



# Kingfisher Courier

DECEMBER 2018/JANUARY 2019

APPALACHIAN AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

## NOTE

### November Program Rescheduled

Due to an early winter storm, the November program has been rescheduled for Thursday, December 6 at 7pm. See the October/November newsletter for details on Maggie Dewane's program on Antarctica.

AAS Program | December 13, 2018 at 7:00 pm

## You Never Know What You'll See at Wildwood

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

Most Appalachian Audubon members have birded at Wildwood Park in Harrisburg and have probably noticed some of the photographers who are frequent park visitors. This evening's program will feature some of those photographers sharing their most memorable photos. The program starts with a park overview and continues with several wildlife photographers telling the stories behind their favorite Wildwood shots.

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



AAS Program | January 17, 2019 at 7:00 pm

## Hummingbirds: Jewels of the Air by Sandy Lockerman

Sandy Lockerman is a trained and federally licensed bird bander and field ornithologist with over 25 years of experience in bird research and education.

She conducts several research projects in the central Pennsylvania area. In addition to songbirds and Saw-whet Owls, she has been studying the Ruby-throated Hummingbird migration as well as chasing, catching and banding wintering hummingbird species that are reported in Pennsylvania. Her program tonight will be about these hummingbirds.

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



Photos courtesy  
Sandy Lockerman



# Kingfisher Courier

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## What's Your Winter Strategy?

In winter, some mammals survive by snoozing in a sheltered space, while others stay active, searching for food. What kind of mammal are you? Do you want to curl up on the couch or stay active all winter? Why choose when you can have the best of both winter strategies? Appalachian Audubon can help with both.

At the December program meeting, we will have gently used items for sale, including good books suitable for winter hibernators who want to spend long periods in a cozy spot.

If you want to stay inside and watch the birds at your feeders, you can still get birdseed and feeders at great prices as the Appalachian Audubon Birdseed Fundraiser continues through December. See details and download the form by going to <http://appalachianaudubon.org/> and clicking on the link for Birdseed Sale Info.

This winter is expected to be an irruption year, when many seed-eaters from the north head our way in search of the conifer and birch seeds they eat. Keep your feeders full and your binoculars handy, and you may be rewarded by Red-breasted Nuthatches, Purple Finches, Pine Siskins, or Evening Grosbeaks.

For those whose winter strategy is to stay active, check the Audubon Field Trip schedule. Instead of heading out on your own, you can brave the elements and take courage from the others in the group. In December, there are five different Christmas Bird Counts in our area. For people of all experience levels, there are teams that could use help. These annual counts have taken place since 1900 when they started as an alternative to the traditional Christmas Bird Hunt, in which teams went out to see how many birds they could shoot in one day.

With a little help from Appalachian Audubon, you can enjoy both winter strategies and before you know it, winter will be gone.

## 2018 AAS Birdseed Sale and Fundraiser

Appalachian Audubon's 2018 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 seed. With a minimum purchase of \$25 of seed, you will save 25% on feeders and accessories.

### East Shore

*Hanoverdale Country Store, Inc.*

*West Hanover Township*

*486 S. Hershey Rd., Route 39 Harrisburg, PA 17112*

**Hours:** Monday through Saturday 8:00 am – 6:00 pm  
Sunday 10:00 am – 4:00 pm.

### West Shore

*Davis Country Living*

*45 W. Allen St, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055*

**Hours:** Monday through Friday 8:00 am – 5:30 pm  
Saturday 8:00 am – 4:00 pm; closed Sunday.

To get the special price when you visit either Agway in December be sure to bring along a copy of the order form. Order forms were mailed out in October, but you may also download the form from our website here: <http://appalachianaudubon.org/>

You will be able to pay for your order using cash, check, or credit card. While picking up your bird seed, 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

## AAS Members Making a Difference

Over the last several months, through the help of many dedicated AAS members and volunteers, we hosted several successful fundraising events. Kathy Kuchwara and Susan Miller worked with Boscov's and their Friends Helping Friends event to sell coupons to Boscov's stores. Through Kathy's, Susan's, and other volunteers' efforts the Chapter raised \$250.00 for our education scholarships. The Birder's Bazaar, supported by members' donations and purchases at October's Happy Camper program meeting, garnered approximately \$100.00 for our educational scholarships. In addition to these efforts we continue to receive many large donations toward our scholarships. We'd like to thank Deb and John Latsha for their generous donation of one full scholarship to Hog Island. Our fundraising efforts also support conservation work and other activities that the Chapter participates in. We'd like to thank our many chapter volunteers and our partner Wilderness Greenhouse at Diakon for their support of our fall native plant sale. The fundraiser not only raised funds for the Chapter but it also helped establish backyard habitat for birds and other wildlife. Finally, we'd like to thank the birdseed sale volunteers who are helping members and others provide much needed food to our over-wintering bird friends.

# Lydia Vorodi's Letter

(Shared at the October program meeting)

First off I would like to apologize for not being able to attend tonight's meeting, but I have come to realize that the life of a high school band student can be quite busy! However that is not my reason for writing. Over the summer I was lucky enough to attend the "Field Ornithology and Coastal Maine Bird Studies for Teens" camp at Hog Island, thanks to a scholarship from the Appalachian Audubon Society. It was a breathtaking experience that I am sure I will remember for the rest of my life. Going into the camp I really didn't know much about birding, only that I loved nature and was looking for any and all ways to experience it on a more personal level. Going to Hog Island did just that.

Not only did I learn about and see new species of birds I never knew existed before, I got to enjoy and get to know a small piece of the world that not many people even know exists. Hog Island is an incredible place - the island, the wildlife, and the people that work there to make it beautiful. Going to a place like that has really enriched my life.

As part of the camp, I and a group of other teens, along with our three counselors -Josh Potter, Heather Richard, and Corey Husic — explored the mainland, the island, and also Eastern Egg Rock Island. One of the truly memorable experiences is the day at Eastern Egg. Upon our arrival, five volunteers that stay on the island greeted us at the edge of the rocks to show us into the island. We had to be careful of our every step on the way in because the terns lay their eggs directly on the rocks, which leads to angry terns trying to protect their homes and chicks. Not many people can say they have been dive-bombed by hundreds of birds, but I can! Something I took away from the camp is to respect the birds, nature, the Earth, others, and ourselves. One day we took a sound walk in the woods by ourselves. It was a time to be by ourselves and listen to the world around us. It helped us learn to appreciate the things we take for granted such as the birds calling and the wind whistling in our ears. That is what Hog Island is all about — bringing together people who are different, but all have the same love for nature and birds. I took that with me as I parted ways with Hog Island. I learned to cherish the friendships and memories I made as I said goodbye to the place I had come to love. And I know that I will remember the people, the memories, and the island for the rest of my life.

— Lydia Vorodi  
Boiling Springs High School, Boiling Springs, PA

## Scholarship Updates

Our October program brought us face to face with many of the 2018 AAS scholarship campers and terrific camp representatives. We met Anna Yelk of the Central Pennsylvania Conservancy and scholarship recipient Julia Strine. They shared highlights and experiences of the Goddard Leadership Legacy Institute which included rock climbing, staying at the Iron Masters Mansion in Pine Grove Furnace State Park, and a multi-day trip to the Chesapeake Bay Foundation's Karen Noonan Center along the Bay's Eastern Shore.

We heard from Eileen Cox, a Trout Run volunteer and a passionate young lady. She shared her experiences at the Wildlife Leadership Academy's Bucktails and Gobblers camps. All courses are led by seasoned professionals who

focus on everything from animal biology and physiology to wildlife management. The WLA requires all participants to become Conservation Ambassadors who share their experiences and what they have learned with others.

We were also treated to stories from our three 2018 Hog Island teen camp scholarship awardees: Devin DePamphilis, Lydia Vorodi, and Alura Neumyer. Devin had everyone in stitches as he humorously described his thoughts and experiences at Hog Island. Lydia Vorodi was unable to attend, but Mary Brenner shared a heartfelt letter that Lydia wrote expressing her gratitude for the scholarship. Alura Neumyer is currently studying abroad and could not attend, but her grandfather, Terry Neumyer, shared her

*Continued on page 6*

*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 FIELD TRIP

### Christmas Bird Counts

Become a citizen scientist for the day by participating in this annual tradition that has continued for over a century. Contact one or more of the circle compilers for a team assignment and details.

- **Harrisburg CBC** – December 15th. Contact Deuane Hoffman at [deuane.hoffman@gmail.com](mailto:deuane.hoffman@gmail.com)
- **New Bloomfield CBC** – December 22nd. Contact Annette Mathes at [amathes19@verizon.net](mailto:amathes19@verizon.net)
- **Curtin CBC** (Northern Dauphin County) – December 27th. Contact Scott Bills at [srb24@comcast.net](mailto:srb24@comcast.net)
- **York Springs CBC** (Cumberland, Adams, and York) – December 27th. Contact Vern Gauthier at [verngauthier14@gmail.com](mailto:verngauthier14@gmail.com)
- **Newville CBC** – December 29th. Contact Vern Gauthier at [verngauthier14@gmail.com](mailto:verngauthier14@gmail.com)

## JANUARY FIELD TRIP

**New Area!**

### Saturday, January 12, 2019 • Snyder County Winter Birding

Kick off the new year by birding with locals Aden Troyer and Chad Kauffman as we switch territory from Juanita County where they led us in the past to neighboring Snyder County. We will be searching for raptors and other winter specialties. Contact Aden at 717 463-3117.

## Owl Banding at Small Valley — A SUCCESS!

After a two-year hiatus, AAS returned to Small Valley on November 4, 2018 for a memorable evening of monitoring and banding Northern Saw-whet Owls. Seven AAS participants were treated to a very professional and educational demonstration by licensed bander Rosemary Spreha and her crew under the direction of renowned author and project director, Scott Weidensaul. Our small group was comprised of participants ranging in age from 12 to 72. All “oo-ed” and “aah-ed” in excitement as the first tiny owl appeared.

The weather cooperated and we were fortunate that 10 owls were monitored while we were present, a new high



Photos courtesy  
Rick Price



in our experience with this program. In past years we have seen one, two, or no owls on this trip. The majority of owls were “hatch year” birds, an encouraging sign for the future as they battle for their existence.

Kudos to Rosemary and her crew, including AAS member Gary Labelle, as they gather important data to help ensure the future of these diminutive secretive raptors. Anyone who is interested in supporting the project by adopting an owl can contact <http://www.nedsmithcenter.org/product/saw-whet-owl-adoption/>.



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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!** 7:00 pm — Socializing & Refreshments  
7:30 pm — Program

### 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>

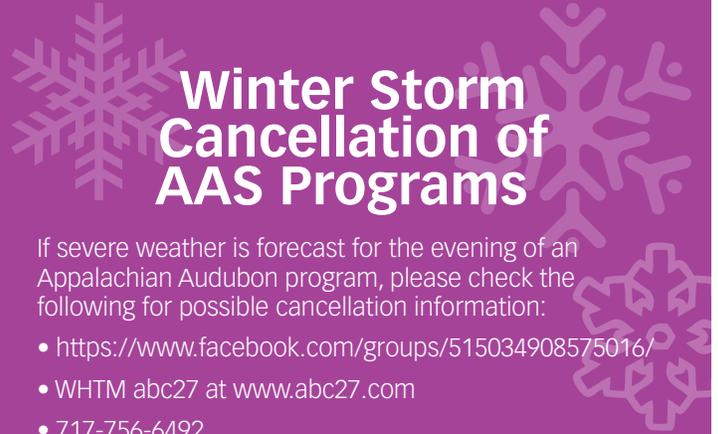


**Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/appalachianaudubon/>

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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](http://www.abc27.com)
- 717-756-6492

## Scholarship Updates *continued from page 4*

Hog Island presentation with us. Alura also donated a painting of a puffin for our Annual May Banquet Auction. We will be displaying it at our monthly program meetings.

AAS has reserved three spots for the Hog Island Coastal Maine Bird Studies for Teens scholarships: one for the first session and two for the second session. Please check out the AAS Education page via <http://appalachianaudubon.org> for more information and the application form. We are accepting applications through January 25, 2019. Watch our website for other summer camp offerings over the coming months! (AAS scholarships are dependent upon chapter fundraising; donations are gladly accepted year-round.)

# AAS MEMBERS ON THE MOVE

## September Native Plant Sale ...



Photos courtesy  
Rick Price