

December 2016

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS. Become a citizen scientist for the day by participating in this century-old annual event. Contact one or all of the circle compilers for a team assignment and details. Harrisburg CBC — Saturday, December 17, 2016. Contact Deuane Hoffman at 564-7475 or corvuscorax@comcast.net. New Bloomfield CBC — Tuesday, December 27, 2016. Contact Annette Mathes at amathes19@verizon.net or 514-4512. York Springs CBC — (Cumberland, Adams, and York) — Thursday, December 29, 2016. Contact Vern Gauthier at 385-9526 or pabirder@gmail.com. Newville CBC — Saturday, December 31, 2016. Contact Vern Gauthier at 385-9526 or pabirder@gmail.com.

Saturday, January 14, 2017

JUNIATA COUNTY WINTER BIRDING. Bird with locals Aden Troyer and Chad Kauffman in search of Short-eared Owls, Lapland Longspurs, Pine Siskins, and other winter birds. Contact Aden at 463-3117 or Chad at chadkauffman@earthlink.net, 436-8257, or 994-6715. Meet at the Lost Creek Shoe Shop at 12:30 PM, where you can browse their extensive selection of birding optics, with hands-on testing and expert advice from the owners. Car pooling is required from the meeting place. Participation is limited to the first 20 to register with a maximum of five vehicles.

Saturday, February 18, 2017 — Ongoing from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Young people ages 6–16 are encouraged to participate in the **GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT** to be conducted at Wildwood Park. Participants will report to the park's Nature Center, where loaner binoculars will be available for those who need them. Volunteer adults and experienced teens will be onsite to assist new birders. Children under the age of 16 should be accompanied by an adult. Call the nature center at 221-0292 to register.

New! Saturday, March 25, 2017 HUMMERHAVEN FARMSTEAD

New Audubon member Bonnie Schubert has graciously invited AAS members to bird Hummerhaven Farmstead, a 127-acre farm in Juniata County approximately eight miles from the Millerstown exit of Rt. 322. The farm has a variety of habitats including a natural wetland and a pond. This is an exploratory trip for our chapter and noted birders Chad Kauffman and Aden Troyer have been invited to join us. Spring migration should be just about ready to begin, while winter birds may still be lingering. Contact Rick Price at 717 657-1950 or rprice210@comcast.net to register.

Saturday, April 8, 2017

SPRING WILDFLOWERS AT GIFFORD PINCHOT STATE PARK. Wildflower expert Dan Welte has again offered to lead a wildflower trip at Pinchot State Park. We can expect to see things like Trillium, Goldenseal, Virginia Bluebells, etc. We'll also keep our eyes open for Eastern Bluebirds, Barred Owls and Red-headed Woodpeckers. Contact Dan at 728-0421 for carpooling instructions from the Rt. 322 Walmart parking lot.

Saturday, April 22, 2017

WILDFLOWERS AT PINE HILL ARBORETUM. Wildflower expert Jane Earle takes us through the wooded ravine at Pine Hill Arboretum in East Pennsboro Township to look for wildflowers such as Dutchman's Breeches, Toothwort, Saxifrage, Trout Lily, and Blue Phlox, or other seasonal wildflowers in bloom. Meet at 1:00 PM. Contact Jane at janeearle7@msn.com or 728-4241 for meeting location. Date subject to change in accordance with weather conditions.

Sunday, April 30, 2017

SPRING MIGRATION IN PERRY COUNTY. Join AAS Board member Ted Nichols II for some Perry County birding! As one of the least birded counties in the state, we hope to stir up some good spring migrants and showcase some of the great birding locations this county offers. The morning portion of the trip will explore Little Buffalo State Park and a nearby bird sanctuary. The afternoon portion of the trip will proceed (for those interested in continuing) to western Perry County in Tuscarora State Forest and areas that have hosted breeding Golden-winged Warblers. Highlights of this trip last year included a Cape May Warbler, Cerulean Warblers, a Golden-winged Warbler, Horned Grebes, a Bald Eagle and a Broad-winged Hawk. Meet at the Little Buffalo Park Office (1579 State Rte. 4010, Newport, PA) at 7:00 AM. Participants must register with Ted at tanicholsii@gmail.com.

Saturday, May 6, 2017

WARBLER WALK IN STONY VALLEY. Join warbler expert Tom Smith on this annual classic trip through the Stony Creek area to see, hear, and learn about many species of warblers and other spring birds. Meet at the power line at 7:00 AM by the PPL power substation along Stony Creek Road. Contact Tom 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 the migrating and summer resident warblers and other song birds. Meet at 7:30 AM in the easternmost parking lot. Contact Pete at 243-6419 or pjlusardi@aol.com. 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.

Saturday, May 13, 2017

ANNUAL PENNSYLVANIA MIGRATION COUNT. Actively participate in this scientific study of identifying as many bird species as possible within the day. Dauphin County contact: Carl and Nancy Juris, 564-1479 or hbgbrdrs@verizon.net; Cumberland and Perry Counties contact: Vern Gauthier 385-9526 or pabirder@gmail.com.

HARRISBURG FALCON WATCH. Volunteers who are interested in the Harrisburg Falcon Watch are encouraged to contact Sue Hannon at hbgfalconwatch@gmail.com for more information. This is an opportunity to see and help young falcon fledglings as they learn to fly. Information on dates will become available once the young falcons are hatched.

Unless otherwise noted, programs take place at Christ Presbyterian Church, 421 Deerfield Road, Camp Hill. The public is welcome to attend. Social time with refreshments starts at 7:00 PM. Announcements begin at 7:30, followed by the program. All programs except the Annual Banquet are free.



APPALACHIAN AUDUBON SOCIETY

Programs & Field Trips
2016–2017

www.appalachianaudubon.org



We are excited about the variety of field trips and programs that we are offering this year. We hope you will take advantage of the opportunities available to be informed and entertained by our program schedule. We have planned field trips that provide new outdoor opportunities for our members, while some of our popular excursions remain on our schedule. The information presented in this brochure will be presented in more detail in upcoming newsletters.

Programs 2016–2017

September 15, 2016

RED CREEK WILDLIFE REHABILITATION CENTER.

AAS is again beginning our year with a program that will be enjoyable for the entire family. This year our presenter is Red Creek Wildlife Rehabilitation Center, located in Schuylkill County. We will meet several of their permanent residents, learn how they came to Red Creek, and find out about the work this facility performs in caring for sick and injured wildlife. **Please note: Because this is a program that will interest young people, it will start earlier than usual.** Social time will begin at 6:00 PM, followed by our meeting at 6:30 PM and the Red Creek presentation at 7:00 PM.

October 20, 2016

IAN GARDNER: EXPLORING HONDURAS. Last winter, Ian Gardner spent 20 days in Honduras, learning about local conservation efforts and the birds they protect. He spent twelve days with Juniata Audubon Society on their inaugural Birding for Conservation Tour. That was followed by eight days working with Ruth Bennett, a Cornell PhD candidate, as she tracked and banded Golden-winged Warblers. He will share his birding experiences, explain the benefits of shade grown coffee, and discuss habitats where 60+ neotropical migrants spend their winters. Ian is an AAS board member who is a Wildlife Technician for the Department of Military and Veteran's Affairs at Fort Indiantown Gap.

November 17, 2016

AMY WEIDENSAUL: BIRD-FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES.

Director of Community Conservation and Education for Audubon Pennsylvania, Amy Weidensaul will discuss National Audubon Society's Bird-Friendly Communities Program. The focus is on transforming communities into places where birds and people can flourish — because where birds thrive, people prosper. From urban centers to rural towns, each community can provide important habitat for birds.

December 8, 2016

SPECIAL EVENT: Please note this meeting is the second Thursday of the month. We are planning a fun evening that involves your participation in a special end of year event that gives you the opportunity to share your birding memories of the past year. More information will be shared as we get closer to December. Mark your calendars to attend!

January 19, 2017

PATRICIA BARBER: PENNSYLVANIA'S ENDANGERED GRASSLAND BIRDS. Patti is the PA Game Commission's Wildlife Biologist responsible for threatened and endangered birds. She has worked with a wide variety of birds on three continents including Red-faced Warblers, Red-cockaded Woodpeckers, and Florida Scrub-Jays. Her presentation will focus on Pennsylvania's endangered grassland birds, their natural history, ecological needs, conservation outlook, and ways you can help them.

February 16, 2017

BOB HENCH: CONFESSIONS OF A BAD BIRDER. Bob didn't start out as a birder. He wasn't interested in life lists or chasing birds. His interest in birds began after retirement, when he was looking for a hobby. Taking photographs of birds and other wildlife has become his passion. He will share some of his favorite pictures with us and help us forget the winter doldrums.

March 16, 2017

BENJAMIN JONES: FIRE'S ROLE IN PA ECOSYSTEMS — HISTORY, ECOLOGY, AND HABITAT RESTORATION. As a natural influence, fire has played a major role in forming Pennsylvania's wildlife habitats. With the exclusion of fire over this past century, habitats are changing and many plants that depend on fire have disappeared. Ben Jones, Chief of the PA Game Commission's Habitat Division, will discuss how prescribed fire is being used for habitat restoration.

April 27, 2017

This program is free of charge: THE LIVING LANDSCAPE: DESIGNING FOR BEAUTY AND BIODIVERSITY. Featuring Doug Tallamy and Rick Darke *Thursday April 27th 6:00 PM–10:00 PM at the Lower Dauphin High School, 210 South Hanover Street Hummelstown, PA, 17036*

Dr. Douglas Tallamy has promoted the use of native plants in our yards as a significant contribution to biodiversity. In this special program co-sponsored by AAS, Quittapahilla Audubon and Manada Conservancy, he is joined by landscape design consultant Richard Darke to explore the rich layers of private gardens and community landscapes that can serve the needs of both wildlife and humans. Using chickadees and other wildlife as guides they will explain how plants that evolved in

concert with local animals provide for their needs better than plants that evolved elsewhere. You will leave with an understanding of living layers that can be put to practical use in the design and maintenance of gardens that are biologically diverse and joyfully livable. Register at Manada Conservancy, office@manada.org or (717) 566-4122.

May 19, 2017

ANNUAL BANQUET (site to be announced)
Scott Weidensaul: Caught in the SNOWstorm. AAS favorite Scott Weidensaul will conclude our exciting year with his presentation focusing on the Snowy Owl irruption of the winter of 2013-2014, the largest influx in the Eastern US in perhaps a century. He will share the story of Project SNOWstorm and how this huge research effort came together in just a few weeks. Scott's presentations are always popular so make your reservations early.

ADDITIONAL DATES TO REMEMBER

September 24, 2016 — Fall Native Plant Sale at Diakon Wilderness Center, Boiling Springs. 9:00 AM–3:00 PM

October 14–15, 2016 — Annual Birdseed Sale at Boscov's Camp Hill.

Field Trips 2016–2017

New!

Sunday, September 18, 2016
BIRDING OASIS AT THE FORMER HARRISBURG STATE HOSPITAL.

(Cancelled last year due to inclement weather.) Join AAS Board member Ted Nichols II in search of fall migrants through the grounds of the former Harrisburg State Hospital, with its stately historic buildings and century-old trees. Meet at 7:15 AM off of Cameron Street in Harrisburg in the Department of Agriculture parking lot, across from the Farm Show Building. Participants must register with Ted at tanicholsii@gmail.com.

Sunday, September 25, 2016

ANNUAL RALPH KINTER MEMORIAL WILDFLOWER WALK. Wildflower expert Dan Welte will guide a trip to the Cornwall area to search for gentians and other fall wildflowers. Meet at 12:30 PM at the Harrisburg Wal-Mart parking lot off Route 322 to carpool. Contact Dan at 728-0421 or dcmawelte@verizon.net. In the past we have had Fringed and Barrel Gentians in bloom on this trip as well as other fall bloomers. Fauna have included White-tailed Deer and a beautiful little Ring-necked Snake with just enough birds to make it interesting.

New!

Wednesday, October 12, 2016
A DAY AT HAWK MOUNTAIN WITH BILL ANDERSON.

(Cancelled last year due to inclement weather.) Spend a day at historic Hawk Mountain with Bill Anderson. We will meet at the south end of the Radisson Hotel parking lot in Camp Hill (across from McDonalds) at 7:45 AM, where we will leave to carpool to the mountain. Tentatively, we'll begin with a talk by one of the scientists at the Acopian Center; followed by a visit to the Irma Braun Education Center, where we'll also have lunch. Bill will present a short history of Hawk Mountain Sanctuary. After a live raptor display there will be time for a visit to the Visitor's Center and to go up to the lookouts. There is now a handicapped accessible trail to the south lookout, which will permit motorized wheelchairs and will make walking to the lookout easier. The shorter, steeper trail is still available for those who wish to use it. Restrooms can be found along the trail as well as in the Visitor's Center. Changes to the schedule are subject to weather conditions on the day of the visit. Register with Bill Anderson at 717 579-2049.

Sunday evening, October 16, 2016

SAW-WHET OWL BANDING WITH SANDY LOCKERMAN AT SMALL VALLEY.

Bird bander Sandy Lockerman has again graciously consented to demonstrate owl banding to a small group of participants, provided an owl is caught that evening. No guarantees! Three years ago no owls were caught. The last two years two owls were netted. Participation is limited to a maximum group of 10 and carpooling is required and limited to no more than three vehicles. No children under six please. The group will meet near Harrisburg at 6:30 PM. Contact Rick Price to register at 657-1950 or rprice210@comcast.net The demonstration should be over before midnight. Dress warm as the small cabin is unheated.

Sunday, November 13, 2016

"WATER BIRDS, RAPTORS, AND WHO KNOWS WHAT" AT BOMBAY HOOK NWR.

AAS Board members Ian Gardner and Rick and Peggy Price will lead this full-day trip to Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge along the Delaware Bay in Delaware. We'll take the driving tour around the pools with a possible walk on the Boardwalk. If time permits, we may also stop along Mahon Road to look for raptors late in the day. We will be carpooling from the East Shore at 8:00 AM. Contact Rick Price at rprice210@comcast.net or 717 657-1950. Bring a drink and bagged lunch and we will plan to stop at a restaurant for dinner on the way home. Hope you see a turkey on Thanksgiving!