



March Program –

Kittatinny Songsters and the Susquehanna Water Gap



Presenter: Chris Rebert and Paul Zeph

Thursday, March 13th at 7:30 pm

(for directions to meeting location, see page 2)



As the anticipation of spring songbird migration builds with the northbound movement of waterfowl, late winter is a great time to begin listening and learning bird songs. “Kittatinny Songsters” highlights birds of the Kittatinny Ridge by sharing methods of vocal identification using amplified songs and photos. Enjoy the splashing colors of neo-tropical migrant warblers, and review our year-round resident birds.

The Kittatinny Ridge is the largest contiguous forest in southeastern Pennsylvania, providing important songbird migration and nesting habitat. Many parts of the Ridge, however, are threatened, especially the “Susquehanna Water Gap,” where the Ridge and River intersect. All are welcome to this multi-media program about the birds we love and efforts to protect their habitat in central Pennsylvania.

Chris Rebert is a naturalist at Wildwood Lake Sanctuary in Harrisburg. He enjoys sharing his enthusiasm for the outdoor world through teaching and learning natural history. In the past, Chris has worked as a naturalist for Audubon Pennsylvania and Lancaster County Parks. He had the opportunity to co-author the Susquehanna River Birding and Wildlife Trail guide while working for Audubon. During his studies at Penn State, a professor lit the fire for Chris and he has been hooked on birds ever since.

As DEP’s Highlands Action Program Coordinator for Pennsylvania, Paul Zeph is working to protect and restore important areas of the Appalachian Forest ecosystem, with the Kittatinny Ridge being an important part of this program. He was previously the coordinator of the Kittatinny Conservation Project for Audubon Pa., and Executive Director of Audubon Iowa.

And remember... prior to all monthly AAS programs is social time (with snacks) at 7:00 pm, followed by “Sightings of the Month” at 7:20 pm. Please join us for this fun get-to-know-you time!

*** Editor’s Note: There are several changes to the Field Trip dates. See page 3 for details. ***

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AAS WEBSITE:
www.appalachianaudubon.org/

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Nominating Committee Appointed

This year's Nominating Committee consists of Kathy Kuchwara, Jon Dale, and Lorrie Preston. The committee will nominate candidates for officers and directors whose terms of office expire in May 2008.

Suggestions for nominations of officers or directors may be submitted to any member of the Committee by any member of the chapter. If you would like to serve our group by being part of our Board of Directors, nominate someone else that could serve, or have any questions about what would be involved, please feel free to contact a committee member. Contact information can be found on the left-hand column. A slate of nominees will appear in the April newsletter.



Appalachian Audubon monthly (Sept-May) programs normally take place on the 3rd Thursday of each month in Christ Presbyterian Church, 421 Deerfield Road, in the Allendale neighborhood of Camp Hill, at 7:30 p.m. Exceptions are announced in this newsletter, as are field trips and other activities.

PROGRAMS ARE FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.

Directions: Take New Cumberland exit off I-83; cross Carlisle Road. Turn left onto Allendale Way; take first left at Deerfield Road (from the south, take New Cumberland exit, turn left onto Carlisle Road, left onto Cedar Cliff Road, left on Allendale Way, then left onto Deerfield Road) to the church.

AAS Field Trips

Middle Creek Waterfowl Trip – Saturday, March 15 (*Please note date change!*)

Late winter is the peak time to visit this wildlife management area. Tens of thousands of Snow Geese and other waterfowl can be seen. Call Ramsay Koury at 761-1871 for more details.

Ned Smith Waterfowl Watch – Sunday, March 9 (*Please note date change!*)

The Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art holds this annual river watch for waterfowl and other birds of interest along the Susquehanna River in Millersburg at the Riverfront Park from 8 am to 1 pm. Excellent views of various Eastern Flyway waterfowl as well as Bald Eagles can be seen from the park's vantage point. Contact Ed Chubb at 233-4807 for additional information on this joint field trip with Ned Smith Center members.



Wildwood Lake Sanctuary Joint Field Trip – Saturday, April 12

Art Schiavo will lead this joint field trip with Quittaphilla Audubon to Wildwood Lake Sanctuary to witness the season's arrival of the Great Egret. Other early season migrants will be sought. This outing offers two choices for the length of the day's hike around the sanctuary. Check with Art at 520-5711 or 533-1978 for details of the day's activities.



Pinchot State Park Spring Wildflower Walk – Saturday, April 19

This outing will feature early wildflowers of this popular local state park. Dan Welte will lead participants through Pinchot to find what spring offerings are showing. Call Dan at 728-0421 for meeting time and location.

Nescopeck State Park Early Spring Birding – Saturday, April 26

Another one of Pa.'s outstanding state park facilities will be featured in this early birding trip. Highlights to include thrushes and warblers in this Luzerne County location. Al Mercik will lead the trip, and can be reached at 657-8548.

Annual Warbler Walk in Stony Creek Valley – Saturday, May 3 (*New trip!*)

This trip, led by Tom Smith, has been added to our field trip line up. You may contact Tom for more info at 921-2461. This will replace the **Spring Migrants for Beginners** field trip, which has been canceled.

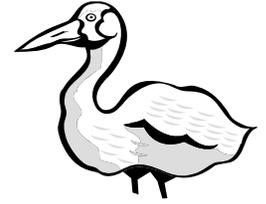
A Sense of Wonder: A Rachel Carson-Based Play, Coming to HACC

Saturday, March 8th, 6:30 pm



Best known for her book *Silent Spring*, Rachel Carson has been called "the patron saint of the environmental movement." Nationally acclaimed actress, Kaiulani Lee, stars in this one woman show which has toured throughout the U.S. The program will be held at Harrisburg Community College, Wildwood Conference Center. Please call the Ned Smith Center for tickets and more information at 717-692-3699. (*This show comes HIGHLY recommended by a friend of AAS that has seen this excellent actress perform.*)

Success for Operation Migration



Operation Migration, a program that Appalachian Audubon Society has been supporting for most of its life, successfully concluded their 2007 trip from Necedah Wildlife Refuge in Wisconsin to Chassahowitzka National Wildlife Refuge, Florida, with 16 new Whooping Cranes. This was a 97-day trip of 1262 miles. Past trips have taken from 56 to 71 days. Bad weather was the culprit that caused this trip to take so long. Of course all the extra days cost extra money; all the more reason that Operation Migration needs our help! The good news is that there will be 16 new Whoopers added to the growing new flock that will migrate from Wisconsin to Florida, thus hopefully insuring the continuation of wild Whooping Cranes in America.

Endangered Species Program for Children

Appalachian Audubon is sponsoring a FREE special event for children of all ages. An educator from Hershey's Zoo America will bring some of the zoo's animal residents to the community room of the Cleve J. Fredricksen Library on **Sunday, March 2nd, at 3:00 pm**. The library is located at 100 North 19th Street in Camp Hill. While the presentation will be geared toward children, everyone is invited to attend, and young children should be accompanied by a parent or guardian. For more information you may contact Lorrie Preston at 732-5615 or Susan Miller at 697-6696. Refreshments will be served.

Critters Visit AAS



We had a full house for Dauphin County Wildlife Rescue's rescheduled AAS program in late January. Beth and John Carricato brought along Lester, the Great Horned owl; a Screech owl; Spike, the Red-tailed hawk; a kestrel; and a Black Rat snake. Children young and old enjoyed observing and learning about these creatures that we rarely get to see up close.

It was mating season for Great Horned owls, and Lester was in the mood for love. As soon as AAS president, Lorrie Preston, started making announcements, Lester began vocalizing from inside his cage. His calls came intermittently at first, but as the announcements continued, he became more insistent and repetitive. John Carricato announced that he had never, EVER heard Lester be so vocal, and suggested that Lester was attracted to Lorrie's voice and was sending out his mating call, which got quite a chuckle from the audience.

Our chapter has been collecting *Coins for Conservation* at our monthly meetings to feed and support the varied wildlife in the care of Dauphin County Wildlife Rescue. We were very pleased to be able to present a check for \$95 to the Carricatos, from members' pocket change and donations collected since September. Another \$64.15 was collected that evening. We will continue to collect donations for this cause through the end of our AAS year. We thank our members for their generosity.

If you do not regularly attend our meetings but wish to make a donation to this worthy cause, send a check to Dauphin County Wildlife Rescue, 699 Knights Rd, Harrisburg, PA 17111.

Grace Randolph Scholarship Takes New Direction

The AAS Board of Directors is pleased to announce an exciting new direction for the Grace Randolph Scholarship funds that we began awarding in 2002. We have been unable to award this \$500 scholarship for the past 3 years, due to lack of applicants. In order to pass on Grace's passion for birds and nature on an annual basis, we will now award five separate \$100 Grace Randolph Scholarships to attendees of the local Wildwood Nature Day Camps, which take place each summer at the Olewine Nature Center and Wildwood Lake.

The scholarship recipients will be students with financial need, who would not otherwise be able to attend the summer camps. It is our desire to bring hope, curiosity, and inspiration to children of the inner city, who do not often get a chance to explore the world of nature.

Grace was a nature day camp leader for inner-city children near Washington D.C. in years past, and Wildwood Lake was one of her favorite birding spots, so we feel this is a very appropriate change. Grace's grown children have also given their enthusiastic approval to this new direction.

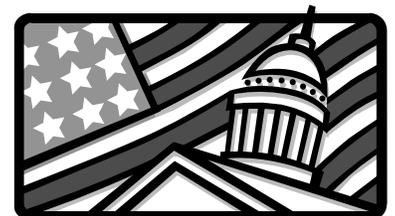
The camps are hosted by Dauphin County Parks and Recreation and we thank them for working with us to provide this opportunity to local students. The day camps have received rave reviews from children and parents that are associated with our chapter. If you would like more information about the summer day camps for ages 7-14, you may call 717-221-0292.

Invitation for WWII Veterans: Nation's First "Honor Bus" Program

Students, teachers and staff from the Mechanicsburg Middle School (MMS) have made arrangements to take local World War II veterans by bus on a free day trip to Washington, D.C., to visit their memorial and tour the city. The MMS group is partnering with the Ohio-based "Honor Flights Network" (www.honorflights.org) to create the nation's first "Honor Bus" program, with the generous support of local sponsors. If you are a WWII veteran, or wish to nominate a veteran for this free trip, or are willing to volunteer, sponsor or otherwise make a contribution (except for veterans, who have already given enough!), please contact the "MMS Honor Bus program" as specified at the end of this article.

On the morning of April 20th, participating veterans will arrive at MMS to enjoy a light breakfast and a send-off ceremony. Chartered buses and a wheelchair-accessible van will transport veterans and to the WWII memorial in Washington, D.C. A catered lunch will be provided. Following a wreath-laying ceremony, veterans will visit their memorial and take a bus tour of the city; then return to Mechanicsburg to enjoy a light, catered dinner.

Area WWII veterans (or those who wish to nominate them) may show their interest, and obtain more information, by contacting the group through the MMS "Honor Bus Program" link on the school's website, www.mbgasd.org/honorbus, or by contacting Mrs. Beckie Lacey at MMS: Phone: (717) 691-4560, ext. 7011; Email: blacey@mbgsd.org.



Volunteer for AAS

Do you have a little extra time and the desire to make a difference in the world of nature? Please share your gifts and talents with our club. We are looking for someone to line-up our monthly program schedule for 2008-2009. Director and other positions may be opening up at the end of the AAS year, as well. Please join our excellent team of Board Members and Committee Chairs. Contact Lorrie Preston at *mitandpak@aol.com* or 732-5615 to let us know how you would like to be involved and join us in making a difference.

Please Join Us for the Annual AAS Banquet

Thursday, May 15, 2008 (Reservations Required! Return form by May 8th)

Appetizers:	6:00 p.m.
Buffet Dinner:	6:45 p.m.
Program:	8:00 p.m.

Location – Christ Presbyterian Church, 421 Deerfield Rd., Camp Hill, PA 17011

Program - "We Are All in this Together"

By Marcus Schneck, Patriot News Outdoor Columnist and Nature Author

Birders, hikers, hunters, campers, and anglers... We all share a love of the same things that are threatened daily by other interests. Marcus Schneck will discuss how we can all unite in an all-encompassing conservation movement to protect those things we love.

Silent auction to benefit our scholarship program. Please contact Susan Miller, at 697-6696 or *millerscorner@msn.com* if you have nature items to donate for our silent auction.

AAS Annual Banquet – May 15, 2008

Please make reservations by May 8, 2008

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Please make reservations for _____ Adults at \$16.00 each
and _____ Children (under 12 yrs) at \$12.00 each

Send this form along with your check payable to AAS or Appalachian Audubon Society to:

Appalachian Audubon Society
c/o Ellen Zeph
18 Glendale Drive
Mechanicsburg, PA 17055

Banquet attendees are encouraged to help the environment by bringing their own permanent plates, silverware, and glasses from home, along with newspaper to wrap dishes in for transport after use.

Bird Migration Festival



Enjoy the height of spring migration at Presque Isle State Park, a natural concentration point along the Atlantic flyway where 320 species of birds have been recorded. Take part in workshops and field trips geared for the beginner and the seasoned naturalist led by experts in the field such as Ted Floyd, Jerry McWilliams and Jen Brumfield. Attend the premiere of a film highlighting the birds, habitat and hot spots of Presque Isle in all seasons. Experience the rich variety of Presque Isle's six distinct ecological zones including beaches, cattail islands, shrub lands, aquatic habitats, and deciduous and pine tree forests. Share the joy of nature and conservation with your family with fun and educational activities for children. Learn more about the park and the environment at the state-of-the-art Tom Ridge Environmental Center.

Hurry, limited spots are available for this first-ever festival to take place on **May 9–11, 2008**.

Join Appalachian Audubon Society AND National Audubon Society

AT THE SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY RATE OF \$20 (\$15 FOR SENIORS AND STUDENTS)

This application is for **NEW** members joining Appalachian and National Audubon for the **FIRST** time (for members renewing, *renewal* information will come to you directly from National Audubon). This introductory offer includes membership in both National and Appalachian Audubon societies, the beautiful *Audubon* magazine, and our own *Kingfisher Courier* newsletter. Please send the form below, with **check** payable to **National Audubon Society**, to: Appalachian Audubon, PO Box 15123, Harrisburg, PA 17105-5123.

New Member's Name: _____ Today's Date: _____

Address: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Phone: _____ Senior Membership? _____ Student? _____

Is any of this contact information new? If so, place an X here: _____ **U07 7XCH**

Chapter-Only Membership: \$12.00 per year

Chapter-only members receive the *Kingfisher Courier* and support the local chapter. Make **check** payable to **Appalachian Audubon Society**; send to Appalachian Audubon, PO Box 15123, Harrisburg, PA 17105-5123.

Chapter-Only Member's Name: _____ Today's Date: _____

Address: _____ E-mail Address: _____

Phone: _____

Is any of this contact information new? If so, place an X here: _____ **U07 7XCH**



March 2008

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MOVING? TAKING AN EXTENDED VACATION?

To receive AAS mailings when away on long vacations or after moving, PLEASE contact our AAS chapter Membership chair (see p.2) with your address change. This saves us money while keeping you current with our activities. Giving a change of address form to the US Post Office (USPS) **will NOT help**; our USPS addresses are handled by National Audubon. We incur a \$.41 charge per item for each piece of incorrectly addressed, returned mail.

Please help us help you!