

NATURALLY

THE CONOCOHEAGUE AUDUBON SOCIETY

Naturally

NEWSLETTER OF THE CONOCOHEAGUE AUDUBON SOCIETY

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Hummers Create a Buzz this Season



Black-chinned Hummingbird (Nov. 2013)

By Dale L. Gearhart

I first saw a Hummingbird coming to the feeder near the end of October and did not think too much about it. He had a dark chin but with the lighting could have been an ordinary Ruby-throat which had been present early on. However, when the bird was seen in November I began looking more closely but still could not be sure which Hummer it was. Finally I decided to send some photos to Scott Weidensaul who said we needed to band the bird to ID it.

It was banded Nov. 13 around 11:30 a.m. by Sandy Lockerman and it was confirmed to be a Black-chinned Hummingbird. This was a state record Adult Male Black-chinned Hummingbird. In the following days about 200 birders came to see it from all over PA, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, DC and Virginia.

I'm not certain of the original day this hummer arrived but it was present until Nov. 25.



THE HUMMER WAS CAPTURED IN THIS TRAP THEN BANDED BY SANDY LOCKERMAN.



Hummingbird photos by Dale Gearhart

Immature Rufous Hummingbird

An Immature Female Rufous Hummingbird was still seen as of Dec. 17 at the home of Kathy and Dick Lauver, Cumberland Highway, Newburg, Franklin County. It was first seen Oct. 31 and was banded Nov. 3 by Robert Mulvilhill, National Aviary, Pittsburgh.



The Lauvers had a Rufous Hummer last year which arrived on Oct. 8 and departed on Dec. 2 (both dates relatives' birthdays). It was also banded. -- *Kathy Lauver*



Mark your Calendars for the 2014 GBBC
Friday, Feb. 14, through Monday, Feb. 17.

The Great Backyard Bird Count is an annual four-day event that engages bird watchers of all ages in counting birds to create a real-time snapshot of where the birds are. GBBC checklists can be accepted from anywhere in the world!

Everyone is welcome--from beginning bird watchers to experts. It takes as little as 15 minutes on one day, or you can count for as long as you like each day of the event. It's free, fun, and easy—and it helps the birds.

Participants tally the number of individual birds of each species they see during their count period. They enter these numbers on the GBBC website.

Scientists use the GBBC information, along with observations from other citizen-science projects, such as the Christmas Bird Count, Project FeederWatch, and eBird, to get the “big picture” about what is happening to bird populations. The longer these data are collected, the more meaningful they become in helping scientists investigate far-reaching questions.

Naturally articles
by Donna Hocker

On the Record

Conococheague Audubon teamed up with South Mountain Audubon for a day at Blackwater NWR in November. Seventy-four species were heard or seen by the 22 observers. New to the list are the Hooded Merganser, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, White-crowned Sparrow, and the Snow Bunting. The list includes 119 species. Rhetta and Eric Martin and Mike O'Brien led the trip.



Results of the 2012-13 Project FeederWatch have been published by Cornell Lab of Ornithology. The top 10 list included Chickadee, Dark-eyed Junco, Downy Woodpecker, Mourning Dove Northern Cardinal, Blue Jay, White-breasted Nuthatch, American Goldfinch, House Finch and Red-bellied Woodpecker. There were 20,569 participants, 127,210 checklists, and 7,308,691 birds reported in the US and Canada.

Audubon Camp in Maine on Hog Island

Registration is now open for the 2014 Audubon camps at Hog Island, Maine.

For more information see
[HTTP://hogisland.audubon.org](http://hogisland.audubon.org)
or call 607-257-7308 ext. 14
or email hogisland@audubon.org

Seabird Conservation	June 1-6, Sept. 7-12
Joy of Birding	June 8-12
Field Ornithology	June 15-20
The Arts of Birding	June 22-27
Coastal Bird Studies for Teens:	June 15-20, 22-27
Raptor Rapture (NEW)	July 13-18
Audubon Chapter Leadership	July 13-18
Sharing Nature (Educators Week)	July 20-25
Family Camp	Aug. 1
Migration & Monhegan Island	Sept. 14-19, 21-26

Christmas Bird Count Summary

by Valerie B. Barnes

54th count in this circle!

Circle name: Pennsylvania - Chambersburg

Date: December 14, 2013
(24 hours, midnight to midnight).

Participants in the field: 60 in 25 parties

Participants at home watching feeders: 36

Field counters spent:

54 hours on foot, walking 50 mi.;

66 hours in cars, driving 564 mi.;

6.5 hours listening for owls, covering 23.25 mi.

Feeder counters spent: 101 hours watching at home.

Total species counted: 76

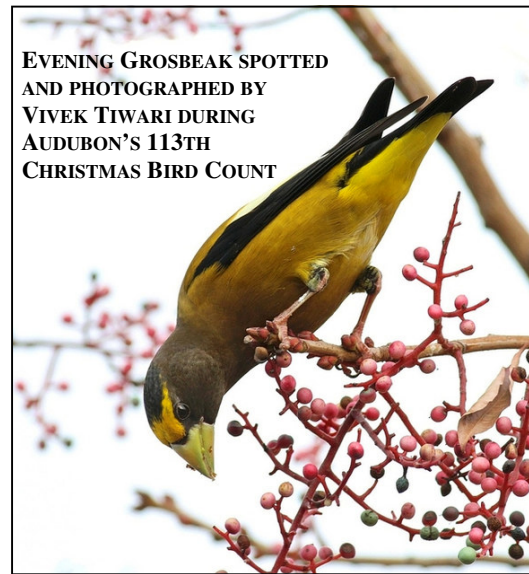
Total individual birds counted: 20,247

Weather conditions:

~30 degrees, snowing for much of the day

Species and number:

Canada Goose 908, Tundra Swan 1, Gadwall 1, American Black Duck 5, Mallard 797, Hooded Merganser 2, Wild Turkey 30, Great Blue Heron 18, Bald Eagle 1, Sharp-shinned Hawk 12, Cooper's Hawk 15, Red-shouldered Hawk 1, Red-tailed Hawk 67, American Kestrel 23, Merlin 1, American Coot 1, Killdeer 9, Wilson's Snipe 8, Ring-billed Gull 1, Herring Gull 4, Rock Pigeon 1278, Mourning Dove 1863, Eastern Screech-Owl 3, Great Horned Owl 13, Barred Owl 2, Belted Kingfisher 14, Red-headed Woodpecker 2, Red-bellied Woodpecker 81, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 2, Downy Woodpecker 120, Hairy Woodpecker 15, Northern Flicker 29, Pileated Woodpecker 14, Eastern Phoebe 1, Blue Jay 204, American Crow 263, Fish Crow 1, Common Raven 8, Horned Lark 835, Carolina Chickadee 38, Black-capped Chickadee 133, Tufted Titmouse 180, Red-breasted Nuthatch 3, White-breasted Nuthatch 81, Brown Creeper 12, Carolina Wren 132, House Wren 1, Winter Wren 14, Golden-crowned Kinglet 48, Ruby-crowned Kinglet 1, Eastern Bluebird 94, Hermit Thrush 3, American Robin 51, Gray Catbird 4, Northern Mockingbird 61, Brown Thrasher 1, European Starling 7588, American Pipit 68, Yellow-rumped Warbler 18, Eastern



Towhee 3, American Tree Sparrow 5, Field Sparrow 5, Savannah Sparrow 1, Fox Sparrow 3, Song Sparrow 140, White-throated Sparrow 399, White-crowned Sparrow 105, Dark-eyed Junco 1251, Northern Cardinal 594, Common Grackle 10, Brown-headed Cowbird 786, Purple Finch 43, House Finch 403, Pine Siskin 8, American Goldfinch 364, House Sparrow 943.

Comments:

The total number of species observed was high (saw 76 versus average of 71).

The total number of individual birds observed was low (saw 20,247 versus average of ~40,000).

We recorded new highs for Herring Gull (4 this year versus previous high 3) and American Pipit (68 this year versus previous high 49). Teams reported unusually low numbers of American Tree Sparrow and House Sparrow. We saw more than the usual numbers of Horned Lark, Carolina Wren, Winter Wren, and Yellow-rumped Warbler. Numbers of some winter visitors fluctuate widely. This year we recorded very few Red-breasted Nuthatches and Pine Siskins. During count week but not on count day, we also saw these species: Red-breasted Merganser (new), Sandhill Crane (new), Green-winged Teal, Long-tailed Duck, Bufflehead, Horned Grebe, Cedar Waxwing, Chipping Sparrow.

Mark your calendars for the next Christmas count Saturday, Dec. 20th.



Covered Dish Dinner

January 13

Make plans now to attend our Conococheague Audubon Covered Dish dinner on Jan.13, 2014, at 6 p.m. We would like to remind you to bring your own place setting as well as one hot dish and one cold dish to share with others (if there is a group of you coming). We want to be sure to have enough for all to share. If you are only one person, please bring at least one item to share with others. Drinks will be provided. In addition, bring your photos of birds or lovely outdoor scenes you would like to share with the rest of us. If you have any questions, please call "Terri" at 717-263-3692. We hope to see you at Norlo Park that evening! -- *Terri Kochert*

Help Needed on the Blue Bird Trail

By Frank L. Hocker

The Blue Bird Trail is in need of 3 teams to monitor the Blue Bird Trail.

Currently the trail volunteers monitor the trail 3 times (every 7 weeks) from April through August. Each visit to the trail requires about three hours. The existing 5 teams would appreciate 3 new teams to lighten the load for all.

The responsibilities of a team are:

- Visit each box
- Record the activity at the box (building a nest, number and type eggs in nest, hatched eggs, fledged young)
- Reports when box should be repaired/replaced

The BB trail coordinator:

- Opens the boxes and cleans the boxes for the winter
- Closes the boxes in the spring
- Repairs and/or replaces boxes
- Consolidates weekly reports for the annual report to Blue Bird Society

Please help this effort to increase the Blue Bird population in Franklin County by volunteering ten hours. To volunteer, call Frank Hocker at 717-352-8713 or email at flhocker@yahoo.com.



**TOM NEVEIL SPOTTED AND PHOTOGRAPHED
A YELLOW VARIANT MALE HOUSE
FINCH IN HIS YARD (NOV. 29).**

Nature Film Series

This winter don't forget to attend the nature films *Sweden* and *East African Safari*, fundraisers for Audubon. The films are presented at Chambersburg Area Middle School South, 1151 E. McKinley St., Chambersburg. Pre-show entertainment starts at 7 p.m. with the films shown at 7:30 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 24, American filmmaker Dale Johnson will present *Sweden*, a return to the country of his ancestors. His encounters take him from south to north through Sweden. Travel Adventure Cinema Society terms this film "... a delightful present to all Americans of European descent."

Thursday, March 6, award-winning filmmaker Rick Ray will present *East African Safari*, taking you to several destinations. His website Rick Ray Films promises that "... Along the way you will experience the color, excitement, adventure, and romance of one of the most exotic destinations on Earth."

Coming Up - January & February

MEETINGS:

Regular meetings Mondays
Board meetings Thursdays
7 p.m., Community Center, Norlo Park,
3050 Lincoln Way East, Fayetteville, PA

JAN. 13 Covered Dish Dinner & Member Photo Show
6 p.m. (See previous page)

FEB. 10 *Eagles: The Bird behind the symbol*
by Henry Betz and Dale Gearhart, 7 p.m.

FEB. 27 Board Meeting

NATURE FILMS

Feb. 24 Nature Film *Return to Sweden* by Dale Johnson
7 p.m. Chbg. Area Middle School South

OTHER EVENTS: (see p. 2)

FEB. 14-17 GREAT BACKYARD BIRD COUNT

Visit the [Conococheague Audubon Website](http://www.conococheagueaudubon.org)
for details and other activities:
www.conococheagueaudubon.org

Newsletter Editor - J. D. Wright
717-532-7326 tjwright@embarqmail.com

Assistant Editor - Joyce Schaff
717-375-4632 Pjschaff@comcast.net

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

COPY DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 15
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OFFICERS:

President Conway Bushey
wcbushey@embarqmail.com 717-262-5659

Vice President Doug Powless
dougpowless@hotmail.com 717-352-3418

Recording Secretary Rhetta Martin
rhettaanderic@embarqmail.com 717-597-8675

Corresponding Secretary Corinne Anderson
corinneanderson@centurylink.net 717-485-4214

Treasurer Henry Betz
hvbetz@embarqmail.com 717-263-3165

Immediate Past President Donna Hocker
dlhocker@yahoo.com 717-352-8713