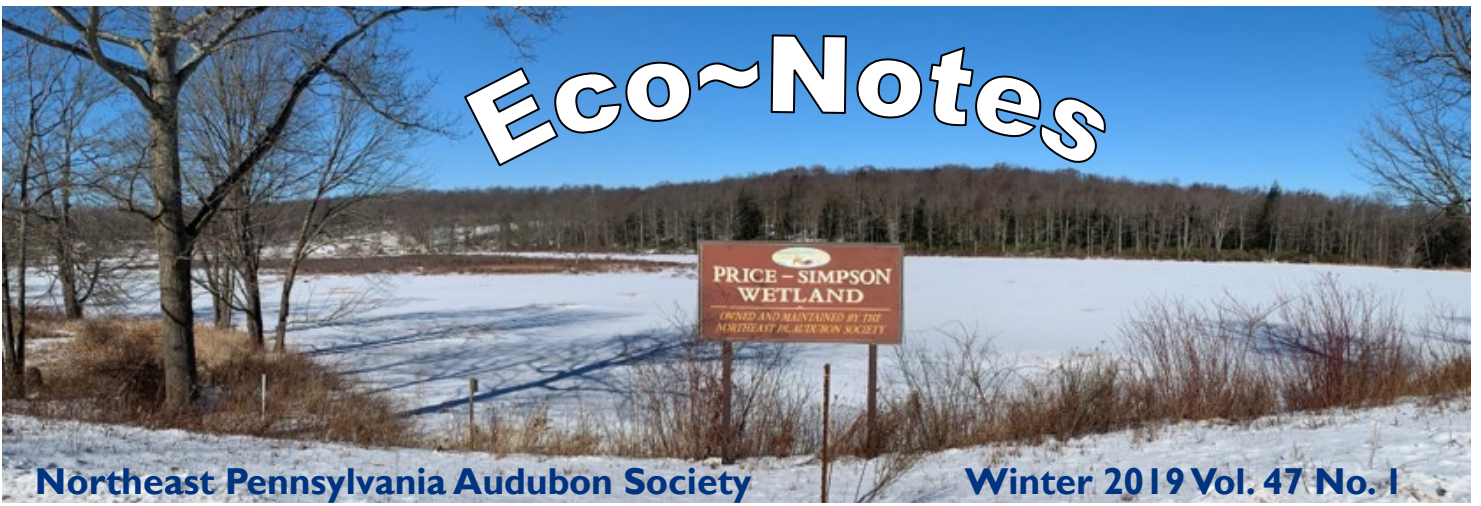


# Eco~Notes



Northeast Pennsylvania Audubon Society

Winter 2019 Vol. 47 No. 1

## Family Camp Scholarship available to beautiful Hog Island, Maine

We are once again offering a free scholarship for an adult and child to attend Family Camp on an island in Maine the week of August 11 to 16th, 2019. Application deadline is March 15, 2019. Please visit [nepa.audubon.org](http://nepa.audubon.org) for applications.

The camp is designed for families with children ages 8-13 years old. The Audubon scholarship is for one child and one related adult. One of the two applicants must reside in Lackawanna, Susquehanna, Wayne or northern Pike County, Pennsylvania. Grandparents, aunts, or uncles are welcome.

The Audubon Family Camp provides a unique opportunity for families to enjoy nature together. The pristine environment on Hog Island, Maine offers a wide variety of habitats for nature study. Campers cruise Muscongus Bay in search of seabirds and seals. They examine aquatic insects and amphibians in a freshwater pond, look for mushrooms and wildflowers in the forest, and search for fish and marine invertebrates along the intertidal zone. Evening programs include night hikes and stargazing. Each day begins with an optional early morning bird walk and ends with a family campfire program filled with songs, stories, and skits.

"We have witnessed how transformative the experience has been over the 30-plus years we have sent people to this wonderful island," says Audubon board member Pete Snyder.



Hog Island. Photo by Chris Fisher.

Last year's scholarship recipient's, Jessica and Evan Yoder, shared the following about their week in Maine: "From the moment we parked the car Sunday, to the last goodbye on the boat Friday morning, we had a phenomenal week. A week of adventure, unique discoveries, and new friendships, as we explored all the amazing sites on Hog Island. We got an up close and personal view of pulling up lobster cages to even more incredible sightings of puffins ready for migration. Evan hit the bed thoroughly exhausted and grinning from ear to ear every night of this trip. So far, at age 10, this was his "Adventure of a Lifetime"...maybe for Mom too!"



Jessica and Evan Yoder at camp on the island.

If you would like to learn more about the island and what it's like going to camp there, please join us for a presentation by Island staff member Eric Snyder on Tuesday, February 12th at 5:30 PM at the Wayne County Public Library in Honesdale.

Eric, the facilities manager and instructor from Hog Island, will tell us all about the island, how they help puffins and other shore birds on nesting islands, and provide details about the camp. You can also go to [www.hogisland.audubon.org](http://www.hogisland.audubon.org) for more about the island camp. (Use of the library's rooms by Northeast Pa. Audubon does not constitute an endorsement by the library of the group's policies or beliefs.)

## College Scholarship Offered Again This Year

Each year, the Northeast PA Audubon Society offers a \$4000 scholarship to a student within our region. Proceeds from our annual Art and Craft Festival in July allow us to offer this great opportunity each year. This college scholarship is open to all high school seniors in Lackawanna, Susquehanna, Wayne and Pike Counties of PA who will be attending a two or four-year college full time and majoring in one of the following: Forestry, Natural Resources, Environmental Planning or Engineering, Fish, Game, or Wildlife Management, Ecology and/or Environmental Studies.

The scholarship is awarded in increments of \$1,000 per year each year. Applications are available at nepaudubon.org and are due by April 30, 2019.



**The 32nd annual Audubon Art and Crafts Festival** was held in July and was a great success! We had three great wildlife shows each day, nearly 100 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 a family to attend the Hog Island Audubon Camp in the summer.

The 2019 festival will be held on Saturday, July 20th and Sunday the 21st at the Wallenpaupack High School, so mark your calendars! Your attendance makes these scholarships possible, and it's a fun family event as well. See you there!

## Annual Appeal a Success

The 2018 Annual Letter Appeal was conducted during the months of December and January. This appeal is only conducted once a year. The donations received from this appeal are used for the continuation of workshops, programs and field trips offered to the various communities and schools throughout our region. The response has been very heartwarming.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has donated to us this time and in the past. (If you haven't donated and would like to do so, please go to our website for the information on how to do this.)

A special thank you to the following people who have already donated: Nancy Ross, Mary S. Ei, Ann Gilmartin, Marie Savage Leach, Joseph Scerno, David Soete, Mary Ann Bryant, Mr. & Mrs. Howard Griggs, Anita Doll, Barbara L. Winters, Sandra Jobson, and John Dyson.

Thank You!

-Nancy Savage, Treasurer

## FROM YOUR NEPAS PRESIDENT

As another year came to a close, it's natural and appropriate to look back at what we've done, and more appropriately to look forward at our challenges and opportunities for the upcoming year.

2018 was for us, another year of successful programs, education, and advocacy, and I am particularly proud of our small Board's efforts to bring the education effort to young people. We have done this through programs offered at our libraries, our annual Art and Craft Festival, and other venues in our area. In addition, we have continued our mission of advocating for preservation of habitat and for the environment we all share by making our voices heard on local, state, and national issues that affect our environment. Have we done enough? Never, but we do what our limited resources enable.

Looking forward into 2019, we see many challenges, the biggest of them being the threat to our planet by global climate change, and we will continue our education and advocacy efforts to counter this threat. We urge all of you to get involved in the many ways that are open to all of us, from the very simple act of putting out bird feeders to help birds survive their challenges, to burning less fossil fuel, to consuming less and conserving more, to recycling, and by voting your convictions about preserving our environment.

Best wishes for a happy, clean, and clear 2019!

-Jim Sanders

## Two Major Climate Crisis Reports Demand Our Attention

We are seeing an alarming rise in catastrophic floods, droughts, wildfires, and huge storms. Not only is this costing us money and human lives, but it is devastating the natural world. Those of us who take notice of birds, have been alarmed about the climate crisis for years. National Audubon issued a birds and climate change report in 2014 showing how they are being impacted. Shorebird's hatchlings are drowning on shores hit by major storms and higher tides.

Birds are suffering and dying from storms, fires, and food source and habitat changes. Two major reports in the Fall of 2018 spell out in detail how greenhouse gases are altering our planet. One is from the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. (You can read a 34 page summary for policy makers at [https://report.ipcc.ch/sr15/pdf/sr15\\_spm\\_final.pdf](https://report.ipcc.ch/sr15/pdf/sr15_spm_final.pdf)) The other is from our own government, which, by law, is supposed to present a report on climate change every four years. (See it at <https://nca2018.globalchange.gov/>)

The UN report says that we have only twelve years to take major action to keep global warming from exceeding a 1.5 degree Celsius rise. This might not seem like a scary number, but, the difference between this and a 2 degree Celsius rise is the choice between planet survival and its grim alternative. Here are some examples that half a degree would make:

- At a 1.5°C rise, the percentage of the world population exposed to water stress could be 50% lower than at 2°C.
- At a 2°C rise, 99% of the world's corals would be lost. At 1.5°C, 10% might remain.
- A 2°C versus 1.5°C rise will mean insects are nearly twice as likely to lose half their habitat.

Our government's report, issued by thirteen federal agencies and released by the administration on Black Friday, a day when most people are not tuned in to the news, makes it very clear that we are in deep trouble. If we do not tackle the climate crisis, our economy may shrink by 10% over the next 80 years. Some highlights of projected financial costs are \$141 billion from heat-related deaths, \$118 billion from rising seas, and \$32 billion from damage to infrastructure. Putting a price tag on the climate crisis might just wake up those who see the world through the lens of dollar signs.

The U.S. report outlines three main solutions:

- Put a price on greenhouse gas emissions using taxes or imposing fees on polluting companies
- Government regulations on greenhouse gas pollution
- Spending public money on clean-energy research

At present, our tax dollars still SUBSIDIZE the fossil fuel industry! How crazy is that? We all need to come together to mobilize for a livable future. We DID mobilize for a common cause during World War II. People pulled together: Victory Gardens, gathering of scrap metal by children, rationing, the retrofitting of auto plants to build tanks, the incredible ship building effort, Rosie the riveter. We again have a common cause—saving the entire planet. We CAN still prevent runaway climate disaster, but, only with a huge global mobilization.

-Katharine Dodge

### 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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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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Contributors: Jim Sanders, Katharine Dodge, Jessica and Evan Yoder, and Nancy Savage

### *Mark Your Calendars*

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

**FEBRUARY 12: PRESENTATION – SUMMER CAMP AT HOG ISLAND, MAINE.** 5:30 PM at the Wayne County Public Library, Honesdale. Want to go to Family Camp on an island in Maine for FREE? Find out more from a member of National Audubon's island staff, Eric Snyder.

**FEBRUARY 19: WHAT MAKES ME SPECIAL.** 6:30 PM at the Taylor Library, 710 S Main St, Taylor, PA 18517. Ways Critters and Plants Survive. This program will explore adaptations of a variety of species, from plants and insects to fish and mammals, including humans. Please RSVP at 570-562-1234.

**February 15-18: GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT.** Fri, Sat, Sun, Mon dawn to dusk. Count birds in your back yard for Citizen Science in Cornell's important national survey! For all the information on how to participate, check out their website at <http://gbbc.birdcount.org/>

**March 2: BLACK BEAR, BLACK BEAR, WHERE DO YOU SLEEP.** 1:00 PM at the Carbondale Library. Learn about where our animal neighbors go in winter, how they stay warm, how they survive, hibernation, migration, and other ways creatures cope with the cold months of winter.

**March 4: BIRD & NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY** program by Mike Malzone. 6:30 p.m. at the Honesdale Chamber of Commerce Building. Join the Audubon Society as Mike Malzone gives his presentation on the basics of photography for beginners, with an emphasis on photographing birds & wildlife.

**April 13: "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.

**May 4: BIRD WALK AT LACAWAC SANCTUARY,** Begins at 8 a.m. Meet at the visitor center. We'll explore the area around the Lacawac Sanctuary, looking for birds setting up their nests as well as migrants just passing through. We recommend you bring binoculars.

**April 27: NEPA GREEN FAIR,** from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Nay Aug Park in Scranton: a day-long celebration of all things sustainable, with delicious, healthy food, prizes, music, educational programs and classes. There will also be a 5k Run/Walk at 9 AM. For details, go to [nepagreenfair.com](http://nepagreenfair.com)

**May 5: BIRDS AND BAGELS,** 8 a.m. Meet at the historic Beere School just north of the Himalayan Institute on Route 670 for breakfast refreshments and a short tutorial on bird identification techniques before going on an easy bird walk to use your new-found skills. RSVP at 570-253-9250 or [audubonworks@gmail.com](mailto:audubonworks@gmail.com).

**May 11: PENNSYLVANIA ANNUAL MIGRATION COUNT.** Join a team to look for returning migratory birds. All ages, all levels of expertise & knowledge welcome. Contact David at 570-909-8052 or [david@pibird.com](mailto:david@pibird.com).

**May 18: Wetlands Program.** Varden Conservation Area. Check [nepaaudubon.org](http://nepaaudubon.org) for more details.

**June 2: BIRD WALK at FOX HILL FARM.** Join us on Sunday, June 2, 2019 at 8:00 a.m. at Fox Hill Farm in Honesdale. Learn about birds of the farm and beyond. Bring your binoculars! Snack will be provided. For reservations, call Katharine at 570-647-9476 or email [foxhillfarmexperience@gmail.com](mailto:foxhillfarmexperience@gmail.com).

**June 16: FATHER'S DAY CANOE AND KAYAK OUTING.** Join us for a wonderful 5-6 mile float down the Delaware. Bring a dish to share for supper at a nearby cabin after the trip. Don't have a boat? A few are available, but reserve early. Call Pete at 570-253-9250.