

South Mountain Airs

The Newsletter of the South Mountain Audubon Society

October – December 2018, Volume XXXVIII #4 – The E-mail Edition

UPCOMING EVENTS

From: South Mountain Audubon <southmountainaudubon@gmail.com>

Subject: Join our Adams County "Friendly Birding Competition!"

Fall Migration is underway!

Birds have started moving towards their winter residences. So I am dusting off the bird arrivals and departures database and restarting our competition. There are 3 parts to the competition:

Bird Arrivals – winter residents arriving – birds such as Common Merganser, American Pipit, Brown Creeper, Winter Wren, White-throated Sparrow, Hermit Thrush, Dark-eyed Junco.

Bird Departures – summer residents leaving – birds such as Green Heron, Spotted Sandpiper, Osprey, Broad-winged Hawk, Red-shouldered Hawk, Whip-poor-will, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Acadian Flycatcher, Eastern Phoebe, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Red-eyed Vireo, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, House Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Wood Thrush, Louisiana Waterthrush, Ovenbird, Black-and-white Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, American Redstart, Northern Parula, Yellow Warbler, Chestnut-sided Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Indigo Bunting, Scarlet Tanager, Bobolink, Baltimore Oriole, Brown Thrasher, Grasshopper Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow.

Pass-thrus – migrants who just pass through Adams County – birds such as Wilson's Snipe, Solitary Sandpiper, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Cape May Warbler, Palm Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Bay-breasted Warbler, Blackburnian Warbler, Magnolia Warbler.

So start sending me your sightings and I will tabulate them (sightings in Adams County only). I will send out the lists of sightings to those who were on the email list this spring. If you want to be added to or omitted from the Bird Arrivals and Departures list, let me know at SMAS@SouthMountainAudubon.org . – Mike Bertram

UPCOMING REGULAR MEETINGS

Unless indicated otherwise, all SMAS Programs are held at the Adams County Agricultural Resource Center, 670 Old Harrisburg Road, Gettysburg, PA . Refreshments, when served, are usually available at 7 PM with a social time followed by the scheduled program / presentation at 7:30PM. 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 throughout the year at the end of this edition. 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 cancel or reschedule a given field trip. We cannot alert you unless we hear from you.

Monday October 15th - - “The World Is Our Classroom,” An evening with author Cindy Ross. How one family used nature & travel to shape an extraordinary education.

Please note Starting time is 7 PM.

Cindy’s story begins in the Rocky Mountain wilderness on a unique and extraordinary journey: two parents leading their young children 3,100 miles on the backs of llamas. This Canada-Mexico trek illustrated to Cindy and her husband what experiential education can do. Inspired by the experience, they went on to create a new way of supplementing their children’s education, focusing on two arenas for learning: the natural world and travel.

A deep believer in Richard Louv's worldwide advocacy of reconnecting children to the natural world, *The World is Our Classroom-* (Skyhorse Publishing, NYC) shows us examples of how the rich environment presents a multitude of ways to teach and learn. One of the most concrete results of a childhood spent closely connected to nature is how it feeds creativity. Creative thinking and problem solving are essential to building and maintaining a healthy, sustainable world. In this age of world connection, it is also increasingly important to raise children who are broad-minded, empathetic and knowledgeable about other cultures. This can best be accomplished by transporting our children out of their insulated, narrowly-focused lives and into the big world. Cindy’s talk will be followed by Q&A and book signing.

Monday November 19th - - “Birds of Trinidad and Tobago,” presented by Martyn Kenefick, author of a soon to be updated book on the topic.

Birding Trinidad & Tobago, from the Asa Wright Nature Centre

Home to 482 species of bird, not forgetting 68 different bats, 45 snakes, 50 spiders, 30 frogs and toads, 120 Dragonflies, 765 butterflies and close to 3,500 moths - the islands really are an introduction to the natural history of South America. Get a great taste of tropical birding in Trinidad’s high mountain rain forests, sandy beaches with nesting turtles, and mangroves with Scarlet Ibis evening roosts, as well as on Tobago’s seabird nesting islands and huge protected preserves. The Asa Wright Nature Centre is a jumping off spot for most field trips, itself set in 200 acres of forest and home to more than 170 bird species. Renowned for great access to specialties including Bearded Bellbird, Tufted Coquette and Oilbirds on site, more than 40 species can be observed from the verandah before breakfast! The Centre is a not for profit trust, and eco-tourism funds the conservation and education programmes. For nearly 40 years of the Centre's 50 plus year existence, [Caligo Ventures](#) has been the booking agent for North America. Fully committed to the conservation and education mission of the Centre, Caligo is pleased to sponsor Martyn's visit to celebrate and highlight this bucket-list birding destination.

Martyn Kenefick

Having been an avid birder since early teens, Martyn moved to Trinidad in 1999 and spent the next 15 years working as a bird tour leader for a number of companies, guiding in Trinidad & Tobago and many other countries. In 2007, he became the main author of the Birds of Trinidad & Tobago Field Guide, the 3rd edition of which will be published early in 2019. Martyn joined the Board of Management of the non-profit Asa Wright Nature Centre in 2015 and is now Chair of the Conservation & Education Committee.



Photo credit: Martyn Kenefick

UPCOMING SMAS FIELD TRIPS and BIRD WALKS

Saturday October 6th - **eBird Big Day** field trip

eBird Big Day in Harrisburg at the former State Hospital grounds. We will meet in York Springs at 7:15 AM to carpool and will aim for a birding start of 8:00 AM in Harrisburg. Don Gilbert will lead a walk on some of the grounds of the former Harrisburg State Hospital and then, depending on time and weather, we may also visit Wildwood. Bring water and snacks. We will have a late lunch in a nearby deli. **Please pre-register for this trip** so we can plan accordingly for carpooling. Contact Linette by replying to this email or by calling 717-495-8137.

Saturday October 20th - **Bird walk at Oakeside Park, Biglerville.**

Meet at 8:00 AM in the parking lot off Route #394 at the park near Biglerville. Questions? Contact Mike Bertram at 717 809-3911.

November 1st and 2nd - **Hawk Mountain** (overnight field trip.) Thursday & Friday, November 1 & 2
Overnight field trip to Hawk Mountain. We will travel in the morning and bird at Hawk Mountain in the afternoon. We are staying at the Microtel Inn & Suites in Hamburg on Thursday night, November 1st. We will bird the next morning and return home in the afternoon. The time we will visit Hawk Mountain is the peak period for Golden Eagle migration. If you would like to join us, please make your own hotel reservation and then inform us of your plan to attend by contacting Mike Bertram at 717-809-3911 or by replying to this email. Carpooling is a possibility.

Tuesday November 13th - **Duck Drive** / Waterbird search in Adams County.
Meet at 8:30 AM at Winebrenner parking lot at the end of Howard Avenue at Gettysburg Recreation Park; we will carpool to Lake Heritage, Lake Kay and other lakes and ponds in Adams County for waterfowl. Questions? Contact Deb Siefken at 717.677.4830.

Saturday November 17th - **Oakside Park** in Biglerville.
Meet at 8:00 AM in the parking lot off Route #394 at the park near Biglerville. Questions? Contact Mike Bertram at 717 809-3911.

Tuesday November 20th - **Bird Walk At Gettysburg National Military Park (GNMP)**
Bird Walk will include our November SMAS speaker, Martyn Kenefick, from the previous evening.
Meet at 8:00 AM on Ayers Road. From Emmitsburg Rd / Business Rte #15, take a left onto Wheatfield Rd, right onto Ayers Rd. Parking area is on the right in about 500 feet. Questions? Contact Deb Siefken at 717.677.4830.

Saturday December 15th - **Bird Walk at Oakside Park** in Biglerville.
Meet at 8:00 AM in the parking lot off Route #394 at the park near Biglerville. Questions? Contact Mike Bertram at 717 809-3911.

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 cancel or reschedule a given field trip. We cannot alert you unless we hear from you.

HEY!! Checkout our South Mountain Audubon Society Website!!!

SMAS has a Website. The home page has some general information and synopses of Chapter activities as well as a number of links to other informational aspects. These include the Calendar, Board members and officers, Chapter meeting minutes, current and archival newsletter editions, and links to a number of other Adams County organizations as well as other county, state and national groups and organizations.

We are also working to put up some location specific area checklists. Many of these are in place. All are encouraged to offer suggestions on what you would like to see on the website. Contact info is on the site.

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 a couple of 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, 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 SMAS Website, you can reference current & past issues there.

OTHER SMAS RELATED INFORMATION

<u>Board Members</u>	Point of Contact	Telephone	Email address
President	Linette Mansberger	495-8137	lmcopperhead@aol.com
Vice-President	Deb Siefken	677-4830	siefkend@embarqmail.com
Secretary	Kathy Gelner	(202) 471-0300	klgelner@hotmail.com
Treasurer	Mike Bertram	352-7936	the2nomads@centurylink.net
Director At Large	Nancy Locher	334-4768	nclocher@embarqmail.com
Director At Large	Jon Griffiths	334-3824	griffjon630@gmail.com
Director At Large	Cy Deitz	253-0297	sdeitz1630@comcast.net
Director At Large	Carole Simon	337-1662	carolesimon@embarqmail.com
<u>Committee Chairs</u>			
Education	Betsy Griffiths	334-3824	elizabeth.griffiths@stockton.edu
Conservation	Vacant		
Publicity	Kathy Gelner	(202) 471-0300	klgelner@hotmail.com
Membership	Mike O'Brien	642-6676	maddogobrien@gmail.com
Programs	Vacant		
Newsletter	Mike O'Brien	642-6676	maddogobrien@gmail.com

SMAS Annual Schedule Information

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

Unless indicated otherwise, 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).