



# Kingfisher Courier

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2020

APPALACHIAN AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

AAS Program | Thursday, October 15, 2020

**New!**

## The Art and Science Behind Restoring and Managing Appalachian Audubon's Trout Run Nature Preserve

Join AAS member, Trout Run committee member, and Penn State University Junior Eli DePaulis as he guides us through the many aspects of the effort to restore and manage Appalachian Audubon Society's Trout Run Nature Preserve located in Upper Allen Township, Cumberland County. The Trout Run wetlands rose to prominence after a breeding population of state endangered Sedge Wrens was found there in the early 1990s. When the Sedge Wrens were discovered, the property was owned by a development company seeking to infringe on parts of the wetland. Because the presence of breeding Sedge Wrens prevented development across most of the Trout Run wetlands, the company transferred ownership of the wetlands

and adjacent uplands to AAS, forming the Trout Run Nature Preserve in 1995. The formation of the Preserve was a step in the right direction for Trout Run, but years of agricultural impacts, development pressures, and invasive species introductions occurring prior to the AAS acquisition had taken their toll on Trout Run's ecosystems. Since the acquisition, AAS has been constantly engaged in a struggle to restore the ecological integrity of Trout Run.

*Continued on next page*



*Photo courtesy  
Eli DePaulis*

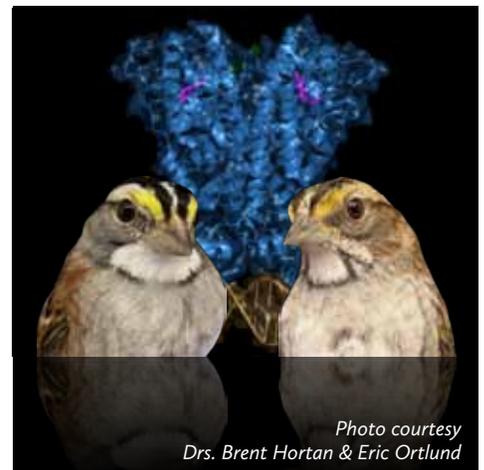
AAS Program | Thursday, November 19, 2020

## 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.



*Photo courtesy  
Lindsay Horton*



*Photo courtesy  
Drs. Brent Horton & Eric Ortlund*

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

**Registration link:** [https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAscOmgqjwrGNYA\\_qDaxzrNwxm5f5WHY94-](https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJAscOmgqjwrGNYA_qDaxzrNwxm5f5WHY94-)

# The Art and Science Behind Restoring and Managing Appalachian Audubon's Trout Run Nature Preserve

Continued from page 1



This presentation will discuss in detail AAS's past and current efforts to restore Trout Run's degraded ecosystems and ensure that the native species inhabiting them have a secure future. Topics covered will include invasive species management, riparian buffer planting success and failure, drone mapping, community engagement efforts, and possibility of using prescribed fire to enhance native plant communities.

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

**Registration link:** [https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tjArdyqqDkuHdP-froep4qXUEVQ\\_tgVkyRw](https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tjArdyqqDkuHdP-froep4qXUEVQ_tgVkyRw)

AAS Program

## THE PHYSICS OF FLIGHT

👉 **Postponed to Next Year** 👈

# Kingfisher Courier

### OFFICERS

**President** Chris Kemmerer  
[president@appalachianaudubon.org](mailto:president@appalachianaudubon.org)  
717-571-7958

**Vice President** Alexandria Bowling  
[bowling.a@alumni.ou.edu](mailto:bowling.a@alumni.ou.edu)  
717-315-6241

**Secretary** Betsy Riter  
[rriter@pa.net](mailto:rriter@pa.net)  
717-834-9306

**Treasurer** Daniel Kemmerer  
[treasurer@appalachianaudubon.org](mailto:treasurer@appalachianaudubon.org)  
717-371-0801

### DIRECTORS

*Term ending May 2022*

Ann DePaulis 717-736-0619  
[anndepaulis1010@gmail.com](mailto:anndepaulis1010@gmail.com)

Dale Rupert  
[dwr@appalachianaudubon.org](mailto:dwr@appalachianaudubon.org)

Rich Riter 717-834-9306  
[rriter@pa.net](mailto:rriter@pa.net)

*Term ending May 2021*

Georgia Kagle 717-514-3561  
[jazzy523@verizon.net](mailto:jazzy523@verizon.net)

John Latsha 717-982-1141  
[jlat1965@gmail.com](mailto:jlat1965@gmail.com)

Zach Richard  
[zachrichard021@gmail.com](mailto:zachrichard021@gmail.com)

### COMMITTEES

#### **Birdseed Sale Fundraiser**

John Latsha 717-982-1141  
[jlat1965@gmail.com](mailto:jlat1965@gmail.com)

#### **Conservation/Trout Run**

Ian Gardner/Eli DePaulis 717-350-5815  
[conservation@appalachianaudubon.org](mailto:conservation@appalachianaudubon.org)

#### **Education**

Georgia Kagle 717-514-3561  
[jazzy523@verizon.net](mailto:jazzy523@verizon.net)

#### **Field Trips**

Rick Price 717-657-1950  
[rprice210@comcast.net](mailto:rprice210@comcast.net)

#### **Hospitality/Coffee Fundraiser**

Lorrie Preston 717-580-8993  
[lpreston5156@gmail.com](mailto:lpreston5156@gmail.com)

#### **Membership**

Dale Rupert  
[membership@appalachianaudubon.org](mailto:membership@appalachianaudubon.org)

#### **Newsletter**

Chris Kemmerer 717-571-7958  
[kemmererc@hotmail.com](mailto:kemmererc@hotmail.com)

#### **Outreach**

Vacant

#### **Publicity**

Alexandria Bowling 717-315-6241  
[bowling.a@alumni.ou.edu](mailto:bowling.a@alumni.ou.edu)

#### **Youth Coordinator**

Vacant

<https://appalachianaudubon.org>



**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](mailto:president@appalachianaudubon.org) or 717-571-7958.

## OCTOBER 2020 FIELD TRIP

**New!**

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](mailto:rprice210@comcast.net) or 717-657-1950.



## NOVEMBER 2020 FIELD TRIP

**New!**

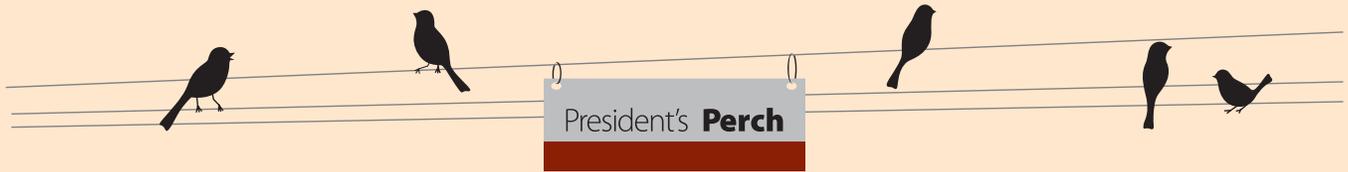
Sunday, November 22, 2020

### Waterfowl at Wildwood

Wildwood Lake can provide a good assortment of ducks in November as well as other goodies such as both 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](mailto:rprice210@comcast.net) or 717-657-1950 to register.



Photos courtesy  
Rick Price



For many people, fall is about pumpkins, pumpkin spice anything, and a good scare. While I enjoy all of those things too — what I look forward to the most is hawk migration. Fall migration for me is about volunteering for the Northern Saw-whet Owl Research project at the Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art. For others it is sitting at Waggoner's Gap, Hawk Mountain or any other of the many hawk watches sprinkled across the Kittatinny Ridge to count the hawks as they kettle and soar by.

By enjoying and participating in these autumnal rituals, we're also participating in community science and taking an active role in the conservation of numerous species. The opportunities to participate in community science are almost endless. And in this time of COVID, it feels good to not only give back, but to do something that feels like normal. Here are a few ideas for socially-distanced community science projects or conservation actions you can participate in this fall.

- November 14th begins the 2020–2021 season of Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Project FeederWatch. Put out a bird feeder or several and register your count site here: <https://feederwatch.org/>. Of course fill those feeders with seed and suet bought at our annual Birdseed Fundraiser running from November 1–December 31.
- Help a graduate student with their research! A Penn State graduate student is running a study called "Birds Biting Bad Bugs." The study hopes to determine if birds could be used as a form of pest control against the invasive Spotted Lantern Fly. To assist in the research, all you need to do is record your observation of birds eating, biting or in any way interacting with Spotted Lantern Flies. Then report those observations to the

following Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/BirdsBitingBadBugs/>

- Get your yard or garden ready for winter and for birds with these helpful tips from Master Gardener Lorrie Preston.
  - o Avoid the urge to clean everything up at the end of the season. Leaf litter left under trees and the hollow-stems of perennials, such as goldenrod, Joe-Pye weed, and others are used by beneficial insects and many kinds of native bees and pollinators as an overwintering site for larvae, nymphs, eggs or pupae. These insects provide a valuable food source for migrating birds in spring.
  - o Create a brush pile in a remote area of the yard. Pile sticks, branches, and maybe some of those perennial stems you cut, to create a sheltering place for many different creatures. After the holidays, your spent Christmas tree can be placed outdoors to provide shelter from snow, wind, and rain.
  - o Consider adding a heater to your bird bath once freezing temperatures arrive. An open water source is imperative for birds and other wildlife to access over the winter and will be an extra attractant to your yard — both for bathing and for drinking.

Of course with fall, the diminishing hours of daylight and the dipping temperatures trigger a response in us to slow down, get cozy, and nest. Here's one last idea for conservation action and it'll make that nesting instinct all the cozier. Be sure to purchase a bag or two of our organic Smithsonian Migratory Bird Certified coffee. Now accepting orders through November 9 at noon.

## Spotted Lantern Fly

Many of us probably have heard of the Spotted Lantern Fly (SLF). It is an invasive planthopper native to Asia. It was first discovered in Pennsylvania in 2014 in Berks County.

SLF feeds on sap from several different plants with a strong preference for grapevines, maples, black walnut, birch and willow – all economically important plant species. Feeding damage significantly stresses the plants which can lead to decreased health and in some cases, death. SLF has the potential to greatly impact vineyards, fruit trees, plant nurseries and timber industries, which contribute billions of dollars to PA's economy. A recent economic impact study estimates that, uncontrolled, this insect could cost Pennsylvania \$324 million annually.



Increasingly SLF have been seen in Harrisburg area. But you can make a difference.

When you see a Spotted Lantern Fly – kill it. When you see their egg masses on trees, houses, or other surfaces, scrape the egg mass. You can also help control one of their host trees, the invasive Tree of Heaven. To learn more about the Spotted Lantern Fly and what you can do, please visit: [https://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Plants\\_Land\\_Water/PlantIndustry/Entomology/spotted\\_lanternfly/Pages/default.aspx](https://www.agriculture.pa.gov/Plants_Land_Water/PlantIndustry/Entomology/spotted_lanternfly/Pages/default.aspx).

## Birdseed Fundraiser

Appalachian Audubon is once again partnering with the local Agway stores on both East and West shores to host our annual birdseed fundraiser. During the months of November and December, AAS members and friends will receive special pricing on popular birdseed varieties plus 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.

Birdseed order forms will be emailed to all members and previous walk-in customers in October and will also be available at both Agway stores. In addition, the order form will be available as a downloadable pdf file from the AAS website. The order forms will clearly identify the items available at both Agway stores and those items specific to a single store. Remember, do not send money to AAS for birdseed purchases!

Take your completed order form to either of our partners' Agway stores:

### East Shore

Hanoverdale Country Store, Inc. in West Hanover Township at 486 S. Hershey Rd., Route 39, Harrisburg, PA 17112.

**Hours:** Monday through Saturday 8:00am–6:00pm; Sunday 10:00am–4:00pm.

### West Shore

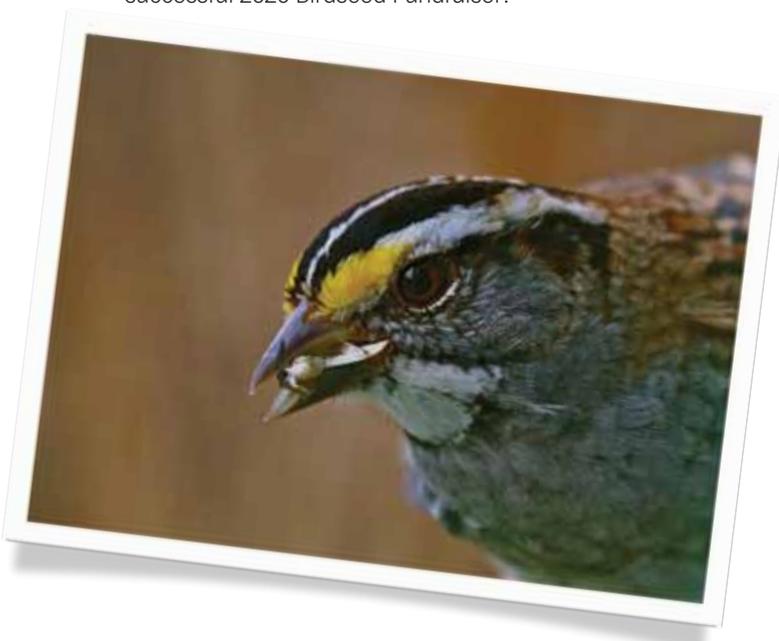
Davis Country Living at 45 W. Allen St., Mechanicsburg, PA 17055.

**Hours:** Monday through Friday 8:00am–5:30pm; Saturday 8:00am–4:00pm; closed Sunday.

You will be able to pay for your order using cash, check, or credit card at either store. While

picking up your birdseed, choose from a wide variety of feeders and other bird-related gear available at the store. Also, please consider shopping for other garden items such as tools, fertilizer and many other miscellaneous items at our partners' stores.

We will again 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. 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](mailto:jlat1965@gmail.com). We're looking forward to a very successful 2020 Birdseed Fundraiser!



## Habitat-Friendly Organic Coffee Pre-order Deadline for November & December and Holiday Gift-Giving — Monday, November 9th

It's AAS coffee ordering time again! Our deadline for ordering coffee for the months of November and December is Monday, November 9 at noon. We will once again be arranging safe, socially-distanced deliveries on the east or west shore (during the week before Thanksgiving) at a mutually agreed upon time and place. This year, more than ever, a delicious-tasting organic coffee that provides healthy habitat for birds will make the perfect gift. A soothing, hot cup of coffee at home brings a simple pleasure that most people cherish. We can all use a little more soothing

relaxation this year! A bag of coffee, dressed up with a bow, can be a wonderful thank you to the essential workers in your life, a welcome house-warming gift, or an unexpected surprise for someone you don't normally exchange gifts with, at a very reasonable cost. We offer both the Fair-trade, organic Smithsonian Migratory Bird Certified Guaya'b regular coffee from Guatemala or the organic, shade-grown Guatemalan Swiss decaf coffee. Coffee is roasted, ground and packaged at the Ragged Edge Roasting Company in Gettysburg.

ORDERING  
COFFEE

Please place your order by email to Lorrie Preston at [lpreston5156@gmail.com](mailto:lpreston5156@gmail.com) with "AAS Coffee" in the subject line by our deadline of Monday, November 9th at noon.

*Please specify Quantity, "Regular" or "Decaf" AND "Ground" or "Whole Bean."*

Cost is \$10 per 1 lb. bag (2 lb. minimum order) and payment can be made by check at delivery.

**Thank you for your support!**

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 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>

## Cove Mountain Trip Breaks the Ice

By Rick Price

It was a frosty September morning when seven eager AAS members set out on our first AAS field trip since March 2nd, just days before the pandemic shut down our normal chapter activities. As we gathered near the entrance to Cove Mountain Preserve, there were three questions to ponder:

1) Would we find birds in this relatively new venue? 2) Would we be able to explore and bird under pandemic restrictions? and 3) Would we be able to make the sometimes challenging and rocky ascent up (and back down) from the Susquehanna River overlook?

Fortunately, the answer was “Yes!” to all three questions. All seven of us made it to the overlook, where we ran into our first fallout of “fall warblers.” During the stop we were thrilled to find Hooded, Magnolia, and Blackburnian Warblers. Later we found a separate pair of Black-throated Blue Warblers. Some of us were able to observe the male feeding close to us on the berries of the Hercules Club Tree, a “life” plant for most of us. Thank you to Jady Conroy for identifying this beautiful and spiky tree for us.

Although we did not see any migrating raptors, we did have other song birds including Scarlet Tanagers, an Eastern Phoebe, a Wood Thrush, a Red-eyed Vireo, four species of woodpeckers, and a Great-crested Flycatcher.

Finally, kudos to Rich Riter, AAS Board member, who did a great job leading this successful field trip. It’s just what AAS needed after a hiatus in activities. Stay safe!



Photo courtesy  
Rick Price

Cove Mountain field trip participants.

## Appalachian Audubon Scholarship Opportunities for 2021

Appalachian Audubon Society is once again offering scholarship opportunities to a variety of natural history and environmental education camps for youth and teens as well as families at Hog Island Audubon Camps in Maine and also at camps closer to home. Hog Island registration will open October 20, 2020, and the other organizations will post information in early 2021. Please monitor AAS newsletters/website or specific program websites for new information. **Important:** to obtain scholarship consideration from AAS, you must reside in an appropriate zip code. For a listing of acceptable zip codes, see the AAS Education webpage at [www.appalachianaudubon.org](http://www.appalachianaudubon.org).

**Hog Island Audubon camps** in Maine are opportunities to learn about birds and natural systems from talented educators on an amazing island. In 2021, AAS will again offer full scholarships to Coastal Maine Bird Studies for Teens ages 14–17. Beginning October 20, 2020, you can download the AAS scholarship application from the Education page of our website <https://appalachianaudubon.org/education.html>. If you plan to go to Hog Island whether or not you receive a scholarship, you may register on the Hog Island website beginning October 20, 2020, pay your own deposit, and then apply for an AAS scholarship, with the understanding that there

is no guarantee you will be selected for a scholarship. Recipients must reside within designated chapter area zip codes as indicated above. For further information on the camp program, go to <http://hogisland.audubon.org>.

In addition to the Hog Island scholarships, there are opportunities to attend local camps in Pennsylvania. Register with the organization and let them know you are interested in an AAS scholarship.

**Wildlife Leadership Academy** offers the opportunity to work with professionals while learning about wildlife/fisheries biology and conservation, leadership skills, and community outreach. This rigorous camp is for high school youth ages 14–17. Go to [www.wildlifeleadershipacademy.org](http://www.wildlifeleadershipacademy.org) and check out the *Drummers, Brookies, and Bucktails* camp pages.

**Wildwood Park** has week-long day camps for ages 6–14. Active learning is focused on birding and other natural history topics while hiking and canoeing. Go to [www.wildwoodlake.org](http://www.wildwoodlake.org).

**Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art** has day camps that concentrate on specific topics like birds or native pollinators. Some camps are for children participating with their grandparents/other adults. Go to [www.nedsmithcenter.org](http://www.nedsmithcenter.org).

Contact: Georgia Kagle, Education Chair, [education@appalachianaudubon.org](mailto:education@appalachianaudubon.org).