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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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Eco~Notes

Photo by Ronnie J. Fischer

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

The annual NEPA Audubon Art and Craft Festival will be held on Saturday, July 16 and Sunday July 17 from 10 am to 5 pm each day. It will feature wildlife art and other art and crafts for sale, educational displays, and wildlife shows featuring live animals, birds and reptiles.

This is a not-to-be-missed event, and is a great show for the entire family! Food will also be available, as well as games and crafts for small children, and door prizes. Admission is \$5.00 for adults, and children under 12 are free.

The proceeds are used to support our scholarship program. For more information, please visit: <http://www.audubonfestival.com/>

-Jim Sanders -Vice President



2016 Spring Wildflower Hike

Even though we had a cool and wet late spring, there was still a lot to see on our annual wildflower walk at Prompton State Park on April 30th. There is a short window of only a few weeks to view the blossoming spring ephemerals that line the forest floor before the leaves start to break overhead.

Red trillium (*Trillium erectum*) is always a favorite find with its beautiful reddish purple color. It is also known as Stinking Benjamin because of its unpleasant odor which attracts the flies that pollinate the flower. A delicate white flower named for its appearance of hanging upside-down pants, Dutchman's breeches (*Dicentra cucullaria*) were found in abundance on the bank overlooking the river. We also saw toothwort, trout lily, smooth yellow violet and many others.

We also used a key for some of the flowers to better understand how to identify wildflowers using a field guide, Newcomb's Wildflower Guide being my first choice. Some of the other favorites on the North Shore Trail such as bloodroot and Solomon's seal were not in flower yet because of the cool weather. Perhaps we will see them again next year!

-Sarah-Hall-Bagdonas -President



Red trillium (*Trillium erectum*) at Prompton State Park.
Photo by Sarah Hall-Bagdonas.

Mark Your Calendars

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

July 11: 5:30 p.m.: NEPAS Election of Officers & Picnic. Prompton State Park. Nominations and elections at 5:30, followed by a barbeque picnic & outdoor activities. All members and the public welcome.

July 16 & 17: 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 Wallenpaupck High School on Rt 6 in Hawley.

July 30: POCONO WATERFALL TOUR with Sue Thompson. A day-long tour of our area's waterfalls. Trails easy to moderate. Wear hiking shoes and bring a lunch. Rain or shine unless pouring! Meet and return to Brookfield Environmental Learning Center off Rt 6, Hawley, PA. Suggested donation \$5 for adults, \$3 for ages 5 to 12. Registration required. Contact Sue at 570-352-4997.

September 10 or 24: WORKSHOP: ESTABLISHING GOLDEN-WINGED WARBLER HABITAT. Time - TBA. In partnership with the Northern Tier Hardwood Association, we are offering this follow-up workshop in Lake Ariel, PA for forest landowners, loggers, and foresters interested in establishing Golden-winged Warbler habitat. Please contact Sarah at 570-265-7753.

September 17: 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. BIRD-WATCHING ON THE WATER and a bagel breakfast in the historic Watres Lodge at Lacawac Sanctuary. Let's paddle on Lake Lacawac and find out which birds enjoy this secret spot. Registration is limited. Call Lacawac at (570) 689-9494 or email info@lacawac.org. Cost: \$15/person or \$10/members

October 16: OWL BANDING. 8 PM. Revel in the migration of the smallest nocturnal raptor in the eastern U.S. Witness its capture in mist nets, collection of data, and the release of this little 8 inch owl. For more information and to register, contact Bob at jeanbob@ptd.net.

December 17: AUDUBON'S 117TH 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 Migration Count Tallies 102 Species in Wayne County

On Saturday, May 14, 2016, volunteers in Wayne County joined hundreds of others across the state for the Pennsylvania Annual Migratory Count (PAMC), a one-day survey of birds that migrate through Pennsylvania. 102 different species were identified in Wayne County over the 24-hour period. Highlights of the day included an amazing 24 species of warblers -- including Worm-Eating, Cape May and Bay-breasted -- as well as Pine Siskin, Sora, and Least Sandpiper.

The data collected during this quick snapshot of the spring seasonal movement of birds spending their time in Pennsylvania 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?

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.

- Chris Fischer - Communications Chair

The 2015 Annual Letter Appeal was conducted in late November and the month of December 2015. The appeal is only conducted once a year. The donations received from this appeal are used for the continuation of programs and field trips offered to the various communities and schools that are in our regions. 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 information on how to do this.)

Thank you to the following people for their continuous support through our appeal: Jack Barnett, Marie Savage Leach, Kevin Mullally, Janey Loewe, Merabeth Moore, Pete Snyder and Kathy Dodge, Sandra Provse, Stevem and Lida Strauchler, Mary Keene, Joseph Deacon, Dano Miller, Paula Gannon, Carol Jemphill, Joann Appleyard, Jane Cullen, Bob and Linda Truman, Janet Crowther, Chris and Ronnie Fischer, John and Nancy Cruger, and Nancy Savage.

In Memoriam:

Donations were received in memory of Richard M. Boswell.

By: Nancy Savage, Treasurer



2016 Environmental Hog Island Camp Scholarship winners Beverly Beers and Carly Martin and board member Lindsay Barrett George.

Northeast Pennsylvania Audubon Society offers a full scholarship for a child aged 8–12 and an accompanying adult family member to attend an environmental camp especially designed for families on Hog Island off the coast of Maine.

This specific session runs from August 14 through August 19, 2016 and provides a unique opportunity for a child and a family member to nature together. Activities include cruising Muscongus Bay to see seabirds and seals; examining aquatic insects, fish, amphibians, mushrooms, and wildflowers; and exploring the life of tide pools. In the evenings, there are night hikes, campfire programs, and star gazing. Comfortable lodging on the island and delicious food add to the magical experience.

If you are interested in future scholarship information or would like additional information and pictures of Hog Island, please visit the [Hog Island](#) website. If you have any questions, please call (570) 253-9250.



Happy Earth Day participants ready for the Species Parade with their homemade bird headdresses.

Earth Day Birding & Breakfast

Nineteen people participated in our Birding & Breakfast event on Sunday April 24th, as part of the Hawley Earth Fest. We walked along the Lackawaxen River Trail identifying 17 species of birds. We had beautiful up-close sightings of Bluebird and Tree Swallow pairs guarding their nest boxes, a male Common Merganser brilliant in the morning sun sitting in the middle of the river, House Finches and the greenish female Goldfinch.

Turkey Vultures circled low above us triggering a conversation about their value as nature's garbage trucks. We spotted Chipping Sparrows, Song Sparrows, iridescent Grackles, a flashy Bluejay, and Robins (which probably should have been our national bird as it is so accessible to everyone and so cheery). Other sightings: American Crow, Tufted Titmouse, House Sparrow, Cardinal, the urban-loving Pigeon, and those pesky Starlings. Many of the participants were new to birding and were thrilled with the outing. One of the more experienced birders had never seen a bluebird.

Breakfast at the Settler's Inn followed where we continued our conversations about birds, our up-coming Art & Craft Festival, and scholarship opportunities (there were three children in our group).

Thank you Barbara Leo and Pat & Jim Sanders for helping spot birds.

--Katharine Dodge, event coordinator



Adopt-a-Highway

Thank you to the seventeen people who helped with our 2016 litter pick-up on April 16th: Eleven 4-H members and six Audubon board members. Several of the 4-H volunteers have been involved in litter pick up for many years. We are happy to join forces with such dedicated volunteers. Mother Nature was friendly to us---warm and sunny.

We packed nineteen bags of trash and six bags of recycling. I think Audubon is unique in that we separate recycling from the trash. We take the recycling to the recycling facility ourselves.

Pete Snyder did not pick up litter because he was in the kitchen preparing breakfast from our own eggs for all of us following our hard work. Thank you, Pete! And thank you to Pat Sanders for sending along her famous blueberry cake and Nancy Savage for supplying huge banana breads and coffee cake!

We have to admit that we were discouraged to find trash along this stretch of highway the very next day. But, it just shows how important this program is year after year.

--Katharine Dodge, Adopt-a-Highway Chair

NOTICE

A general meeting of NEPAS will be held Monday, July 11th at 5:30 P.M. at Prompton State Park at which time the following business will be transacted:

1. Election of Officers and Board Members for the coming Year
2. A vote on the proposed revised By Laws (a copy of the proposed revised By Laws can be seen on the Society's web site (<http://www.nepaaudubonsociety.org>) a summary of the proposed revision follows)
3. Other business that may be brought before the membership.

Summary of proposed By Law changes:

1. Elimination of the Limited Membership in NEPAS.
2. Clarify sections on the removal and resignation of Board Members.
3. Change in some committees.
4. Allow electronic means as a way to transact Society business.
5. Grammatical correction and language clarification.

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.

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



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and



Follow us on **Twitter**: @AudubonNEPA.