



Kingfisher Courier

MAY 2014

APPALACHIAN AUDUBON SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

AAS Annual Banquet

May 15, 2014

Speaker: Scott Weidensaul | Alaska: Beyond The Cruise Ships

Please join us at our annual banquet on Thursday, May 15, at the West shore Elks Club. Our program will feature Scott Weidensaul, one of Appalachian Audubon's favorite presenters.

Scott has lived almost all of his life within the long ridges and valleys of eastern Pennsylvania, in the heart of the central Appalachians, a landscape that has defined much of his work. In 1978, he began writing a weekly natural history column in the *Pottsville Republican*, a position he held for 10 years. He then began a career in freelance writing specializing in nature and wildlife.

Scott has written more than two dozen books, including the acclaimed **Living on the Wind: Across the Hemisphere with Migratory Birds**, a finalist for the 2000 Pulitzer Prize. His newest book, **The First Frontier: The Forgotten History of Struggle, Savagery and Endurance in Early America**, tells of



A rare Whiskered Auklet — captured by scientists off a remote Aleutian Island — is one of many species of Alaskan wildlife that naturalist Scott Weidensaul will discuss in his May banquet program, "Alaska: Beyond the Cruise Ships."

One of Appalachian Audubon's favorite presenters, Scott Weidensaul has written more than two dozen books, one of which was a finalist for the 2000 Pulitzer Prize.

the earliest conflicts between Natives and Europeans along the Eastern Seaboard.

Scott's writing has appeared in dozens of publications, including *Audubon* (for which he is a contributing editor), *Nature Conservancy*, and *National Wildlife*. He lectures widely on conservation and nature and directs the ornithological programs for National Audubon's famed Hog Island Center on the coast of Maine.

He is also an active field researcher focusing on bird migration. Besides banding hawks each fall, which he has done for nearly 25 years, he is at the forefront of a study involving the movements of Northern Saw-whet Owls. In addition, he is part of a study to understand a new eastern migratory route and wintering range for several species of western hummingbirds.

For more information on Scott's program and to register to attend the banquet, please see the insert in this edition.

SAVE THE DATE!

Thursday, May 15 • Silent Auction begins @ 6:00 pm



It's hard to believe that Appalachian Audubon's 2013-2014 season of activities has almost come to a close. We have enjoyed a series of great programs and, when weather permitted, some great field trips. Many volunteers made all of this happen. I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge those who have been serving in designated positions to make our chapter work.

Behind the scenes, Membership Chair Marcia Wilson and Ed Smith maintained our various membership and mailing lists to make sure that you receive timely notices about upcoming events. Vice President Kathy Kuchwara coordinated newsletter content, while Karen Stiffler shared her professional design talents to update the look of the *Kingfisher Courier* and make the electronic version attractive visually.

As Hospitality Chair, Lorrie Preston coordinated volunteers who provided delicious snacks for program meetings (thanks to all of you who did so!). Director Ann Glasscock has greeted many of you at our program meetings and maintained our name tags.

Director Rick Price organized a variety of field trips and offered some new ideas for these adventures. He has also served as Nominating Committee Chair in the search for new board members. Note: We are looking for volunteers to be nominated for two director positions—one for a regular 2-year term and another to fill a 1-year unexpired term. Interested?

Judy Bowman kept us organized in her role as Secretary during the past 3 years. Also with a 3-year tenure, Treasurer Andy Groff has been keeping our financial records

in order. Sue Strassner handled publicity and Jane Barnette worked with scholarships. Both are completing their 2nd term as director. According to our by-laws, these four members cannot serve another elected term, but we look forward to them remaining involved as able in other positions or activities.

John Latsha joined the board late in the season to fill a vacated director position but quickly became involved and has agreed to be nominated for Treasurer. Director Arlene Buchholz has also helped the chapter in many ways and will be nominated for Secretary.

Much appreciation also to many of our members who volunteered at the birdseed and native plant sales, volunteered as field trip leaders, provided information for the newsletter, and shared their considerable knowledge and expertise as program presenters. Although not in official board roles, I also want to thank two immediate past presidents: Paul Zeph for lending his unique talents to be our Master of Ceremonies at the December holiday social and annual banquet in May, and Annette Mathes and her "eagle eyes" for considerable assistance with the newsletter and her continued involvement with other activities.

To all of those mentioned above and to other volunteers not specifically identified (but who know who you are) MANY THANKS for your part in making so many opportunities available to our members and the general public. You ARE the heart of Appalachian Audubon Society!

Susan Miller

President Susan Miller
millerscorner@msn.com
717-697-6696

Vice President Kathy Kuchwara
kathykatbird2@comcast.net
717-319-0828

Secretary Judy Bowman
bowma99@aol.com
717-761-3815

Treasurer Andy Groff
andrewharrisongroff@gmail.com
717-686-6564

DIRECTORS

Term ending May 2014

Sue Strassner 717-243-5731
strassner@aol.com

Jane Barnette 717-657-2055
jbird558@aol.com

John Latsha 717-982-1141
jlat1965@gmail.com

Term ending May 2015

Ann Glasscock 717-695-2738
hglasscock07@comcast.net

Arlene Buchholz 808-779-5200
abvetlab@aol.com

Rick Price 717-657-1950
rprice210@comcast.net

COMMITTEES

Bird Seed Sale
Vacant

Conservation
Vacant

Education
Arlene Buchholz 808-779-5200

Field Trips
Rick Price 717-657-1950

Hospitality
Lorrie Preston 717-732-5615

Membership
Marcia Wilson 717-215-0633

Newsletter
Kathy Kuchwara 717-319-0828

Nominating
Rick Price 717-657-1950

Programs
Susan Miller 717-697-6696

Publicity
Sue Strassner 717-243-5731

Trout Run
Andy Groff 717-686-6564

AAS Annual Banquet

Join Us on May 15th

Reservations required by Thursday, May 8th

Alaska: Beyond the Cruise Ships by Scott Weidensaul

If you laid Alaska across the Lower 48, one corner would be in California, one in North Carolina and one in Minnesota. Yet few visitors to the 49th state ever get beyond the typical cruise-ship itinerary. Scott Weidensaul, who has been exploring Alaska for more than 30 years, takes us to some of the most remote parts of this immense and wild state, from the isolated Aleutian Islands and Pribilofs, to native villages within sight of Russia, to wilderness rivers on the North Slope — breathtaking landscapes alive with birds and mammals.



©Amiran White

Enjoy this great evening for only \$26 per person!

When: Thursday, May 15

6:00 pm Silent Auction (Payment for auction items may be made by cash or check.) Appetizers, Cash Bar (Doors won't open until 6:00 sharp!)

6:45 pm Buffet Dinner, followed by a brief meeting and then the program

Where: West Shore Elks Lodge #2257

108 N St. John's Church Road, Camp Hill, PA (Just off the Carlisle Pike, near Liebman's Furniture)

Menu:

Buffet dinner features Chicken Marsala, Braised Roast Beef Burgundy, Rigatoni Marinara with Mushrooms & Fresh Basil, Fresh Steamed Vegetables, Mixed Greens Salad, Rolls, Beverages, and Dessert. Cash Bar.

AAS BANQUET RESERVATION FORM

Must be received by Thursday, May 8th!

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Please make reservations for _____ persons @ \$26 each \$ _____

I would like to donate to the AAS Annual Appeal to support the ABA Birders' Exchange (see reverse) \$ _____

I would like to donate to the AAS Camp Scholarship Program \$ _____

Total included \$ _____

Mail this form, along with your check payable to AAS (Appalachian Audubon Society), to:
Andy Groff, AAS Treasurer • 14 Chelton Circle, Camp Hill, PA 17011

AAS 2014 ANNUAL APPEAL — ABA BIRDERS' EXCHANGE

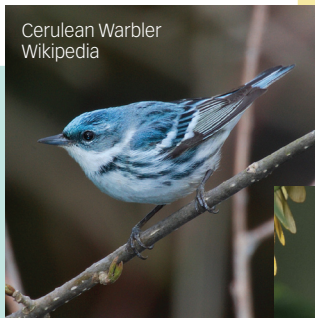
It is no secret that habitat loss continues to be a major threat to birds worldwide. Many of the beautiful warblers and other songbirds that spend part of their lives in South Central Pennsylvania are negatively affected by the shrinking rainforest. Local educators, scientists and conservationists in Latin America and the Caribbean are working to protect birds and their environment, but they need our help! The American Birding Association's Birders' Exchange is one important way we can assist with their efforts. This group provides educational materials and equipment such as field guides and binoculars to help them in their work and also to

excite the citizens of these areas about birds and the importance of preserving their surroundings. These are the individuals who will ultimately make the difference in land protection. You can learn more about the Exchange at www.aba.org/bex.

Appalachian Audubon Society has chosen this cause as the recipient of our 2014 Annual Appeal because it has the potential to positively affect those birds we love to see, hear, and count every year. Please consider making a donation.

"Birders' Exchange must have studied the art of wizardry. With nothing more than donated birding equipment, books, and a bit of cash, they turn local communities and school kids into committed conservationists, struggling NGOs into recognized players on the international scene, and "paper parks" into real protected areas. And in the process they remind us how rewarding it is to lend a hand when none is expected."

— Charles D. Duncan,
Director of the Shorebird Recovery Project, and
Director of the Executive Office of
The Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network,
Manomet Center for Conservation Sciences



Cerulean Warbler
Wikipedia



Wood Thrush
Wikipedia

"Birders' Exchange is an inspired idea and a highly effective reality. It's making a big difference throughout Latin America and the Caribbean. Anyone who cares about the future of birds and wildlife should support this program."

— Kenn Kaufman, author of
Birds of North America

"With Birders' Exchange, the need for a good pair of binoculars won't stand in the way of developing first-class ornithologists all over the world, and can only lead to increased information and appreciation of the birds and their habitats at the local level."

— David Allen Sibley, author of
The Sibley Guide to Birds

Yes, I want to support the work of the ABA Birders' Exchange.

(If you are attending our Annual Banquet, you can make your donation on the Banquet reservation form.)

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

I would like to donate to the AAS Annual Appeal to help the Birders' Exchange. \$ _____

I would like to donate to the AAS Camp Scholarship Program \$ _____

Total included \$ _____

100% of your contribution is tax-deductible.

Mail this form, along with your check payable to AAS (Appalachian Audubon Society), to:
Andy Groff, AAS Treasurer, 14 Chelton Circle, Camp Hill, PA 17011

MAY FIELD TRIPS

May is always a busy time of year for field trips and this year is no exception:

Saturday, May 3, 2014

Warbler Walk in Stony Creek Valley. Join warbler expert Tom Smith in his annual trip through the Stony Creek area to see, hear, and learn about the many species of warblers and other spring birds found here. Meet at 7:00 am by the PPL substation along the Stony Creek Valley Road. Contact Tom at 921-2461.

Sunday, May 4, 2014

Warbler Walk at State Game Lands 230. Pete Lusardi leads a walk along the base of Blue Mountain in Carlisle Springs to look for the migrating and summer resident warblers and other song birds. We will meet at 7:00 am in the easternmost parking lot. Contact Pete at 243-6419 or pjlusardi@aol.com.

Saturday, May 17, 2014

Breeding Birds of the Tuscarora Forest. Cumberland County compiler Vern Gauthier guides a search for warblers and other woodland breeders of the Tuscarora Ridge. We'll also stop at local open fields to search for Bobolinks, Dickcissels, and Blue Grosbeaks. Registration for this program is limited so please contact Vern at 385-9526 or pabirder@gmail.com.

JUNE FIELD TRIP: NEW!**Saturday, June 7, 2014**

The Trees of Dickinson College. Dickinson faculty member and former AAS president Gene Wingert will teach participants how to use a key to identify common trees of this area. This will be followed by a walk around campus to learn the trees by using the key discussed. Contact Rick Price at 657-1950 or rprice210@comcast.net.

Spring Migration

By Sue Hannon

Although the snow is still fresh in our memory, the region's Peregrine Falcon eggs have begun to hatch, which to me is the surest sign that spring has finally arrived. The trees are finally putting out their buds, daffodils are blooming, and the air is filled with the beauty of springtime bird song. The yearly return of swallows, orioles, warblers, "hummers," and many other birds, one of the most eagerly awaited events of the birding year, is in full swing. It seems that every day brings a new arrival.

From mid-April through mid-May, sweet-singing, fast-moving colorful birds are *everywhere!* And then, before you know it, it's done. Many of the migrants move on to their nesting grounds, and the local nesters turn their energy from attracting a mate to incubating eggs and raising young. To make the most of this briefest of seasons, what do you do to get ready? For the past few years, I have been focused on warblers in the spring but still feel woefully inadequate at identification. So I am spending a little time every day playing my taped collection of warbler calls and studying the pages of *The Warbler Guide* in hopes that this year I will be able to reliably identify at least 20 species when I encounter them in their northward passage through our part of the state. Have you set any goals for the season?

While warblers are possibly the most talked-about spring migrants, I am also looking forward to hearing Wood Thrushes, that first Gray Catbird, phoebes and pewees, and one of my personal favorites, the Great-crested Flycatcher. I can't wait for the first towhee calling "drink your tea!" or "ch'-weep," or the Ovenbird's "teacher, teacher, teacher, TEACHER!" Last year I started really working on bird song and bird calls. Birding by ear adds a whole new dimension to my birding excursions. The whistles, chirps and

trills are not only beautiful, they are greatly helpful in locating and identifying a fast-moving, tiny flash of color among the surrounding foliage.

One of my favorite springtime walks is at State Game Lands 246, near Middletown. Along the trail and on the margins of the feedlots, a sylvan symphony echoes all around, and in every tree and shrub little flashes of motion reveal the singers to the watchful eye. I also enjoy walking the trails at Falmouth boat launch and Prescott Road, a few miles south of Middletown and just over the Lancaster county line. In the interest of a smaller carbon footprint, I try to do most of my birding close to home.

My regular birding hotspot is the old Highspire reservoir. There is a 1¼ mile trail along the north shore of the old reservoir. Along this trail a variety of habitats provide forage and cover for dozens of bird species. A walk along its length nearly always yields 30 or more species. During migration, that number can be much higher.

One of spring's birding highlights is the annual PA Migration Count. The migration count is an exciting and fast-moving daylong event, which this year will take place on May 10. Last year, my counting group, led by Jane Barnette, found 76 species in just over 5 hours. If you have not participated in the PAMC yet, you don't know what you are missing. Not only is it a great way to spend a Saturday with a few birder friends, it is an interesting citizen-science project. And it is easy to join—just contact one of the compilers below and let them know you want in!

PA Migration Count Contacts:

Dauphin County: Carl and Nancy Juris, 564-1479

Cumberland/Perry Counties: Vern Gauthier, 385-9526 or pabirder@gmail.com.



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MAY 2014

AAS monthly programs typically take place on the third Thursday of each month at the **Christ Presbyterian Church** located at 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 pm.

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.



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Looking for additional birding opportunities?

AAS members and Wildwood volunteers Rick & Peggy Price will lead a **bird walk at Wildwood Lake** on May 7th. Check www.wildwooklake.org/events for details.

AAS and Susquehanna Appalachian Trail Club members Lorrie Preston and Gary Labelle will lead a **Bird the Ridge hike** on May 31st. Check www.satc-hike.org for details.

SAVE PAPER!

Receive a full-color version of the *Kingfisher Courier* via email and help the environment. To sign up, email Susan Miller at millerscorner@msn.com.

Join our Facebook Group page!

Our FB page informs and reminds you of our events. It also will allow you to post your comments and photos and see what other AAS friends are up to!

Please go to the following link: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/515034908575016/> and click to join the group. An administrator will add you to the group promptly.



Would you like to help?

Volunteers are the driving force of Appalachian Audubon Society. We are looking for a few more good folks to help plan and carry out activities by serving as directors, officers, or committee members. If you would like to become more involved with our chapter please contact Rick Price at 657-1950 or Susan Miller at 697-6696 to learn about available opportunities.