

NEPA Audubon Society
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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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Birds, Coffee & Culture in the Land of the Maya

Guatemala's Highlands and Lake Atitlan, March 9-18, 2018

Join us next March for a 10-day journey to Guatemala that will include great birding, scenery, food, world-class coffee, and cultural experiences. Along with the best montane birding opportunities in this scenic country, we will take time to experience the wonderful and colorful living culture of the Maya. We will visit Mayan markets, learn a bit about Guatemalan people and their Mayan culture and also visit the world renowned colonial city of Antigua and the picturesque Lake Atitlan (where we will also have the special opportunity to participate in the first ever

Guatemala Bird Fair).

Guatemala is a fantastic country with a diversity of rich habitats for birds, from montane cloud forest to lowland forest. Led by Chris Fischer, this tour specifically focuses on the highlands of the Chiapas-Guatemala Highlands Endemic Bird Area, where many regionally endemic birds can be found. Our target species will include the **Highland Guan, Ocellated Quail, Fulvous Owl, Black-capped Swallow, Black-throated Jay, Bushy-crested Jay, Rufous-browed Wren, Rufous-collared Robin, Blue-and-white Mockingbird, Pink-headed Warbler, Azure-rumped Tanager, Bar-winged Oriole, and Black-capped Siskin**, among others. There will be an option for those who are physically fit to endure a steep and difficult hike up a volcano in search of **the rare but spectacular Horned Guan**.

Hummingbirds will make an impression with a great diversity of shapes and colors. Some lodges have started using humming-bird feeders, so species that were once quite difficult to find are now much more reliable. These include the **Rufous Sabrewing, Slender Sheartail, Green-throated Mountain-gem, Azure-crowned, Blue-tailed, Amethyst-throated, Garnet-throated, Sparkling-tailed, Wine-throated** as well as tiny and local **Emerald-chinned humming-birds!** We will have a



Pink-Headed Warbler photo and article by Chris Fischer

great chance to leisurely observe many of these little gems. Part of the focus of this tour will also be to enjoy, study and learn about **North American birds in their wintering areas**. Guatemala is vital to northern migrants, including many species that summer here in northeast Pennsylvania. Seeing "our" birds in a different context adds immensely to a fuller understanding of their lives and also of how these birds unite people across borders.

Joining this tour will make you a partner in helping international conservation. **The National Audubon Society** and **Asociación Vivamos Mejor**, based in Panajachel on Lake Atitlan, have teamed up to train Guatemalans to become birding and nature guides. Along with our primary tour leader, we will have their local guiding help throughout this trip, and in turn are helping them make a living while protecting a healthy and diverse ecosystem. Birders who choose to take these tours in order to see and enjoy the natural riches will have a direct economic impact on the local people resulting in preservation of local habitats that maintain a healthy, viable ecotourism industry.

This trip will be limited to 8 participants. Once the itinerary has been finalized (including cost), it will be made available on our website at www.nepaaudubon.org. To be notified when further information is available, please send an email to Chris Fischer at cfischer@nepaaudubon.org or call him at 570-446-9597.

Mark Your Calendars

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

June 17: WORKSHOP: ESTABLISHING GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER HABITAT. Time – 8:30 AM-1 PM. In partnership with the Northern Tier Hardwood Association, we are offering this workshop for forest landowners, loggers, and foresters interested in establishing Golden-winged Warbler habitat. We will spend the morning out in the field examining an ongoing project to establish this critical habitat. We will meet at R Ranch, 162 Beaver Run Lane, Lake Ariel, PA 18436. Please register at nthardwoods.org or contact Sarah at NTHA at 570-265-7753.

July 10: NEPAS Election of Officers Potluck. 5:30 p.m. at our monthly Board Meeting at Jim and Pat Sanders house, just north of Honesdale. All are welcome! Please call 570-253-9250 for directions.

July 22 & 23: NEPAS ART AND CRAFT FESTIVAL. 10 to 5 each day. A wonderful family event with art and crafts for sale, free wildlife shows, nature exhibits, and children's crafts. The \$5 entrance fee supports NEPAS scholarship programs. Children under 12 free. Held at the Wallenpaupack Intermediate and Middle School in Hawley.

September 16: BIRD-WATCHING AT LACAWAC. 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Lacawac Sanctuary. Whether on land or water, birds make their presence known with their songs, cries and brilliant flight. The experts from Northeast Pennsylvania Audubon Society will lead the bird walk. Enjoy the trails at this National Natural Landmark. Registration is limited. Call (570) 689-9494 or email info@lacawac.org.

October 27: OWL BANDING. 8 PM. Join the Northeast PA Audubon Society at the Monroe County Conservation Center to watch Darrel Spicher catch in mist nets, measure and make other observations of Northern Saw-whet Owls, while Jackie Spicher records the information. We can't guarantee he will catch saw-whet owls, but we have been joining him for about 10 years and only once did he fail to catch any of these little owls. For more information and to register, contact Bob at jeanbob@ptd.net.

December 16: AUDUBON'S 118TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. This survey provides critical data for scientists who study the long-term trends in bird populations. Participate and learn how we conduct this local count within a 7.5 mile radius of White Mills, PA. For more information call Barbara at 570-253-2364.

Annual Art and Craft Festival Coming Up

On Saturday July 22nd and Sunday July 23rd we will once again present the annual NEPAS Art and Craft Festival at the Wallenpaupack Intermediate and Middle School Complex. Doors open at 10 a.m. and in addition to almost a hundred artists and crafts peoples presenting their work, there will be wildlife shows each day at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m., educational exhibits, activities for children, and lunch and snacks available in the cafeteria.

Admission is \$5 for adults and children ages 12 and under are free. Proceeds from the festival are used for scholarships for college and family camps. It's a great event for the whole family; bring them all!

Check out <http://www.audubonfestival.com/> for a coupon for the 2017 festival.



SAW-WHET OWL BANDING

At 8:00 PM on Friday, October 27th you can join Northeast PA Audubon Society in watching Darryl and Jackie Speicher of Pocono Avian Research Center as they capture, measure, examine and release Saw-whet Owls. They capture them in mist nets which are fine nets that are stretched across an area. They put a recorder on one side of the net & when we are lucky, the owls fly into the net where Darryl retrieves them. This will be a special treat if you have never seen these little owls, as they are only eight inches tall.

We have been joining Pocono Avian Research Center to observe this owl banding for several years and 2009 was our best year as they caught & banded nine Saw-Whets that night. Nine adults and children had the opportunity to hold & release these little owls. The year before they captured only one but they have caught at least one owl nearly every year we have attended.

We schedule this on a Friday night so children can attend, as they don't have school the next day. We hope you will bring your children as this kind of event will expand their interest in nature! Our children are the future stewards so hopefully they will grow up wanting to protect and conserve life on this planet. This is an exciting event for both children and adults, so come and join us! Call Bob at 570-676-9969 or email him at jeanbob@ptd.net for reservations and details.

Recent Spring Bird Walks

This was our second year presenting the Birding & Breakfast event at the Pike-Wayne Earth Fest. Fifteen of us hiked an easy trail at Schuman Point before returning for breakfast at the Settler's Inn in Hawley. One highlight was a Veery sitting quietly on a low branch giving us all plenty of time to notice its characteristics. Otherwise, birds were scarce. Yellow-Bellied Sapsuckers and Downy Woodpeckers were heard, as was a field sparrow singing its sweet yet melancholy song in a nearby meadow. There was more bird activity in Bingham Park in central Hawley, such as Blue Jays, Crows, Grackles, Robins, and a Turkey Vulture. Many birds have not arrived by mid-April. As I write this in the first week of May, many more species, especially warblers, have arrived.

Our May 6 bird walk at Prompton State Park was led by David Trently. One other person joined him, braving the threatening rain and enjoyed a wonderful birding morning. Rain fell for only about 5 minutes during the three hour walk. They identified 62 species of birds.

At the picnic area above the dam, an Osprey crashed into the water, unsuccessful in its hunt for a fish. It floated in the water a while before flying off, startling a Great Blue Heron. Two male Common Mergansers, soon followed by two females, flew down the lake. The skies were filled with Tree Swallows. They heard several Yellow Warblers. An American Kestrel flew into a tree, where it stopped to eat a large worm for breakfast.

They then drove up along the west side of the lake to the trails at the north end of the reservoir. Here they were

treated to a large assortment of birds, some highlights being Yellow-throated Vireo, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Veery, Wood Thrush, Ovenbird, Louisiana Waterthrush, Black-and-white Warbler, several American Redstarts, Black-throated Blue Warbler, White-crowned Sparrows feeding high up in a tree, Scarlet Tanager, Purple Finches and several Baltimore Orioles. A drive up the road from the trailhead added Bobolinks and a calling Wild Turkey.

Our May 7 bird walk at the Himalayan Institute led by Kathy Dodge with help from Jim Sanders and expert birder David Trently yielded thirty-seven species including a Red-breasted Nuthatch and Ruby-crowned Kinglets. They saw Great Blue Herons coming and going from a heronry far across the valley. Bobolinks flew back and forth over the Institute's "Sound of Music Hill," sending out their tinkling song that sounds like a music box gone mad. Bobolinks are one of many species in decline due to habitat loss. They like open fields which are often cut for hay before the young have fledged.

The group enjoyed breakfast at the Institute following the walk. Please consider joining us for our next bird walk, there are many great species to see!



Baltimore Oriole and Sapsucker

Annual Appeal

Our annual appeal was held in November and December. Your generous donations enable us to continue our mission. We would like to thank everyone who responded to us. Below is a list of donors:

David and Ann Hawk, Jim and Pat Sanders, David Clemens, Chris and Ronnie Fischer, Laura Sowpel, Virginia Shupp.

Mary S. Ei, Sandra Ward Povse, Mary Ann Gilmartin, Barbara Leo, Patricia A. Darcy, Thomas Pane, Nancy Ross.
Barbara Winters, Nancy Koberleen, David B. Soete, G. Roebing and Karen J. Gravel Jr., Stanley Bartleson, Richard D. Gilardi, Carsten O. Bjornstad, Marileta Robinson, J.B.Scerno.

Joseph Deacon, W. Heitman, James and Nancy Cruger.
Nancy Fritz, Elizabeth Thomas-Richie, Gloria E. Tabares, William Reitsma, Linda WermannTruman, Kevin Mullaly, Joan Austin, Katharine Dodge, Richard Wilson, Jack Barnett, Thomas Brennan, Marilyn J. Macvey, and Elizabeth Novack.

Thank You Very Much!

INTERESTED IN JOINING THE NEPAS BOARD?

NEPAS is looking for people interested in joining our Board as a director or officer. Anyone interested please call 570-253-9250.

The board meets every first Monday of the month at 5:30 in Honesdale.

A big thank you to the seventeen people who participated in our annual litter pick-up on April 15th, including a local 4-H group that has helped us for several years. Audubon is unique in that we separate recyclables from trash. We take care of the recyclables, so that PennDOT only has to pick up the trash bags. Fifteen bags of trash and nine bags of recyclable items were collected. Pete Snyder prepared and served breakfast to the volunteers after their hard work, supplemented by banana bread from Nancy Savage. **From 4H:** Laura Mayeski, Tracy Koezeno, Hanna Bronson, Kaitlin, Kim, and Emily Wheeler, Shanna Bodine, Alyssa Czekai. **From Audubon:** David, Shaylee, Robin, and Brian Trently, Keith Williams, Kathy Dodge, Pete Snyder, and from SEEDS, Mary Anne Carletta and Jack Barnett. Thanks all!

--Kathy Dodge, Coordinator

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.

A generous donation was made in April in honor of Jim and Pat Sanders 50th Wedding Anniversary. Congratulations to this wonderful couple. Thank you for the donation!

Find lots more about birds and the environment and the latest information on upcoming programs at www.nepaaudubon.org.



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and



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