



Kingfisher Courier

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2019

APPALACHIAN AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

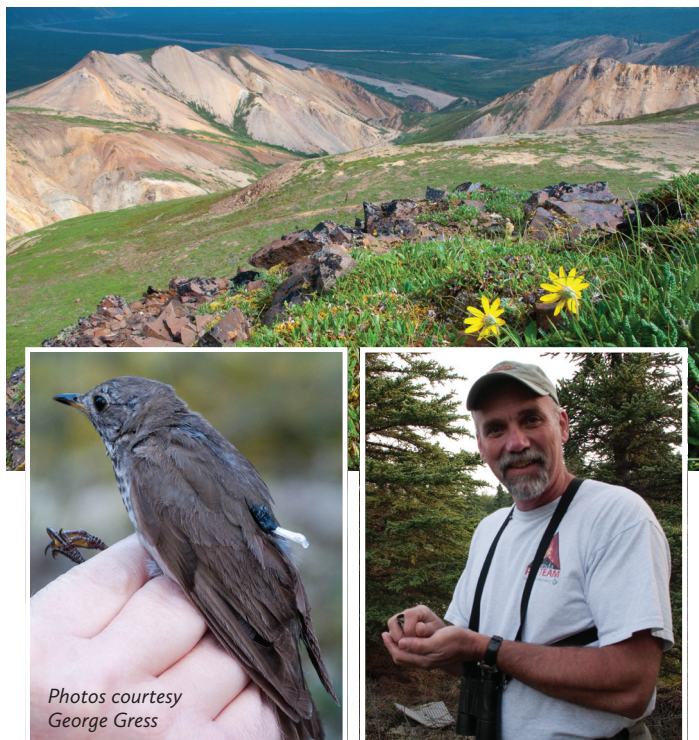
AAS Program | February 21, 2019

Critical Connections: Denali by George Gress

George Gress participates in the Critical Connections project which is seeking to learn more about the migration of birds that breed in Denali National Park, and to connect Denali with the places from where its visitors come. This evening, we will learn about the project and the technology and field work used to track migrating birds across the world.

George is a Fire Specialist/Land Steward for the Pennsylvania Chapter of The Nature Conservancy. He joined the staff in July 1993, prior to which he supported the chapter as a volunteer. George works from the Acopian Preserve office and assists with all aspects of the management of TNC's preserves in Pennsylvania, including prescribed fire and managing the chapter's bog turtle program. An avid photographer, many of his images have appeared in TNC's chapter and national publications. As a volunteer, he is active with the Lebanon Valley Conservancy, the Cocalico Creek Watershed Association, Saw-whet Owl banding, as well as the Critical Connections project in Denali.

Join us at 7:00 pm for refreshments and socializing. The meeting starts at 7:30 pm, followed by the program.



Photos courtesy
George Gress

AAS Program | March 21, 2019

Discovering Our Pennsylvania Bats by Dave McNaughton

If you enjoy drama, intrigue, suspense, and a dynamic cast, you'll want to come learn about the rapidly changing ecology of bats in Pennsylvania. Everything in our bat fauna seems to be changing these days. From white nose syndrome, to range expansions, to a changing insect fauna, the reasons are almost as varied as our species are. This evening's program will be presented by Dave McNaughton, Assistant Wildlife Program Manager for the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs at Fort Indiantown Gap. Dave will discuss the species, how scientists detect and study them, and discuss their management and habitats. Dave promises that some are cuter than others, so please join us!

Join us at 7:00 pm for refreshments and socializing. The meeting starts at 7:30 pm, followed by the program.



Photos courtesy
Dave McNaughton



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 at Wildwood Park

Saturday February 16, 2019 at 10:00 am–1:00 pm

The Great Backyard Bird Count is a community science program developed by Cornell University’s Lab of Ornithology that relies on people everywhere to provide a “snapshot” of local bird populations during one weekend in February. Our focus is to help people of all ages to identify those species which visit our feeders in the winter. This is a chance for beginners and well-seasoned birders to enjoy winter birds together from the warmth of the indoors. Stop by Wildwood’s nature center between 10:00 am and 1:00 pm to participate. Activities for school-aged children will be provided by AAS and Audubon PA throughout the morning. And a guided bird walk (weather permitting) will be offered at 1:00 pm following the count.

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



MARCH FIELD TRIP

Exploring Mill Grove, the Former Home of Pioneer Ornithologist and Artist John James Audubon

New!

Saturday March 23, 2019

See where Audubon lived and birded! Join us on this historical adventure to the home of America’s foremost ornithologist, which is now a museum that was renovated in 2018. After the tour, we will do some birding on the grounds if time and weather permit. The estate is a Montgomery County park located a few miles from Philadelphia along the Perkiomen Creek, not far from its confluence with the Schuylkill River. Contact Rick Price at 717 657-1950 or rprice210@comcast.net to register. Drivers should consider bringing an EZ-pass for the PA Turnpike. Plan for a full day trip and bring money for admission and dinner on the return trip (dinner stop is optional).

OFFICERS

President Jane Webster
president@appalachianaudubon.org
717-756-6492

Vice President Chris Kemmerer
kemmererc@hotmail.com
717-571-7958

Secretary Sarah Klunk
sarah2fred@comcast.net
717-422-7551

Treasurer Dan Kemmerer
danielk@gmail.com
717-371-0801

DIRECTORS

Term ending May 2019

Mary Brenner 717-903-0223
mbrenner822@comcast.net

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

Kevin Shannon 717-395-2368
kbsathome@comcast.net

Term ending May 2020

Tony Arnold 717-253-4247
2tonyarnold@gmail.com

Ann DePaulis 717-736-0619
anndepaulis@centurylink.net

Dale Rupert
membership@appalachianaudubon.org

COMMITTEES

Birdseed Sale Fundraiser
John Latsha 717-982-1141
jlat1965@gmail.com

Conservation/Trout Run
Ian Gardner 717-350-5815
conservation@appalachianaudubon.org

Education
Georgia Kagle 717-514-3561
education@appalachianaudubon.org

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

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

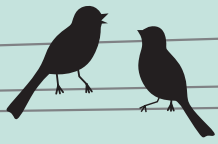
Membership
Dale Rupert
membership@appalachianaudubon.org

Newsletter
Chris Kemmerer 717-571-7958
kemmererc@hotmail.com

Outreach
Vacant

Publicity
Vacant

Youth Coordinator
Caroline Klunk 717-422-0752
cmvklunk@gmail.com



President's Perch



Over the holiday season I enjoy getting family photos that document milestones like a new baby or that surprise me at how fast young people have grown this year. Another annual documentation I look forward to is the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC), a snapshot that records the status of birds.

The GBBC depends on ordinary people working together to create an extraordinary data base. Every year, from Friday through Monday of Presidents' Weekend, people across the world log the birds in their yard or other favorite birding location. Participants may make one count, or observe birds on all four days, then enter the data at <http://gbbc.birdcount.org/>. Because it is a focused effort conducted on the same weekend for over two decades, the data have scientific value and can be used to monitor trends like the movement of species and population fluctuations.

There are some interesting things going on at feeders this year. I'm hoping that the Red-breasted Nuthatch that

“The GBBC depends on ordinary people who make the effort to record and report what they see. Join others and be part of the big picture!”

— Jane Webster

has visited my yard recently makes an appearance for the count. If it is a sunny day, I may be able to document the increased number of bluebirds coming to my feeders this winter.

Appalachian Audubon encourages members to participate in this event — out your back window, on a walk, or in a group setting. You can get some tips beforehand at <http://gbbc.birdcount.org/>, and then return to the website to

document what you saw. If you enjoy the camaraderie of birding with others, join AAS volunteers at Wildwood Park's Olewine Nature Center on Saturday, February 16 between 10:00 am and 1:00 pm. Volunteers will be on hand to give instructions on counting protocol and data entry. Even if there aren't any spectacular sightings, Rick Price and other volunteers will keep us entertained with great birding stories. After the indoor count, Kelly McGinley of Audubon PA will lead a walk, as long as the weather cooperates.

Join others and be part of the big picture!

Trout Run Update

With spring just around the corner, the Trout Run Nature Preserve Management Committee is gearing up for another year of land stewardship activity at Trout Run. This spring, the committee is going to be focused on conducting herbicide applications in the wetland to combat invasive reed canary grass cultivars. The herbicide applications will be conducted in partnership with trained professionals from the Central Pennsylvania Conservancy (CPC) to ensure the chemicals are applied safely and legally. Ultimately, the committee would like to see a sufficient reduction in the amount of reed canary grass and the return of robust native plant communities in the wetland. In addition to working in the wetland, invasive plant control operations will be conducted throughout the year in the upland sections of Trout Run. In future newsletters, we will be announcing volunteer workdays. Anyone who comes to a workday will have the opportunity to participate in the invasive plant management work we are doing at Trout Run.

As always, the bird feeders at the Trout Run viewing deck are attracting a nice array of songbirds. Interesting wetland bird species that are regularly visiting the feeders include Red-winged Blackbird and Swamp Sparrow. The feeders are being maintained by a dedicated team of volunteers, but new volunteers are certainly welcome. If you are interested in helping fill feeders, send an email to conservation@appalachianaudubon.org. Another way anyone can help at Trout Run is litter clean-up. Litter at Trout Run is particularly bad during the winter months. Anyone who is interested can take a trash bag and walk around Trout Run picking up litter. Litter picking is a perfect way to get outside this time of year!

Plant Sale Promo

Saturday, April 20,
9:00 am until 3:00 pm

Since 2016, Appalachian Audubon has partnered with Diakon Wilderness Nursery near Boiling Springs to offer Native Plant Sales.

The spring sale 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.

Mark your calendar to attend. If you would like to volunteer to help with the sale or with activities, please contact Chris Kemmerer at kemmererc@hotmail.com or 717-571-7958.

We hope to see you there!

Photo courtesy Joe DeSousa/ Unsplash.com

2018 Appalachian Audubon Society Annual Birdseed Fundraiser Report

By John Latsha – Chair, Birdseed Fundraiser Committee

More changes occurred this year for the Annual Birdseed Fundraiser. The biggest change this year was the time available to purchase birdseed. Last year's one-month time period was increased this year to two months – November and December; thus, affording our members more time to obtain birdseed. As a result, proceeds from this fundraiser supporting chapter priorities like our Hog Island scholarships and Trout Run improvement efforts were greatly increased! Obtaining an order form was easier than last year too; as forms were available at the stores in addition to being mailed to members and available on our website. The final revision was a name change from Birdseed Sale to Birdseed Fundraiser. The reason for this change is that the event is more of a fundraiser for the Society than just a sale of birdseed.

Of course the Birdseed Fundraiser wouldn't have been a success if it wasn't for the help and support of so many folks. We'd like to thank...

The helpful AAS volunteers on Saturdays in November, who had blank copies of the order form available and who were always willing to help answer your questions or hold the door open for you at either the Davis Country Living Agway or the Hanoverdale Agway. SPECIAL THANKS to the Trinity HS students who volunteered every Saturday in November at Davis Country Living.



Photo courtesy Forest Simon / Unsplash.com

A very large THANK YOU goes out to the owners of both Agway Stores for the generous discounted prices they offered to AAS for all the items sold during the fundraiser. As a result, we could offer the items at discounted rates that still allowed AAS to support our scholarships and projects.

Another very big THANK YOU goes out to you, our members, who participated in this year's fundraiser and contributed to the increase in funds that were realized this year.

This year we saw a **31%** overall increase in funds raised by both Agway Stores, who graciously reported the tally for this report to be published.

The AAS Board and the Birdseed Fundraiser Committee saw quite a few benefits to this new process. These include:

- The ability of our customers to purchase birdseed at any time during the months of November and December rather than being limited to the month of November. In fact, if someone wished to purchase seed several times during either month, they could do so just by stopping by their favorite Agway Store and completing an Order Form available at the sales counters.
- Not having to deal with inclement weather! Bad weather used to make it difficult for our members to pick up their seed. Now, with two months available, they could obtain their seed whenever they chose during the months of November and December.

We want to make the fundraiser easy for our members and successful for the chapter. If you have any suggestions for improvements, please send them to John Latsha at jlat1965@gmail.com or call me at 717-982-1141.

Great Backyard Bird Count

For 20 years, the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) has connected birds and people around the block and around the world. A partnership between the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and National Audubon Society, the four-day count provides invaluable data, in nearly real time, on over 6,400 species of birds. Scientists, volunteers, beginning birders and resident experts all come together to observe, document, and share data in an effort to better understand our feathered friends.

Continuing this tradition, Audubon Pennsylvania (APA) and the Appalachian Audubon Society (AAS) are hosting a GBBC event at Wildwood Park, an urban nature center just minutes from the heart of Harrisburg. The park is centrally located and easy to access with knowledgeable staff and volunteers from Dauphin County Parks and Recreation rounding out the warm and inviting atmosphere.

This year, APA and AAS have invited the next generation of birders from Harrisburg School District to participate in the count. Fourth grade students across the District receive environmental education lessons every month of the school year. The GBBC is an ideal opportunity to bring their learning to a new level through real-life experiences, shared with family and friends, and in the company of dedicated and enthusiastic Audubon volunteers.

Although the count will take place in the comfort and warmth of the Olewine Nature Center, there will be an opportunity to step out into the winter chill for a short birding walk along one of the boardwalks that provide ample viewing opportunities for both our wetland residents and feathered forest dwellers.

Come warm up your winter and join in the fun on Saturday, February 16th from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm!

Scholarship Opportunities Through Appalachian Audubon Society

By Georgia Kagle – AAS Education Chair • education@appalachianaudubon.org

AAS offers and supports a number of educational scholarship opportunities locally, in-state and beyond, for natural history and environmental education camps consistent with our mission.

Unfortunately, the application period for the Hog Island Audubon scholarships for youth ages 14–17 (<http://hogisland.audubon.org/>) closed at the end of January. However, please watch for that application period to open again in October/November 2019 for summer 2020 camps. Individuals and families may also sign up for the camps independently without AAS support by visiting the Hog Island website.

Listed below are AAS current scholarship partners. For more specific information on these camp offerings, monitor the specific camp websites noted below, as well as the AAS Education webpage (<http://appalachianaudubon.org/education.html>) and this newsletter.

Contact these organizations directly for information regarding their camps and to apply — and please let us know about OTHER camps consistent with our mission, to which you might be interested in having us offer scholarships.

- **Goddard Legacy Leadership Institute (GLLI)** (<https://goddardleadership.org>) 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. The GLLI camp will be held July 7–12, 2019, and information and applications for the camp will be available on their website in late spring.

- **Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art** (www.nedsmithcenter.org) offers day camps in Millersburg, PA, concentrating on specific topics such as birds, native pollinators or fish. Some camps are for children participating with grandparents/other adults. Although 2019 camp information is not yet available, the Ned Smith Center typically offers a Junior Naturalist camp with a partial focus on birds, in addition to other conservation-recreation camps. Watch the Ned Smith Center website for further information on these 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 youth ages 14–17. See information on the PA Bucktails, PA Brookies, PA Drummers, and PA Gobblers under the CAMP TOURS menu. Applications are due March 15, 2019.
- **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. Find details and registration for the Wildwood Way Day Camp I and II, Junior Naturalist Day Camp, and Outdoor Week on the events page <https://www.wildwoodlake.org/events/>.

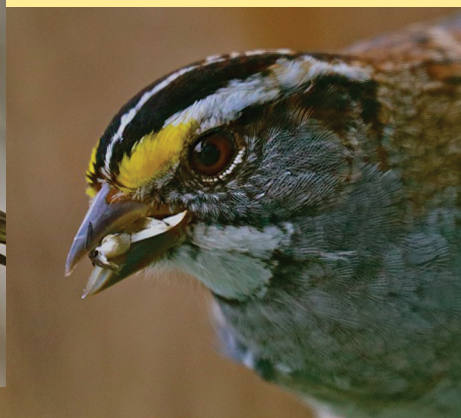
Reminder:

Register for these camps by contacting them directly. Let them know you are interested in an Appalachian Audubon Scholarship. Applicants must reside within a chapter area zip code, as designated on the AAS Education webpage <http://appalachianaudubon.org/education.html>, in order to receive AAS scholarships.

Great Backyard Bird Count



Photos courtesy Rick Price





Kingfisher Courier

APPALACHIAN AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2019

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>



Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/appalachianaudubon/>



Printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper.

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

AAS MEMBERS ON THE MOVE

at the Snyder County field trip



Chapter Nominations

The Nominating Committee is looking for chapter members who would like to volunteer for 2019/20. We need three Board Members who are willing to serve a two-year term. All officer positions will be open as well. We are also looking for volunteers to help with committees. If you would like to serve the chapter, get in touch with a member of the Nominating Committee: Jane Webster, Chris Kemmerer, or Dale Rupert. See masthead on page 2 for contact information.



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:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/515034908575016/>
WHTM abc27 at www.abc27.com • Jane Webster at 717-756-6492.

