AAS Program | 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 is 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 virtual socializing. The meeting starts at 7:00, followed by the program.

Photos courtesy Red Creek Wildlife Center

Great-horned Owl

Red-tailed Hawk

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.
It continues to be an interesting year. I don’t think any one of us could have anticipated the events of the last several months. As I write this in early August, it is anyone’s guess what we might be dealing with as you read this in the September issue of the Kingfisher Courier. But there are a few things I know. I know that the mission and purpose of the National Audubon Society and that of Appalachian Audubon Society ‘to protect birds and the places they need through education and conservation for today and tomorrow’ is still as strong, valid, and worthwhile as they have ever been. The way we do things may change. But at our core, we’re still educating others and working to conserve birds and their habitats. Speaking of the way we do things, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the AAS board has decided to alter the way we host our monthly membership meetings as well as our field trips. In a nutshell, monthly membership meetings this fall (September – December) will be virtual via Zoom. We will reassess in-person monthly meetings in December. Our field trips will continue as they always have, albeit with a few social distancing measures in place and a request to have a mask available.

We also recognize that our membership is not reflective of the greater Harrisburg area community that we serve. To that extent, we will begin a process of reaching out to local community partners and partnering with Audubon Pennsylvania on a new grant to help bring birds, pollinator gardens, and all of the amazing work we do to a more diverse and representative audience of Central Pennsylvania. If you have ideas, suggestions, or connections, we would love to hear from you.

But as the saying goes, “as much as things change, they stay the same.” Since we have a strong foundation and purpose for our work, it’s a pretty smart thing to do. So in addition to monthly membership meetings and field trips, you can still expect two native plants sales, our annual birdseed fundraiser, fundraising and support for educational scholarships, and countless hours of rehabilitation and management work at Trout Run Nature Preserve. I’m excited for the new year ahead: for the new challenges we can overcome, the new people we’ll get to meet and welcome to the world of birding, and for you, our members, and the continued great work of Appalachian Audubon Society.

Happy Birding!

Photo: Getty Images
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.

**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.

**SEPTEMBER 2020 FIELD TRIP**

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 a mask, 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.

**Native Plant Sale**

**Online: September 1–30, 2020**

Since 2016, Appalachian Audubon has partnered with Diakon Wilderness Nursery near Boiling Springs to offer Native Plant Sales. Due to the continued threat of COVID-19, the Fall Native Plant sale will be online. Beginning September 1st thru September 30th you can visit https://the-wilderness-greenhouse.square.site/ and purchase as many native plants as your garden, or your neighbor’s garden, can hold. By using coupon code SAVES$AAS, you’ll receive $5.00 off your purchase and ensure that a portion of funds raised through your purchase go back to support the conservation efforts of Appalachian Audubon Society.

Orders will be available for pick-up on Fridays and Saturdays. Diakon Wilderness Nursery staff will be in contact with you to set a pick-up appointment.

Happy planting!

Photos courtesy Will Webster
Birdseed Fundraiser

We are again partnering with Agway stores on both the east and west shores for what we hope will be a successful 2020 Birdseed Fundraiser.

Ben and Emma Rifflard at the East Shore Hanoverdale Agway (https://hanoverdaleagway.com/) near Hummelstown and Tim Lehman at the West Shore Davis Country Living Agway (https://daviscountryliving.com/) in Mechanicsburg are generously helping us with our Birdseed Fundraiser by providing popular birdseed varieties at affordable rates, plus feeders and other bird-related items at discount prices.

Listed below are the items of interest for the 2020 Birdseed Fundraiser:

• The Birdseed Fundraiser will run during November and December 2020.
• Birdseed order forms will be emailed to all members and previous walk-in customers in October.
• We will also have forms available at both Agway stores. Just ask the clerks at the counter for an AAS form, they will be happy to provide one to you.
• The order form will also be available as a downloadable pdf file from the AAS website.
• We will be recruiting individuals to volunteer at both Agway stores on the first three Saturdays in November to hand out order forms to potential walk-in customers. Please consider volunteering; time will be limited to 9AM through Noon at both stores.
• The order forms will clearly identify the items available at both Agway stores and those items specific to a single store.
• Please provide at least your email address on the blank form so that we have the ability to notify everyone of Birdseed Fundraisers in the years ahead.
• Remember, do not send money to AAS for birdseed purchases! Payment for purchases will be made when you shop at the Agway store for birdseed and/or other bird-related items of your choosing.
• AAS members and friends will receive a 25% discount on all bird feeders and bird feeding accessories when they purchase either a 40-pound bag of sunflower birdseed or spend at least $25 on other types of birdseed.
• We know that many of you want to start feeding the birds earlier than November and our friends at the Agway stores conduct their birdseed sale in October. Therefore, we kindly suggest that members and friends purchase sufficient birdseed at either Agway store to get them through the month of October but hold off purchasing the bulk of their birdseed until November or December when the birdseed purchases directly benefit AAS.
• Please consider purchasing other items available at our partners’ Agway stores such as gardening tools, pet food, etc.
• We hope you enjoy the flexibility and convenience of this birdseed sale format, and we look forward to our 2020 Birdseed Fundraiser being even more successful than last year!
• If you are interested in volunteering or have questions regarding the Birdseed Fundraiser, please contact John Latsha, Birdseed Fundraiser Chair, at 717-982-1141 or email him at jlat1965@gmail.com.
If you are a member of the National Audubon Society, then you are already a full-fledged member of your local chapter. That’s us — the Appalachian Audubon Society (AAS). Your national-level support is very important and provides you with the beautiful quarterly Audubon magazine and the satisfaction of knowing that you are helping a wonderful organization at the national level.

So why would you also send some money for an AAS Chapter Support Membership, and what would you get for it?

Well, we receive a small portion (about $4) of your National membership dues. On the other hand, the whole amount of your Chapter Support Membership comes directly to us for our local projects.

You can see that even a $5 Student Membership gives us more than we receive from National Audubon.

What are some of our local projects? In addition to our fun, informative and educational monthly meetings, our budget covers:

- Educational scholarships (Hog Island Camp, and others),
- Major local conservation efforts (Trout Run Nature Preserve, and others),
- Bird & wildlife rehabilitation programs (Red Creek Wildlife Center, and others),
- Public information presentations (Wildwood Wetlands festival, and others),
- Native plant and birdseed events,
- Monthly newsletter and other email updates,
- A comprehensive website, as well as
- Expert-led bird walks and nature outings.

Any amount you give really makes a huge difference in our ability to provide these opportunities and advantages to our local community.

So, if you are a member, please continue contributing to the National Audubon Society. You know that national level support is crucial for our country. And please consider doing even more with an AAS Chapter Support Membership.

- It doesn’t cost much — a few dollars go a long way.
- It makes you proud to know that you are a significant part of helping us to do really good things locally.

AAS Chapter Support Memberships are annual donations, running now through September 30, 2021. (Yes, over a year from now!)

We thank you. Your local community thanks you. The birds and wildlife thank you.

**Recommended Donations for AAS Chapter Support Memberships**

- **FAMILY**
  - $25

- **ADULT**
  - $15

- **STUDENT**
  - $5

You can use a credit card and join online. It’s safe and easy. And, it makes a big difference.

See details on the Membership Page of our website. After filling in the Membership Application form, the payment button takes you to the PayPal website for entering your credit card information. PayPal just handles the transaction for us. You do not need to have a PayPal account.
SEPTEMBER 2020

Except for the December program and the May banquet, AAS monthly programs take place on the third Thursday of each month. For all 2020 monthly programs we will be meeting virtually via Zoom. Join us at 6:30 for socializing. The meeting will begin promptly at 7:00pm.

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

Habitat-Friendly Organic Coffee Available by Pre-order

Deadline — Labor Day, Monday, September 7th

With AAS meeting virtually this fall, we will once again accept pre-orders on 2 lbs. or more of our shade-grown, organic, habitat-friendly coffee. New this year, we will be selling Fair-trade, organic Guaya'b regular coffee from Guatemala, which is Smithsonian Migratory Bird Certified (SMBC) — the “gold standard” in certifications for the protection of migratory birds. A socially-distanced “taste-test” of the new coffee took place in August and it received very positive reviews from all tasters. We will also continue to sell our current organic Guatemalan Swiss Decaf coffee. Please place your order by email to Lorrie at lpreston5156@gmail.com with “AAS Coffee” in the subject line by our deadline of Monday, 9/7 at noon. Please specify quantities “Regular” or “Decaf” AND “Ground” or “Whole Bean.” Safe, socially-distanced deliveries will be available on both the east or west shores at a mutually agreeable time and place. Cost is $10 per 1 lb. bag (2 lb. minimum order) and payment can be made by check or cash at delivery. Be sure to order enough coffee to last you until just before Thanksgiving, when our next coffee order will be delivered. (Coffee orders will be placed every other month for the time-being. Holiday gift orders can be placed in November.)

Your purchase of Guaya'b SMBC and our Swiss decaf coffees protects migratory bird habitat, supports women farmers and indigenous people of Guatemala, allowing them to reinvest in their community and receive medical insurance. AAS benefits, too. (Coffee sales raised $300 for our chapter last year.) In addition, 75 cents from the sale of each bag is donated to a local wildlife rehabilitation center, thanks to the generosity of our coffee supplier, Ragged Edge Roasting Co. in Gettysburg. As a result, $150 was donated to Raven Ridge Wildlife Center from coffee sales last year. Thank you for your support!