



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

April Trips

Forty-nine species were seen or heard by nine observers on the **Letterkenny** field trip led by David Cooney. A pair of juvenile Great Horned Owls, still in the nest, were a special treat. The trip list stands at 128 species.

Again, it was heard but not seen. The Virginia Rail remained elusive on the **Lilypons** trip led by Mike O'Brien. Seven birders saw or heard 55 species. New to the list of 80 species were the Louisiana Waterthrush, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Great Egret, Kestrel, Barred Owl and American Pipit.

It was a beautiful day for 11 birders on the **Little Cove** trip led by Dale Gearhart. Of the 68 species seen or heard, six warblers were spotted. The trip list is 169 species.

May Trips

Joan Duffield led the **Horse Valley** trip. The eight observers saw or heard 77 species including an immature Bald Eagle. The trip list totals 164 species.

The **Path Valley** trip was led by Bob Keener. The six participants saw or heard 74 species. The Blue-winged Teal and the Semipalmated Sandpiper were added to the list of 127 species.

Nine birders saw or heard 39 species on the **Edenville** trip to see Bobolinks and Whip-poor-wills. New to the list are Ring-necked Pheasant, Downy Woodpecker and Eastern Phoebe. The trip list totals 67 species. The trip was led by Eric and Rhetta Martin.

The **South Mountain IBA** trip was misty and foggy. However, the seven observers led by Debbie

Heishman either saw or heard 36 species including a House Wren and a Cape May Warbler, both new to the list. The trip list totals 89 species.

Leader Mike O'Brien traveled by himself on the **State Gamelands #249** trip. He recorded 69 species. The list total for this trip is 96.

The newest trip was to **Cooper's Rock** in WV. Rhetta and Eric Martin led the trip and the three observers saw 48 species including nine warblers.

2010 Migration Wrap-up

Strong winds and early morning rain hindered birders on the May 8, 2010, PA Migration Count in Franklin County. Sixty-seven birders spotted 13,047 birds. Although this number is lower than 2009, observers saw three more species for a total of 153.

The teams of Delores, James, and Diane Purnell, and Rhonda Barnett, and Earl Nollenberger all saw 82 species. Dale Gearhart's team saw a total of 1574 birds. The Purnells traveled 89 miles, and Jim Rogers counted for 15 hours.

Four birds of special PA interest were seen: the Eurasian-collared Dove seen by Dale Gearhart in Shady Grove; the Blue Grosbeak seen by David Cooney near the Letterkenny Rec Area and also by the Purnell team on Sylvan Road near their farm; the Brewster Warbler located by Bill Oyler in State Gamelands 076 on the powerline, and the Lawrence Warbler seen by the Purnell team also on Sylvan Road.

New highs for the count:
Turkey Vulture – 246
Red-eyed Vireo – 469
Common Raven – 16
Cliff Swallow – 10
Hermit Thrush – 10

American Robin – 1431

Thanks to all who participated in the PA Migration Count. PAMC 2011 will be held May 14, 2011.

Science Fair Audubon Winners

Conococheague Audubon presented three \$50.00 prizes at the Franklin Science and Technology Fair held April 30. Receiving the awards were Sam Franki, a fifth grader from Fairview Elementary; Amanda Erler, a fifth grader from Shippensburg Intermediate; and Katelyn Gipe, a sixth grader from Chambersburg Area Middle School. The exhibits about birds, ecology, or the environment were judged on originality of entry, scientific approach, and clarity.

All three students were invited to the May meeting of Conococheague Audubon. Sam presented his project on “Predator & Prey: How Do Cats Respond to Bird Recordings” and Amanda presented her project on “It’s All in the Shell”. Sam and Amanda also received a year’s membership to National Audubon. Katelyn’s project was on “Quails: From Eggs to World”.

Judging the projects were Val Barnes and Deb Barnes.

Chapter Goals

In our annual report to National Audubon, Conococheague listed three goals for this season:

- 1 Encourage use of native plants by conducting an Open House at the Norlo Park Native Plant Garden and preparing a special news letter
- 2 Celebrate the chapter’s 50th anniversary
- 3 Promote Audubon’s conservation message

Thank You to our Summer Helpers:

* Val Barnes: for coordinating the Beginner Birding Workshop and to those who participated; for compiling the 2010-2011 Activities brochure; for submitting the National Audubon annual report, chapter goals, and chapter leader report;

* Joan Duffield for signing up teachers to receive Audubon Adventures;

* Shirley Fenstermacher and Joan Duffield for helping a Waynesboro couple set up Bluebird houses;

* Corinne Anderson, Cindy Fair, Ruth Barton and Val Barnes for coordinating the Norlo Native Plant Garden Open House;

* Dale Gearhart and Henry Betz and many others for working on the new Franklin County Bird list to be published later this season;

* Debby Heishman, Ruth Ann Smith, Alex Lamoreaux, Anna Fasoli, Corinne Anderson, and Val Barnes for the special garden newsletter;

* All who weeded and watered the Norlo garden this summer, and

* All who compiled the mailing of film tickets, activities list, and garden newsletter.

National Audubon has new CEO

David Yarnold has been named the new President and Chief Executive Officer of National Audubon beginning September 1. David was Executive Director of the Environmental Defense Fund, and President of Environmental Defense Action Fund. More information is available on the National Audubon Website or the Conococheague website.

Did You Know?

Did you know a book entitled “Birds of Central Pennsylvania” by Greg Grove and Nick Bolgiano has been published? The book covers a 6-county region (Clinton, Centre, Huntingdon, Blair, Mifflin and Juniata), about 10% of Pennsylvania’s land area. The cost of the book is \$23.50 including postage. If you are interesting in purchasing the book you can do so online at nbolgiano@pennswoods.net or contact Dale Gearhart.

National Bird-Feeding Society

Platform and tube feeders have the greatest number of bird visits and platform feeders attract the greatest number of species. This was discovered by PROJECT WILDBIRDS® in a three-year, \$1 million study of bird seed and bird feeder preferences funded by the Wild Bird Feeding Industry Research Foundation.

Five seed types had the greatest number of bird visits: black-oil sunflower, fine and medium sunflower chips (sunflower hearts), Nyjer® (thistle), and white proso millet. Black-oil sunflower and sunflower chips attracted the most species. For more backyard bird information see www.birdfeeding.org

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Conococheague Audubon Society Film Series 2010/2011 by Bob Keener

Three films emphasizing nature will be shown during our 2010/2011 film series. Each film will be presented at **Chambersburg Middle School**. Arrive at 7:00 P.M. and enjoy the pre-show musical entertainment, followed by **the film at 7:30 P.M.**

- * **Thursday 4 November 2010:** "Rails Across Russia" Sid and Mary Lee Noland (This is the correct title for the film)
- * **Thursday 17 February 2011:** "Wildlife of Yellowstone" Sandy Mortimer
- * **Tuesday 19 April 2011:** "Alaska RV Adventure" John Holod

Season ticket: \$18.00/adult; individual show: \$7.00/adult, \$1.00 for student (K-college) under six (6) free.

Birding Trip to Cape May NJ by Joan Bowen

The trip to Cape May for migrating birds will be September 24, 25 & 26. We will be staying at the Hyland Motor Inn in Cape May Court House. Information on costs and the cancellation policy may be obtained on line at www.hylandmotorinn.com or by calling the leader. Each attendee should make their own reservation and payment, preferably after Labor Day. When making your reservation mention Conococheague Audubon. A refrigerator and microwave are in each room. Restaurants are nearby.

On the return trip, we will use the Cape May/Lewes Ferry. The cost is \$36.00 for the car and driver plus \$10.00 for each passenger.

We will leave at 6:30 AM on Friday (the 24th) from the Lincoln Way East Shopping Center, south side near Wendy's, and return on Sunday at approximately 7:00 PM. Car pool - usually the driver furnishes the car and drives, passengers share the cost of gas and fees.

Bring windbreaker, scope, binoculars and CB plus breakfast and lunch "fixings" if you desire them. Call the leader Joan Bowen, 264-9493 for questions and to sign-up.

Bluebird Report by Shirley Fenstermacher

Each summer we try to monitor the Bluebird Trail once a week from April through August, and with approximately ten volunteers who team up in pairs each team checks about 26 boxes about four times per season.

As you know most of the participants have a variety of commitments, but we make time to keep tabs on the progress of local Bluebird nesting and enjoy the fellowship of sharing our bird-watching with friends. Surveying birds and watching their maneuvers out in the beautiful countryside, as well as identifying wildflowers are part of the fun. There is also maintenance of the bluebird boxes, clipping and trimming around fence posts, removing wasps, mites, mice, and other predators' nests. This summer we refurbished box #5, replaced a box on Druckenbrod's Lane, Burkholder's Lane, and Wye Road which was infested with ants. Please check with one of the Record Keepers if you observe a need at any of the Bluebird boxes.

Ike Isham, who monitors four boxes at Norlo Park; Henry Betz who helps with carpentry; Dorothy Thomas and her friend Alice Niner, Ruth Ann Smith and her friend Ann Finucane, Linda Kaiser and Sue Ann Sarver, and Edgar Mouer have all been faithful workers. Please join us for a few hours periodically, or regularly if you can. We shall always give credit to Mildred Bender for starting this endeavor in 1981 along farm lanes in the Upper Strasburg area, and to the many volunteers who assisted Dorothy Thomas for years. From 1 May through 31 July we have found 15 Bluebirds were fledged, and an equal number of

Tree Swallows. One of the new boxes at Norlo Park had a successful nest of Tree Swallows. Unfortunately, we also found four dead baby birds the victims of predators. House Sparrows do attack Bluebird nests, and the Wrens build their stick nests on top of the Bluebird nests whenever they can.

This year's cold, rainy Spring and hot, dry Summer also had an adverse affect on the Bluebird population. It is interesting to note that in 1993, there were 55 fledglings, and the worst year was 1996 when only ten Bluebirds fledged on our trail. Last year (2009) the Bluebird Society of Pennsylvania had active representation reporting from 42 of the commonwealth's 67 counties.

Mark Your Calendars! By Valerie Barnes

We've scheduled our **Christmas Bird Count for Saturday, December 18, 2010**. Dinner and tally will be at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, December 20, at Menno Village Arbor Room. 2010 marks the 50th year Conococheague Audubon, as an organization, has conducted this count. Mark your calendar and plan to help count our feathered friends. To sign up, contact Val Barnes, 352-4397 or vbarhen@pa.net.

Help us Reduce Costs by Valerie Barnes

Due to printing and mailing costs for the *Naturally* newsletter, the Board of Directors is attempting to reduce the number of newsletters mailed through the postal system. We presently mail ~450 copies of the newsletter.

In your November 2010 newsletter will be a postcard with four options:

- (1) I do not want the newsletter,
- (2) Email me the newsletter,
- (3) I'll read the newsletter on the Conococheague Audubon website, or
- (4) Continue to send me the newsletter via USPS.

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/>. Enjoy!

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***** DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES FOR NOVEMBER 2010 NATURALLY NEWSLETTER IS 15 OCTOBER *****

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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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