



P.O. Box 1327
Chambersburg, PA 17201
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On the Record by Donna Hocker

The 2010-2011 field trip season opened with a walk through the woodlands and wetlands on the farm of Mary and Bill Craig. Six new species were noted by the nine birders: The Palm Warbler, Fish Crow, Bluebird, Wood Duck, Osprey, and Least Sandpiper brought the list to 83 species. A total of 47 species were seen on the walk.

The first of several new trips this season was Creekside. Bill Oyler led 17 birders on the Creekside Nature Trail, Heisey Orchard, and Stillhouse Hollow/Ridge Roads in Michaux State Forest. A total of 57 species were seen including 12 species of warblers.

Joan Bowen led the weekend trip to Cape May NJ and Bombay Hook National Wildlife Refuge. The seven participants saw a total of 82 species adding the Brown Pelican, Sora, and the Yellow-bellied Flycatcher to the list. The list now totals 209 species.

Notes from the Board -

October Board Meeting -

Treasurer Henry Betz reported that the baseline payment from National Audubon was received in the amount of \$1237.50. The baseline payment is made to chapters after National receives the annual report from a chapter.

The board approved submitting a proposal to Audubon Pennsylvania for a Collaborative Funding Grant for \$750.00 to help defray costs of Conococheague's 50th anniversary celebration. Val Barnes will write and submit the grant. Linda Kaiser reported on the plans for the 50th anniversary celebration starting with the annual dinner in January 2011.

The Board reviewed the policy of allowing those people who do not wish to join National Audubon but wish to be active in the Conococheague Chapter to become a Friend of Conococheague. The Board voted to continue the policy but raised the dues to \$15.00 for one year.

Ruth Barton, Marilyn Ross, and Dale Gearhart were named as the Nomination Committee.

The new Franklin County Birding list is being reviewed and will be published in the near future

August Board Meeting -

At the August Board meeting, the Board accepted the resignation of Cindy Fair as co-chair of the Norlo Garden Committee, effective December 2010. The Board noted their deep appreciation of all the work Cindy and Dave Fair have done in the Norlo garden. Ruth Barton will continue as co-chair and Jean Morton has volunteered to co-chair with Ruth.

From the National Bird-Feeding Society

A recent study showed that Goldfinches attempted to feed right-side up more often and ate greater quantities of Nyjer® while feeding in an upright position, but readily fed upside-down. Larger birds including the House Sparrow and House Finch can crowd the Goldfinch off the perch of right-side up feeders. Thus, the upside-down feeder will allow you to attract Goldfinches while reducing competition it has with other species for bird seed. Of course, watching a bird hang upside down to grab a seed is also an experience in and of itself.

Printed with permission from Dr. David J Horn, Director of the National Bird-Feeding Society For more information about feeding birds visit www.birdfeeding.org

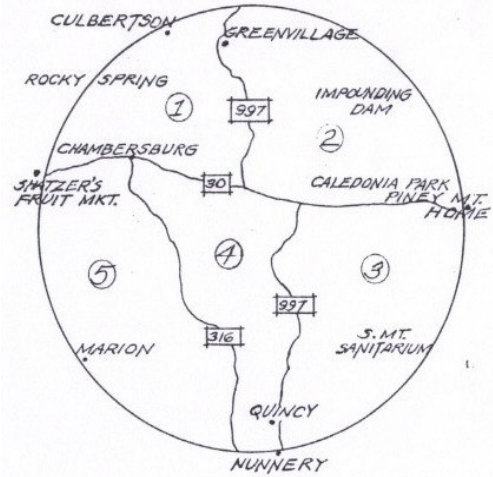
Help with Christmas Bird Count December 18, 2010 by Valerie B. Barnes

Last year there was snow. And more snow. And still more snow. A few hardy souls braved the storm to count birds (an almost low record of only 57 species and 3,510 birds), but most of us stayed home and watched more than a foot of snow accumulate throughout the day. This year we hope for clear skies and sunshine to mark the 51st consecutive year for a Christmas Bird Count in our area. We're re-celebrating our 50th anniversary, too: this is the 50th time we've conducted the count as an organization. Let's see if we can top 80 species and 80 observers! The more people who participate, the more birds we'll find. You don't have to be an expert at identification to help; spotting birds and recording what the team sees are important to the effort.

Each year, teams of volunteers count every bird they can find in their designated 15-mile diameter circle in the 24-hour period chosen for that circle. **Our count will be on Saturday, December 18, 2010.** Dubbed "Christmas Bird Counts" because the events are scheduled during a 2-week period starting in mid-December, the teams submit their data to the National Audubon Society. Started in 1900, this long-running project helps Audubon to assess the health of bird populations and guide conservation action.

Our count area center is at a point just off Spring Road near the headwaters of the Falling Spring. These zone captains organize volunteers in different sections of the circle:

- Zone 1 Joan Bowen 264-9493
- Zone 2 Earl Nollenberger 532-7558
- Zone 3 Russ Martz 263-3533
- Zone 4 Dan and Barb Higgins 263-4574
- Zone 5 Dale Gearhart 597-3979



If you participated before, your zone captain should contact you, but if he/she doesn't call you, please contact him/her to sign up again. If you are new to the count this year or don't remember who your captain is, please contact Val Barnes (352-4397). If watching your feeders is more to your liking, call Joan Applegate (263-3855) so she can send you a record form. You don't need to be an experienced birder to participate and the length of time you wish to count is up to you. Please join us for this 51st count. It's fun and you never know what you might see. Make it a family affair!

A fee of \$5.00 for each participant in the field is assessed by National Audubon to promote the count and provide a publication of the analysis of the count to each participant. Our chapter has been paying this from the treasury. If you would like to donate toward the expense of the count, donations may be given to any zone captain or the treasurer and would be greatly appreciated.

We'll gather to tally results at the Arbor Room at Menno Haven Village Square on Monday December 20th at 6:00 PM. The menu includes rotisserie chicken, a tossed salad, steamed broccoli, parslid red Bliss potatoes, whole grain roll, and apple pie. The cost is \$14.16 per person, payable to Menno Haven, Inc. Edie Lindsell (263-4361; 810A Menno Village, Chambersburg, PA 17201) has graciously agreed to collect the checks again this year; she'll collect at the November and December meetings. Please sign up and pay no later than December 13th if you plan to join the tally dinner fun.

How Do You Want To Read this Newsletter?
YOUR ACTION REQUIRED!

by Valerie B. Barnes

As explained in the last issue, to save money, the Board of Directors is trying to reduce the number of newsletters mailed through the postal system. You have three choices for how you will read the *Naturally* from now on:

- Online at the Conococheague Audubon website, <http://home.comcast.net/~audubonc/>
- Via email sent to the email address you provide
- Continue to read in this form (mailed to you)

Please help us save money and trees by choosing to read the newsletter online or via email.

To specify your preference, please complete the enclosed postcard and return it no later than December 15, 2010. You may also give the information to Donna Hocker at the November or December meeting or via email at dlhocker@yahoo.com. **If we don't hear from you, we will assume you no longer wish to receive the newsletter.** We will continue the annual mailing of the film tickets and activities list.

This issue of the newsletter appears on our website in the Newsletter section. Visit the CAS website by going to the National Audubon website <http://www.audubon.org/>. Choose States and Chapters, select Pennsylvania as the state to view, and then click on the Conococheague Audubon link. Or, you may go directly to our site by using the URL <http://home.comcast.net/~audubonc/>. If you bookmark the URL, it's easy to revisit the site!



Help Save the Trees

*** * * 50th Anniversary Dinner * * ***

by Linda Kaiser

The kick-off of our 50th Anniversary celebration year will be the **Anniversary Dinner** to be held at **Norlo Park Community Center on 10 January 2011 at 6:00 P.M.**

Everyone should bring their own place settings (plates, utensils, etc) and a side dish (salad, vegetable, fruit). The meat (ham) beverages, and cake for dessert will be provided.

There will be a display of memorabilia from past years prepared by Joan Bowen, and a great program planned by Dale Gearhart that you won't want to miss. So come and enjoy the evening with us.

*** * * 50th Anniversary Dinner * * ***

Mark Your Calendars

- * **8 November Regular Meeting:** A Year in the Life of a Vernal Pond by Tim Maret, Shippensburg University
- * **13 December Regular Meeting:** Land use changes in the Chesapeake Watershed by Claire Jantz, Shippensburg University *** **Program Change**
- * **10 January 2011 - 50th Anniversary Dinner** (see previous article for details)



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***** DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES FOR JANUARY, 2011 NATURALLY NEWSLETTER IS 15 DECEMBER *****

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Send all newsletter articles to the editor, and all mailing changes to the assistant editor.

Conococheague Audubon Website

The URL for our website is:
<http://home.comcast.net/~audubonc/>

Visit often to keep up to date on all activities.

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