

South Mountain Airs

The Newsletter of the South Mountain Audubon Society

August – September 2013, Volume XXXVIII #3 – The E-mail Edition

SMAS Annual Club Picnic

Please note that South Mountain Audubon has no club activities of any kind during the month of July.

Monday August 12th – Annual Picnic

The Annual SMAS picnic will be held at Ms. Laura Hershey's home, 8164 Carlisle Pike, York Springs, PA, 17372. Dinner will be at 6pm. Please bring a dish to share with other attendees. All are welcome to come at 5pm. Please bring a place setting for yourself and those in your group.

And do not forget to psych yourselves up for the “Annual SMAS Bean Bag” competition.

Directions: Northbound on US #15 at the York Springs exit, go East on PA #94, Carlisle Pike. #8164 will be on the right shortly East of the interchange.

UPCOMING SMAS PROGRAMS & PRESENTATIONS

Unless indicated otherwise, all SMAS Programs are held at the Adams County Agricultural Resource Center, 670 Old Harrisburg Road, Gettysburg, PA at 7:30 PM. A room number for the SMAS meeting will be posted on the front lobby entry inner door.

We've posted the information on our total activities' schedule at the end of this edition.

UPCOMING MONTHLY PROGRAMS

Monday September 9th - **“Commemorating the 30th Anniversary of Reintroduction of Bald Eagles to PA”**

Patti Barber, the PA Game Commission's wildlife biologist for threatened and endangered bird species, will show a video which tells the story of the Bald Eagle in our state. She will also bring us up to date on relevant statistics for the current season.

Ms. Barber has worked with a wide variety of birds on three continents. She received her bachelor's degree in biology from Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven, Connecticut, and her master's degree in zoology from University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. Her master's research focused on behavioral ecology issues associated with mate guarding and paternity in Red-faced Warblers. After completing her master's Patti worked with federally listed Red-cockaded Woodpeckers and Florida Scrub-jays on the Avon Park Bombing Range in central Florida. Currently, Patti is the Game Commission's wildlife biologist responsible for threatened and endangered birds. Patti and her family reside in Schuylkill County.

Monday October 14th - **“A Fledgling Experience – Inside the Nest Box”**

Ms. Nancy Putt, York County Coordinator for the Bluebird Society, presents: “A Fledgling Experience” - slide show / video “Inside The Nestbox about bluebirds, and what we can do to promote nesting success for bluebirds and other cavity nesting birds.

Ms. Putt's interest in bluebirds started 15 years ago when she created a "Bluebird Trail" at Range End Golf Course, the Audubon Sanctioned Golf Course where she is employed as the horticulturist. This is when she joined up with the Bluebird Society of PA, serving currently as Secretary (and is a past President).

UPCOMING SMAS FIELD TRIPS

Contact Mike O'Brien, Field Trip Chair, as necessary for more information on all Field Trips, the annual Christmas Bird Count and the Spring Migration Count: 717.642.6676 Res / maddogobrien@gmail.com E-mail.

Please let the Leader know in advance if you plan to attend any field trip, especially if you plan to go direct. Trips are subject to weathering out, especially in the colder months, or otherwise being changed. In addition, if we have only one or two known attendees, we may change, cancel or reschedule a given field trip. We cannot alert you unless we hear from you.

Wednesday September 25th - Hawk Watch Trip – Location To Be Decided (TBD)

We will be having our traditional annual trip to see migrating raptors as usual, but we are not making a decision on a location until we hear from interested attendees, learn how many are coming, and if there are any specific physical requirements. We may go to the Tuscarora Ridge summit where US #30 passes over the crest of the ridge, near McConnellsburg, PA; the Waggoner's Gap Hawkwatch where PA Rte #74 crosses the mountain outside Carlisle, PA, or Monument Knob at Turners Gap along South Mountain in Washington County, just east of Boonsboro, MD.

Broad-winged Hawks will still be going through at this time. Kestrels and Red-tailed Hawks should be present in good numbers and most other raptors are possible at this time.

This is just a few weeks away, so let us know if you are interested.

We will carpool to the extent possible. Bring a chair if you wish as well as personal/food/drink items. Bring apparel as dictated by the weather. Tentative meeting time is 8:30 AM with return in mid-afternoon.

Saturday December 14th - #114 Annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC) - Gettysburg Areas

All are invited and welcome to join SMAS for the 2013 CBC. This will be the 114th consecutive Christmas Bird Count and is an example of Citizen Science at its best.

Please note the annual CBC is traditionally in lieu of a December field trip.

Please see the upcoming 4th Quarter Newsletter for complete information and details on this year's CBC.

Mark your calendars now for the #114th Audubon Christmas Bird Count.

Book Review

The Handbook of Bird Photography by Varesvuo, Peltomaki & Mate

The beautiful photographs alone make this book a worthwhile purchase. This softcover book is 358 pages long and there are stellar bird photos from around the world on almost every page.

As a novice and amateur photographer I found some of the information on the mechanics and techniques of photography to be way above my level of understanding or ambitions, but for those who are more experienced than I am and who have a much higher level of photographic capabilities than I do, this would be an excellent resource.

Having said that, I would recommend this book even to a beginning nature photographer who is interested in birds or other types of nature. Simple tips on basic photography are numerous and they include such topics as acquiring appropriate accessories, finding productive bird photography areas, using weather issues to one's advantage, lighting, cropping, and focus for still and motion photographs. The book is divided into short, interesting chapters and the read is informative as well as captivating.

While much of the book is based on the photographers' experiences photographing in Finland, there are chapters devoted to various places around the world including Iceland, Costa Rica, Hungary and Japan.

This review was graciously provided by Linette Mansberger, a South Mountain Audubon member and Board Member / Secretary.

Accessing the SMAS Newsletter

A great feature of having the Newsletter on-line and receiving it via e-mail, is that you can always access a misplaced or discarded issue at a future date. You can access the Newsletter in several ways.

First, if you do not routinely discard your emails or you retain selected items in your in-box or transfer them to a saved information folder or similar, you can always access them at a future date on your own system.

Second, we post the electronic edition on the internet at the following url: perch.es

Simply copy the url and paste it into your browser search box or just type it in (Clicking will often not work).

The first header that appears is for the current (most recent) issue. In addition, there is a heading, by year, for past quarter issues which we archive on the site. We have put the past issues here since we started the electronic edition.

Third, you can access it on the internet at the Yahoo.com Chat Group site, Adams County Nature Chat (AdCoNaChat). Presence of the information on this site may lag the Newsletter somewhat.

We post our SMAS field trips, meeting dates and topics, special events like an annual picnic, annual luncheon, and other club news on the calendar. There are directions uploaded to the files section for some areas we have trips to, and also, we often upload the species list from completed field trips and Christmas Bird Counts on the Files area.

You can access the AdCoNaChat web-site at the link provided below. This is the link to the home page and from there you can access posts and messages by members, the Calendar and Files section, and much more. Copy and paste the following url into your browser search box:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AdCoNaChat/>

And, of course, per information above re the new SMAS Website, you can reference current & past issues there.

SMAS Annual Schedule Information

Regular SMAS Monthly Program Meetings are held Jan / Mar / May / June / Sept / Oct / Nov.

Unless indicated otherwise, are all meetings are held on Mondays at 7:30 PM at the Adams County Agricultural Center. Please see complete information at the beginning of this and every Newsletter in case there is any variation by quarter. Please check individual programs in each issue in the event of a change in times and / or venue.

Field Trips are normally held monthly in Jan / Feb / Mar / April / May / Jun / Sept / Oct / Nov. In December we substitute the annual Christmas Bird Count for the monthly field trip.

Some of these monthly field trips traditionally repeat each year, such as the Christmas Bird Count and the Migration Count in May. We usually go to a nearby hawk watch site in late September or early October.

The Annual Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is held by design between 14 Dec and 5 Jan. For SMAS, this is in lieu of a regular field trip. We schedule our SMAS CBC on the first available Saturday after 13 Dec. In the event of really bad weather, we may cancel and reschedule.

The Annual Luncheon has been traditionally held in April, in lieu of, the regular monthly meeting.

Our SMAS Annual Picnic and get together is held in August on the second Monday. This is "Bring A Dish" to share and the kickoff is 5 PM with dinner at 6 PM. In addition to bringing a dish to share, attendees should bring their own place setting materials. Drinks and some type of main dish(es) will be provided. See the summer Newsletter edition for details on times and directions.

All meetings, field trips and other activities are subject to weathering out or other cancellation reasons. If you are on our email list (receiving our Newsletters and other information) you will get an email notification as soon as the decision is made. Otherwise, if there is some question based on the weather or some other issue, please contact the field trip leader or someone from the list of Board Members / Committee Chairpersons applicable to your question(s).

OTHER SMAS RELATED INFORMATION

<u>Board Members</u>	Point of Contact	Telephone	Email address
President	Deb Siefken	677-4830	siefkend@embarqmail.com
Vice-President	Carole Simon	337-1662	carolesimon@embarqmail.com
Secretary	Linette Mansberger	495-8137	lmcopperhead@aol.com
Treasurer	Mike Bertram	352-7936	the2nomads@hughes.net
Director At Large	Nancy Locher	334-4768	nclocher@embarqmail.com
Director At Large	Rusty Ryan	642-9293	rryan@adamscounty.us
Director At Large	Cy Deitz	253-0297	sdeitz1630@comcast.net
<u>Committee Chairs</u>			
Conservation	Emily Cost	642-5840	emilyc@strawberryhill.org
Education	Emily Cost	642-5840	emilyc@strawberryhill.org
Field Trips	Mike O'Brien	642-6676	maddogobrien@gmail.com
Hospitality	Vacant		
Membership	Mike O'Brien	642-6676	maddogobrien@gmail.com
Programs	Bob Brandt	677-8323	brantownb@aol.com
Publicity	Elizabeth Weller	339-8443	amazingheartfarm@comcast.net
Newsletter	Mike O'Brien	642-6676	maddogobrien@gmail.com

Please note our board members and officers are nominated near year end every year and elections are held at the first regular public meeting each year which takes place in January on the second Monday of the month. All are invited.