



Kingfisher Courier

APRIL 2016

APPALACHIAN AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

AAS PROGRAM | APRIL 2016

A Fledge Watch Scrap Book

In the middle of the 20th Century, Peregrine Falcons suffered a sharp decline due to the widespread use of DDT and similar chemicals. Rachel Carson brought the plight of the peregrines to light with eloquence and courage that inspired action and saved the birds. It is fitting that Harrisburg's peregrines nest on the building that bears her name.

Sue Hannon, a member of Appalachian Audubon's Board, has been a volunteer with Harrisburg's Peregrine Falcon Fledge Watch for the past ten years. In monitoring the activities of the young birds preparing for their first flight, she has witnessed some special moments with these youngsters that include dramatic rescues, fledging triumphs, and heart-breaking tragedies—all part of the lives of Harrisburg's beloved Peregrine Falcons.

At the April program meeting, Sue will recount some of her experiences as part of the Fledge Watch team and share photos of these charismatic birds, on the ledge and in the air, as they claim their heritage of flight. Sue will also have news of Harrisburg offspring successfully nesting as adults in their own territories and an update on the status of this year's chicks.

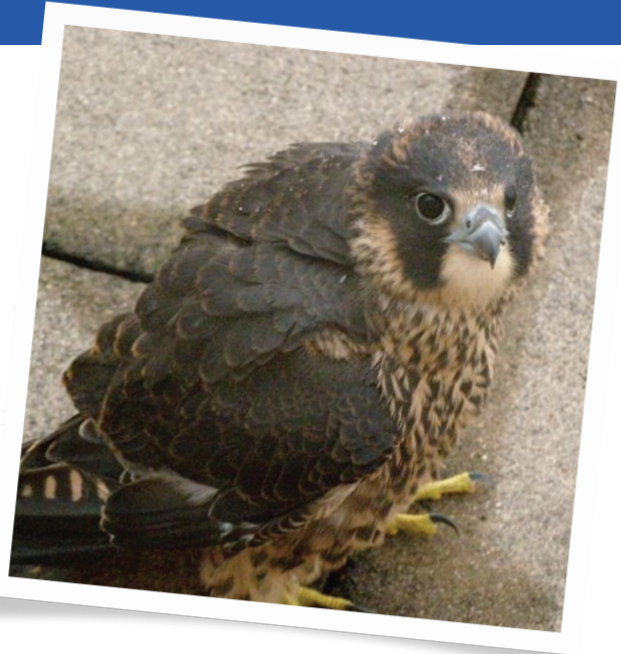


Photo courtesy Sue Hannon

Join us at 7:00 pm on Thursday, April 21, for a social time. The chapter meeting starts at 7:30 pm, followed by Sue's program.

SAVE THE DATE! Thursday, April 21 @ 7:00pm

Important Announcement

Over the past few months a committee composed of several past presidents and current board members of our chapter have met, reviewed the existing AAS bylaws, and proposed several changes to help us function more efficiently. The last time the bylaws were revised was over 20 years ago.

These changes will be posted on the AAS Website prior to May 1, 2016 for your review. They will be voted upon at our annual meeting during the banquet on May 19th. If any member does not have access to a computer they may request a hard copy be sent to them prior to May 1st. Please contact Kathy Kuchwara at (717) 761-2169. Leave your name and address and request a hard copy of the bylaws revisions.

Nominations for 2016–2017 Board

The AAS Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the following candidates for open board positions for the upcoming year:

Vice President: Jane Webster

Secretary: Peggy Price

Director: Karen Atwood (2-year term)

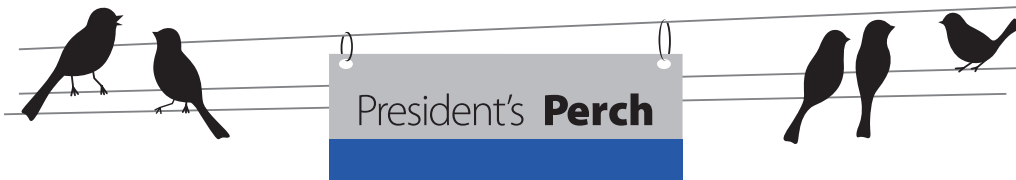
Director: Kevin Shannon (2-year term)

Director: Ian Gardner (2-year term)

The following position is open:

- Treasurer

The elections for the above positions will take place on May 19th at our Annual Banquet. If you are interested in being considered for any of these positions please contact Rick Price prior to this date. Nominations will also be taken from the floor at the banquet.



President's Perch

Over the past few days I've been reviewing what we've accomplished over the last 10 months. I'm pretty excited about what our board has done. We held yet another successful Birdseed Sale, cleaned the invasive plants out of Trout Run, restarted the Youth Committee, added another scholarship opportunity for young people, and revised our Chapter Bylaws, which is something that has been needed for a long time. (You'll be getting more information on the revisions and vote on them at the May Banquet.)

Now I'd like to extend an invitation to all of you. We'd like to have more of our members involved in helping us grow and become increasingly visible in our service area. This doesn't mean that you need to serve on the board—helping us by participating on either a standing or ad hoc committee is important too. We had recently asked for help for our Finance Committee and someone has come forward to offer assistance. Other committees include newsletter, conservation, birdseed sale, special events, publicity, scholarships and membership. We would be grateful for whatever time and talents you can give us.

If you think it's time for you to get involved please contact me at: kathykatbird2@comcast.net or (717) 319-0828.

I'd like to extend an invitation to all of you to help us grow and become increasingly visible in our service area.

— Kathy Kuchwara

Kingfisher Courier

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

Vice President Vacant

Secretary Peggy Price
rprice210@comcast.net
717-657-1950

Treasurer John Latsha
jlat1965@gmail.com
717-982-1141

DIRECTORS

Term ending May 2017

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

Ted Nichols 717-856-3851
tanicholsii@gmail.com

Jane Webster 717-526-2127
willjaneweb@yahoo.com

Term ending May 2016

Karen Atwood
atwoodphoto1@verizon.net

Sue Hannon 717-736-1035
sbhannon@gmail.com

Kevin Shannon
kbsathome@comcast.net

COMMITTEES

Bird Seed Sale
Vacant

Conservation
Sue Hannon 717-736-1035
sbhannon@gmail.com

Education
Karen Atwood
atwoodphoto1@verizon.net

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

Hospitality
Lorrie Preston 717-580-8993
lpreston5156@gmail.com

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

Newsletter
Sue Hannon 717-736-1035
sbhannon@gmail.com

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

Jane Webster 717-526-2127
willjaneweb@yahoo.com

Publicity
Vacant

Trout Run
Vacant

Field Trips

APRIL FIELD TRIPS

Saturday April 9, 2016 (date subject to change dependent on weather)
WILDFLOWER WALK AT PINE HILL

Jane Earle takes us through the wooded ravine at Pine Hill Arboretum in East Pennsboro Township to look for early spring wildflowers such as Dutchman's breeches, toothwort, saxifrage, trout lily, and blue phlox. Meet at 1:00 PM. Contact Jane at janeearle7@msn.com or 728-4241 for meeting location.

Saturday April 16, 2016
EARLY SPRING MIGRANTS AT PRESCOTT ROAD

Join AAS board member Sue Hannon at 8:00 AM on a birding route south of Falmouth to look for early migrants. In past years Yellow-throated Warblers have been found and there is a chance of an early Prothonotary Warbler, as well as typical early arrivals such as Palm Warblers and Blue-headed Vireos. Contact Sue at sbhannon@gmail.com for details.

New Trip **Saturday April 23, 2016**

SPRING WILDFLOWERS AT GIFFORD PINCHOT STATE PARK WITH DAN WELTE

Wildflower expert Dan Welte leads a new wildflower trip at Pinchot State Park. We can expect to see trillium, goldenseal, and Virginia bluebells, to name a few. We'll also keep our eyes open for bluebirds, Barred Owls, and Red-headed Woodpeckers. Meet at 10:00 AM at the Conewago Day Use Area. Contact Dan at 728-0421 or dcmawelte@paonline.com.

JOIN US ON MAY 19TH FOR THE

AAS Annual Banquet! Antarctic Odyssey



Photo courtesy
Steve Rannels

A journey to the Falkland Islands, South Georgia, and Antarctic Peninsula was the realization of a long-time dream for Steve Rannels and his wife, Sharon. Along the way, they retraced some of the path of Sir Ernest Shackleton's epic 1915 journey in its centenary year. Known locally for his inspiring programs and beautiful photographs, Steve will present breathtaking pictures of colonies of King Penguins, Albatrosses, seals, and sea lions observed against the backdrop of icy mountains, glaciers, and icebergs.

Since childhood, Steve has had a fascination for insects. This interest has persisted and developed into an urge to understand the natural world, know its components, and understand its dynamic interrelationships. Steve and Sharon are active in local bird clubs and land conservation groups. His philosophy is to preserve as much of the environment as possible for all species.

Enjoy this memorable evening for only \$28 per person!

**Reservations required
by Thursday, May 12th.**

When: Thursday, May 19

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, Golden Italian Marinated Chicken Breast, 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 12th!

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please make reservations for _____ persons @ \$28 each \$ _____

I would like to donate to the AAS Annual Appeal:

Red Creek Wildlife Rescue Center \$ _____

Le Torte Spring Run property acquisition \$ _____

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

2016 Appeal Designees

Red Creek Wildlife Center is a non-profit that is licensed to rehabilitate injured birds, mammals, amphibians, and reptiles. Located in Schuylkill County, Red Creek is the closest rehab to the AAS area that accepts a wide variety of species. This is where the Harrisburg Peregrine fledglings are taken if they require any care or monitoring. These valuable services, offered at no charge to the public, are supported by donations. Red Creek also provides training in the art of rehabilitation and presents educational programs about wildlife using animals that can't be released.

A 30-acre parcel at the headwaters of **LeTort Spring Run** in Carlisle is set to be protected by the Central PA Conservancy with financial support from Trout Unlimited and other sporting and conservation organizations. The acquisition will protect the headwaters of LeTort Spring Run and its wetland, meadow, and upland buffer. This renowned fly-fishing stream provides prime habitat for wild brown trout, while the surrounding land supports terrestrial insects that feed birds.

With the help of conservation-minded organizations like AAS and individuals like you, valuable land can be protected from development and injured wildlife will receive urgently needed care. Please consider joining other AAS members in support of protecting the headwaters of LeTorte Spring Run and assisting Red Creek Wildlife Rehab.

Yes, I want to support the Annual Appeal as designated below:

(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 help Red Creek Wildlife Rehab \$ _____

I would like to donate to help CPC protect the Le Torte Spring Run Headwaters \$ _____

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

Hog Island Scholarship Recipient

Congratulations to 14-year-old **Dominic Mirarchi**, an 8th grade student at Good Shepherd School in Camp Hill. Dominic is our 2016 Hog Island *Field Ornithology/Coastal Maine Bird Studies for Teens* \$1,295 scholarship recipient! Some readers may have met Dominic on one of our chapter field trips or during his volunteering at a chapter Birdseed Sale. In addition to birding, Dominic enjoys hiking and kayaking and hopes to study Biology and Ornithology in college one day. He cites special interests in studying the anatomy of birds, the human digestive system, and all animals. We look forward to hearing about his Hog Island adventures this fall. Have a great time, Dominic!

UPDATE: Summer Teen Camp, Goddard Leadership Legacy Institute (GLLI)

Last fall at our September program meeting we enjoyed hearing about teen experiences with the GLLI camp. Applications are now open for this summer's camps. The GLLI is coordinated by the Central Pennsylvania Conservancy (CPC) in cooperation with its lead partner, Pine Grove Furnace State Park. They are joined this year by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. The GLLI camp is designed for ages 13–15 and will be held July 12–July 17. This year the camp will run three days in Pennsylvania, based at the Ironmaster's Mansion in Pine Grove Furnace State Park in Gardners, PA, and two days at the LEED-certified Phillip Merrill Environmental Center in Annapolis, MD, and will include experiences on a workboat on the Chesapeake Bay. Explore conservation leadership, environmental and government issues, marine biology, water quality and ecosystems, field studies, land use, agriculture, and forestry, while also exploring our state parks and the Chesapeake Bay. The cost of the camp is \$350. Contact CPC for application dates/details and AAS scholarship information: 717-241-4360 or www.goddardleadership.org. **Deadline: Friday, June 10, 2016.**

Invitation

We invite our members to suggest scholarship opportunities, consistent with our bird and wildlife education and conservation, for youth, families, and educators. Please contact AAS Education Chair Karen Atwood with suggestions at atwoodphoto1@verizon.net or P.O. Box 234; Camp Hill, PA 17001-0234.

Rain and Ring-necks: The AAS March Field Trip Report

by Rick Price

After two years of having our annual Middle Creek field trip "iced out," we finally managed to sneak one in. Our leader, Pete Fox, met us at Lower Dauphin High School on March 13th, and seven hardy birders headed to Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area on a rainy pilgrimage to see Snow Geese, Tundra Swans, and hopefully, Short-eared Owls. Upon arrival, we were greeted by a welcome committee of Ring-necked Ducks, Black Ducks, American Coots, and a lone Horned Grebe. After a brief rest stop at the Visitors Center, we began the driving tour route, where we were greeted this time by a Ring-necked Pheasant. Our plan was to scan the fields at Stop #3, where Short-eared Owls had been reported during the past few days. Our thinking was that these diurnal owls might be active on a low light, rainy mid-afternoon. Instead we were fortunate to see our first of the year (FOY) Eastern Meadowlark, thanks to Dominic Mirarchi's keen spotting skills. The group later heard two more of these cheery birds. Although we spotted no owls or harriers, we watched as several flocks of Snow Geese and Tundra Swans flew overhead, a spectacle in itself. A final loop around the lake yielded a single Common Merganser drake among the Canada Geese and several more songbirds. The last find of the day was when Peggy Price spotted a Great Blue Heron rookery back in the trees off the main road, while we searched for the owls in the fields. We were quite surprised to see that at least eight of the Great Blue Heron nests were already occupied. Although the numbers of Snow Geese and Tundra Swans were waning and we didn't see owls, we enjoyed a rainy afternoon with several FOY birds and the hope of things to come soon. Thank you Pete!



Photo courtesy Rick Price

APRIL 2016

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 Program • 1**

April A Fledge Watch Scrap Book

President's Perch • 2**Field Trips • 2****AAS Annual Banquet • 3****2016 Appeal Designees • 4****Hog Island Scholarship Recipient • 5****UPDATE: Summer Teen Camp, Goddard Leadership Legacy Institute (GLLI) • 5****Rain and Ring-necks: The AAS March Field Trip Report • 5**

Photo courtesy Rick Price

**AAS members
on the move**

Photo courtesy Kathy Kuchwara

Photo courtesy Kathy Kuchwara

ANNUAL SILENT AUCTION

Our annual banquet on May 19 will again include a silent auction of nature related items. Past auction items have included books, binoculars and scopes, native plants, artwork, outdoor equipment and clothing, jewelry, and gift certificates. Auction proceeds will support AAS scholarship programs. If you have a new or gently used item to donate for the auction please let us know by May 15. You may contact Susan Miller at 697-6696, Sue Strassner (Carlisle area) at 243-5731, or Kathy Kuchwara (Camp Hill/West Shore) at 319-0828.