



Kingfisher Courier

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2018

APPALACHIAN AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

AAS PROGRAM | February 2018

Honduras

by Ian Gardner

Last year we heard from Ian Gardner about a team of ornithologists who began studying remote regions of Honduras. This past January the team returned for a look at two understudied and threatened regions: Reserva Biologica Rus Rus in La Moskitia and Parque Nacional Botaderos in Olancho. They met with local conservationists, learned about the regional natural history and environmental threats, and documented both resident and neotropical migrant birds, including significant range expansions for several species. Ian will present an update that includes their most recent findings.



Photo courtesy
Ian Gardner



Photo courtesy
Ruth Bennett

AAS PROGRAM | March 2018

Wild Edibles

by Deb Naha

Many people don't realize that they are surrounded by hundreds of wild edible plants. From vacant fields to backyards and woodlands, nature provides an abundance of plants that are food for humans. Educator, licensed nutritionist, and wild edibles expert Debbie Naha will discuss plant identification, safety, look-alike plants, sustainable harvesting and nutrition. Join her to learn about the wild edible plants of our area, and take home a wild recipe or two!



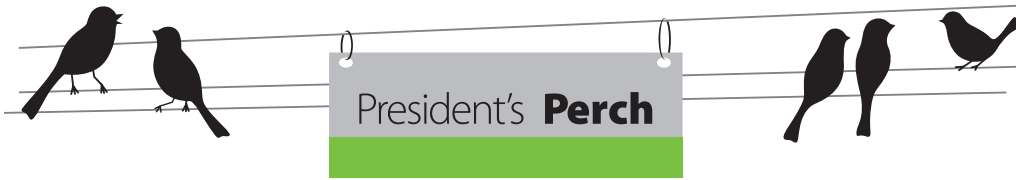
Learn about the wild edible plants of our area, and take home a wild recipe or two!



Photos courtesy
Will Webster

SAVE THE DATE!
February 15 @ 7:00 pm

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!
March 15 @ 7:00 pm



While gathering slides to show during the December year-end program, I was impressed by the vast accomplishments of Appalachian Audubon in 2017. Much of the work was done under the watch of past president Kathy Kuchwara. Kudos to her for her leadership, to recent and current board members and committee chairs for orchestrating the activities, to the volunteers who were involved in achieving so much, and to all the participants who make the efforts worth pursuing.

Here are some numbers that illustrate the point:

- 2 nationally recognized speakers, Dr. Douglas Tallamy and Richard Darke, sponsored in partnership with Manada Conservancy
- 2 grants secured to support habitat restoration work at the chapter's Trout Run Preserve
- 2 Silent Auctions that raised funds for scholarships
- 2 native plant sales in partnership with Diakon Wilderness Greenhouse
- 3 Peregrine Falcons that fledged from a nest on the Rachel Carson Building were monitored by Harrisburg Fledge Watch volunteers that included 15 AAS members
- 4 new venues for outreach
- 5 Citizen Science activities, including Great Backyard Bird Count and Christmas Bird Counts
- 7 newsletters published
- 9 educational programs with guest speakers, open to the public; 36 to 80 people in attendance
- 11 campers received scholarships to 5 different camps
- 17 field trips, including old favorites and new opportunities
- 25 days of birdseed sales under a new procedure that offers greater flexibility

- 43+ volunteers
- 50 White Pine seedlings, 50 Spicebush shrubs and 10 Swamp White Oak seedlings planted at Trout Run
- 500 acres on the Kittatinny Ridge in Perry County protected by easement, finalized by Central PA Conservancy
- 776 email addresses collected to receive paperless newsletter, saving on printing and mailing costs
- 1272 members

As we move forward in 2018, the board plans to maintain priorities that have long been fundamental to the chapter: sponsor environmental education scholarships for youth along with fundraising activities that support them, and provide programs and field trips that offer opportunities to learn about and increase appreciation for birds and the habitats they require to survive.

Recent initiatives that we will continue to work on include: restoration work at Trout Run Preserve, improvements to the birdseed sale, website enhancements, and increasing the chapter's presence on social media.

You support all this through your membership, attendance at meetings and on field trips, contributions to fundraisers, and volunteer efforts. You are Appalachian Audubon.

Plant Sale Celebrates Earth Day

Since 2016, Appalachian Audubon has partnered with Diakon Wilderness Nursery near Boiling Springs to offer Native Plant Sales. The spring sale is on Saturday, April 21, from 9:00am until 3:00pm. It offers an excellent opportunity to celebrate Earth Day, by making your yard, patio, or deck more welcoming to birds. The sale benefits the chapter, which receives a percentage of the day's profits.

Plant Sale Chair Ian Gardner will lead bird walks on the property and there will be activities for children. Mark your calendar to attend. If you would like to volunteer to help with the sale or with activities, please contact Ian at gardnie07@gmail.com or 717-350-5815. We hope to see you there!



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Getting Social with AAS

by Sue Hannon

Members may be familiar with the official website of the Appalachian Audubon Society, www.appalachianaudubon.org. On the website, you can find our latest newsletter, information about upcoming meetings, field trips, educational information, and current conservation priorities/action items being promoted by National Audubon Society. If you prefer a more interactive experience, you may want to check out Appalachian Audubon's Facebook page or Facebook group.

On our Facebook page, at <https://www.facebook.com/appalachianaudubon>, you can find posts about upcoming meetings, events, and information from National Audubon, Audubon Pennsylvania, or other conservation organizations.

Check out our Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/515034908575016>. In this group you can share your photos and sightings, chat with other group members, and post other items that might be of interest to AAS members.

As a public group site, anyone may post on the AAS Facebook group. Posting on the Facebook page is limited to members only, who may comment on posts. Appalachian Audubon Society is a large and diverse group, and as such, there are bound to be occasional differences of opinion. Please keep all discussions respectful. Please limit photo submissions to 10 photos; if you are sharing others' work you may only do so with the owners' permission and be sure to credit the photographer.



Field Trips

Appalachian Audubon Society welcomes people at all levels of experience. Birding with a group is a good way to improve your skills and confidence in birding.

FEBRUARY FIELD TRIPS

The Great Backyard Bird Count

Saturday, February 17, 2018 • Wildwood Park • Ongoing from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

The Great Backyard Bird Count is a citizen science program of Cornell University's Lab of Ornithology that relies on people everywhere to provide a "snapshot" of bird populations during one weekend in February. After last year's success introducing young people and families to birds at Wildwood Park, we expanded our focus to help people of all ages learn more about identifying local birds that frequent feeders in winter. This is a chance for beginners and well-seasoned birders to enjoy winter birds from the warmth of the indoors. In addition to instruction on bird identification and counting methods, there will be activities to help you learn bird vocalizations and test your bird trivia knowledge.

Children below the age of 16 should be accompanied by an adult. Call the Wildwood Nature Center at 717-221-0292 for more information.

Note: Due to building renovations, we will reschedule the March field trip to Mill Grove, the John James Audubon homestead in Montgomery County, sometime in the 2018-2019 program year. The following trip will run in its place.



Photo courtesy
Rick Price

MARCH FIELD TRIP

Golden Eagles in Spring

Saturday, March 24 or Sunday, March 25 • Tussey Mountain

Ian Gardner will lead a spring raptor migration trip to Tussey Mountain, with a focus on Golden Eagles, on Saturday March 24 with Sunday as a back-up in case of adverse conditions. This location records about 200 goldens during spring migration from about mid-February to mid-April. Plus there are other birds migrating past, including interesting finches, waterfowl, and other raptors. Meet at Jo Hays Vista along Rt. 26, south of State College, at 9:30 AM. The drive is about 2 hours from Harrisburg. Bring lunch, water, binoculars, and dress in layers, as weather can vary in spring. There are no bathroom facilities at the hawk watch, but some are located nearby. Please register in advance by contacting Ian Gardner at gardnie07@gmail.com or Rick Price at rprice210@comcast.net or 717 657-1950.

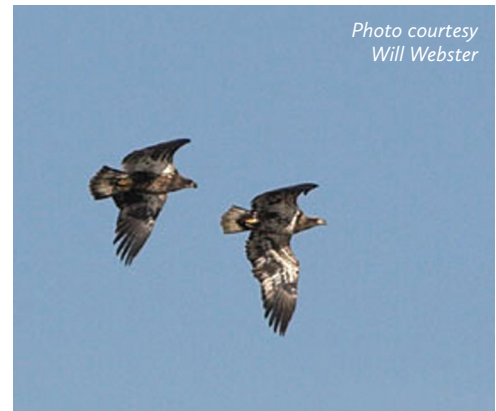


Photo courtesy
Will Webster

2017 Appalachian Audubon Society Annual Birdseed Sale Report

by John Latsha, Chair, Birdseed Sale Committee

Big changes were made to the Annual Birdseed Sale this year. Instead of setting aside one weekend for pickup of birdseed in Camp Hill, we extended the sale through the entire month of November with pickup at two local Agway stores: West Hanover Township and Mechanicsburg.

The AAS Board and the Birdseed Sale Committee saw quite a few benefits to this new process. These include in no particular order:

- The ability of our customers to purchase birdseed at any time during the month of November rather than being limited to two days. In fact, if someone wished to purchase seed several times during November, they could do so by making copies of the order form to take on different days.
- Less physical work for our volunteers, which used to include loading sacks of birdseed into cars and trucks. Having been a volunteer at the birdseed sale since the early '80s, I am well aware of the amount of involvement and dedication required.
- Not having to deal with inclement weather! Standing outside for hours in 30-degree weather when it was raining, isn't any volunteer's idea of a good way to spend a Friday afternoon or a Saturday! Bad weather could also make it difficult for customers picking up their seed. Now, with a month of days to choose from, they could obtain their seed whenever they chose during the specified month.
- Less accounting and paper work for the committee members. We no longer have the responsibility of:
 - ▶ Tallying the pre-order forms and submitting the order for birdseed
 - ▶ Visiting the Agway store to select bird feeders to have available for sale
 - ▶ Ensuring that the area for the sale has been reserved
 - ▶ Directing traffic during the sale
 - ▶ Comparing birdseed and bird feeder orders to money collected
 - ▶ Depositing checks and cash at the bank and ensuring that the amounts are correct
- The Agway owners were just as pleased that they didn't have to load a tractor trailer with seed and bird feeders, have it delivered, resupply seed and feeders, and keep track of orders and returns.
- Inventory of birdseed by Agway and committee members was often a challenge. Now that birdseed is sold from the stores, inventory is much easier for the stores and for us.

Now for even more good news! I am very happy to announce that this fundraiser brought in about what we made in each of the previous two years. We hope to do even better next year as our members become more accustomed to the new process.

We will be meeting with the owners of the Agway stores for their feedback. In addition, we have some ideas to discuss at the meeting that we hope will improve our future income.

AAS would like to thank all the volunteers who were at both Agway stores on Saturdays, encouraging customers to buy bird seed.

On behalf of the chapter and the birds who are eating well this winter, we thank everyone who purchased birdseed during the November sale.



Photo courtesy
Susan Miller



Photo courtesy
John Latsha

Scholarship Opportunities Through AAS Affiliation

by Karen Atwood

We offer several educational summer and other scholarship opportunities for natural history and environmental-education camps consistent with our mission; locally, in-state and beyond. Our Hog Island Audubon Camps in Maine (www.hogisland.audubon.org) scholarship application process for this summer closed at the end of January, but some other camp opportunities are open now, and some fill fast!

Please see below for our current scholarship partners. Monitor the specific camp websites noted below, as well as our website's Education page (www.appalachianaudubon.org/education.htm) and this newsletter. Contact these organizations directly regarding their camps — and please let us know about OTHER camps consistent with our mission, to which you might be interested in seeing us offer scholarships. You must note your affiliation with Appalachian Audubon Society (AAS) to receive consideration for AAS partnership or in-full scholarships.

- **Goddard Legacy Leadership Institute (GLLI)** (www.goddardleadership.org) is a week-long, residential summer camp designed by Central Pennsylvania Conservancy (CPC) and Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF). Youth from ages 13 to 15 with an interest in learning more about environmental connections and civic engagement enjoy hands-on learning opportunities, new friends and outdoor recreation. Activities typically take place on South Mountain at Pine Grove Furnace State Park in PA, and on the Chesapeake Bay at Smith Island Environmental

Education Center in Maryland. Applications will open online by mid-February.

- **Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art** (www.nedsmithcenter.org) offers day camps in Millersburg, PA, concentrating on specific topics; like birds, native pollinators, or fish. Some camps are for children participating with grandparents/other adults. This summer offers a Junior Naturalist camp with a partial focus on birds, in addition to other conservation-recreation camps.
- **Wildlife Leadership Academy (WLA)** (www.wildlifeleadershipacademy.org) offers the opportunity to work with professionals in PA while learning about wildlife/fisheries biology and conservation, leadership skills, and community outreach. This rigorous camp is for high-school youth. Rolling applications, year-round. See the "Drummers," "Brookies" and "Bucktails" pages.
- **Wildwood Park** (www.wildwoodlake.org) in Harrisburg, PA, offers week-long day camps for ages 6 through 14. Active learning is focused on birding and other natural-history topics while hiking and canoeing. Registration for Wildwood Park camps — a Day Camp on animal adaptations, Junior Naturalist camp, and Outdoor Week camp — is now open.

NB: For all of these camps you must note your AAS affiliation to be considered for AAS partnership or in-full scholarships.

Camper Letter: Jadon Miller

My name is Jadon Miller, and I was fortunate to be able to attend the Wildlife Leadership Academy this past summer in June. Through many generous people and organizations like yours, teens like me are able to attend WLA's Field Schools because of your support. I want to thank you for supporting WLA. The scholarship I received really sealed the deal and was the reason I was able to attend the PA Bucktails Field School.

Attending Field School was quite the learning curve for me. I don't think I will ever forget going to bed the first night and thinking, I am too under-educated to be here. Incredibly, I came out of Field School so enlightened and enthusiastic about white-tailed deer, that my parents made me stop talking on the ride home because they could not hear the directions on the GPS.

After returning home, I shared my favorite parts of Field School with everyone. I loved everything from the team-building exercises, the lessons, to the field experience, and especially the shooting range. Later in the summer, I got connected with a local nature center. They were gracious enough to allow me to set up my trifold that I made at Field School.

Sincerely,

Jadon Miller, Conservation Ambassador, PA Bucktails Field School 2017, Wildlife Leadership Academy



Photo courtesy
Wildlife Leadership Academy



FEBRUARY/MARCH 2018

Except for the December program and the May banquet, AAS monthly programs 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.



Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/appalachianaudubon>

Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/515034908575016/>

P.O. Box 234, Camp Hill, PA 17001



Printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper.

Winter Storm Cancellation of AAS Programs

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

- www.Facebook.com/appalachianaudubon
- WHTM abc27 at www.abc27.com
- Call Jane Webster at 717-756-6492

Chapter Nominations

The Nominating Committee is looking for chapter members who would like to volunteer for 2018/19. We need two Board Members and a Vice President. We are also looking for additional committee members and a chair for the Education Committee.

If you would like to do more to help the board carry out the chapter's mission or would just like to find out more about what's involved, please contact Jane Webster at 717-756-6492 or president@appalachianaudubon.org.

AAS MEMBERS ON THE MOVE

Photos courtesy Mary Brenner

