

Sept. 9 Meeting Speaker

Featured speaker Lionel Lemery will take you along on a challenging seven-year journey, working with landowners Nancy and Larry Miller to transform the character of their 34 acre woodlot for recreational and environmental benefits.

Heavily impacted from over a half century of use as a farm woodlot, this area now appears as a more natural forest surrounding a three acre pond and with a one mile walking trail. Open for hiking and nature study, it is a proud vestige of the Miller family heritage.

Lionel, current resident of Chambersburg, is a native of Glens Falls, New York. He is a graduate of the NY State Ranger School and the University of Maine with a BS in forest management. He retired in 2002 after a 34 year career with the USDA Forest Service helping to manage and protect national forests in New Hampshire, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Pennsylvania.

Lionel is a Penn State Master Gardener. He and his wife, Mary Ellen, have three grown sons and seven grandchildren. Favorite past-times include giving tours of the Miller stewardship forest, canoeing the remote ponds and streams in the Adirondack Mountains of New York, hunting with his two Brittany spaniels and singing with a small group at local nursing homes.

“Every farm woodland, in addition to yielding lumber, fuel and posts, should provide its owner a liberal education. This crop of wisdom never fails, but it is not always harvested.”

Aldo Leopold

A Message from the President

A New Year! I hope that your summer went well and included some new birding adventures. On a trip to Colorado to visit our oldest son and his family in June, I added a Western Kingbird to my life list. From there we travelled to Grand Teton and Yellowstone National Parks and Mt. Rushmore National Memorial before heading home (5,074 miles). In addition to bison, elk, big-horn sheep, a grizzly bear and moose, we saw an Osprey at Jackson Lake, a Golden Eagle at the Snake River in Jackson Hole and three Sandhill Cranes at Yellowstone. In July we vacationed in Delaware and at Henlopen State Park, I saw Gulls, Terns, Bald Eagles, two Piping Plovers, and, for the first time, an American Oystercatcher, Semipalmated Plovers and Semipalmated Sandpipers.

I also want to thank the Board of Directors of Conococheague Audubon for the hard work in preparing for our 2013–2014 year. When you look at our upcoming list of activities, you will find stimulating presentations on a variety of topics at our monthly meetings, continuing and new field trips throughout the year, and new adventures in our nature film series. – *Conway Bushey*



Beginning Birder Workshop

By David Cooney, Committee Chair

The 2013 Beginning Birder Workshop was held Saturday, June 1, at Caledonia State Park. This was our fifth year. We had 13 participants, 17 volunteers and 47 species including a Pine Siskin. We didn't have a big turn out of participants as in the past, but the weather was perfect, the snacks were great, the Kid's Corner was outstanding and the bird count was the highest recorded.

I'm always amazed by the stories that the volunteers share with us after each workshop. Some of you may not know, but Conway Bushey attended our first workshop and now he's our cur-

rent President. This year Ruth Ann Smith shared her experiences about a young boy named Ryan who was in her group and he wanted to look up every bird in his book even though his grandma was trying to encourage him to see the birds first. Ryan had attended one of our previous field trips to the state game lands. There was a 7-year-old girl named Eliana that went with our group on the bird walk. It was her second year attending our workshop and she amazed us with her knowledge of birds. She carried the field guide that she got from our workshop last year and she had tabbed the pages to make it easier to find common birds in her book. Listening to her talk about her birding experiences at the age of 7 was remarkable and truly a joy.

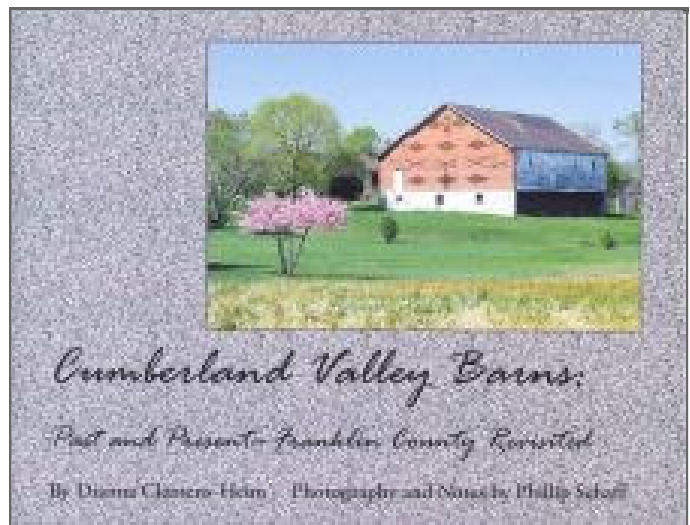
Donna Hocker and Henry Betz stayed back at the administration building to provide a feeder watch experience for those who did not want to go on the bird walks. They had an unusual visitor to the feeders; a White-tailed Deer wandered out of the woods and began to eat the seed on the ground.

The impressions that our workshops have made on people and the fun we've had as a group says a lot about our organization. Thanks again to all of our volunteers and the staff at Caledonia for making another successful workshop.

October 14 Meeting

Brick-end-Barns of Franklin County

Conococheague Audubon member Phil Schaff and author Dianna Heim will talk about and show pictures of barns in Franklin County. Dianna recently published a second edition of her book *Cumberland Valley Barns* utilizing many of Phil's photographs. Please join us for an informative and enjoyable evening. We all have seen these barns locally, including the barn at Norlo Park. It should be interesting to learn the history of these barns.



On the Record

By Donna Hocker

Spring birding provided many opportunities for seeing many species of birds. Dale Gearhart led two trips, one to Little Cove and a 3 day trip to Presque Isle in Erie PA. In Little Cove 75 species were seen by 17 observers. Birds at Presque Isle, Pymatuning State Park and Piney Tract Grasslands totaled 116 species seen by 20 observers. New to the Presque Isle trip list are the Trumpeter Swan, Surf Scoter, Great Egret, American Avocet, and Lesser Black-backed Gull. This list now totals 211 species.

Bob Keener had 88 species on the Path Valley Trip with 9 birders. New birds added to the list are the Barred Owl, Carolina Chickadee, Magnolia Warbler, Blackburian Warbler, and Pine Warbler. The total is now 134 species.

Rhetta and Eric Martin led 2 trips this Spring. The Edenville Trip had 52 species and 8 observers present, and the Caledonia Trip had 50 species and 3 birders. New birds added to the Edenville Trip list are the Purple Martin, Louisiana Waterthrush, Ovenbird, Canada Warbler,

Hooded Warbler, American Redstart, and the Orchard Oriole. This list now totals 78. The Wild Turkey is new to the Caledonia list.

The State Game Lands #249 in Adams County list of species hit the 100 mark. Mike O'Brien led the 4 birders and spotted 53 species. New to the list are the Cooper's Hawk and the Swainson's Thrush.

Dave Cooney again coordinated the Beginning Birder Workshop. Thirteen birders participated and saw 47 species during the 3 field trips. The big surprise was the sighting of a Pine Siskin at a feeder near the Ranger Station. Other new birds were the Sharp-shinned Hawk, Hairy Woodpecker, and the Worm-eating and Blackpoll Warblers.

**A number of great Fall
birding trips are
scheduled beginning Sept. 7.
See your Activities list
for times and places.**



**YOUNG BIRDER
ELIANA HAS
ATTENDED 2
WORKSHOPS**

Migration Count Results

By Donna Hocker

It rained and blew! However, Conococheague Audubon Society's 21st Pennsylvania Migration Count in Franklin County recorded the third highest count of species. Held on May 11, the 70 participants saw a total of 165 species and 11,306 birds. There were two new species, White-rumped Sandpiper and Red Phalarope.

New highs were set for the following birds: Blue-winged Teal, Wild Turkey, Double-crested Cormorant, Bald Eagle, Red-shouldered Hawk, Black Tern, Common Raven, Brown Creeper, Lawrence's Warbler (hybrid), Northern Parula and Pine Siskin.

The Bald Eagle was first recorded by Conococheague in Franklin County during the PAMC in 1998. Since then between 1 and 3 Eagles were seen until last year when 9 were recorded and this year observers saw 14. Dale Gearhart has monitored 4 Eagle nests this year.

Congratulations to Earl Nollenberger who watched for birds for 18 hours and saw the largest number of species – 88. Rhetta and Eric Martin and Bobbie Stewart recorded the most birds – 1,115. And Gearhart traveled a total of 72 miles on migration day.

**Mark Your Calendars for the 2014
Migration Count scheduled May 10.**

Coming Up in September & October

MONTHLY MEETINGS:

7 p.m., Community Center, Norlo Park,
3050 Lincoln Way East, Fayetteville, PA

SEPT. 9 *The Miller Stewardship Forest,*
by Lionel Lemery

OCT. 14 *Brick-end-Barns of Franklin County,*
by Phil Schaff and Dianna Heim

FIELD TRIPS: (Contact leader in advance)

SEPT. 7 *Woodland/Wetland Trails* on the Craig's
Farm, 1.5 mi. hike, 7 a.m. at farm

SEPT. 14 1 mi. hike at *Creekside*, then *Michaux for*
Fall Migrants, 7 a.m., Menno Haven pond

OCT. 5 3 mi. walk, end of *Fall Migration* along
Big Spring, 7:30 a.m., upstream parking lot

OCT. 12 Level hike along *C & O Canal*, 7:30 a.m.,
Greencastle Sunnyway Foods parking lot

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

www.conococheagueaudubon.org

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