



January Program— Dauphin County Wildlife Rescue



Presenter: Beth Carricato
Thursday, January 17th at 7:30 pm
(for directions to meeting location, see page 2)



Wildlife rehabilitator Beth Carricato, from the Dauphin County Wildlife Rescue, will discuss the challenges of taking care of injured and sick wild animals. She will bring along some of her animals for us to see close up. This is sure to be a great program for children!

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!



Nature Book Sale

During the month of February, take a moment to visit Wildwood Lake Sanctuary's gently used Nature Book Sale in the basement of the Olewine Nature Center. Browse through donated field guides, books on nature and the outdoors as well as nature videos. Proceeds from the sale help support programming at Wildwood. The Olewine Nature Center is open Tuesday through Sunday from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.



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.



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AAS WEBSITE:
www.appalachianaudubon.org/

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\$500 Grace Randolph Scholarship Available!

In 2002, our chapter began offering a \$500 annual scholarship to honor very special long-time AAS member, Mrs. Grace Randolph. Grace is a phenomenal birder that has inspired many. Watch for more about her next month!

Any member of our chapter is eligible to apply for this scholarship, which will partially fund the cost of attending any session at Hog Island Audubon Camp, just off the coast of Maine. With sessions such as Joy of Birding, Yoga, Nature in Literature, Nature Painting, Island Discovery and more, there is something for everyone.

Hog Island is a magical place. Serenity, beauty, exploration, learning, friendships, laughter, nature, good food – all can be found here.

Please visit http://www.maineaudubon.org/explore/camp/hi_overview.shtml to learn more about the offerings at Hog Island this summer. Marci Mowery will be happy to answer any questions that you have and supply you with a scholarship application form; 236-7644 or mmowery-ppff@pa.net. Please take advantage of this wonderful opportunity. (Youth, Teen and Educator scholarship info on page 4)

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.

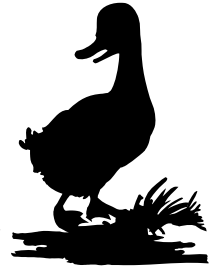
Directions: Take New Cumberland exit off I-83; cross Carlisle Road. Turn left onto Allendale Way; take first left at Deerfield Road (from the south, take New Cumberland exit, turn left onto Carlisle Road, left onto Cedar Cliff Road, left on Allendale Way, then left onto Deerfield Road) to the church.

AAS Field Trips

Northern Jersey Shore for Winter Specialities – Saturday, January 5

Shark River, Manasquan and Barnegat Inlets will be the target for this field trip.

Birds of interest include alcids, gulls, and Herlequins. Travel on your own to Shark River where the trip will begin. Contact trip leader Ed Chubb at 233-4807.



Leader's Choice – Saturday, February 9

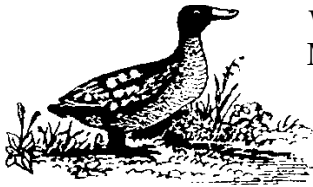
This unusual format trip will be determined by what birds are being seen in the Harrisburg area, but could mean traveling as far afield as Philadelphia. Participants should contact Deuane Hoffman at 564-7475 or email at corvuscorax@comcast.net for the most up-to-date trip details.

Middle Creek Waterfowl Trip – Saturday, March 8

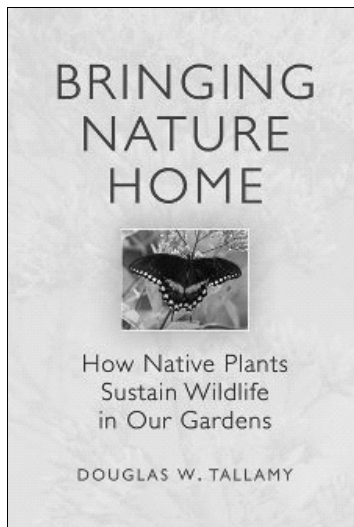
Late winter is the peak time to visit this wildlife management area. Tens of thousands of Snow Geese and other waterfowl can be seen. Call Ramsay Koury at 761-1871 for more details.

Ned Smith Waterfowl Watch – Sunday, March 16

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. 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 join field trip with Ned Smith Center members.



Reading Recommendation from Meadowood Nursery



With the accelerating pace of development and subsequent habitat disruption, the pressures on wildlife populations are greater than they have ever been in our nation's history. As Doug Tallamy has confirmed through extensive research, there is an unbreakable link between native plant species and native wildlife. When native plant species disappear, or are replaced by alien exotics, the insects disappear, thus impoverishing the food source for birds and other animals. Fortunately, there is still time to reverse this alarming trend, and gardeners have the power to make a significant contribution toward sustaining biodiversity. By favoring native plants, gardeners can provide a welcoming environment for wildlife of all kinds.

Doug Tallamy is Professor and Chair of the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware.

Hardcover. Pages: 288 pp. 308 color photos. Now available at your favorite bookseller.

Meadowood Native Plant Nursery in Hummelstown, PA, provides a diverse selection of regionally appropriate native plants and information designed to increase public awareness of the benefits of native plantings with an emphasis on providing habitat and food for birds and other wildlife.

www.meadowoodnursery.com



Calling all Pre-teens, Youth and Educators - **Audubon 2008 Camp Scholarship Applications Available!**

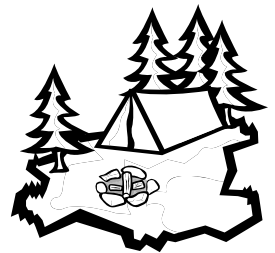
If the sound of waves lapping against rocks and the song of the loon calls to you, consider applying for an Appalachian Audubon scholarship to the Audubon Camp in Maine. We award scholarships to applicants seeking to learn more about the outdoors and who show a strong interest in conservation. Camp sessions include a Youth Camp in August, a Teen Camp in June, and an Educators Camp in July.

Educators and young people alike will gain valuable experiences in the outdoors while they gain a sense of stewardship for the natural world. The curriculum includes marine studies, pond life, oceanography, geology, forest ecology and ornithology. Campers from all over the United States attend, creating lasting friendships around the nation. Dormitory sleeping accommodations and hearty meals create a memorable experience.

Scholarships include tuition to camp, but all campers must provide their own transportation to and from camp, as well as the cost of any souvenirs. All scholarship recipients are expected to attend an Appalachian Audubon meeting prior to attending camp, and to share their experience at a meeting after camp.

One partial scholarship will also be awarded to an Appalachian Audubon member who wishes to attend one of the adult camping sessions.

Visit the website www.maineaudubon.org to find out more. **Deadline to apply is March 1, 2008.** For more information, or for an application, contact Marci Mowery at 717-371-2155 or at mmowery-ppff@pa.net.



One in Four US Bird Species at Risk

One hundred seventy-eight species in the continental U.S. and 39 in Hawaii have landed on the newest and most scientifically-sound list of America's most imperiled birds. WatchList 2007, a joint effort of Audubon and American Bird Conservancy, analyzes population size, distribution, and threats for 700 bird species in the U.S. It reveals those in greatest need of immediate conservation help. For more information, visit www.audubon.org.

2008 Threatened and Endangered Plants of PA Calendar



The Pennsylvania Wild Resource Conservation Program (WRCP) is excited to announce the availability of its 2008 Threatened and Endangered Plants of PA calendar. This colorful and informative calendar can be downloaded for free at www.dcnr.state.pa.us/wrcf/wrcp_2008_calendar.pdf. Each month you will learn about a beautiful and rare plant of Pennsylvania, from the small whorled pegenia - the state's rarest orchid - to the beaked spikerush - an endangered wetland plant.



WRCP promotes research and outreach on non-game wildlife and plants throughout the state and is sustained through tax form check-offs, otter license plate sales, and donations.



Monitoring Your Nest Box and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act

It can sometimes be difficult to interpret the guidelines outlined in the Migratory Bird Treaty Act as they pertain to monitoring nest boxes, but it is an important reminder for all of us who monitor nest boxes. Because many bluebirders monitor nest boxes, it is very important that we understand and comply with the protections outlined in the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. A judge ruled in 2004 that non native species such as house sparrows, starlings, rock pigeons and mute swans are excluded from this Act. The Act was put into place when birds or their parts were being sold and endangering those birds' welfare. Plume poachers had almost wiped out the Snowy Egret for example before this Act was put into place.

A summary of this act is the following: "The Migratory Bird Treaty Act provides that it is unlawful to pursue, hunt, take, capture or kill; attempt to take, capture or kill; possess, offer to sell, barter, purchase, deliver or cause to be shipped, exported, imported, transported, carried or received any migratory bird, part, nest, or egg or product. According to the Act, a person, association, partnership or corporation which violates the Act or its regulations is guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a fine of up to \$500, or jail up to six months, or both. Anyone who knowingly takes a migratory bird and intends to, offers to, or actually sells or barter the bird is guilty of a felony, with fines up to \$2,000, jail up to two years, or both."

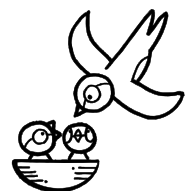
Permits are required to legally take any bird egg or nest for educational purposes. The Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania has a collection of nests that we use for educating the public. We must always have our permit on display when using the "real" nests. Permits are not required to simply open and look at your nest box, remove a nest after nestlings have fledged, to remove eggs that have not hatched or to remove dead nestlings from nests that do NOT contain any live nestlings. Handling live nestlings would require a permit as would removing a nest that has live nestlings inside.

Clarification from Cyndi Perry, Chief, Branch of Bird Conservation, stated in 2000 that, "A permit is not needed to destroy nuisance empty nests of non-colonial species of birds (those that do not cluster nests in colonies). This includes nests in the process of being constructed. If live eggs or nestlings are present in the nest, then the nest is active and may not be destroyed without a permit. The law prohibits possession of migratory bird nests without a permit, so anyone removing inactive nests should take care to destroy them at once. In general, inactive nests may be legally destroyed, while active nests may not."

This would mean that wren dummy nests that are not active, may be removed. Wild birds using man made boxes must not be jeopardized in any way by its monitors. It seems to come down to realizing that there is only so much we can do. There must be a limit. Tree swallows, wrens chickadees, and other native cavity nesting birds are protected and great care must be taken not to disturb their active nesting in any way. Please be aware of the above information when monitoring your nest boxes, and learn more by checking out www.fws.gov/birds and select Migratory Bird Treaty Act in the alphabetical listing. Monitoring nest boxes on a regular basis is still the best way to promote nesting success, and we encourage you to check your nest boxes on a weekly basis.

by Becky Weaber, Editor of Bluebird Trails and Tales, for the Bluebird Society of PA
Reprinted with Permission

**Summary of Act from the Federal Wildlife Laws Handbook*



Tips for a Greener World – Planning a Vacation



If the lack of sunshine is getting to you and you are sick and tired of the bitter cold, maybe it is time to start thinking about planning your next vacation?! But if you are trying to be climate-conscience in all that you do, how can you expect to travel without harming the planet? There are ways to be an environmentally-savvy traveler, including the following tips:

- **Off-set your carbon emissions.** The further from home you travel, the more carbon emissions you create (whether you travel by air, land, or sea). There are many companies and organizations that now offer to plant trees, and other ways to neutralize your vacation emissions. Go to www.sustainabletravelinternational.org to buy credits from one of many certified carbon offset programs.
- **Choose environmentally-friendly lodging.** Many hotel chains now offer recycled content paper products, a reduction in linen washing, energy efficient appliances, and other ways to reduce our impact on the planet. You can find a listing of many of these hotels at www.greenhotels.com. You can take it a step further by choosing a hotel that was built out of green materials, uses alternative energy sources like solar or geothermal, and uses green bedding, carpets, and furniture.
- **Choose package tours that do not abuse the natural resources.** National Geographic has a Center for Sustainable Destinations that provides trips that “sustain or enhance the geographical character of a place,” ensuring that the local people and environment gain from your travel dollars. Visit their website to find numerous resources of eco-friendly travelers.
- **Live lightly on the land.** Just as you would at home, treat your vacation destination gently. Do not do any outdoor activities that might damage the land, eat locally-grown foods whenever possible, shop at mom and pop shops instead of big box retailers, and respect any differences in culture that you might come across.



Traveling can be a rewarding and educational experience. Enjoy your vacation in a responsible way so that future generations will be able to enjoy theirs as well.

Honoring the Memory of a Loved One



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,



Audubon Nebraska to Host Climate Change Workshop

Audubon's Rowe Sanctuary will host a Chapter Workshop titled *Taking Action for Birds in a Changing Climate*. The upcoming Chapter Workshop is in conjunction with the 2008 Audubon Rivers and Wildlife Celebration in Kearney, Nebraska on March 14, 2008.

Set against the backdrop of Nebraska's magnificent spring migration of sandhill cranes, attendees will have the opportunity to explore a number of topics including Chapter development, Important Bird Areas, and Audubon's science programs.

Featured Speakers include John Cecil, Important Bird Area (IBA)- National Program Director; Tom Bancroft, Chief Scientist and V.P. at the National Audubon Society; Chris Canfield, V.P. and Executive Director of Audubon North Carolina; Genevieve Thompson, V.P. and Executive Director of Audubon Dakota; Karen Orenstein, National Outreach Coordinator; and Lynn Tennefoss, Vice President of State Programs and Chapter Services.

The workshop dovetails into the 38th Annual Rivers and Wildlife Celebration that starts later that evening. People are encouraged to attend both events. For more information on the Rivers and Wildlife Celebration, visit www.nebraska.audubon.org/RWC.htm or call (402) 797-2301.

Cost of the day is \$20 and includes lunch. **The enrolment deadline is March 7.** To register, visit Audubon Nebraska at www.audubon.org/states/ne/ or call (402) 797-2301.

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: _____
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January 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!