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President's Corner

by Valerie B. Barnes

I want to know how January disappeared so fast! It seems as if every month evaporates before I get my arms around it. In January we had some really cold days and at least 3 rounds of snow. Will we get more this month? Sigh...

The 27th annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) takes place from Friday, February 16, through Monday, February 19, 2024. [Read about the event](#), if you like, and submit checklists of birds seen at your favorite location(s) anywhere each day, using eBird. Any checklist submitted in the GBBC time window will count; no need to pre-register.

We are already starting to get requests to help out at local community events. Please consider volunteering for these:

- Seventh grade students at Greencastle-Antrim Middle School participate in Pa's Trout in the Classroom program and will be releasing fingerlings at Caledonia State Park on Thursday, May 16, 2024. Along with releasing fish into the stream, the coordinator would like to have science-related presentations for the students to participate in throughout the day. Students would be in 10 groups (about 25 students per group) and would rotate to different stations every 20 minutes. Students will arrive at the park around 9 and will be departing around 1:15 pm. Would you be interested in presenting an environmentally based lesson for the students?

- Conococheague Institute is planning a *Get to Know Nature* event on Saturday, April 13. We hope to have some of these activities there: Information on planting native plants to attract pollinators and birds, avoiding bird/window collisions, bird identification, bird feeding, bird-related craft projects, nature scavenger walk, bird watching walk. The more volunteers, the more we will be able to do! Would you like to help at our table?

- Other opportunities will arise soon. So, let us know what you want to do and when you might be available!

Treasurer [Donna Hocker](#) asks that Committee Chairs submit budget requests for the June 1, 2024 – May 31, 2025 season to her ASAP, if you haven't already provided them. If anyone else has ideas about potential expenses or income for the upcoming season, please contact a committee chair, director, or officer as soon as possible.

Elections are scheduled for our Annual Business Meeting on April 8. See the article later in this edition.

It's always a good time to make a donation to Conococheague Audubon Society and mail it to PO Box 20, Fayetteville, PA 17222. Anyone interested in joining our leadership team? Please contact conaudubon@outlook.com and tell us what you would like to do.



Above: This is the pair of Red Crossbills recently seen at the landfill here in Franklin County. They were, found by Jessica Ferguson and seen over a period of five days.

Photo credit: Bob Keener

Below: Kentucky Warbler.
Story on page 2.

Photo credit: Ron George



CONSERVATION

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by John Greer

Understanding the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (“RGGI”) and its Impact on Pennsylvania

Background

The Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (“RGGI”) is an important effort our members should be aware of. Its goal is to combat climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the power sector. Established in 2005, RGGI is an agreement among eleven Northeastern and Mid-Atlantic states: Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont, and Virginia. It represents the first market-based cap-and-trade regional initiative implemented in the United States.

In a cap-and-trade system, a cap is set on carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from power plants. Participating entities may purchase and trade emissions allowances, thereby incentivizing emissions reductions while providing flexibility for energy producers to invest in cleaner energy sources and energy efficiency measures. Qualifying power plants must acquire CO₂ allowances equal to the amount of CO₂ emitted. And while each state has its own allowance budget, the only firm cap is the regional one.

RGGI has made significant strides in reducing emissions across its member states. Since auctions of CO₂ emissions began in 2009, participating states have collectively reduced CO₂ emissions from the power sector by over 50 percent. In addition to reducing reliance on fossil fuels, RGGI improves public health by reducing air pollution, leading to fewer premature deaths, heart attacks, and respiratory illnesses.

RGGI and Pennsylvania: A Rocky Road

In 2020, Pennsylvania was the state with the fourth-highest amount of greenhouse gas emissions. To address this, then-Governor Tom Wolf set a goal to reduce these emissions by 26% by 2025. By a state regulation, Pennsylvania attempted to enter RGGI in April 2022.

However, Pennsylvania is a state historically reliant on coal and other fossil fuels for electricity generation. Despite efforts from environmental advocates and some policymakers to bring Pennsylvania into

the fold, the state has long faced resistance from certain industry groups and lawmakers who argue that joining RGGI constitutes a tax, and it could lead to increased energy costs and job losses.

Shortly after the RGGI regulation went into effect in 2022, a collection of local coal power plant owners, coal mine owners, and worker’s unions challenged the regulation in court, contending it is unconstitutional. In July 2022, the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court temporarily halted the state’s participation in RGGI pending review.

In November 2023, the Commonwealth Court held the RGGI regulation to be unconstitutional because it represented a tax that exceeded the Governor’s administrative regulation-making authority. The Court held that only the legislature may enact taxes. Governor Shapiro appealed to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court to preserve his administrative authority. He also asked the legislature for an alternative to RGGI but did not endorse it. Currently, Pennsylvania is unable to enter RGGI.

Prospects for RGGI in Pennsylvania: Dim

Governor Shapiro’s unwillingness to endorse RGGI and his call for an alternative do not bode well for the initiative’s adoption in Pennsylvania. At best, developing an alternative to a proven successful initiative would waste time and resources. At worst, it keeps Pennsylvanians subject to the harmful effects of CO₂ emissions. Perhaps the Supreme Court will rule in favor of RGGI. If not, it will fall to the public to make the case to the governor and the legislature that change is needed.

My Favorite Birds

by Ron George

This is a good spring-migration morning. Warblers are passing through the newly-leaved trees, one after another, calling, feeding, flying. I have been hearing the twitter of a Tennessee Warbler in this spot recently, but I still haven’t seen it. The male American Redstart is more cooperative, flashing its orange tail spots on an open branch just above me. A Common Yellowthroat sneaks through the multiflora rose, its mask ironically *revealing* its identity. Something else is calling, something different, something I don’t recognize. I spot a bird with a dark head, back, and wings, and notice a string of black streaks necklacing the yellow throat—Canada Warbler! That’s a good bird, one I don’t see often. Up ahead near the trail, I hear a cheery-cheery-cheery call, and I am cheered. The Kentucky Warbler is the bird that brought me to this spot.

Continued on p. 4, at bottom right.

VOTE! Come to Annual Meeting

by Valerie B. Barnes

Please remember to come to the Annual Business Meeting on Monday, April 8. The program by Rebecca Shubert, *Make Your Yard a Living Bird Feeder - Bird Friendly Natives for Home Landscapes*, will begin at 7 p.m. Then we will vote as described below. Because National Audubon Society has changed most reporting requirements to align with the calendar year, annual reports will be collected towards the end of the calendar year instead of at this meeting.

We will be voting on **officers and new directors** for Conococheague Audubon. The slate includes: Valerie Barnes for President; Lisa Coombs for Vice President; Debby Hook for Recording Secretary; Valerie Barnes for Corresponding Secretary; Donna Hocker for Treasurer; Terri Kochert for Immediate Past President; John Carter, Larry Williams, and Sharon Williams for new Directors. John will be completing Linda Kaiser's term. Nominations will be accepted from the floor or by any of the voting means listed below.

Some years it is difficult to find members willing to serve as an officer or director. To make it easier, we suggest that two or more people could share responsibilities or attend leadership meetings to learn the ropes prior to serving. So, we will also vote on these **proposed additions to the Conococheague Audubon By-Laws**: (Note: existing sections may be re-numbered to accommodate these additions)

By-Laws Article IV Nominations and Elections, section 2:

The Nominating Committee may present a slate that includes two or more persons for the same office, having determined that the nominees prefer to share the duties for that office rather than serve alone. They would serve as "Co-" whatever-the-office-is.

The Nominating Committee may present a slate that includes one or more "Interns" who are considering becoming either a director or officer, but want to learn more about what that involves.

By-Laws, Article V Duties:

Co-Presidents, Co-Vice Presidents, Co-Recording Secretaries, Co-Corresponding Secretaries, or Co-Treasurers will share the duties for the office as they see fit. No formal plan is required.

An Intern for any position is expected to attend the meetings for that position and may participate in any discussion, deliberation, or work effort. The Intern's term is the same as the actual officer's or

director's term. The Intern does not vote. The Intern may resign at any point during her/his term.

If you cannot attend the meeting, please vote in one of these ways: **email** your vote to ConAudubon@outlook.com, **call** Valerie Barnes at 717-352-4397, or **send a note** to Conococheague Audubon at PO Box 20, Fayetteville, PA 17222. When you submit your vote, please indicate whether you are voting for the entire slate or just part of it. We need a quorum for the election to be valid, so **your vote matters**. Thank you!

Thank You To CAS

by Donna Hocker

Each year, Conococheague Audubon makes charitable contributions to local organizations. We thought we would share the thank-you notes we've recently received. Here they are:

Thank you for your generous membership renewal gift of \$50.00 to support the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy's mission and programs that conserve our forests, ridges, valleys, and rivers. —Jordon Agnew, Director, Membership and Annual Fund

Thank you for connecting South Central Pennsylvania communities through your donation of \$50.00. Our current projects include acquisitions and easements on South Mountain and the Kittatinny Ridge. Projects in Franklin County continue with the conservation of soil, water, and productive farms. —Jason Beale, Executive Director, Central Pennsylvania Conservancy

Thank you again for your support of Conococheague Institute and for making a generous \$100.00 donation to support our programming and environment conservation. —Matthew Wedd, Executive Director

Thank you for your support of the Tuscarora Wildlife Education Project, Inc. (TWEP). Your donation of \$100.00 will help educate today's youth about our wildlife resources. —Sheila Snider, TWEP Director

On behalf of the Norlo Park Foundation, I would like to sincerely thank you for making a contribution of \$100.00. This gift will be used to continue the maintenance, improvement, and further development of Norlo Park for the future. —Don Clapper, Chairman, Board of Supervisors

Climate Change Challenges the Eastern Bluebirds

by Dorian & Lynn Runt and volunteers

In south-central Pennsylvania, Spring 2023 began earlier than normal (or what used to be normal). By late February, flowering trees were in bud and the crocuses were up. On the Penn National Golf Course, which is home to many cavity-nesting birds, the Eastern Bluebirds were already searching for their mates. They began investigating the nest boxes that line the perimeters of the two golf courses. Very evident was the routine of Bluebird courtship with both male and female waving their wings at one another as they sat on the roof of their new home.



Wave to your true love
Photo credit: L. Runt

Inside the nest box, the female started building the cup-shaped nest with the material of her choice – straw, grass, or pine needles. The female always does all the work of nest construction, while the male stands guard and occasionally sticks his head into the box to inspect. Next those beautiful blue eggs appeared, laid by the female at the rate of one per day. She incubated those eggs for a period of 12-14 days, and all the viable eggs hatched within 24 hours of each other. Then the Bluebird pair worked together to feed those gaping mouths with softer insects such as caterpillars. The adults gradually transitioned the diet to coarse insects like grasshoppers, crickets or even dried mealworms. The pair also kept the nest clean by removing white fecal sacs that encapsulated the nestlings' waste.

In the first week of May, our trail monitors were ecstatic with so many healthy Bluebird chicks which might be ready to fledge from the nests by early June. This would allow this pair or perhaps another Bluebird pair to use the cleaned-out box for their nest and brood. It is possible for the same couple to have three clutches in a season.



BB chicks ready to fledge
Photo credit Cathy Iacona

All was on track for a very productive year for the trail. But in the first week of May, the temperatures plummeted to well below freezing for an entire week. These wild temperature swings are a part of climate change. The blossoms on trees froze, spring bulbs were stunted, and many Bluebird chicks literally froze to death in the nest. Some chicks were simply too large by that time to be kept warm by the mother. Also, there were no insects in these temperatures as a food source. No

warmth and no food led to hypothermia. In some nests, there were surviving chicks who eventually succeeded in fledging. Perhaps these survivors were more dominant in the clutch and could command more food from their parents. In all about 8-10 Bluebird chicks and 7 tree swallow nestlings (also insect-eaters) died of hypothermia.



The result of hypothermia
Photo credit: Ethel Nelson

Our trail monitors were disappointed about these losses yet vowed to further research some solutions to nesting failures caused by weather and severe heat or cold. For cold/wet weather, we are replacing very old nest boxes which are leaky and have less insulating value. We are covering ventilation holes/slots in extreme cold. We are providing supplemental food like suet, mealworms, and shelled seeds when insects are not available due to cold weather. For the extremes of heat, we are adding ventilation to nest boxes if needed or adding a solar screen to the west side of the boxes.

This is an ambitious plan and will require continued support from volunteers. If you can donate some time to this project, you will help us keep the Bluebird from becoming the "Canary in the Coal Mine." Working together, we can better ensure that the Eastern Bluebird will remain the "Harbinger of Spring."



Adjustable vent closure
Photo credit: L. Runt

To volunteer, contact: Dorian / Lynn Runt
adamsmail@centurylink.net 717-352-4995 or Ruth Barton ruthbarton46@gmail.com

My Favorite Birds, continued from page 2

Several years ago, I stumbled upon this trail in the Buchanan State Forest just outside Letterkenny Army Depot. Along the trail, new growth was filling in where the hemlocks and ash trees had fallen to their tiny foes. The density of the understory makes it hard to see some birds, just the way they like it. It's a good spot with regular Indigo Buntings, Wood Thrush, Yellow-throated Vireos, Scarlet Tanagers, and Acadian Flycatchers. But today I'm here for warblers, my favorite birds.

If you spend time birding, it's good to have an answer ready when somebody asks, "What's your favorite bird?" Sooner or later, it will come up. Like many birders, I can't choose a single favorite. I might be able to answer if you narrow it down: Favorite sparrow? Fox. Favorite woodpecker? Pi-

leated. Favorite frigatebird? Magnificent. Favorite warbler? The one I am looking at right now!

It might seem unfair. Other people have to choose one favorite bird, but my favorite is a whole group of birds with more than fifty species in North America—the warblers. To me, the allure is obvious, but I understand why they're not everyone's favorite. After all, it's a well-established fact that warblers are, literally and figuratively, a pain in the neck.

A Blackpoll Warbler is gleaning steadily through the canopy, forty feet over my head. My mouth falls open as I tilt my head all the way back. The bird disappears here, reappears there. I turn this way and that, trying to keep my balance. I finally get a brief glimpse of a white belly with some faint black streaks. Soon, my neck is aching, and I'm longing to hear an Ovenbird just for an excuse to look down.

Of course, that's the literal pain. The other pain is in my brain rather than my neck. This comes from trying to identify warblers. If I get a clear look for a half second, which is as long as a warbler can stay in one spot, I can readily identify many of them. A Hooded Warbler has a hood. A Black-throated Blue Warbler is blue with a black throat. But those are only the males. There is no hood on the female Hooded Warbler. The female Black-throated Blue isn't blue and doesn't have a black throat. Sure, a Chestnut-sided Warbler has chestnut sides but only during breeding season. In autumn when that Blackpoll Warbler lands on a branch right in front of me in good light at eye level, I will puzzle over it, review my field guide, second guess myself, make the call, and then go through the whole process again later when I look at the photo.

Still, I love warblers despite the pain, or maybe because of it—because they are a challenge. They're often hard to find, and they don't sit still. On top of that, they're complicated enough to warrant their own field guide, Stephenson and Whittle's 560+ page *The Warbler Guide*. The book itself is as complicated as the birds: warblers from every angle, tail patterns, male and female, spring and fall, immature and adult, drab specimens, comparison species, arrival times, sonograms, similar species, etc. Understandably, it weighs over two pounds.

Learning to identify warblers is challenging but not impossible, and for me that makes it fun. When I see a female Black-throated Blue, I mostly appreciate its subdued colors, but I also get a sense of satisfaction from identifying something now that I couldn't before. In the fall when I see a greenish warbler with a bright eye-ring and yellowish cap, I smile because I no longer need to see chestnut sides to recognize a Chestnut-sided Warbler. I love warblers because they

remind me of how much I have learned.

Of course, the joy of learning is only one reason I love warblers. I love warblers because they are splendid birds. Visually attractive, both stunning (Prothonotary Warbler) and sublime (Worm-eating Warbler), warblers indulge in the entire buffet of decorative devices: caps, hoods, necklaces, spectacles, masks, eye-rings, eye-lines, wing-bars, breast bands, breast streaks, tail spots, shoulder patches, olive backs, black throats, and yellow rumps. Then they apply eye-candy combinations of color: pure sunshine Yellow Warblers, flame orange Blackburnians, deep blues like the Black-throated Blue or bright like a Cerulean Warbler, plus numberless unnamed shades so subtle and sweet as to take your breath away.

When I spy one of these beauties, I get the feeling that I'm in on a secret. These amazing birds are flying over our homes while we sleep. They're living and nesting in the woods all around us, and yet outside of the birding world, people don't really know about warblers. I certainly never heard of warblers while I was playing in the woods during my misspent youth, and I'm not alone. Even people who enjoy the outdoors and appreciate nature may not know that there are yellow birds other than goldfinches. Of course, it's not their fault; it takes time to know the joy of warblers. And time is of the essence because warblers don't stay—nothing gold can—which is probably another reason I love warblers. They arrive with the spring and leave with the fall (or summer even). Like homegrown tomatoes, you enjoy them while you can, then dream about them all winter long. By April, I'm checking Birdcast like a day trader checks the stock market: what are the trends? what happened overnight? what will tomorrow bring? Call it the joy of anticipation. Oh, and that's not all; I forgot to mention that they sing too. I can hear one now, calling a high, light series of notes that I've learned to recognize. Knowing its feeding habits, I look for it creeping along the trunk and branches, and just for a moment, my favorite bird is the Black-and-white Warbler.



Black-and-white Warbler
Photo credit: Ron George

Chambersburg, PA (PACH) Christmas Bird Count 2023 Report

Valerie B. Barnes, Compiler

Conococheague Audubon and friends conducted the 64th Chambersburg Area Christmas Bird Count (PACH CBC) on December 16, 2023. We had a slightly above average count in terms of the number of species, with one new species added: Northern Saw-whet Owl. Weather conditions were: ~28-54 degrees; sunny.

Each CBC takes place in an established 15-mile diameter circle, and is organized by a count compiler and zone captains. Count volunteers cover specified areas in the circle, counting every bird they see or hear all day. It's not just a species tally—all individual birds are counted, giving a snapshot of the total number of birds in the circle that day.

Participants in the field: 55 (average is 57)

Participants at home watching feeders: 16 (average for past 13 years is 29)

Field counters spent: 74.75 hours on foot, walking 62 miles; 49 hours in cars, driving 391.8 miles; 5.95 hours listening for owls, covering 15.35 miles.

Feeder counters spent 49 hours watching at home (average for past 13 years is 72 hours)

Total species counted: 72 (average is 71)

Feeder species counted: 29 (average for past 13 years is 35)

Total individual birds counted: 17,803 (average corrected for unusually high black bird counts in 1984 is 21,504)

477 of total birds counted were seen at feeders (average for past 13 years is 1,318)

Bold indicates high count. *Italics* indicates new species. CW = Observed during Count Week, but not on count day.

Canada Goose 662

Mallard 513

American Black Duck 2

Green-winged Teal CW

Wild Turkey 4

Rock Pigeon 954

Eurasian Collared-Dove CW

Mourning Dove 1044

Killdeer 1

Great Blue Heron 17

Black Vulture 25

Turkey Vulture 25

Northern Harrier 5

Sharp-shinned Hawk 8

Cooper's Hawk 22

Bald Eagle 9

Red-shouldered Hawk 3

Red-tailed Hawk 78

Eastern Screech-Owl 4

Great Horned Owl 7

Barred Owl 6

Northern Saw-whet Owl 2

Belted Kingfisher 16

Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 26

Red-headed Woodpecker 7

Red-bellied Woodpecker 171

Downy Woodpecker 165

Hairy Woodpecker 62

Pileated Woodpecker 19

Northern Flicker 50

American Kestrel 18

Eastern Phoebe 2

Blue Jay 342

American Crow 149

Common Raven 9

Carolina/Black-capped chickadee 251

Tufted Titmouse 143

Horned Lark 661

Ruby-crowned Kinglet 7

Golden-crowned Kinglet 32

Red-breasted Nuthatch 2

White-breasted Nuthatch 148

Brown Creeper 19

Winter Wren 19

Carolina Wren 165

European Starling 6817

Gray Catbird 5

Northern Mockingbird 84

Eastern Bluebird 102

Hermit Thrush 10

American Robin 738

Cedar Waxwing 136

House Sparrow 1005

American Pipit 21

House Finch 431

Purple Finch 3

Pine Siskin 26

American Goldfinch 215

Lapland Longspur 1

Chipping Sparrow 1

Field Sparrow 2

American Tree Sparrow 2

Fox Sparrow 1

Dark-eyed Junco 874

White-crowned Sparrow 35

White-throated Sparrow 583

Savannah Sparrow 4

Song Sparrow 206

Swamp Sparrow 7

Eastern Towhee CW

Red-winged Blackbird 9

Brown-headed Cowbird 154

Common Grackle 2

Yellow-rumped Warbler 1

Northern Cardinal 454

Comments:

The total number of species seen was one higher than our average. The total number of individual birds observed was ~82% of the average adjusted for large black bird flocks that were seen in 1984. The count of individual birds seen at feeders this year was 364 below the average for the last 13 years. Thirteen fewer feeder watchers than average participated, and the total hours they spent was approximately 23 fewer than average.

We saw new high numbers of five species. Northern Saw-whet Owl was new to the count; one was reported in two different zones. Three species recorded on at least one previous count were seen only in count week, but not on count day.

For birds seen in more than 30 counts:

Teams reported unusually low (<25% of average) numbers of American Black Duck, Wild Turkey, Killdeer, Ruffed Grouse*, Ring-necked Pheasant*, Wilson's Snipe*, American Crow, Fish Crow*, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Evening Grosbeak*, Purple Finch, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, American Tree Sparrow, Eastern Towhee* (CW only), Eastern Meadowlark*, Red-winged Blackbird, Brown-headed Cowbird, Common Grackle, and Yellow-rumped Warbler. Note: species marked with * were not observed in this count on count day.

Teams reported more than the usual numbers (>125% of average) of Turkey Vulture, Northern Harrier, Cooper's Hawk, Red-Tailed Hawk, Barred Owl, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Red-headed Woodpecker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Blue Jay, Common Raven, Horned Lark, Golden-crowned Kinglet, White-breasted Nuthatch, and Winter Wren.

Of birds seen in at least 41 prior counts, we missed Ring-necked Pheasant, Wilson's Snipe, Fish Crow, Eastern Towhee, and Eastern Meadowlark on count day.

Birds reported from all zones included: Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Red-tailed Hawk, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Blue Jay, American Crow, Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Horned Lark, Golden-crowned Kinglet, White-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Creeper, Carolina Wren, European Starling, Northern Mockingbird, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, Cedar Waxwing, House Sparrow, House Finch, American Goldfinch, Dark-eyed Junco, White-throated Sparrow, Song Sparrow, and Northern Cardinal.

Birds reported from only one zone included:

Zone 1: American Black Duck, Killdeer, Black Vulture, Gray Catbird, Lapland Longspur, Chipping Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Yellow-rumped Warbler

Zone 2: Fox Sparrow

Zone 5: Eastern Phoebe, Field Sparrow, Savannah Sparrow

"Big Bend: The Wild Frontier of Texas"

by Terri Kochert

Whether you have or have not yet traveled to southern Texas to witness the splendor of the desert in all seasons, the mountainous terrain with sheer cliffs, and the extensive variety of wildlife there, I invite you to view our free nature film at 7 PM on March 7, 2024 at CAMS South. Come to either refresh your memory or to experience it visually before planning your trip there.

The Rio Grande River divides the United States and Mexico. Big Bend National Park, through which a portion of the Rio Grande flows, is located in a remote corner of Texas and is part of the Chihuahuan Desert. In this film, you will see many forms of wildlife: the returning black bears, Acorn Woodpeckers with their peculiar habit of boring holes in cacti to hide away their stash of acorns, courtship displays of hummingbirds, beavers at work, soaring Swainson's Hawks, rattlesnakes, Texas lizards, and many species of butterflies. And observe the strange behavior of



Big Bend

Photo credit: upload-Wikimedia.org

bats prowling along the ground in search of prey. When you see tarantulas and scorpions, you will be shocked to learn what preys on the scorpions! There are many other wildlife creatures you'll meet, some of which may surprise you. Please come and enjoy this amazing study of the wild Texan outdoors!

MEETINGS – Free, held at Fellowship Hall, St. Luke Evangelical Lutheran Church, 2695 Luther Drive, Chambersburg, PA 17202.

FIELD TRIPS – Free, most take place on Saturdays. Contact the leader; arrive early.

March 2, Saturday **FIELD TRIP**
6:30 AM Middle Creek WMA, Lancaster County auto tour for WATERFOWL. Meet at the Park & Ride, Scotland, Exit 20, I-81 northbound. Bring scopes, binoculars, and lunch. **Eric and Rhetta Martin**, 717-597-8675.

March 7, Thursday at CAMS South **FILM**
7:00 PM *Big Bend: The Wild Frontier of Texas*, PBS. This film explores Rio Grande's Big Bend – a vast unspoiled wonderland of serene beauty and astounding desert landscapes which are home to some of North America's most enchanting animals. Door prizes.

March 11, Monday **MEETING**
7:00 PM *Galapagos: A Model of Conservation*, by Bob Keener. Arranged by Val Barnes.

March 14, Thursday **FIELD TRIP**
6:45 PM Tentative outing for WOODCOCKS at Heisey Road orchard with Bob Keener. Meet at the Park & Ride, Scotland, Exit 20, I-81 northbound. Bring flashlights.
Bob Kochert, 717-263-3692.

April 8, Monday **MEETING**
7:00 PM Annual business meeting and elections. All chapter members welcome. *Make Your Yard a Living Bird Feeder - Bird*

Friendly Natives for Home Landscapes, by Rebecca Shubert. Arranged by Anne St. John.

April 13 & 27 Saturdays **WORK DAY**
9:30 AM Work at NORLO PARK native garden. Bring garden tools and gloves. **Josh Donaldson**, 717-264-6920.

New Date: May 20, Monday **FIELD TRIP**
7:00 AM Fort McCord area for SPRING ARRIVALS/MIGRANTS. **Bill Oyler**, 717-360-5191.

CAS WEBSITE: <https://conococheagueaudubon.org/>

Newsletter Editor - Jane Bussard (717-401-3210)
janenbussard47@gmail.com

Send all newsletter articles and photos to the editor.
Send all mailing changes to conaudubon@outlook.com.

COPY DEADLINE APRIL 15 FOR MAY 2024 NEWSLETTER

CONOCOCHEAGUE AUDUBON OFFICERS:

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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P.O. Box 20
Fayetteville, PA 17222