



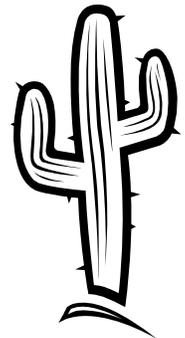
## November Program—Big Bend National Park: Birding the Desert, River, and Mountains

Presenter: Terry Neumyer  
Thursday, November 15th at 7:30 pm  
*(for directions to meeting location, see page 2)*



All roads in Big Bend National Park end at the Rio Grande River, the border for 118 miles between Mexico and the USA. Big Bend National Park marks the northern most range for many plants and animals. The park is located on a bird migration route between South, Central and North America. Variations in elevations create varied microclimates that account for the vast diversity of plant and animal life. The river, the desert, and the mountains form variations in ecological habitats and thus outstanding biodiversity in the Big Bend area.

Named for the great curve in the Rio Grande River, Big Bend is a place of scenic beauty and peaceful solitude. Big Bend is the place for rolling tumbleweeds, cacti, scrub brush, and hot and sandy plains that go on forever. The Chihuahuan Desert covers most of the area. It rained our first days in Texas so there was a remarkable blossom of the desert plants which yielded startling beauty everywhere. The desert has mountains, valleys, and plains with very rugged beauty. Big Bend is 100 miles from Big Bend to Alpine, which has the nearest hospital. It has 1,170,000 acres of wildness terrain - about the size of the state of Rhode Island!



The soaring peaks of Davis and Chisos Mountains contrast with the deep Rio Grande River canyons. Immense ranches dominate the scenic area. Big Bend area cities we visited are: Alpine, Lajitas, Marathon, Study Butte, Terlingua, and Fort Davis. Fort Davis, one of many forts built to protect the pioneers and travelers, helped shape the Texas frontier. This region hosted many gunfights, robberies, saloons, and boomtowns.



Many outstanding sunsets and exciting bird sightings were seen in this Texas desert area on the border with Mexico. Come enjoy Terry Neumyer's presentation as he shares memories of this fabulous trip.

**And remember... prior to all monthly AAS programs is social time 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!**

Appalachian Audubon Society (AAS) is a National Audubon Society chapter. *Kingfisher Courier* (copyright AAS; please request reprint permission) is a membership benefit, published monthly, September to May, by AAS: P.O. Box 15123, Harrisburg, PA 17105-5123. Email submissions to editor by the 15th of the month prior to desired publication (files <100KB requested; otherwise contact editor). Editor & Board reserve publication decisions, per chapter mission/space available.

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[www.appalachianaudubon.org/](http://www.appalachianaudubon.org/)

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## President's Perch



Wow! What a busy autumn for Appalachian Audubon! A native plant sale, a bird seed sale, two programs and four field trips already! Thank you to each and every one of our members that give their time and talents for the sake of conservation. We could not do what we do without our combined efforts, and without our members stepping up and getting involved.

If you have been hesitant to get involved, please consider joining us in some small way in future projects. We really do have fun while we are accomplishing good things for the health of the environment. Getting involved in an organization that you believe in will multiply your enjoyment more than you can imagine.

In this month of Thanksgiving, I am especially thankful to those that make the effort to protect the beautiful natural places and precious living things that we all hold so dear.

Thanks, AAS members, for all you contribute to the cause!

Happy Thanksgiving!

*Lorrie Preston*



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.

## Calendar Reminder

Please pick up your pre-ordered Audubon calendars at our November 15 or December 13 general meetings (deadline for orders was October 25th).

### A Generous Donation

A Big AAS thank you to September's speaker, Alan Corson. In addition to giving a great presentation on monarch butterflies to a full house, Alan also donated his honorarium back to the club to go towards the Central PA Conservancy purchase of McCormick Island!  
Thanks, Alan!

### Attention Educators and Youth, Aged 11-13

AAS Summer Scholarship details coming in the December Kingfisher. Stay Tuned!  
Questions? Interested in applying? Call Education Chair, Marci Mowery, at 236-7644.

### AAS Field Trips

#### Hawk Watch at Waggoner's Gap – Saturday, November 3rd

Another day of late season hawk watching with featured birds such as Golden Eagles and Northern Goshawks. Located along Route 74 north of Carlisle, Waggoner's is especially good for excellent close-up views of all migrating hawks and some selected waterfowl as they travel south for the winter. Deuane Hoffman will lead this watch. For more information, contact him at 564-7475 or by email at [corvuscorax@comcast.net](mailto:corvuscorax@comcast.net).

#### Eagles at Conowingo Dam - Saturday, December 1st

Join Appalachian Audubon to witness this annual gathering of Bald Eagles along the lower Susquehanna River at the Conowingo Dam in Maryland. Other birds of note are the large concentrations of gulls that usually include some of the more uncommon species.

Contact trip leader Al Mercik at 657-8548 for more details.

#### Christmas Bird Counts – December 15, 22, 27, 29

Appalachian Audubon participates in four of the surveys in this century old tradition of Christmas Bird Counts. Teams of birders are given designated areas to conduct the counts. The CBC's provide an excellent way to volunteer and spend a pleasant winter day away from the hustle and bustle of the holiday season.

Information for each count can be obtained from the contacts listed below.



**Harrisburg Christmas Bird Count** – December 15<sup>th</sup> – Deuane Hoffman at 564-7475  
**New Bloomfield CBC** – December 22<sup>nd</sup> – Ramsay Koury at 761-1871  
**Curtin CBC** – December 27<sup>th</sup> – Scott Bills at 896-8859  
**Newville CBC** – December 29<sup>th</sup> – Bill and Linda Frantz at 776-4463





## **AAS Birdseed Sale – Thank You Volunteers!**

Our annual birdseed sale took place on September 28th and 29th. It was a great weekend and we had lots of fun. We were grateful for the dry weather, but met some new challenges with the blustery conditions on Friday evening. Only one casualty...a metal birdfeeder took a tumble and was dented. It's still perfectly useful, though, so you'll see it at the silent auction next spring! Lots of Audubon members and friends volunteered their time to make this fundraiser a success. Many thanks to the following for sharing their time and energy with us:

Karen Hoffman Atwood  
Julia Atwood  
Lisa Bonafede  
Denna Claypool  
Alex Dale  
Jon Dale  
Helen Delano  
Craig Dunn  
Jane Earle  
Jan Getgood  
Richard Goldberg  
Larry Jackson  
Ernie Johnson  
Carl Juris  
Nancy Juris  
Ramsay Koury

Kathy Kuchwara  
Gary LaBelle  
Tom Lehman  
Beth Leslie  
Annette Matthes  
Susan Miller  
Jeff Pheasant  
Hannah Plumpton  
Noel Potter  
Lorrie Preston  
Sue Strassner  
Marcia Wilson  
Ron Wilson  
Marian Wood  
Ellen Zeph  
Paul Zeph

**Special appreciation** goes to Tom Lehman, Lorrie Preston, Susan Miller and Ellen Zeph for many additional hours of work before and after the sale, and to Gary LaBelle, Jon Dale, and Craig Dunn for their many hours in and out of the trucks during the sale, setup and clean up.

### **Additional special thanks to:**

- 
- Forklifts, Inc. for donating the use of the forklift
  - Isaac's Restaurants for donating meals for the volunteers
  - Capital City Mall for space to hold the sale
  - Ken Davis of Davis County Living/Agway for working with us to supply the seed and feeders for the sale

We hope we didn't miss anyone, but, if so, please accept our thanks for a job well done!

## 2nd Annual AAS Native Plant Sale a Great Success!

The skies cleared just in time, giving us a delightful day for the AAS Native Plant Sale on Saturday, Sept, 15<sup>th</sup>. The sale was held at beautiful Meadowood Nursery in Hummelstown. Audubon volunteers were there in force, doing everything from directing traffic in the parking lot, dispensing information to shoppers, answering questions, checking out purchases, hauling plants and loading purchases into vehicles. It was definitely a team effort.

A steady stream of shoppers kept us busy, but our AAS volunteers managed to get some plant shopping done, too. Meadowood owners and AAS members, Jan Getgood and Ernie Johnson, generously allowed our club to keep one half of the revenue brought in the day of the sale, which will allow our club to provide one and a half full scholarships to Audubon Hog Island Youth Ecology Camp in Maine this summer!



Our birds and wildlife reap rewards in the form of berries, nuts, pollen, nectar, shelter, or a place to raise young each time a native plant is planted. It is one of the best ways a homeowner can provide for the needs of our local birds and wildlife.

A huge thank you to Jan and Ernie, and to all the volunteers that worked so hard to make the event a success! And thanks to everyone that came out and purchased plants!

### Top Ten Reasons for Children to Play Outdoors\*

1. Children who play outdoors are healthier physically and mentally.
2. Children who play outdoors do better in school.
3. Children who play outdoors have higher self-esteem.
4. Children who play outdoors have good self-discipline.
5. Children who play outdoors cooperate better with other children.
6. Children who play outdoors feel more capable and confident.
7. Children who play outdoors are good problem-solvers.
8. Children who play outdoors are more creative.
9. Children who play outdoors feel connected to nature.
10. Children who play outdoors will be tomorrow's conservation leaders.

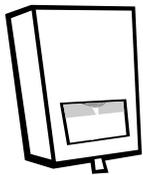
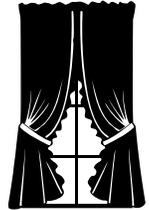


\* Source: Children & Nature Network, [www.cnaturenet.org](http://www.cnaturenet.org), 2007

## Tips for a Greener World – Preparing for Winter

Is your house ready for the cold weather? Will your heating bills break your budget? If you follow some of the tips below, making it through the winter will be more wallet- and environmentally-friendly.

- **Window shades:** Some manufacturers make double-sided shades that are reflective (white) on one side and heat absorbing (dark) on the other side. Facing the dark side out during winter months will help keep your house warmer. If you don't have dark colored shades, keep your shades and blinds closed at night and open during the day, to maximize the natural solar heating effect during the winter months.
- **Ceiling fans:** Did you know that there is a switch on your ceiling fan that will help blow warm air downward? When the fan is rotating clockwise, the warm air that typically rises is circulated downward, making the room much more comfortable.
- **Attic insulation:** Insulation helps keep warm air in and drafty winter winds out. Optimally attic insulation should have an r-value (a heat-flow resistance) of 38. Most houses only have 8-inches of fiberglass batting in the attic, while another 7 to 10 inches is needed to reach that r-38 value. Cellulose insulation, made from pulped paper, can be blown into spaces as powder or a damp spray that becomes form-fitting when dry.



- **Thermostat timers:** Having an automated thermostat can help save big bucks on your heating bills. When you're out of the house or sleeping, you can have the thermostat automatically lower, and then turn on in time for your morning wake-up call. It's that simple! And consider setting your thermostat a little lower than you normally would, say to 68 degrees F. Just throw on a sweater and see the savings on your next heating bill.
- **Windows:** Many products are available to improve upon old, drafty windows. These can range from window caulk to the large sheets of clear plastic you attach with double-sided tape. Installing interior or exterior storm windows can reduce winter heat loss by 25 to 50 percent.



## Got Loose Change? Drop it in the "Coins for Conservation" Birdhouse

"Coins for Conservation" is a new program we kicked off at our September meeting. Pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters add up! Bring change you've collected through the month, or reduce the weight of your pockets or pocketbook at our monthly meetings. This year all proceeds will go to our friends, Beth and John Carricato, at Dauphin County Wildlife Rescue, to feed and manage the various injured birds and wildlife that end up in their care. Please look for the *Coins for Conservation* birdhouse at our monthly meetings on the refreshment table, and help us support a worthy cause.



## Honoring the Memory of a Loved One

AAS was recently designated the recipient of contributions in memory of Anne W. Waddington.

An avid backyard birder according to her daughter Ruth Patrick, Mrs. Waddington enjoyed feeding and watching the birds outside her home in Mechanicsburg. The contributions will go towards the bird conservation and education programs of the chapter.

AAS would like to thank the following for their generous gifts in Mrs. Waddington's memory:



Galen and Loie Baer  
J. Douglas and Ruth Berry  
Florence Kirschbaum  
Gilbert and Joanna Parthermore  
Sue Strassner  
Barbara Thomas  
Donald and Caroline Waddington  
John and Nancy Walters



You can honor the memory of a loved one, or mark a special occasion with a memorial or tribute gift to AAS. For more information, contact Ellen Zeph, Treasurer of AAS, at 691-0288.

### 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



November 2007

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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!