



Kingfisher Courier

APRIL 2015

APPALACHIAN AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

AAS PROGRAM | APRIL

An Odyssey of Two Amateur Birders

Presented by Rick and Peggy Price

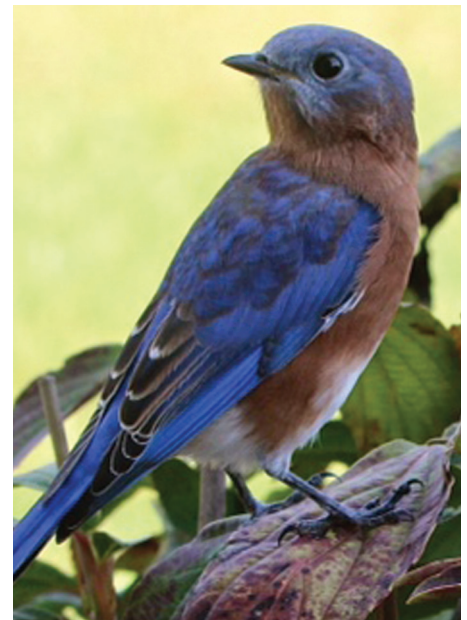
The longer you are involved with birding, the more likely you are to be asked, "How did you get interested in birds?" This program describes how two of our members got hooked on birds over 40 years ago and how that involvement became a lifelong journey. A number of locales will be discussed, from backyard birding and one day trips to visiting other states and countries. Rick and Peggy will share some practical lessons learned along the way, such as 1) expose children to nature, 2) keep a journal, 3) bird where you are, 4) participate in local bird walks, and 5) consider birding tours.

Rick's lovely photos have been featured in several of our news-

letters and slide presentations. The program is generously illustrated with pictures of birds, other fauna, flora, and places that he and Peggy have visited on their journey. There will be something for birders of all levels.

Rick and Peggy have been active members of AAS for several years. Rick is serving as a director on our board, coordinates our field trips, and leads the "Bird Chat" discussions at our monthly meetings. Peggy has helped out at many AAS events and currently serves as our chapter secretary.

Be sure to join us on Thursday, April 16. Social time starts at 7:00pm followed by our chapter meeting at 7:30 and the program presentation.



Eastern Bluebird on Highbush Cranberry Viburnum. Photo courtesy Rick Price

Native Plant Sale

AAS will not be holding a spring plant sale this year, but if you are looking for a way to get your fix of natives, visit the Manada Conservancy's Native Plant Sale on **Saturday, May 2 from 10:00am – 4:00pm**. The sale will be held rain or shine at **Schaffner Boro Park**, located at the corner of Water Street & Poplar Avenue in Hummelstown.

Browse from a beautiful array of perennials, trees and shrubs provided by six regional native plant nurseries. Come "Ask the Expert" your most pressing garden and design questions! Meet Manada's new Gardening for Nature Consultant, Ruth Consoli, as she shares some solutions to your gardening challenges from her years of experience. Parking is available on the street or at the Lower Dauphin High School.

Check the Conservancy's website for more information: www.manada.org

Hog Island Scholarship Recipient

Eli DePaulis is the 2015 recipient of our Hog Island "Coastal Maine Bird Studies for Teens" camp scholarship. Eli is a 15-year-old home-schooled student from York Springs who has contributed often to the meeting's Bird Chat. He has also volunteered for our chapter birdseed sale and the Christmas Bird Counts last year. Eli hopes the Hog Island camp experience will expand his "knowledge of the outdoors, especially in the areas of ornithology and coastal wetlands conservation." After camp, he plans to work with younger Boy Scouts and through his church "to teach birding to younger kids." He plans to study Environmental Science, with a focus on Ornithology. His "dream job" is to be "an environmental educator, especially for youth." Best wishes to Eli for a great Hog Island adventure. He will share his experience with us during the 2015-16 chapter year.

AAS Conowingo Field Trip Report

By Rick Price

Prior to noon on Saturday, February 7, 2015, a group of nine participants arrived at Fisherman's Park below the Conowingo Dam to find the Susquehanna River at a very low stage. It was lower than any of us had seen it there before and there were no dam releases during our visit. Despite the low water conditions, we were able to find between 5 to 10 Bald Eagles, including two immature birds. Upon arrival, Rosemary Spreha had already found a raft of Buffleheads and several Common Goldeneyes to greet us. The weather was pleasantly mild with varying degrees of cloudiness off and on.

Further observation over the next two hours yielded several female Common Mergansers, a Canada Goose, a Red-tailed Hawk, a Turkey Vulture, scores of Black Vultures, a Fish Crow, 16 Great Blue Herons, and a mix of Herring and Ring-billed Gulls, although the latter were in much fewer numbers than anticipated. The absence of water releases and the resulting lack of ground fish coming through the turbines probably accounted for the lower number of gulls and eagles than what we expected for this time of year. We searched for Peregrine Falcons and Black-crowned Night Herons with no success. A local birder told us that a peregrine had been seen recently, but the night herons have been absent this winter.

On the way home, less than three miles from the dam, four of our group were treated to good looks at a pair of hunting Red-shouldered Hawks along the northwest side of Route 1. The hawks cooperated for several minutes as we watched. One appeared to be in molt. After crossing back into Pennsylvania we also had a robin and a Belted Kingfisher.

It was a great way to spend a Saturday in February!

Below: AAS members enjoy a day at the Dam. *Right:* Eagle scours the surroundings looking for prey.



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JOIN US ON MAY 21ST FOR THE

AAS Annual Banquet!

Reservations required by Thursday, May 14th

For the Birds: Special Spots and Habitats in our Pennsylvania State Parks and Forests



Acting DCNR Secretary Cindy Adams Dunn will talk about the history and habitat protection of our public lands and give tips on special places to spot birds and other wildlife in some of Pennsylvania's 120 state parks and 2.2 million acres of state forests. Cindy previously served as CEO and president of PennFuture, Executive Director of Audubon Pennsylvania, and PA Program Director for the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay. She is a lifelong conservationist and lover of outdoor recreation of all types. Over the years Cindy has been recognized with numerous awards for her leadership in conservation. She is also a past president of Appalachian Audubon Society.

Join us for this celebration of some of our state's wonderful natural resources!

Enjoy this great evening for only \$27 per person!

When: Thursday, May 21

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

6:45pm Buffet Dinner, followed by a brief meeting and then the program

Where: West Shore Elks Lodge #2257

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

You are encouraged to car-pool if possible.

Menu: Buffet dinner features Braised Roast Beef Burgundy, Chicken with Asian Ginger Glaze, Rigatoni Marinara with Mushrooms & Fresh Basil, Fresh Steamed Vegetables, Mixed Greens Salad, Rolls, Beverages, and Dessert. Cash Bar.

REMINDER – We can accept only cash or checks for auction item purchases.

AAS BANQUET RESERVATION FORM

Must be received by Thursday, May 14th!

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please make reservations for _____ persons @ \$27 each \$ _____

I would like to donate to the AAS Annual Appeal to support the Golden-winged Warbler Project \$ _____

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:
John Latsha, AAS Treasurer, 827 Siddonsburg Road, Lewisberry, PA 17339

AAS 2015 ANNUAL APPEAL

Golden-winged Warbler Project



This year's AAS annual appeal will raise funds for a joint effort to establish "urgently needed high quality" young forest habitat in Pennsylvania for Golden-winged

Warblers and 19 other species of conservation concern, including the Cerulean Warbler. The Golden-winged Warbler Project is a partnership between the American Bird Conservancy, Dr. Jeff Larkin of Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP), and the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. The project is beginning its second year and has already received private funding from other sources.

The project will partner with 60 landowners to create at least 1,200 acres of young forest habitat that meets the needs of the Golden-winged Warblers Best Management Plan. It will also establish

permanent protection of 2,500 acres of mature forest adjacent to the young forest for foraging habitat for the Golden-winged Warblers and other species of concern.

The Pennsylvania project will serve as a model for other Appalachian and Great Lakes states to protect the Golden-winged Warblers. Funds will also be used to purchase telemetry units for tracking areas visited by the targeted species and for other equipment and expenses of staff working on this project through the IUP-Research Institute.

You are invited to support this important habitat protection project to keep the Golden-winged Warbler and other species of conservation concern off the endangered species list.

Yes, I want to support the Golden-winged Warbler Project.

(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 to help the GWW Project. \$ _____

I would like to donate to the AAS Camp Scholarship Program \$ _____

Total included \$ _____

100% of your contribution is tax-deductible.

Mail this form, along with your check payable to AAS (Appalachian Audubon Society), to:
John Latsha, AAS Treasurer, 827 Siddonsburg Road, Lewisberry, PA 17339



Field Trips

Take advantage of the variety of field trips we have planned and get out and enjoy the birds and the spring. We've had a long, hard winter!

APRIL FIELD TRIPS

April (*date to be determined based on weather*) — **WILDFLOWER WALK AT PINE HILL**

Jane Earle takes us through the wooded ravine at Pine Hill Arboretum near Camp Hill to look for early spring wildflowers such as Dutchman's Breeches and toothwort. Meet at 1:00pm. Contact Jane at janeearle7@msn.com or 728-4241 for meeting location and to confirm date.

Saturday, April 11 — *New Offering* — **EARLY SPRING MIGRANTS AT PRESCOTT ROAD**

Join AAS board member Sue Hannon on a birding route south of Falmouth to look for early spring migrants. Yellow-throated Warblers have been found in this area and there is a possibility of a Prothonotary Warbler as well as other typical early spring arrivals. Contact Sue at sbhannon@gmail.com. for more information.

Sunday, April 26 — **CONEWAGO RECREATION TRAIL**

Jane Barnette takes us to a scenic trail below Middletown that is easy to navigate. A nice variety of spring birds can be found there — last year both Black-throated Green and Palm Warblers were spotted.

Meeting place is High Pointe Commons at 7:30am. Contact Jane at 657-2055 or jbird558@aol.com.



Canada Warbler (*top*),
and Prothonotary Warbler.
Photos by Rick Price.

MAY FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, May 2 — **WARBLER WALK IN STONY VALLEY**

Join warbler expert Tom Smith in this annual trip through the Stony Creek area to see, hear and learn about many species of spring migrants. Meet at 7:00am by the PPL substation along Stony Valley Creek Road. Contact Tom at 921-2461.

Sunday, May 3 — **WARBLER WALK AT STATE GAME LANDS 230**

Pete Lusardi leads a walk along the base of Blue Mountain in Carlisle Springs to look for migrating and summer resident warblers and other species of spring birds. Meet at 7:00am at the easternmost parking lot. Contact Pete at 243-6419 or pjlusardi@aol.com. We have had Mourning Warblers on this walk.

Saturday, May 9 — **PENNSYLVANIA MIGRATION COUNT**

Participate in this PA Society of Ornithology study to identify as many bird species as possible within a given territory on this date.

For Dauphin County contact Carl and Nancy Juris at 564-1479.

For Cumberland and Perry Counties contact Vern Gauthier at 385-9526 or pabirder@gmail.com.



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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 7:00pm 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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April

- Pine Hill
- Prescott Road
- Conewago Recreational Trail

May

- Stony Valley
- State Game Lands 230
- Pennsylvania Migration Count



JOIN OUR FACEBOOK GROUP PAGE!

Our Facebook 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.



SPRING CLEANING?

Once again, our annual banquet on May 21st will include a silent auction of nature related items.

Past auction items have included:

- books
- artwork
- optics
- outdoor equipment
- outdoor clothing
- native plants
- jewelry, and some surprises!

If you have a new or gently used nature related item to donate to the auction, please contact Susan Miller at 717-697-6696, Sue Strassner (Carlisle area) at 717-243-5731, or Kathy Kuchwara (West Shore) at 717-319-0828. Auction proceeds will support AAS scholarship programs.