

Northeast Pennsylvania Audubon Society

Eco~Notes

Spring 2014

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Photo by Georgette Pascotto

On the Air

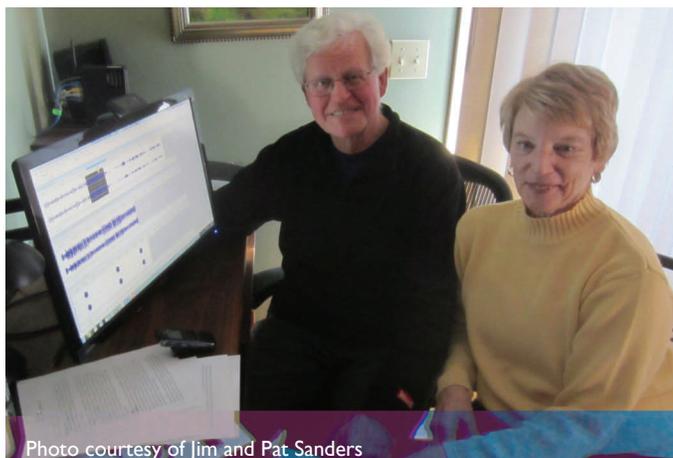


Photo courtesy of Jim and Pat Sanders

Jim and Pat Sanders are the hosts of "For the Birds" on WJFF.

Northeast PA Audubon Board members Jim and Pat Sanders are now producing twice-monthly segments for WJFF radio called "For the Birds." The segments are broadcast every other week as part of the "Farm and Country" program on Saturday at 7:30 a.m. Each segment is about 5 minutes long. Some of the topics covered so far have been owls, dark-eyed juncos, American cardinals, bird feeding tips, the Great Backyard Bird Count and citizen science, early spring arrivals, and the American woodcock. They are available for listening on our website at www.nepaAudubon.org. Come and have a listen or tune in to "Farm and Country" at WJFF, 90.5 on the FM dial, on Saturday mornings!

Earth Day Festival—Fun for the Whole Family

The Pike-Wayne Earth Day Festival is going to be even more fun for the whole family this year. Join Northeast PA Audubon, PPL, and other local conservation groups at the Wallenpaupack Environmental Learning Center from ten to three on April 26 to celebrate Earth Day. This is a great opportunity to learn more about the organizations in your local area and how you can get involved. The event is free and open to the public.

This year the festival is teaming up with the Downtown Hawley Partnership and AM Skier to offer hands-on activities, games, and events for all ages as part of the new Hawley Earth Fest. Some activities are being extended to Bingham Park in downtown Hawley and the Hawley Library. A "species parade" with children wearing animal costumes will take place in the morning at the park and the winners for best costume will be announced at noon at the PPL Earth Day event. Costume-making activities will be held in advance at the library.

That evening, events will continue with the Delaware Highlands Conservancy dinner at the Settler's Inn and a Harmony Presents concert at the Silk Mill. For more information about the Pike-Wayne Earth Day Festival visit <http://pikewayneearthday.wordpress.com> or contact Audubon at 570-253-9250. Learn more about the Hawley Earth Fest at <http://www.hawleyearthfest.com/>.

—Sarah Hall

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, 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.

NEPAS Hiking Club Gets Back On The Trail

Living in and visiting northeast Pennsylvania offers us the opportunity to learn about and appreciate its diverse natural beauty. What better way to do this than to actually spend time on its many trails. Reviving the NEPAS hiking club this year will take us to various types of ecological systems and levels of difficulty. This is a great chance for the whole family to get out and enjoy nature. Our Memorial Day Hike on Saturday, May 24, will take us to the 405-acre Salt Spring State Park lying seven miles north of Montrose, with its towering old growth hemlock trees and rocky gorge with three waterfalls. Rating: Moderate. On Saturday, June 7, we will celebrate National Trails Week with the always-popular annual Pocono Waterfall Tour to several of our region's lovely for-free falls. Rating: Easy. On Saturday, September 13, we will hike a portion of

the gorgeous 59.2 mile Loyalsock Trail in north central Pennsylvania. This trail offers ridges, mountain tops, waterfalls, lakes, ponds, historic places, and the popular "haystacks." Rating: Moderate to difficult. For a relaxing Sunday afternoon, join us on October 19 at the lovely Browning Beaver Meadow Sanctuary. A well-kept secret only 25 minutes north of Honesdale, this ecologically diverse 78-acre preserve is owned and maintained by Northeast PA Audubon. Rating: Easy. All hikes will be led by naturalist Sue Thompson and will include environmental interpretation. For more information about our scheduled hikes and any changes, please visit the NEPAS website, nepaaudubon.org. For registration, contact Sue at 570-352-4997.

—Sue Thompson

Help Us Count

The Pennsylvania Annual Migratory Count (PAMC) is a one-day survey of the birds that migrate through the state, held annually on the second Saturday in May. It is a quick snapshot of the spring seasonal movement of birds spending their time in Pennsylvania. Organized by the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology, the PAMC is part of a larger continent-wide migratory bird survey and a celebration of the bird migration event.

This year's PAMC will be held on Saturday, May 10, 2014. This event is similar to the Christmas Bird Count, the major difference being that it is done on a county basis, rather than within a 15-mile-diameter circle. In their designated areas, participants go out and identify and count all of the birds they can find on that day (including looking for owls at night if so inclined). Participants contribute a tabulation of their sightings to the overall county count and eventually to the state tally.

Birders of all skill levels are welcome to participate. Beginners may survey birds in a familiar area, such as their backyard or property, or may accompany a birder with more experience. While observations can be made over a 24-hour period, it's up to you to decide how much time you want to contribute—whether that's 15 minutes, an hour, or most of the day.

PAMC data contributes to our common knowledge of where each bird species migrates and what locations are

important stopovers for these diverse species. How many birds are there? How do the patterns of timing and numbers change annually? Are species increasing or decreasing? Are species changing their migration routes and timing? What locations are most important to migrating birds? We can help answer these questions and others by participating in citizen-science projects like PAMC. Results from the count are compiled across the state and published in *Pennsylvania Birds*, our state ornithological journal. Participants are encouraged to also contribute their PAMC sightings to eBird for a wider dissemination of bird data.

Everyone gets to enjoy the wonderful experience of bird migration by participating in PAMC. Together, we learn about the distribution and abundance of the many species of birds that "flow" through our state on their way north or to nesting grounds in our own state.

This year, we're looking to have as many people as possible join us in covering Wayne County. If you are interested, please contact Chris Fischer at 570-446-9597 or cfischer17@gmail.com for more information. If participating in another county is more convenient for you, please contact the compiler listed for your county at <http://www.pabirds.org/PAMC/Index.html>.

—Chris Fischer

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR 2014 NEPAS SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarship applications for **college** and **two different summer camp experiences** are due soon. Applicants must be from Wayne, Lackawanna, northern Pike, or Susquehanna County. Applications for the camps are due by April 1. Applications for the college scholarship are due on April 30. Go to our website, nepaaudubon.org, and click on "Scholarships" to find the forms. Call 570-253-9250 for further information.

Family Camp Full Scholarship for an adult and related child 8 to 12 years old to spend a week at an environmental camp designed especially for families on Hog Island in Maine, running from August 12 through August 17, 2014. This camp provides a unique opportunity for family members to enjoy nature together. All meals, housing, instruction, and boat trips are included. Transportation to and from the camp is the responsibility of the recipients. For more information and pictures of Hog Island, visit the Hog Island website at hogisland.audubon.org. "Our Audubon chapter has had over 26 years of experience offering scholarships to this wonderful island," says NEPAS Audubon president Chris Fischer. "We are excited to offer a family camp scholarship this year. Sharing such an adventure with a child provides a common bond and a chance to build on the experience in the future."

Join Us for the Woodcock Dance!



Photo by Steve Byland

Barbara Leo and Kathy Dodge, expert birders and NEPAS board members, will talk about this amazing bird and its dramatic nuptial flight before we proceed to the "dance floor" to watch the event. We will meet at the Varden Conservation Area, Tannery Access, on Saturday, March 22, at 6:30 p.m. Visit our website, nepaaudubon.org, to learn more. It should be an enchanting evening!

Three Full Scholarships to DEC

Environmental Camp run by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), for 11-13- and 14-17-year olds. The camp combines environmental and sportsman education and outdoor fun.

Applicants may choose among four camps ranging from the Catskill region to the Adirondacks, and may choose one of seven different weeks from June through August. For more information about the NY DEC camps, visit www.dec.ny.gov/education/29.html.

\$4000 College Scholarship to students wishing to pursue a career in an environmental field. Applicants must enroll full-time in an accredited two- or four-year college or university program. The winning applicant will receive \$1000 per year for up to four years. Interested students can find the application form at www.nepaaudubon.org/about/scholarship or they can use the universal scholarship application form available at their high school guidance office.

These scholarships are funded by the annual NEPAS Art and Crafts Festival in Hawley,



Good exercise, good fellowship, good food, and a good feeling—what more could you ask? Join us to pick up litter along Route 191 near Lake Ariel, PA, on Saturday, April 19, at 9 a.m., and enjoy a delicious breakfast afterwards. Call Marge at 570-253-9599 to sign up.

Find lots more great information about birds, the environment, and upcoming programs at www.nepaaudubon.org. Join us on **Facebook** (search Northeast Pennsylvania Audubon Society) and follow us on **Twitter**: @AudubonNEPA.



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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.

Editor: Marileta Robinson

Contributors: Marge Brion, Kathy Dodge, Chris Fischer, Sarah Hall, Jim and Pat Sanders, Sue Thompson

Mark Your Calendars

(Check our website at nepaaudubon.org for the latest information)

Saturday, March 22, 6:30 p.m. WOODCOCK DANCE. Learn about this amazing bird and witness its dramatic nuptial flight. Varden Conservation Area Tannery Access. Call Barbara at 570-253-2364 for information.

Saturday, April 12, 2 p.m. BIRD TUNE-UP. Tune up your eyes and ears for the birding season with Audubon experts. Lackawanna College Environmental Education Center at 93 MacKenzie Rd., Covington Township, in Moscow, PA. Call 570-253-9250 to learn more.

Saturday, April 19, 9 a.m. NEPAS ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY litter pick-up. Join us in a clean-up along Rte 191 near Lake Ariel, PA. You can make nature gorgeous again! Free breakfast afterward. Call Marge at 570-253-9599 to sign up.

Saturday, April 26, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. EARTH DAY FESTIVAL. Programs for all ages. Short bird walks by Audubon (we provide the binoculars). PPL Environmental Learning Center, Rte 6, Hawley, PA. Call 570-253-9250 for information.

Saturday, May 3, 8 a.m. GUIDED BIRD WALK with Barbara Leo. Meet at Bear Wallow Boat Launch in Promised Land State Park. Bring sturdy shoes and binoculars. Call 570-676-3428 ext. 0 or 570-253-2364 for information.

Sunday, May 4, 8 a.m. GUIDED BIRD WALK with Chris Fischer. Lackawanna River Heritage Trail. Meeting place to be announced. Visit nepaaudubon.org for updates.

Saturday, May 10 PENNSYLVANIA ANNUAL MIGRATORY COUNT. Join a team to look for returning migratory birds. No need to be an expert to participate. Contact Chris at 570-446-9597 or cfischer@nepaaudubon.org.

Saturday, May 17, 8 a.m. GUIDED BIRD WALK with Barbara Leo. Learn to identify our summer breeding birds. Prompton State Park on Rte 170 just off Rte 6, west of Honesdale, PA. Call Barb at 570-253-2364 for information.

Saturday, May 24, 8 a.m. NEPAS HIKING CLUB. Memorial Day Hike with Sue Thompson. Salt Springs State Park. Bring a lunch and hiking boots. Meet at Chamber of Commerce bldg. in Honesdale, PA, to carpool. Call 570-352-4997 to register.