



Programs & Field Trips 2020–2021

www.appalachianaudubon.org

NOTE: Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic all 2020 monthly programs are moving to an online virtual format. We will determine the status of 2021 monthly programs on a month by month basis. Please refer to monthly newsletters, membership emails, and Facebook posts to register for the online virtual monthly programs. All questions may be directed to AAS President Chris Kemmerer at president@appalachianaudubon.org or 717 571-7958.

PROGRAMS

SEPTEMBER — Thursday, September 17, 2020

RED CREEK WILDLIFE CENTER — RAPTOR PROGRAM

Have you ever seen your reflection in the eyes of an owl? Or marveled at the hunting capabilities of a hawk? Join Red Creek Wildlife Center as they introduce us to several birds of prey that call Pennsylvania home. Red Creek will present a vulture, an owl, a hawk, and one other special guest for us to meet. You'll get to marvel at the beauty of a vulture, learn about the hunting skills of hawks and falcons, while discovering the communication skills of owls. It's sure be a great evening of learning with lots of opportunity to 'Ooh' and 'Aah' at our feathered friends.

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

OCTOBER — Thursday, October 15, 2020

THE PHYSICS OF FLIGHT

We are mesmerized by the sight of birds in flight, and this has sparked Mankind's 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. 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 6:30pm for socializing. The meeting starts at 7:00, followed by the program.

NOVEMBER — Thursday, November 19, 2020

POLYMORPHISM IN WHITE-THROATED SPARROWS: A MODEL FOR UNDERSTANDING THE MECHANISMS OF BEHAVIOR

White-throated Sparrows exhibit plumage and behavioral polymorphism, whereby two distinct color morphs differ in regards to territorial aggression and parental care. During this presentation, Dr. Brent Horton of Millersville University will examine the bases of polymorphism in this species, and how these sparrows have become a unique model organism for understanding how genes and hormones underlie variation in the social behaviors of vertebrates, including ourselves.

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

DECEMBER — Thursday, December 10, 2020

ABROAD WITH APPALACHIAN AUDUBON: HIGHLIGHTS FROM HUNT FOR THE HARPY

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

Last year Appalachian Audubon Society worked with Costa Rica Focus to offer our first international trip — Hunt for the Harpy. Hear about the adventures of your fellow AAS members as they explored the Darien area of Panama in search of the world's largest eagle — the Harpy. See some of the feathered, and not so feathered, friends they met, ask questions about their experience, and let us know if you'd like AAS to explore future international trips.

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

JANUARY — Thursday, January 21, 2021

YOUR BACKYARD GEOLOGY AND ECOSYSTEM

Jeri Jones, owner of Jones Geological Services in Spring Grove, PA, has been reaching and teaching geology for over 40 years. He will be our guide as we explore the geology of Southcentral Pennsylvania. Jeri will highlight the rocks, fossils and minerals found along South Mountain, the Appalachians and the Susquehanna River basin. He will also discuss the geological history of the area, how geology affects the local flora and fauna, and he will include some science humor throughout.

Continued on next page

Programs *continued*

YOUR BACKYARD GEOLOGY AND ECOSYSTEM *continued*

Jeri will also bring copies of his latest book "Isabella and Trent's Hot Air Balloon Adventure — A Kid's Book of Pennsylvania Geology". It will be available for purchase at \$10.00 and autographed.

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

FEBRUARY — Thursday, February 18, 2021

GRASSLAND RAPTOR CONSERVATION AT MILTON HERSHEY SCHOOL

Barn Owls and American Kestrels have long been a valuable presence in the rich and rolling agricultural lands of the Hershey area. Starting in 2008, a concerted effort was made to install and monitor Barn Owl and Kestrel nest boxes in appropriate habitat on Milton Hershey School's campus and surrounding farmland. The project has since grown into a professional collaboration with ZooAmerica, PA Game Commission, and other conservation partners. Come learn about these regional conservation efforts, unique educational opportunities that benefit MHS and other local schools, and how you can support Barn Owl and Kestrel conservation in the region from project coordinator Nate McKelvie and ZooAmerica partners Tim Becker and Ann Holzman.

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

MARCH — Thursday, March, 18, 2021

DISCOVER THE CENTRAL PENNSYLVANIA CONSERVANCY

The Central Pennsylvania Conservancy is a local non-profit conservation organization that conserves natural resources for the benefit of current and future generations through land acquisition, conservation easements, education, and outreach. Headquartered in Carlisle, CPC is a nationally-accredited land trust. Join Ben Mummert, Director of Land Protection and Stewardship for CPC, as he takes us on a tour of the Conservancy's preserves and highlights the conservation work being done. Ben will discuss projects being done right here in the Harrisburg area and share highlights of their partnership with Appalachian Audubon Society. You might even discover a few new places to go birding!

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

APRIL — Thursday, April 15, 2021

LANDSCAPING WITH NATIVE PLANTS

Taking a look at the ecosystem function of our backyards, Manada Conservancy volunteer Nancy Cladel will discuss why native plants are important to the home landscape. Most home landscapes are devoid of native trees, shrubs and perennials and are thus relatively non-functional for birds and other wildlife. Nancy will discuss the connection between plants, insects, and birds, providing specific examples of useful native plants we can use in our own backyards.

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

ANNUAL BANQUET

THURSDAY — May, 20, 2021 | Keynote speaker and banquet details to be announced later in our program year.



Field Trips

NOTE: Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic Appalachian Audubon Society is asking all field trip participants to ensure proper social distancing during field trips and to have a mask available. If we're unable to properly social distance, we will ask, and expect you to wear your mask. All questions may be directed to AAS President Chris Kemmerer at president@appalachianaudubon.org or 717 571-7958.

New!

SEPTEMBER — Sunday, September 20, 2020

FIELD TRIP TO COVE MOUNTAIN

Cove Mountain is a relatively new Nature Conservancy property located outside of Marysville, PA. It is a work in progress and already offers some interesting habitat including woods, fields, a small stream, a vernal pond, and some fantastic mountain scenery. In late September it may also offer a route for migrating birds when conditions are right.

Come explore this new nature venue with us and see what you can find to whet your outdoor appetites — autumnal blooms, sunning snakes, fall warblers, or migrating Broad-winged Hawks and eagles? Wear comfortable hiking shoes and bring binoculars, water, camera (if desired) and rain jacket. Be prepared for a moderate uphill hike. Register with Rich Riter at rriter3@gmail.com or 717-503-0073.

New!

OCTOBER — Saturday, October 10, 2020

FALL MIGRATION AT CHESTNUT GROVE NATURE AREA

Recently, we had a successful breeding season trip to this well-maintained nature preserve in southern Lancaster County overlooking the Susquehanna River. This year we will see what it offers during fall migration. In its short history this tract has hosted some interesting vagrants including a Sandhill Crane that wintered here in 2019–2020. American Kestrels and Bald Eagles are frequently seen year-round.

Contact Rick Price to register at rprice210@comcast.net or 717-567-1950.

FIELD TRIPS *continued*



*Photos courtesy
Rick Price*

Sandhill Crane

New!

NOVEMBER — Sunday, November 22, 2020

WATERFOWL AT WILDWOOD

In November, Wildwood Lake can provide a good assortment of ducks as well as other goodies such as Ruby-crowned and Golden-crowned kinglets, Rusty Blackbirds, Yellow-rumped Warblers, and if we're lucky, Wilson's Snipe. Dress in layers. Limited to 10 participants. Contact Rick Price at rprice210@comcast.net or 717 657-1950 to register.

DECEMBER

CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS

For Audubon chapters across the land, December means Christmas Bird Counts, and our chapter is no different. Please contact the following coordinators for these counts:

Saturday, December 19, 2020

Harrisburg CBC

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

Monday, December 28, 2020

New Bloomfield CBC

Contact Betsy Riter:
rriter@pa.net

Wednesday, December 30, 2020

York Springs CBC

Contact Vern Gauthier:
verngauthier14@gmail.com or
717 385-9526

Saturday, January 2, 2021

Newville CBC

Contact Vern Gauthier:
verngauthier14@gmail.com or
717 385-9526.

New!

JANUARY — Saturday, January 16, 2021

POTLUCK BIRDING IN JUNIATA COUNTY

Join Chad Kauffman for a morning itinerary of local birding hotspots. The trip will begin at 8:00am sharp and end by noon. In case of inclement weather, we will reschedule for January 23.

Participation will be limited to four cars with two persons each. Please preregister with Chad at chadkauffman@earthlink.net or 717-436-8257.

FEBRUARY — Saturday, February 20, 2021

SCOPING THE RIVER FROM WEST FAIRVIEW

Depending on the weather, February can be a good time to scope the Susquehanna River at the West Fairview Boat Launch. If conditions are right, many birds can be seen including Greater and Lesser Scaup, American Goldeneye, Redhead, Canvasback, Horned Grebe, Bonaparte's Gull, Bald Eagle, and late winter songbirds. Bring your own scope if you have one. Meet at the PA Fish and Boat Commission Launch site at 8:00am. For more information, contact Rick Price at rprice210@comcast.net or 717-657-1950.

MARCH — Saturday, March 6, 2021

MIDDLE CREEK WATERFOWL MANAGEMENT AREA

Last year's early March trip to Middle Creek was very successful as we saw a good variety of birds including Eastern Meadowlark, Northern Harrier, Ring-necked Pheasant, Tundra Swans, Ring-necked Ducks, and lots of Snow Geese. We also witnessed the natural phenomenon of "sun dogs" in the sky. This coming year, we're also hoping to see a cruising Short-eared Owl on the driving tour for those who want to stay until dusk. Contact Rick Price at rprice210@comcast.net or 717-657-1950.

New!

APRIL — Saturday, April 10, 2021

WILDFLOWERS AT GIFFORD PINCHOT STATE PARK WITH DAN WELTE

Join naturalist Dan Welte on a trip to Gifford Pinchot State Park to search for early wild blooms. The program will begin at 10:00am at the Conewago Day Use Area off Alpine Road at the south end of the park. We will gather at the north end of the large parking lot. Many of the early wildflowers should be in bloom by this time. Contact Dan directly at dcmawelte@comcast.net for specifics.

Sunday, April 18, 2021

WATERFOWL AND EARLY WARBLERS AT MEMORIAL LAKE

Last year at about the same date, Memorial Lake was host to several Common Loons, a pair of rare White-winged Scoters, Hooded Mergansers, a Redhead Duck, and lots of Buffeheads, Ruddy Ducks, and Bonaparte's Gulls. In addition, we found some early warblers including Pine, Palm, and Yellow-rumped Warblers in prime breeding plumage. Feel free to bring your own scope. We will meet at the Upper Road parking lot off Boundary Road at 7:30am. Contact Rick Price at rprice210@comcast.net or 717-657-1950 to register.

FIELD TRIPS *continued*

MAY — Saturday, May 1, 2021

WARBLER WALK AT STONY CREEK — *Classic!*

Join warbler expert Tom Smith on this annual classic which was cancelled last year due to pandemic considerations. It is usually a good opportunity to see several warbler species as well as other spring songbirds such as Rose-breasted Grosbeaks and Scarlet Tanagers. Meet at the power lines by the PPL substation along Stony Creek Road at 7:00am. Participants must register with Tom at 717 921-2461.



*Photos courtesy
Rick Price*

Prairie Warbler

Sunday, May 2, 2021

WARBLER WALK AT PA STATE GAME LAND 230

Pete Lusardi will lead a walk along the base of Blue Mountain near Carlisle Springs to look for migrating and summer resident warblers and other songbirds. This trip has a history of uncommon birds showing up including Golden-winged Warbler, Mourning Warbler, Canada Warbler, Summer Tanager, and Bobolink. Participants will meet at the first parking lot on the right (coming from the east on Route 944) at 7:30am. Contact Pete Lusardi at 717-243-6419 or pllusardi@aol.com to register.

Saturday, May 8, 2021

WORLD MIGRATORY BIRD DAY

Rick and Peggy Price will return to Memorial Lake State Park to lead a group to actively count as many birds as possible in a specified area for World Migratory Bird Day. Last year the park hosted a number of warblers, vireos, flycatchers, shorebirds and lingering waterfowl during this period. Contact Rick Price at 717 657-1950 or rprice210@comcast.net to register.

MAY-JUNE 2021

HARRISBURG FALCON WATCH — *Dates to be announced after eggs are hatched*

Volunteers will have the opportunity to observe and help young Peregrine Falcons at the Rachel Carson Building in downtown Harrisburg. As the young fledglings attempt their first flight, the Harrisburg Falcon Watch team will be on the lookout for mishaps or injuries. For more information, contact Sue Hannon at hbgfalconwatch@gmail.com.



**APPALACHIAN
AUDUBON SOCIETY**

P.O. Box 234

Camp Hill, PA 17001-0234

www.appalachianaudubon.org

501(c)(3) NON-PROFIT