



Kingfisher Courier

DECEMBER 2019/JANUARY 2020

APPALACHIAN AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

AAS Program | Thursday, December 12, 2019

Birds Can Tell Us Things and We Should Listen: A Look at How Birds Inform Conservation and Human Cultures

Please note: This month's meeting is on the second Thursday.

Ron Rohrbaugh, Forest Program Manager for Audubon Pennsylvania, will discuss how birds serve as bioindicators (species that help identify the health of an ecosystem) to help guide global and regional conservation priorities, including adaptation to climate change; and how birds truly are "canaries in the coal mine" when it comes to protecting human health. In this context, he will describe how the needs of birds are guiding landscape-scale forest management practices in Pennsylvania.

Join us at 6:30 pm for refreshments and socializing. The meeting starts at 7:00, followed by the program.

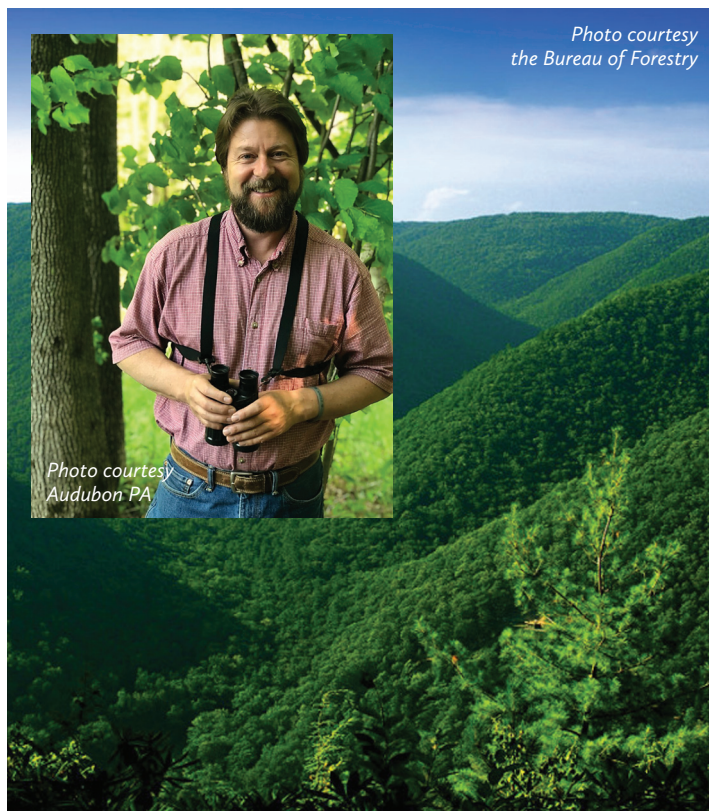


Photo courtesy the Bureau of Forestry

Photo courtesy Audubon PA

AAS Program | Thursday, January 16, 2020

Amphibians and Reptiles of South-central Pennsylvania: A Preliminary View of an Ongoing Biodiversity Crisis

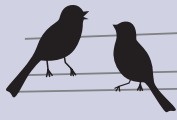
Long-term research is critical to reliably assess and understand the status of plant and animal populations in the wild.

These sorts of studies are essential to address present and future conservation concerns. Since 2003, Dr. Pablo Delis of Shippensburg University has been studying the amphibian and reptile populations of South-central Pennsylvania. Utilizing Letterkenny Army Depot in Chambersburg, Dr. Delis has been documenting the presence of species, relative abundances, sex ratios, and other demographic characteristics. His research has included, among others, the relatively common Eastern Racer, the popular Box Turtle, the ubiquitous American Toad and the relatively rare Marbled Salamander. Join us as he shares his research findings and stories.

All are welcome to come for refreshments and socializing at 6:30 pm. The meeting starts at 7:00, followed by the program.



Photos courtesy Pablo Delis



President's Perch



If you have been listening to the news the last few weeks, you probably heard about two shocking reports concerning the state of birds in North America. The first, a collaborative effort between scientists from Cornell Lab of Ornithology, American Bird Conservancy, the Canadian National Wildlife Research Centre, Patuxent Wildlife Research Center and many others, cited the loss of three billion individual birds since 1970. That's a 29% decrease in the North American bird population. The second, from The National Audubon Society entitled 'Survival by Degrees: 389 Bird Species on the Brink', highlights that two-thirds of North American bird species are at increased risk of extinction due to the impacts and effects of climate change.

To say the news is grim is probably an understatement. I felt disheartened, angry, and frustrated when I first heard about the reports. But after reviewing the research and reading associated press materials, my feelings have shifted to resolve and action. Both reports utilized data sourced from citizen scientists. This means that those birds you counted while on a Christmas Bird Count, or the number of Northern Cardinals you spotted at your feeder and reported to Project Feeder Watch or the Great Backyard Bird Count directly contributed to our current understanding of North American bird populations. The first report also mentioned how numerous species saw population increases over the same 50-year period directly attributable to conservation efforts.

So, what am I going to do to take action? My blank slate of a yard is going to become wildlife habitat. I will be birding on December 14th as part of the Harrisburg Area Christmas Bird Count. I will be supporting organizations whose focus it is to protect and conserve open spaces. And I'm going to take my nieces birding. I'll do these things, and probably more, with the knowledge that my actions and those of millions of other birders across the country have positive and lasting impacts on our bird populations.

If you'd like to learn more about the two reports, visit their websites for details concerning the study parameters, key findings, and ways that you can help.

- **3 Billion Birds Gone:**
<https://www.3billionbirds.org/>
- **Survival by Degrees: 389 Bird Species on the Brink:**
<https://www.audubon.org/climate/survivalbydegrees>

I hope that you'll join me in taking action.

Happy Birding!

— Chris Kemmerer

Kingfisher Courier

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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
- **Chris Kemmerer** at 717-571-7958.





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.

DECEMBER 2019 FIELD TRIPS

Christmas Bird Counts

December for Audubon chapters means participation in local Christmas Bird Counts (CBCs). Beginners and experienced birders are all encouraged to get involved with this “citizen scientist” activity. Members and other interested parties are encouraged to contact the following individuals to participate in a local count:

Saturday, December 14, 2019 — Harrisburg CBC

Contact Deuane Hoffman at deuane.hoffman@gmail.com.

Saturday, December 21, 2019 — New Bloomfield CBC

Contact Annette Mathes at amathes19@verizon.net or 717-514-4512.

Monday, December 30, 2019 — York Springs CBC

Saturday, January 4, 2020 — Newville CBC

Contact Vern Gauthier at verngauthier14@gmail.com or 717-385-9526 for both the York Springs and Newville CBCs.



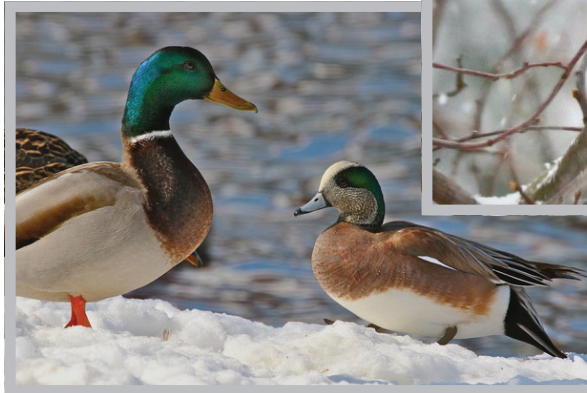
JANUARY 2020 FIELD TRIP

Winter Birding in the Juniata Valley

Saturday, January 11, 2020

This morning trip features birding with local birders Chad Kauffman and Aden Troyer and will be based on recent sightings including raptors, songbirds, and waterfowl. Past years have produced eagles, hawks, owls, Wilson’s Snipe, Red-headed Woodpeckers, a “Gray Ghost” Northern Harrier, and even a vagrant Evening Grosbeak. In some years, we have seen multiple foxes in the fields. What will 2020 bring?

Contact Chad Kauffman at chadkauffman@earthlink.net or 717-436-8257/717-994-6715 or Aden Troyer at 717-463-3117. This trip is limited to 20 participants and five vehicles. A snow date is planned for Saturday, January 18th.



Photos courtesy Rick Price

Purchase Shade-Grown Coffee to Help Protect Bird Habitat

When you buy organic, shade-grown coffee through AAS, you get even more perks this year. Not only do the freshly-roasted and packed coffee beans make a delicious cup of coffee, your purchase also helps to protect the birds and wildlife that inhabit the high-altitude, family-owned, forested land in Guatemala where the coffee is grown. In our partnership with Ragged Edge Roasting Company, AAS is able to keep 75 cents from every bag purchased to help fund our conservation work. But new this year, through the caring generosity of Chad Close and his business partner, owners of the Ragged Edge Roasting, they are going to donate an additional 75 cents of your \$10 purchase price per 1 lb. bag to the wildlife rehab center of our chapter's choosing. At our October board meeting, Raven Ridge Wildlife Center of Washington Boro was chosen as the 2019–2020 donation recipient. Raven Ridge staff and wildlife ambassador animals delighted a full house at our September AAS meeting.

We now offer two different coffees in either ground or whole bean — 1 lb. bags for \$10.00 each:

- * Guatemala Santa Isabel Organic Rainforest Alliance Certified Shade-grown coffee in ground or whole bean
- * Guatemala "Swiss Decaf" Organic and Fair Trade Shade-grown coffee in ground or whole bean. (So delicious you would never know it is decaf!)

The coffees are available for sale at all of our meetings. If you want to order a quantity for yourself or gift-giving, or if you have any questions, please contact Lorrie, AAS Coffee Coordinator at lpreston5156@gmail.com.

Birdseed Sale Fundraiser

Appalachian Audubon's 2019 Birdseed Sale and Fundraiser is still going on! Through the end of December, you may visit Hanoverdale Country Store, Inc. or Davis Country Living to stock up on birdseed, feeders, and accessories. Customers get special pricing on birdseed. With a minimum purchase of \$25 of birdseed, you will save 25% on feeders and accessories.

East Shore

Hanoverdale Country Store, Inc. in West Hanover Township at 486 S. Hershey Rd., Route 39, Harrisburg, PA 17112.

Hours

Monday–Saturday • 8:00 am–6:00 pm
Sunday • 10:00 am–4:00 pm.

West Shore

Davis Country Living at 45 W. Allen Street, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055.

Hours

Monday–Friday • 8:00 am–5:30 pm
Saturday • 8:00 am–4:00 pm
Sunday • Closed

To get the special price when you visit either of these Agway stores in December be sure to bring along a copy of the order form. Order forms were distributed via email and at our meeting in October. But you may also download the form from our website: <http://www.appalachianaudubon.org>

You will be able to pay for your order using cash, check, or credit card. While picking up your birdseed, choose from a wide variety of feeders and other bird-related gear available at the store. Please consider shopping for other items at our partners' stores, as well. Your birdseed will be loaded into your car for you.

Purchases help us raise the funds we need for local education and conservation programs, including:

- Conservation camp scholarships for young people and teachers
- Outstanding monthly programs that are free and open to the public
- Birding and other nature field trips that are available for all ages and levels of experience
- Community education and outreach programs
- Important bird habitat conservation work





BIRDSEED FUNDRAISER

Nov. 1–Dec. 31, 2019 Order Form

Name _____

Email* _____

*Note: Please give your email address if you want us to notify you next year.

Size	Seed Variety	Price Per Item	Number of Items
20 lb.	** Black oil sunflower	\$ 8.99	
40 lb.	Black oil sunflower	\$15.99	
20 lb.	** Favorite wild bird	\$ 7.98	
40 lb.	Favorite wild bird	\$14.99	
40 lb.	Birdsnack	\$18.99	
40 lb.	Flyers Choice	\$30.99	
30 lb.	Cardinals Choice	\$22.99	
16 lb.	Chickadees Choice	\$18.99	
20 lb.	Woodpeckers Pick	\$22.99	
16 lb.	High Energy Fruit and Nut	\$17.99	
30 lb.	Sunflower Meaties (mixed shelled and unshelled seeds)	\$27.99	
40 lb.	Sunflower Hearts (shelled sunflower seeds, no mess!)	\$41.99	
20 lb.	** Sunflower Hearts	\$22.99	
40 lb.	** Sunflower Kernels	\$41.99	
10 lb.	** Roasted Peanut Pieces	\$16.99	
10 lb.	** Nyjer (thistle) Seed	\$14.99	
20 lb.	Nyjer (thistle) Seed	\$21.99	
16 lb.	Finch Delight	\$17.99	
16 lb.	Safflower Seed	\$11.99	
50 lb.	Safflower Seed	\$37.00	
20 lb.	Shell-less Select	\$19.99	
12 pk.	Beef Suet	\$15.48	
12 pk.	Peanut Butter Suet	\$21.48	
12 pk.	** Insect Suet	\$21.65	
12 pk.	** Mealworm Suet	\$22.50	
12 pk.	** Nutsie Seed Cake	\$26.65	
6 pk.	FF Hi Energy Suet	\$8.99	
30 oz.	Dried Mealworms	\$25.55	
5 lb.	Dried Mealworms	\$42.75	

Note: ** Double-starred Items are only available at Mechanicsburg Agway

Davis Country Living Agway

45 W. Allen St., Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

Mon–Fri: 8:00 am–5:30 pm • Sat: 8:00 am–4:00 pm

Sun: (closed)

Hanoverdale Agway

486 Hershey Rd. Route 39, Hbg, PA 17112

Mon–Sat: 8:00 am–6:00 pm • Sun: 10:00 am–4:00 pm

**Special
Bonus!**

25% Off Feeders and Accessories

with a minimum purchase of \$25 of seed

DECEMBER 2019/JANUARY 2020

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, Camp Hill, PA 17001 in the Allendale neighborhood of Camp Hill. Join us at 6:30 pm for socializing and refreshments. The program begins at 7:00 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/>



P.O. Box 234, Camp Hill, PA 17001
www.appalachianaudubon.org

Printed on 100%
post-consumer
recycled paper.

HELP WANTED

AAS is looking for one or more members to help coordinate the Silent Auction that will be held with our annual Banquet in May 2020. The volunteer(s) would work with the current coordinator to become familiar with the process of requesting, receiving and storing donations from businesses and members, as well as the preparation and set up of items for the actual event. Proceeds from the auction are dedicated to AAS scholarships and over the years have helped to provide many individuals with exciting environmental and conservation camp experiences. If you are interested in this volunteer opportunity or have questions, please contact Susan Miller at 717-697-6696 or millerscorner@msn.com.

AAS MEMBERS ON THE MOVE

at the Garden Harvest Day ...



Photo courtesy
Kings Gap EEC

at the Northern Saw-whet Owl Banding Field Trip ...



Photo courtesy
Rick Price