



Kingfisher Courier

MAY 2017

APPALACHIAN AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Appalachian Audubon Society Banquet with Scott Weidensaul

Author and researcher Scott Weidensaul will present the program for the Annual Banquet on Thursday, May 18

Don't miss hearing about Project SNOWstorm, a research effort that gathered information on the Snowy Owl irruption in the winter of 2013/14

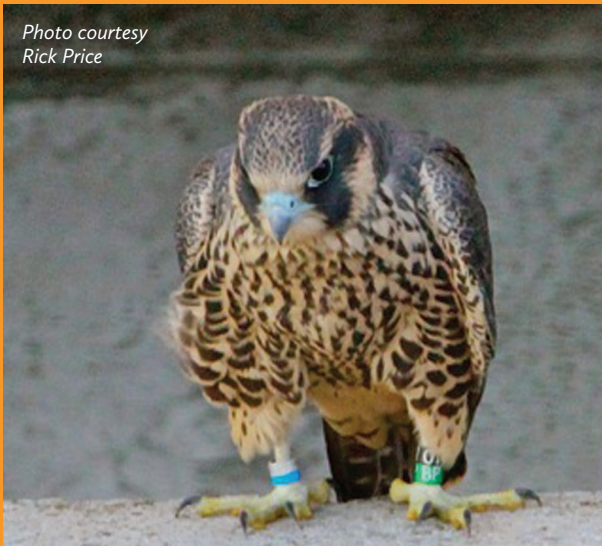
Reservation deadline is May 11

See page 3 for more information.

Harrisburg Falcon Watch

Since 1997, Peregrine Falcons have nested on the Rachel Carson Building at Fourth and Market Streets in Harrisburg. The first flight is precarious for any young bird, but Harrisburg's falcons face additional difficulties unique to their urban habitat, including cars and windows. Harrisburg Falcon Watchers increase the odds of survival. The opportunity to see and help young falcon fledglings as they learn to fly is the highlight of spring for many birders. Volunteers who are interested in helping should contact Sue Hannon at hbgfalconwatch@gmail.com for more information. No experience is necessary.

*Photo courtesy
Rick Price*



Appalachian Audubon Needs Your Email Address!

Beginning in September, AAS members will receive their newsletters by email. This will allow the club to save money on printing and postage and redirect the funds toward scholarships and other chapter activities.

If you are a member who still receives a printed newsletter, please send an email to appaudubonsoc@gmail.com by July 31. Include your name, street address, city, state, zip code, and email address. All members who have a valid email address on file with AAS by July 31 will be entered in a drawing for either a suet cake or a one-pound bag of shade-grown coffee from Honduras. There will be five lucky winners.

Members who do not have access to email can still get the newsletter in the mail: just send a written request with your name and mailing address to: Appalachian Audubon Society, P.O. Box 234, Camp Hill, PA 17001.

A limited supply of printed copies will be available at monthly membership meetings. The Annual Program/Field Trip Brochure will still be printed and will be mailed to all members.

Thank you for helping the chapter be responsible with funds and resources.

Annual Silent Auction

There is still time to donate new or gently used bird- or nature-themed items for the Silent Auction. Please contact Susan Miller at 697-6696, Sue Strassner (Carlisle area) at 243-5731, or Kathy Kuchwara (Camp Hill/West Shore) at 319-0828 by May 14. Popular items include books, binoculars, scopes, native plants, artwork, outdoor equipment and clothing, jewelry, and gift certificates. The auction will be held at the banquet on May 18, where cash or check will be accepted for winning bid purchases.

AAS Youth Committee

The youth committee is a network of teens working to educate people about birds and the environment. They perform conservation projects and outreach activities under the auspices of Appalachian Audubon. Members Eli DePaulis and Dominic Mirarchi have received AAS scholarships to attend the Audubon Camp at Hog Island. Their work with the youth committee is a way for them to give back to the chapter.

Each member of the youth committee can work separately on their own projects or assist others. Eli, who chairs the committee, works with his scout group on habitat enhancement at the Trout Run Preserve, and he also organizes public outreach for the chapter. Dominic's main project is running a birding club at Trinity High School, and he also helps with chapter outreach.

Because the youth committee is informal, it can be whatever its participants want it to be. Members who know youth who might enjoy being involved should get in touch with Eli using the contact information listed at right.

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

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

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Term ending May 2018

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Publicity
Vacant

Trout Run
Vacant

Youth Committee
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2017-2018 Chapter-only Membership Renewals

Current Chapter-only Members who joined before January 2017 should have received an email or letter via US mail with a renewal form attached.

To renew, please complete your form and send it along with your check for \$15.00 to: Appalachian Audubon Society, Box 234, Camp Hill, Pennsylvania 17001

Our next membership year will run from July 1, 2017-June 30, 2018. Please send your

renewal form by June 30, 2017, to avoid any interruption in membership services. As noted on page 1, as of September of this year, our newsletter will be delivered electronically, so we need your current email address if it is not already on file.

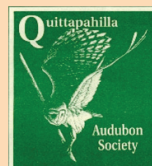
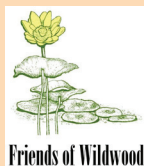
If you do not have computer access and wish to continue receiving a paper newsletter, please note it on your renewal form.

AAS Thanks Program Sponsors

In April, Appalachian Audubon and Manada Conservancy co-sponsored a program by Dr. Douglas Tallamy and Richard Darke, two nationally known speakers on the use of native plants in landscaping. The program was made possible by generous donations from many local businesses and organizations. We extend our sincere thanks to:



West Shore Elks Lodge #2257



Cumberland County Master Gardeners • Hanoverdale Agway
Highland Gardens • Penn-Cumberland Garden Club
Wheel of Life Longevity • Yellow Breeches Watershed Association

This is the last issue of the *Kingfisher Courier* for the 2016/2017 year. The first issue of 2017/2018 will be published in September.

JOIN US ON MAY 18TH FOR THE

AAS Annual Banquet!

Scott Weidensaul: Caught in the SNOWstorm



Photo courtesy
Beth Sanders

The winter of 2013-14 saw the largest invasion of Snowy Owls into the eastern United States in perhaps a century and marked an unprecedented opportunity to learn more about these mysterious Arctic hunters.

Author and researcher Scott Weidensaul will share the story of Project SNOWstorm: How a huge, collaborative research effort focused on Snowy Owls came together in a few frantic weeks, funded with the help of people from around the world, and which years later continues to reveal discoveries and unexpected insights into the life and ecology of this great white raptor.

Scott's research specializes in the study of migration in owls, hummingbirds and passerines. He has written more than two dozen books on natural history, including **Living on the Wind: Across the Hemisphere with Migratory Birds**, a Pulitzer Prize finalist. He will be bringing books to sell and sign. Recent releases include:

- The long-awaited 20th anniversary edition of Weidensaul's classic, **Mountains of the Heart**, which he fully revised to reflect the changes in ecology, conservation and natural history over the past two decades. It also features an expansive new foreword.
- One of the most comprehensive works yet produced on North American owls, **The Peterson Reference Guide to Owls of North America and the Caribbean**, covers 39 species from Mexico and the Caribbean north. It includes a downloadable audio album of more than 80 vocalizations representing all species, the most detailed range maps ever produced, and more than 350 color photographs.

Enjoy this memorable evening for only \$29 per person!

When: Thursday, May 18

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 Club

108 N. St. John's Church Road, Camp Hill, PA, 17011, 717-761-3904

(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, Grilled Chicken Breast with Greek Marinade, 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.

Reservations
required by
5/11/17

AAS BANQUET RESERVATION FORM

Must be received by Thursday, May 11th!

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please make reservations for _____ persons @ \$29 each \$ _____

I would like to donate to the AAS Annual Appeal for Waggoner's Gap \$ _____

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:
Appalachian Audubon Society, P.O. Box 234, Camp Hill, PA 17001-0234

Annual Appeal Waggoner's Gap

Many Appalachian Audubon members are familiar with the Waggoner's Gap hawk watch, located on the Kittatinny Ridge, the eastern edge of the Appalachian Mountains. With annual totals of more than 20,000 raptors, including some of the highest Golden Eagle counts east of the Rockies, the site is one of the finest places to watch migrating hawks in Pennsylvania. Waggoner's Gap receives approximately 3,000 visitors annually during the fall migration. With its first known counts from 1948, Waggoner's Gap is one of the oldest count sites in North America. Counts have been submitted to the Hawk Migration Association of North America since its inception in 1974.

Over the years, Waggoner's Gap has relied on trained volunteers to conduct the annual count, which runs from August 1 to December 31. The core counter group of volunteers and site owner Audubon Pennsylvania are developing a plan for long-term continuation of the count. The plan involves establishing a paid counter position, along the lines of those at many other hawk



watches. In addition to assisting with the daily counts, there would be opportunities for interaction with visitors and public programs off-site.

Audubon Pennsylvania is raising funds for this new position, including \$8,000 for the first year of the counter position and additional funds for an endowment to maintain this paid position. Appalachian Audubon members can help sustain the counts at Waggoner's Gap by contributing through the Annual Appeal.

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 the AAS Annual Appeal for Waggoner's Gap \$ _____

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

Total included \$ _____

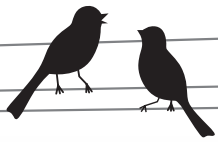
**Donation
deadline is
6/15/17**

100% of your contribution is tax-deductible.

Mail this form, along with your check payable to

AAS (Appalachian Audubon Society), to:

Appalachian Audubon Society
P.O. Box 234
Camp Hill, PA 17001-0234



President's Perch



The past two years seem to have flown by. Our chapter has been busy. We've revised our By-Laws, resurrected our Youth Committee (thanks to Eli DePaulis and his family), formed partnerships with Manada Conservancy and Diakon Wilderness Nursery, and have an active Conservation Committee, led by Ian Gardner. We are also moving towards an electronic newsletter that will begin this fall. In addition, we helped fund the Central Pennsylvania Conservancy's conservation of the Mathew Rice Property in Perry County, which will protect an important portion of the Kittatinny Ridge for birds and other wildlife.

We now offer scholarships to a variety of summer camps including Hog Island, Goddard Leadership Legacy Institute, Wildlife Leadership Academy, Wildwood Park, and the Ned Smith Center.

Our board members have worked hard, and even if we did not always agree on all issues, we have been able to reach consensus. We've had spirited discussions both during our meetings and via email. This is a sign of a healthy, committed organization.

Several members of the board will be retiring with me: Rick and Peggy Price, Ted Nichols and Tracey Ash. They have gone above and beyond in their

service. In fact, Ted will continue as our webmaster and Facebook administrator. Rick will retain his role as field trip chairman.

I know that Jane Webster and her incoming board will continue to promote the AAS mission of protecting birds and other wildlife and their habitat.

Lastly, I would like to thank you all for the privilege of serving as your president.

Thank you,
Kathy Kuchwara



Field Trips

MAY FIELD TRIPS



Saturday May 6, 2017
Warbler Walk in
Stony Valley

Join warbler expert Tom Smith on this classic annual trip through the Stony Creek area to see, hear, and learn about many species of warblers and other spring birds. Meet at 7:00am at the power line by the PPL power substation along Stony Creek Road. Contact Tom Smith at 921-2461 to register.



Sunday, May 7, 2017
Warbler Walk at State
Game Lands 230

Pete Lusardi will lead a walk along the base of Blue Mountain in Carlisle Springs to look for migrating and summer resident warblers and other songbirds. Five years ago, a Mourning Warbler was seen on this walk and two years ago a Golden-winged Warbler was reported by two lingering participants. Meet at 7:30am in the easternmost parking lot. Contact Pete Lusardi at 243-6419 or pjlusardi@aol.com.



Saturday May 13, 2017
Annual Pennsylvania
Migration Count

Like the Christmas Bird Count and the Great Backyard Bird Count, the annual spring Migration Count is an opportunity to gather data for the scientific study of birds. Counters find and identify as many species as possible within one day. To help with the Dauphin County count, contact Carl and Nancy Juris at 564-1479 or hbgbdrds@verizon.net. For Cumberland and Perry Counties, contact Vern Gauthier at 385-9526 or pabirder@gmail.com.



Saturday, May 13, 2017
Master Gardeners'
Bird Walk

The Dauphin County Master Gardeners will host a bird walk from 8:00am until 12:00pm at the Harrisburg Cemetery, 521 N. 13th Harrisburg. Call Al Mercik at 657-8548 or 503-3752 for directions or questions.



MAY 2017

Except for the December program, this year's special April program, and the May banquet, 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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Appalachian Audubon Society
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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

AAS Banquet with Scott Weidensaul • 1

Harrisburg Falcon Watch • 1

Appalachian Audubon Needs Your Email Address! • 1

Annual Silent Auction • 1

AAS Youth Committee • 2

2017–2018 Chapter-only Membership Renewals • 2

AAS Thanks Program Sponsors • 2

Last Issue Notification • 2

AAS Annual Banquet • 3

Annual Appeal • 4

President's Perch • 5

Field Trips • 5



AAS Members on the Move



Photos courtesy Susan Miller