



# Kingfisher Courier

Newsletter of Appalachian Audubon Society

September 2012

## September 20

### “A History of Hawk Mountain — Much More than a Hawk Watch!”

Located along the Appalachian flyway near Kempton, PA, Hawk Mountain Sanctuary is the world's oldest wildlife sanctuary exclusively committed to protecting and observing birds of prey. With an average of 18,000 hawks, eagles, and falcons annually passing its lookouts, Hawk Mountain is an international conservation training site and one of the best places in North America to view raptor migration. But until 1934, Hawk Mountain attracted hunters who daily shot hundreds of raptors for sport and profit. Unbelievably, this was condoned by the Audubon Society, as well as the Pennsylvania Game Commission, which paid hunters to eradicate predatory birds.

Bill Anderson, a retired physician and director on the Hawk Mountain Sanctuary board, will tell us about the sanctuary and its intriguing history. We'll hear about three conservationists who were instrumental in creating the sanctuary, including Rosalie Edge, whose dramatic fight with the Audubon Society brought about its reform and stopped the persecution of birds of prey.

This fascinating program will be a great way to prepare for our field trip to Hawk Mountain on October 25. We hope you'll join us!



Rosalie Edge, Founder of  
Hawk Mountain Sanctuary

Program time, location  
and driving directions  
are located on the  
back page.

## AAS Fall Native Plant Sale at Meadowood Nursery Saturday, September 15 9 AM – 1 PM



Variegated Fritillary butterfly  
on Native Coneflower

Fall is a great time for planting! Cooler temperatures allow plants to get established and grow new roots without the stress of summer heat. Our annual native plant sale will again be held at Meadowood Nursery, which grows approximately 300 species of herbaceous and woody plants native to our geographic region.

Native plants need less water than non-natives, don't require fertilizer or pesticides, and provide food for birds, butterflies, and other wildlife that pass through or nest in our neighborhoods. Restoring plants that are native to a given region contributes to re-establishing a healthier ecosystem. All Meadowood plants are container grown; none taken

from the wild. Enjoy browsing the nursery where volunteers will help you make selections for your yard.

### Meadowood Nursery Location:

24 Meadowood Drive,  
Hummelstown, 17036

**Directions:** From Hershey Park Drive in front of the Giant Center, follow Route 39 north/west approximately 3 miles and turn left on Red Top Road. Proceed 1 mile and turn right on Long Lane Drive. Turn left on Meadowood Drive and proceed to the end where two driveways split into a "Y". Stay to the left up the hill and follow signs to the nursery.

Learn more at:

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

## OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

**President:** Annette Mathes  
514-4512; amathes19@verizon.net

**Vice-President:** Susan Miller  
697-6696; millerscorner@msn.com

**Secretary:** Judy Bowman  
761-3815; bowma99@aol.com

**Treasurer:** Andy Groff  
350-9391; AndyGroff@comcast.net

## DIRECTORS

Term Ending May 2014

**Ann Glasscock:** 695-2738;  
hglasscock07@comcast.net

**Arlene Buchholz:** 808-779-5200;  
abvetlab@aol.com

**Ramsay Koury:** 761-1871;  
rkoury123@aol.com

Term Ending May 2015

**Kathy Kuchwara:** 319-0828;  
kathykatbird2@comcast.net

**Sue Strassner:** 243-5731;  
sue.strassner@exel.com

**Jane Barnette:** 657-2055;  
jbird558@aol.com

## COMMITTEES

(please join one!)

### Bird Seed Sale

Annette Mathes: 514-4512

### Conservation

Vacant

### Education

Arlene Buchholz: 808-779-5200

### Field Trips

Judy Bowman: 761-3815

### Hospitality

Lorrie Preston: 732-5615

### Membership

Marcia Wilson: 215-0633

### Newsletter

Susan Miller: 697-6696

### Programs

Annette Mathes: 566-0149

### Publicity

Susan Miller: 697-6696

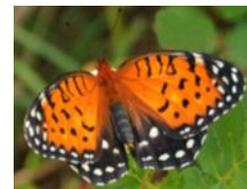
### Trout Run

Andy Groff: 350-9391

## President's Perch

Annette Mathes

Hello and welcome to the 2012/13 season of the Appalachian Audubon Society! Once again we've worked hard to bring you programs, field trips, and other events to entertain and educate you about birds and our natural world. We've packed our programs with Snowy Owls, Golden Eagles, Henslow's Sparrows, and Regal Fritillary butterflies. We're going to Hawk Mountain, Waggoner's Gap, Hershey Gardens, the New Jersey Shore, the Tuscarora Forest, and the Conowingo Dam.



Regal Fritillary at Fort Indiantown Gap

We kick off the season on September 15 with our Annual Fall Native Plant Sale at the delightful Meadowood Nursery in Hummelstown.



Cedar Waxwing eating a native holly berry.

Native plants are THE way to attract birds and pollinating insects to your yard and ensure the preservation and diversity of our natural heritage. You'll find that, besides looking gorgeous, native plants will bring a sense of comfort and serenity to your landscape—you just know they belong there.

September 28-29 is our Annual Birdseed Sale, a 34-year tradition for Appalachian Audubon and our major fundraiser of the year. Last year many of you took advantage of ordering your seed online—give it a try—it's easy, convenient and secure. Saturday, September 29, will feature activities for the kids, tips on bird feeding, a bake sale from Brownie Troop 796, and lots of other goodies. Come out and see our large and carefully selected inventory of bird feeders that we sell below retail. Seed prices, unfortunately, remain high due to continuing severe weather conditions that again have caused major crop failures for Midwest farmers. But our seed prices are competitive, and the birds are worth it, don't you think?



Making a pine cone bird-feeder at the 2012 Bird Feeding Festival.

This year we're stepping up our effort to attract eligible students and educators to our scholarship program to the Hog Island Audubon Camp in Maine. If you are a teen or educator with a passion for birds and the environment, be sure to apply (see page 3 for details). Hog Island is open to anyone, and after you read Maia Paddock's account of her experience at the teen camp at Hog Island this past June, you'll be packing your binoculars in your duffle bag and heading Down East!

## Report From Hog Island

On June 23<sup>rd</sup>, AAS president Annette Mathes received the following message from this year's Hog Island scholarship recipient, 15-year old Maia Paddock. Below the message is a report of Maia's camp experience.

*I just got back from Hog Island and wanted to tell you what a wonderful experience it was. I've never learned more in a week! Thank you again to Appalachian Audubon for making it possible for me to go. Also, I saw someone I think you know there - Tom Johnson. He gave one of the nighttime lectures.* [Editor's note: Tom is a previous AAS Hog Island scholarship recipient and son of members Jan Getgood & Ernie Johnson.]



Maia Paddock

The first bird I saw after arriving at Hog Island was a Black Guillemot. It was far out in the Muscongus Bay, and I was exceedingly excited. By the end of my short week at Hog Island, I had seen guillemots, Atlantic Puffins, and Common, Arctic, and Roseate Terns no more than five feet away. Apart from the fantastic birds I was offered the chance to see, I learned more about birds during the daytime workshops and evening lectures than from all of the books I had read before camp.

Each day we would take at least one trip out on the *Snowgoose III*, the island's boat. Flocks of Common Eiders, some with chicks, were never far from the boat. Harbor seals were also abundant, basking on rocks and sticking their heads out of the water. Twice we made landings on islands without docks. To get to the island, we rowed out on a small Maine fishing dory. The dory would rock side to side dangerously but, to our relief, never tipped over.

The highlight of the trip was, of course, the puffins. On the last day of camp we sailed out to Eastern Egg Rock, the sight of the first puffin colony established by Project Puffin. Last year Eastern Egg Rock had 123 confirmed breeding pairs of puffins. When we arrived, we broke into small groups of one to five campers that set up in blinds all across the island. Getting to the blinds was tricky. Common, Arctic, and Roseate Terns nest on Eastern Egg Rock along with the puffins and guillemots. However, unlike the puffins and guillemots, the terns nest in the open and sometimes on the paths. Therefore, while crossing the island, I had to be very careful where I was stepping while dodging protective tern parents attacking my head with their pointy beaks. We had a little over two hours in the blind. From my blind I could see five puffin burrows, one of which was definitely in use. I also saw a pair of guillemots carrying their favorite food, red eels, into a burrow for their chicks. Look-

ing the other way out of my blind, I could see the puffins on the bay, along with eiders, gulls, and even a few Razor-bills.

Over the course of the week, I attended lectures on the history of Hog Island and Project Puffin, ornithology, bird anatomy, evolutionary biology, seabird migration, songbird nocturnal flight calls, neotropical migrant preservation, female warbler identification, bird banding, and bird songs. All of the instructors were fantastic and being able to talk to them over dinner about all of their original research created a great environment and was a special experience.

*Maia Paddock*

## Hog Island Scholarships

Once again this year AAS will be sponsoring two scholarships to Audubon Camps at Hog Island, Maine. The *Coastal Maine Bird Studies for Teens* camp is June 16-21, 2013, for teens between the ages of 14-17 years old. The *Sharing Nature: An Educator's Week* camp, for conservation and science educators, is scheduled for July 18-23, 2013.

AAS will pay the full price of tuition (\$995) for the student scholarship, which covers room, board, and fabulous seminars and field trips; applicants must provide their own transportation. AAS will pay \$500 toward the educator's scholarship. To apply for the 2013 AAS scholarships, please complete the scholarship application form available on the AAS website at [www.appalachianaudubon.org](http://www.appalachianaudubon.org). Return by email to Arlene Buchholz, AAS Education Chair, at [abvetlab@yahoo.com](mailto:abvetlab@yahoo.com). Preference in awarding scholarships will be given to AAS members. For more information on how you can participate in this truly unique and special experience, visit the Hog Island website at [www.projectpuffin.org/ornithcamps.html](http://www.projectpuffin.org/ornithcamps.html).

Thank you to our sponsor:

## LOST CREEK SHOE SHOP

QUALITY OPTICAL EQUIPMENT



Aden Troyer  
David Troyer





# Kingfisher Courier

September 2012

Appalachian Audubon Society  
P.O. Box 234  
Camp Hill, PA 17001-0234

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON PROFIT  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
HARRISBURG PA  
PERMIT NO. 486

AAS monthly programs typically take place on the 3rd Thursday of each month at the **Christ Presbyterian Church, 421 Deerfield Road, in the Allendale neighborhood of Camp Hill.** *Join us at 7:00 pm for socializing and refreshments. The program begins at 7:30.*

### Directions to Christ Presbyterian Church:

**I-83 Southbound**, take exit 40B towards New Cumberland. Stay straight, cross Carlisle Road to Cedar Cliff Dr. 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.

Printed on 100% post-consumer recycled paper



**Save valuable resources** and receive your full-color **Kingfisher Courier** via email instead of paper!

Just send an email to: [amathes19@verizon.net](mailto:amathes19@verizon.net)

Thanks!

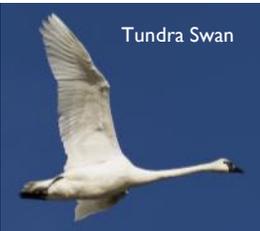
# AAS Bird Seed Sale

September 28 & 29 at Camp Hill Boscov's

➔ Order form and information enclosed in this newsletter!

## Generous Members Help Swans and Students

Once again, AAS members displayed their generosity by contributing \$2,320 to our **2012 Annual Appeal**. 100% of the proceeds have been sent to the Middle Creek Initiative, a project headed by the Lebanon Valley Conservancy and the Pennsylvania Game Commission.



Tundra Swan

The Middle Creek Initiative seeks to preserve the land in and around Middle Creek Wildlife Refuge to help ensure survival of the Tundra Swans that stop at

Middle Creek for food and rest during their 3,000-mile migration from the coastal marshes of Virginia and North Carolina to the tundra of northern Alaska and Canada.

The **May 2012 annual banquet** was more than just a fun and delightful evening of good food, socializing with fellow members, and a great program on the birds of Cape May. Members also contributed \$1,081.50 to our silent auction, the proceeds of which have been dedicated to fund scholarships to Hog Island. Added to an extra \$252 that members designated for our scholarship fund as part of the annual appeal, we're off to a great start for the new year.

Thank you AAS members! You're the best!