozen on the leaves, she sensed it was vulnerable so she picked it up, chose another spot, and released it again. This time it moved to cover and Abby got up to go, satisfied that all the animals were safely back where they needed to be.

As we walked, I could see that although she doesn't communicate much through words, Abby expresses her love of animals and nature through her attention to everything around her. You can almost see her thoughts as she peers through the plants into the dark waters of the canal. Before they left for the day, I told her mom about day camp at Wildwood Park. She said they would need a scholarship. Abby was a perfect candidate for the Grace Randolph Scholarship from Appalachian Audubon Society.

Every day after camp, her mother asked about her favorite and least favorite experiences. The best experiences usually involved seeing animals like deer and, especially, snakes. Every day she said that her least favorite thing was leaving.

When I asked what she thought was the most important thing she learned at camp, Abby said "clean up after yourself so that there is a nice place for animals to live and for people to visit."

Abby and her family send their heart-felt thanks to Appalachian Audubon for this opportunity.



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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 7:00 pm for socializing and refreshments. The program begins at 7:30 pm.

### 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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## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- September Program • 1
- When Birds Become Vagrants
- Annual Birdseed Sale • 1
- President's Perch • 2
- Scholarship Recipients • 3



## Annual Appeal Update

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the 2014 Annual Appeal. AAS sent \$830 to the American Birding Association's Birders' Exchange. We had a couple of missing addresses, so if you did not receive an acknowledgement of your donation please notify Susan Miller at millerscorner@msn.com.

### Also in this issue:

- Birdseed Sale Flyer
- Program/Field Trip Brochure

## Would you like to help?

Volunteers are the driving force of Appalachian Audubon Society. We are looking for a few more good folks to help plan and carry out activities by serving as directors, officers, or committee members. If you would like to become more involved with our chapter please contact Kathy Kuchwara at 319-0828 or Susan Miller at 697-6696 to learn about available opportunities.

## 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.

## Please DO Feed the Wild Birds

Longtime AAS member Jon Dale will present a program at the Cleve J. Fredricksen Library on Tuesday, September 23rd from 7:00 to 8:30pm. Jon will use slides, demonstrations and samples of feeders and seed in his presentation to educate about the dos and don'ts of feeding birds. Learn about both the year-round and migrant bird species one can attract to feeders, when and where to set up feeders, different types of feeders, foods birds prefer, proper care of feeders, squirrel-proofing your feeders, and landscaping for birds. The library is located at 100 North 19th Street in Camp Hill.