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The date on the address label is the date your national and/or local chapter Audubon membership expires. National Audubon will send you reminders well before your national membership expires.

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**Northeast Pennsylvania Audubon Society**  
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**Coffee for Conservation: From Honduras to Honesdale**  
**by Pat Sanders**

The Northeast PA Audubon Society showcased “shade-grown” coffee grown by a collective of Honduran farmers on Sat., Nov. 26<sup>th</sup> at Black & Brass Coffee Roasting Co., 520 Main St. in Honesdale. Over 200 cups of coffee were given away and 30 bags of Honduran beans were sold. Later that evening they hosted a fascinating program on how such shade-grown coffee helps provide habitat for threatened birds that summer in our area. The bird connection to coffee is that many of these birds are neo-tropical, meaning that they migrate south and winter in tropical Central and South American countries. So this means that we not only need to think about and protect habitat for birds here in the United States, but also in their winter habitats.



Pictured from L to R: NEPAS President Sarah Hall-Bagdonas, Conservation Committee member John Harvey and guest speaker Laura Jackson.

The vast majority of coffee today is full-sun grown as it provides increased yields. Clear-cutting forests for full-sun coffee plantations increases soil erosion and contributes to deadly mudslides. Full-sun grown coffee requires large amounts of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, producing toxic run-off and acidifying the soil. In contrast, shade-grown coffee is grown beneath the forest canopy rather than in the full sun, preserving biodiversity and providing important habitat that benefits many bird species and other wildlife.

Many thanks to Black and Brass for supporting this coffee and doing their part to help the community (both local and world). And you can make a difference — helping save the Golden-winged Warbler and over 40 more of our other migratory songbirds — by choosing organic, shade-grown coffee.

“Many of ‘our’ birds actually spend more time elsewhere than they do with us,” says Chris Fischer, Conservation Co-chair of the Northeast PA Audubon Society.

“Migratory bird species depend on a variety of sites throughout their annual migration cycle: their breeding grounds, wintering grounds and stopover points while in transit. Threats encountered at any point during the migration cycle can have dire consequences.”

One of the most threatened songbirds in North America, the Golden-winged Warbler has one of the smallest populations of any songbird not on the Endangered Species List. Once found throughout Wayne County, sightings here are now considered rare.

One of the main reasons for its sharp decline is habitat loss, both here in the U.S. where the Golden-winged Warbler breeds and in Central and South America where it spends the winter.

Sun-grown coffee comes not only at the expense of the environment, but of the coffee’s flavor. “Shade-grown coffee is a win-win for coffee drinkers,” says local coffee connoisseur John Harvey. “On top of being good for the land and wildlife, it has a superior taste because of the natural way it is grown. You get more taste from the soil just like with wine.” (Cont. on page 2.)

*Mark Your Calendars*

(Check our website at [nepaaudubon.org](http://nepaaudubon.org) for the latest information)

**February 17-20:** GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT. Thu, Fri, Sat, Sun, dawn to dusk. Count birds in your back yard for Citizen Science in Cornell’s important national survey! Call Bob at 570-676-9969, or get tools and how-to’s at this web address: <http://gbbc.birdcount.org/>

**March 25:** CHEW ON THIS! Honesdale Library (Wayne County Library). 1:00 – 2:30 PM. Please join Audubon naturalists and their beaver puppet, Becky, as they introduce the wonders of wetlands, how wetlands protect our water and provide important habitat for many species. Take Away: Make your own beaver puppet.

**April 16:** “ADOPT A HIGHWAY” litter pick-up. Join us for our annual cleanup along Route 191 near Lake Ariel, PA. Free breakfast afterwards!! Call Kathy at 570-253-9250 to sign up.

**April 23:** EARTH DAY FESTIVAL BIRDING & BREAKFAST. 8 AM. Join us for a bird walk along the Lackawaxen River in Hawley (binoculars provided for those who need them). 9:00 AM breakfast at the Settler’s Inn. \$12.00 fee for the breakfast. To reserve a spot, call Northeast Pa. Audubon Society at 570-253-9250.

**May 6:** BIRD WALK at PROMPTON DAM. 7 AM. Meet at the picnic pavilion above the dam. Join walk leader Chris Fischer as he points out all the birds singing, feeding, nesting or just passing through the area.

**May 7:** BIRD WALK at Himalayan Institute. 7 AM. Join us for a bird walk at the Himalayan Institute, north of Bethany, PA. The walk is open to public and free, except you may choose to join the optional breakfast (approximate cost \$8) in their dining room following the walk. To sign up, contact Kathy at 570-253-9250.

**May 13:** PENNSYLVANIA ANNUAL MIGRATION COUNT. Join a team to look for returning migratory birds. All ages, all levels of expertise & knowledge welcome. Contact Chris at 570-446-9597 or [cfischer@nepaaudubon.org](mailto:cfischer@nepaaudubon.org).

**June 17:** WORKSHOP: ESTABLISHING GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER HABITAT. 9 AM-1 PM. Lake Ariel.

(Continued from page one) The Honduran coffee available at Black & Brass in Honesdale comes directly from a small collective of independent organic shade-grown coffee farmers who are committed to their communities, biodiversity, and operating with complete transparency. Descendants of an indigenous Lenca tribe, they donate 5% of their profits to helping the children of Honduras.

These farmers were connected with Black & Brass via the Northeast PA Audubon Society in cooperation with Partners in Neotropical Bird Conservation (PINBC). Following an exploratory trip to Honduras this past February, PINBC was formed with the mission to promote bird conservation and education with an emphasis on Neotropical migrants using the Golden-winged Warbler as a flagship species. They are working with the coffee farmers to make their farms even more bird friendly in addition to helping them sell their coffee in the U.S.



**The 31st annual Audubon Wildlife Arts and Crafts Festival** was held in July and was a great success! We had three great wildlife shows each day, over 90 artists and crafts people, and attendance was very good. Once again, this makes it possible to continue our great scholarship program for graduating high school seniors and for people to attend the Hog Island Audubon Camp in the summer.

In 2017, the festival will be held on July 22nd and 23rd, so mark your calendars. Your attendance makes these scholarships possible, and it's a fun family event as well. See you there!

### Memorial Donations

In recent months, we have received donations from family, friends, and co-workers in memory of the following wonderful people:

Ralph K. Ardoline Jr.; Michael Jake Burkhardt; & Janice Pierson.

Thank you for the generous donations.

### **In Memory:**

Audubon lost an old friend in October. Janice Pierson was a long-time board member, taking on various duties such as Secretary and Conservation Chair. She was booth sitting coordinator for our annual Art & Craft Festival for many years. Her indomitable spirit and sense of wonder and joy about the natural world was infectious, and she imparted this to her grandchildren whom she brought along to many Audubon field trips and programs. She was also a Master Gardener whose yard full of flowers was sheer delight. We will miss her generosity, the ready smile, and twinkle in her eyes.

-Katharine Dodge

### **Three Years at Unity— An update from a past scholarship winner**

My time at Unity College in Maine has been interesting and full of fun. Yes, tests and lectures are hard to get through sometimes, but my time is balanced well with hands-on field experiences. For instance, last year I worked with Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife at a moose check station. This is where hunters bring their kill in to be weighed and measured. I saw my first moose here. It was a great experience and I learned a lot. I still have not seen a live moose yet, but it is one of my goals before I graduate. I am very happy with my decision to come to Maine, as I had many and continue to have many great experiences there.

Thanks to the Audubon Society's Annual Scholarship, I am now finishing up my fifth semester at Unity as a Captive Wildlife Care and Education major. This semester, I had the opportunity to work with some amazing veterinarians for my internship at Kennebec Vet Services in Oakland, Maine. These experiences have changed my career goals to wanting to pursue more schooling. I have fallen in love with large animal medicine as well as small animal medicine. I plan to apply to vet school after taking a year off post graduating from Unity. The year off will help me gather more experience and necessary classes to be accepted into vet school. I plan to keep my love of wildlife and raptors alive by searching for wildlife medicine opportunities before and during vet school.

—Kristen DeVilliers

### *Mark Your Calendars*

(Check our website at [nepaaudubon.org](http://nepaaudubon.org) for the latest information)

**January 19** (snow date: January 26): **BLACK BEAR, BLACK BEAR, WHERE DO YOU SLEEP?** Hawley Public Library, Hawley. 4 – 5:30 PM. A free program for children and adults about where our animal neighbors go in the winter. Learn about hibernation, migration, and other ways creatures cope with the cold months of winter. With Kathy Dodge – leader; Lindsay George  
Take Away: Pine Cone Treat

**February 4:** **GREAT BACKYARD BIRDS.** Lacawac Sanctuary. 10 AM - noon. What birds are chirping in your backyard? Watching a winter bird feeder is better than watching TV on a cold winter's day, and feeding the birds helps our feathery friends. We'll explore the types of feeders and seeds that attract birds to our Pennsylvania backyards. The Northeast PA Audubon Society's expert birders will provide tricks and tips for remembering who's who going tweet-tweet. Interested families and friends may construct a recycled feeder and take-home an observation sheet. Learn how you can help with the Great Backyard Bird Count, which runs February 17 to 20. Hang and watch your feeder, record your sightings and enter your report online. Simple tutorial provided. Bring a soda bottle (2 liter or smaller).  
Cost: Free!

**February 16** (snow date: February 23): **CHEW ON THIS!** Salem Library in Hamlin. 6 – 7:30 PM. Join Audubon naturalists and their beaver puppet, Becky, as they introduce the wonders of wetlands, how wetlands protect our water and provide important habitat for many species. Presenters are Kathy Dodge, Lindsay Barret George, Sandy Patterson. Take Away: Make your own beaver puppet.

(cont. on page 4.)



### **Birds and Bagels at Lacawac Sanctuary**

Sarah Hall-Bagdonas, Kathy Dodge, and Lindsay Barrett George led a birding paddle at Lacawac Sanctuary and Field Station on the 52 acre glacial lake, which is preserved in almost pristine condition (totally free from development or encroachment). Excited attendees enjoyed a bagel breakfast provided by Lacawac before heading out to enjoy the morning on the water. It was a brisk morning on September 17, but the sun held out for most of the paddle and the wind didn't pick up until the very end. There were lots of raptor sightings, including an exhilarating close-up of an osprey with its catch just overhead! It was great morning on the water. Keep an eye out for more programs at Lacawac in 2017!

### **Eco-Notes by E-mail**

*Eco-Notes* is available by e-mail. It appears in the same colorful, easy-to-read format as the paper version, but without the cost, paper, or ink. Go to our website, [nepaaudubon.org](http://nepaaudubon.org), to sign up.

### **Our Mission Statement**

Our goal is to conserve and restore our environment to benefit humanity as well as birds and other wildlife through education, action, and advocacy.

Find lots more about birds and the environment and the latest information on upcoming programs at [www.nepaaudubon.org](http://www.nepaaudubon.org).



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and



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