



Kingfisher Courier

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2020

APPALACHIAN AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

AAS Program | Thursday, February 20, 2020

Discover Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area

Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area is an important bird area, important mammal area, and home to 280 species of birds at some point throughout the year. Lauren Ferreri, manager of Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area, will discuss why Middle Creek's creation and continued management is critical to the conservation of waterfowl and early successional species and their habitats.

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



Photo courtesy
Natalie Kolb

AAS Program | Thursday, March 19, 2020

The Physics of Flight

We are mesmerized by the sight of birds in flight, and this has sparked the human quest to fly. How did birds gain such fluid movement? How do they become airborne, stay aloft, and land safely? What adaptations allow birds to specialize in speed, hovering and slow flight? How did the ingredients for flight evolve, allowing some dinosaurs to take wing? Is it true that dinosaurs are still with us?

Tom Reider is retired from the aircraft flight simulation industry. He flew as a commercial pilot and learned aerodynamics during his U.S. Navy flight training. Tom has always been intrigued with flight on a personal level. Growing up a few miles from Hawk Mountain, he spent many happy hours upon the rocks with his binoculars. Later, he sketched, painted and sculpted birds to be used as training aids and as a form of art. He now substitute teaches at local high schools. Join Tom as he explores bird flight using pictures, models, charts, sculptures, feathers and bones. His presentation will include slow motion scenes and special effects from the BBC video The Mastery of Flight with David Attenborough.

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



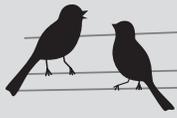
Photo courtesy
Tom Reider

Volunteers Needed!

Saturday, March 14th at **Diakon Wilderness Greenhouse** from 10:00 am –2:00 pm, we'll be assisting staff with potting seedlings and greenhouse work. It's a little way for us to say thank you for their support of our native plant sales. To volunteer please email Chris Kemmerer at president@appalachianaudubon.org



Photo courtesy
Joe Kosač



President's **Perch**



I love this time of year. The excitement of new beginnings, a less hectic schedule, and the potential of a year to be. But one of the reasons why I love this time of year so much is winter birding. I love the crispness in the air, the skies seem bluer, and then there's the lakes and rivers full of brightly colored, relatively stationary waterfowl. This makes viewing and identification a lot easier, in my opinion, than warbler season. There's also the benefit of fewer people out and more opportunity for reflection.

As I reflect on the year ahead, I'm excited for the birding that I'll be doing and for the work that Appalachian Audubon is planning. So, what's in store for AAS in 2020?

- Two native plants sales — the first is Saturday, April 18th
- Two months of a birdseed fundraiser in late fall
- Eight monthly programs — which we want your input on!
- Numerous field trips
- Our Annual Banquet and scholarship auction
- Continuing restoration and conservation at Trout Run Preserve
- Engaging youth in Audubon and conservation
- Increasing committee memberships and building our volunteer network
- Partnering with the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay on their Seedling Saver program
- And supporting you, our members.

As you reflect on the year ahead, I hope attending Audubon programs, field trips, and events are part of your wish list of things to do this year. I know I'm excited to work with the board to offer those opportunities to you. Happy New Year and Happy Birding!

— Chris Kemmerer

Board Nominations Open

Do you have an idea for a monthly meeting presenter? Would you like to be more involved in AAS conservation actions? Or, would you like to help lead AAS into a new decade? Consider joining the AAS Board for 2020/2021. Officer positions of vice-president, treasurer, and secretary along with four (4) board director positions will be open. Officers serve one-year terms while board directors serve a two-year term. If you would like to learn more about serving on the AAS board, please reach out to the 2020 board nominating committee Chris Kemmerer, Dan Kemmerer, and Ali Bowling or any of the current board members.

Banquet Speaker Announcement

Dr. Robert Curry, professor and researcher at Villanova University, will be the keynote speaker at our annual banquet in May. He will share with us stories, data, and conclusions from his 20-year long research project into chickadee hybridization in southeastern Pennsylvania. To learn more about Dr. Curry and his research visit <http://robertcurrylab.com/>.

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Vacant

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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 2020 FIELD TRIP

Saturday, February 15, 2020

Beginners' Bird Walk and Great Backyard Bird Count (a joint partnership between Dauphin County's Wildwood Park and Appalachian Audubon Society)

The Great Backyard Bird Count is a community science program of Cornell University's Lab of Ornithology that relies on people to provide a "snapshot" of bird populations in February. This program is a great opportunity for birders of all ages and experiences to learn about birds and discover the joy of birding. AAS volunteers and Wildwood staff will be on hand to help with bird identification. This is a wonderful opportunity for veteran birders ages 16 through adulthood to help new birders. Children below the age of 16 should be accompanied by an adult. Stop by Wildwood's Nature Center anytime between 10:00 am and 1:00 pm to participate. A short guided walk will be offered at 1:00 pm weather permitting. For more information, call the Nature Center at Wildwood Park at 717-221-0292. This program is a good opportunity to cure "cabin fever" without over exposure to the cold.



*Photos courtesy
Kelly McGinley*

MARCH 2020 FIELD TRIPS

Sunday, March 1, 2020

Birding Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area

It's been several years since AAS made a field trip to Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area spanning Northern Lancaster and Lebanon counties. Each year in February through early March the refuge hosts up to 100,000 Snow Geese and Tundra Swans in a spectacle of floating and flying white masses over lake and field. While the sight itself is incredible, just the noise of thousands of geese taking off at one time is a memorable experience. Other species of waterfowl may also be seen, and Bald Eagles and hawks are always a good possibility. Participants will also have the option of staying till dusk for an opportunity to look for Northern Harriers and Short-eared Owls and even a pheasant or two. Carpooling is recommended as the refuge can get crowded on weekends. Dress warmly as cold winds are likely. Leaders to be announced and details to follow as the flocks begin to assemble in early February. We will plan to meet at an east shore location at 1:30 pm. Check <https://appalachianaudubon.org> for later information.



*Photos courtesy
Rick Price*

Saturday, March 21, 2020

A Visit to Mill Grove and the New John James Audubon Museum

After immigrating from France, the young John Audubon lived at Mill Grove in what is now Montgomery County near the confluence of the Perkiomen Creek and the Schuylkill River. A new state-of-the-art museum was opened in 2019 to celebrate the artist and the birds of America. Weather and time permitting, we may bird the grounds following a tour of the museum. There is a fee to enter the museum of \$14 for an adult, \$12 for a senior, and \$10 for youth ages 6–17. Bring a drink and bagged lunch and money for an optional dinner stop on the way home. Drivers should also consider bringing an EZ pass to exit the PA Turnpike at the interchange closest to our destination. Contact Rick Price at 717-657-1950 or rprice210@comcast.net to register.



Scholarship Opportunities Supported by Appalachian 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. 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 2020 for summer 2021 camps. Individuals and families may also sign up for the camps independently without AAS support by visiting the Hog Island website.

Listed below are additional AAS camp scholarship partners. For more specific information on these camp offerings, monitor the camp websites noted below, as well as the AAS Education webpage at <https://appalachianaudubon.org> 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.**

- **Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art**

(www.nedsmithcenter.org) offers day camps in Millersburg, PA concentrating on nature-related topics including birds. Some camps are for children participating with an adult. The 2020 camps include Outdoor Adventure and Nature Detective. Registration opens in March. More information is at <http://www.nedsmithcenter.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/2020-Summer-Camps-1.pdf>

- **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. These rigorous camps are for youth ages 14–17. See information on the PA Bucktails, PA Brookies, PA Drummers, and PA Gobblers under the Field School menu of the website. The application period is currently open, and applications are due March 15, 2020.

- **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 Nature Explorers Day Camp, Junior Naturalist Day Camp and Outdoor Week, on their events page at <https://www.wildwoodlake.org/events/>. Registration is currently open.

Reminder: To receive AAS Partnership or In-full Scholarships for these camps, you must apply directly to the camp and contact Appalachian Audubon requesting a scholarship, noting that you reside within the chapter area defined by the zip codes as listed on the bottom of the Education page at <https://appalachianaudubon.org>.

Alliance for the Chesapeake Program Announcement

The Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay plants A LOT of Trees. And they are asking for your help to plant more. Rather than pull and dispose of seedlings (like redbuds, sycamores, maples, and tulip-poplars) that come up in unwanted areas in your yard/garden, consider saving them instead. Pot them, keep them watered and protected over the summer, and the Alliance will collect them in the fall for future planting. Pots and all necessary instructions will be provided.

The Alliance also needs tree fosters! Caring for already potted tree seedlings over the summer will help stretch funds even further. The Alliance will drop them off for you to tend, and will pick them up in the fall for distribution to planting sites.

Ryan Davis, Forests Program Manager for the Alliance, will do a short presentation on the Seedling Saver and Foster programs at the February 20th meeting. Flats of seedling pots will be available for pick-up at a future meeting.

For more information, contact program coordinator Wendy Smith at wendyk320@yahoo.com.



Eli DePaulis Receives Award from Penn State

Eli DePaulis, co-chair of the Conservation and Trout Run Preserve Committee and former AAS scholarship recipient, has been awarded a John Roe Student Sustainability Award from Penn State University. The John Roe Student Awards “recognize exemplary performance by individuals who consistently excel at cultivating opportunities to advance the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals while demonstrating personal integrity, an unwavering commitment to their values/morals, and a commitment to the mission/values of Penn State.” Eli was nominated for his work developing, organizing, and implementing an invasive species removal plan for an on-campus wetland. This included obtaining his pesticide applicator license, developing the plan, fundraising, recruiting volunteers and educating others about the project. He did this while organizing and supporting another project on campus to develop a seasonal tree nursery, as well as taking a full-course load of credits.

Congratulations to Eli! For more information on the award and Eli’s work on the DuBois campus of Penn State please visit: <https://sustainability.psu.edu/john-roe-sustainability-awards>. Eli has been a driving force in all of our efforts to revive and enhance the AAS Trout Run Preserve. Visit <https://www.appalachianaudubon.org/conservation.html> on our website for details about this exciting project.

2019 Annual Birdseed Fundraiser Report

By John Latsha — Chair, Birdseed Fundraising Committee

The 2019 Appalachian Audubon Society Annual Birdseed Fundraising returns are in, and sadly AAS did not do as well as in 2018. This year’s total returns to AAS were 33% less than 2018. The owners of both Agway stores said that their October sales were also down.

Our guesses as to why there were fewer sales this year are that the October-through-December weather was significantly warmer than average, and maybe the birds weren’t as active and they didn’t consume as much birdseed. Whatever the reasons, the bottom line is that this year’s sale won’t provide as much funding for the following on-going projects:

- Funding scholarships for high school age students to attend camps held at Hog Island, Maine this summer.
- Funding projects to maintain and improve Trout Run, our wetland preserve located in Upper Allen Township.

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 make a profit that goes toward funding the above projects. This year, we attempted to match the sale prices the Agway stores offered in October so that our members might wait until November or December to purchase their seed for the 2019–2020 winter. Obviously, this did not happen to the extent we had hoped. We will try again next year!

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

Last, but certainly not least, a very large **THANK YOU** goes out to 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. A big **THANK YOU** goes out to the Trinity High School students who volunteered every Saturday in November at the Davis Country Living Agway in Mechanicsburg as well as the hearty souls who volunteered their time and efforts at the Hanoverdale Agway near Hummelstown! All of your volunteer efforts are greatly appreciated.

In the next month or so, the members of the Birdseed Fundraising Committee will be meeting with the owners of the two Agway stores to review the results of the 2019 fundraising event in an effort to determine the reason(s) that the 2019 sales were less than those in 2018 and how we can improve fundraising efforts in 2020.

If you, as a member of Appalachian Audubon Society, have any ideas you wish to share with the committee, please send them to me at jlat1965@gmail.com or call me at 717-982-1141.

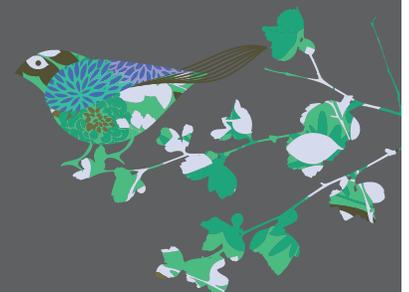
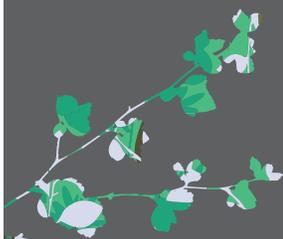
Or, even better, if you wish to become a member of the Birdseed Fundraising committee, please don’t hesitate to send me an email or call me on my cellphone!

AAS Spring Native Plant Sale

Save the Date! If you’re thinking Spring!

Saturday, April 18th from 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Diakon Wilderness Greenhouse



FEBRUARY/MARCH 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
<https://appalachianaudubon.org>



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November Field Trip Participants Get Lucky

By Rick Price

After striking out on seeing a Northern Saw-whet Owl this year on our annual October owl banding trip, we rebounded with a very successful trip on Sunday, November 10th to the John Heinz National Wildlife Refuge.

Ten hearty participants were treated to a good variety of waterfowl, raptors, and song birds. The trip was co-led by AAS and the Wyncote Audubon Chapter from Montgomery County. Kudos to Judy Stepenaskie for a job well done on co-leading the trip. Her familiarity with the refuge was very helpful in allowing those in the group to see as many as 44 species of birds. These birds included good numbers of Northern Shovelers, Northern Pintails, Green-winged Teal, Mallards, Gadwall, American Coots, and lesser numbers of Wood Ducks, Common Mergansers, and American Wigeons. We were also fortunate to see a Turkey, a Pied-billed Grebe, both species of kinglets, a Red-shouldered Hawk, a Red-tailed Hawk, and we had really good looks at a passing Northern Harrier.

While the breeze off the water was chilly, the sun emerged by late morning and we were thankful to share the brilliance of ducks in their autumn splendor with our fellow birders.

AAS MEMBERS ON THE MOVE

Birdwatching during the Juniata field trip ...



*Photos courtesy
Rick Price*

Board members touring Trout Run ...



*Photo courtesy
Ann DePaulis*