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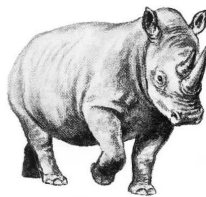
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**Save the Date!**

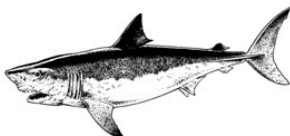
**March 11 Meeting (change)**  
“Birds of Antarctica and South America,” - Earl Nollenberger

**March 14 Nature film**  
*Rhino Rescue*



**April 8 Meeting**  
“Spring Warbler Tune-up” audiovisual quiz. Annual business meeting and elections

**April 11 Nature film**  
*Great White Odyssey*



**A Message from the President - Debby Hook**

**Legacy of Bird Lore**

A passion for history and heritage has benefited Joan Bowen as a charter member of Conococheague Audubon. Her well-honed memory has been a CAS record-keeping asset from the start.

At our January 14 meeting, Joan presented to CAS a reference book she’s valued over the years: *The Book of the American Woodcock*, by William G. Sheldon (1971). Reading from an article she typed, “Conococheague Naturalists/Audubon Woodcock Trip Account,” Joan described how, in 1967, she’d discovered the group’s first known Franklin County woodcock-mating-grounds site. Her find launched her as a decades-long leader of CAS spring woodcock field trips.

“I guess this is my legacy to Conococheague Audubon,” she said, smiling at the assembled members applauding their hearty approval.

Other items she donated are a Christmas Bird Count 50<sup>th</sup> year T-shirt; a copy of Ken Beaver’s book, *Viewpoints*, autographed by Elizabeth Beaver; an 1895 *Handbook of Birds of Eastern North America*, by Frank Chapman; and a copy of Helen Hoover’s book, *A Place in the Woods*, which Joan had purchased for the CAS reading circle.

Former CAS president Russ Martz has also given some keepsakes of the past, including a centennial edition and a 1966 edition of *Audubon* magazine; two cassette tapes of common bird songs, with detailed descriptions of the vocalizations (1967); a 1934 Roger Tory Peterson *Field Guide to the Birds*; and a 1946 *Audubon Bird Guide, Eastern Land Birds*.

While these old books and guides may seem outdated, often a cursory look through the text in their yellowed pages offers the “Aha!” that helps identify a difficult sighting.

Books both old and new are available for loan from our farmhouse office. Please come find something entertaining or educational to read this winter. To schedule a visit, call President Debby Hook at 717-372-0228 or Vice President Terri Kochert at 717-263-3692.

**March On**

**CHANGE:** Please note there has been a **change** to the March 11 program. Earl Nollenberger will present “Birds of Antarctica and South America,” which was to be the topic of our canceled February meeting. The program begins at 7 p.m. in Norlo Park Community Center. Terri Kochert will provide refreshments.

Join us at 7:30 p.m. **March 14** at CAMS South for *Rhino Rescue*, a film about the reintroduction of black rhinos into Botswana after its herds were decimated by poachers wanting only the horns. Pre-show music begins at 7 with Heather McEndree, a professional flutist.

Donations received at the door at our first film Jan. 24 amounted to \$383. Thank you to all who appreciate the work we do in your community.

*A Message from the President continues on Page 4, column 1*

## Rhino Rescue — Terri Kochert

Expect a revelation with the National Geographic film coming up on March 14. Hopefully it leads viewers to action against the barbaric slaughter of these massive creatures, the rhinoceroses.

Of the five species of rhinos in the world, two are found in Africa: the black rhino, actually dark gray, and the larger white rhino. South Africa is home to 80% of Africa's rhinos and nearly three-fourths of the earth's rhino population. The Indian, Javan, and Sumatran rhinos live in Asia.

All rhinos are in danger of extinction. Poaching has decimated the estimated 500,000 seen in the early 1900's. A massive rescue project in South Africa saved the remaining 5,000 black rhinos, declared extinct. Africa's white rhino weighs up to 5,070 pounds. The African black rhino weighs up to 3,100 pounds. It is believed that rhinos live between 35-50 years. All rhinos are herbivores, eating grasses.



*Drawing done at age 17 by Forrest Rhyne, grandson of Bob & Terri*

Due to mythological beliefs, rhino horns were said to have medicinal uses as aphrodisiacs, fever reducers, antidotes to poison, etc. The horns were carved into cups and bowls, signs of great wealth.

Poverty also impacts poaching, which may have started in Zimbabwe, troubled with a difficult socio-economic and political climate, and then spread into South Africa, home of the largest rhino population. A live rhino sells for \$30,000. The horn brings \$1,300 a pound! For a poor farmer, poaching becomes an irresistible prospect. Ultimately, rhinoceros poaching comes down to two of the oldest vices, greed and vanity.

The film depicts the rousing rescue efforts of the Botswanan military as they acted to counter poachers. Their "shoot to kill" policy may seem radical, but it worked! They got the attention of world conservationists. They rounded up as many rhinos as they could find, placed them in a "safe" area to guard for 10 years. Then they released the rhinos on an island in Botswana's Okavango River in southern Africa. Rhinos don't swim.

In most instances, rescuers cut a portion of the horn and placed a tracking device on each rhino to follow its travels. The ongoing rhino release has had its difficulties: injuries to the rhinos while transporting them, high heat and dehydration, and/or mysterious deaths after release.

We hope to see you at CAMS South at 7:30 PM March 14 for the nature film and at 7 PM for the pre-film entertainment provided by Heather McEndree, flutist.

## Rescheduled National Geographic Nature Film: Great White Odyssey — Terri Kochert

The 1975 movie, "Jaws," about a Great White Shark wreaking havoc along a quiet New England community seashore, traumatized many. Please set your fears aside and plan to view our final nature film of the 2018-2019, presented at CAMS South on April 11, 2019 at 7:30 PM.

In this free National Geographic Nature Film, we will follow one lone female Great White Shark, 12' long and weighing nearly 1,100 pounds, as she sets out on an unusual journey from the tip of South Africa eastward to the south Atlantic Ocean. After the filming crew successfully tags her and affectionately names her Nicole, they follow her nearly 6,000 miles, recording the tale on video. Throughout the film, you will view Humpback Whales, King Penguins, seals, Elephant Seals, tuna, and Whale Sharks, etc.

Though we typically think of Great Whites as being the aggressors, you will learn that 80% of Great Whites vanish each year. About 73 million sharks disappear annually; many harvested by the Japanese for their fins to make shark fin soup. The rest of the animal is cast aside to be eaten by other predators. The killing of these great beasts is an insidiously cruel travesty. So, if you were unaware of their great peril, you may learn other interesting facts too. Attend our rescheduled November free Nature Film to see and learn for yourself. For your enjoyment, we will begin the evening at 7 PM with stringed music by the Bauler sisters, students of the Chambersburg Academy of Music.

Film date: April 11, 2019 at CAMS South, McKinley Street @ 7:30 PM. Pre-film music @ 7 PM.



*Yellow-bellied Sapsucker at suet feeder*

Photo credit: Terri Kochert

## Bird-Related Sayings — Val Barnes

We hear and use common sayings about birds. What do they mean? Where did they come from? What were the original meanings? Do they make sense today?

Let's start with: "A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush." This one suggests that it's better to have something certain (bird in the hand) than to risk the loss of that for just the potential of something (two in the bush, presumably out of reach) that is worth more.

The origin of this phrase is uncertain, but there are several possibilities. <https://grammarist.com/proverb/a-bird-in-the-hand-is-worth-two-in-the-bush/> states that the phrase may be related to falconry, where the bird in the hand is the falcon and the birds in the bush may be the prey. According to <https://www.phrases.org.uk/meanings/>, this saying "is first found in English in Hugh Rhodes' *The Boke of Nurture or Schoole of Good Manners*, circa 1530: *A byrd in hand - is worth ten flye at large*. John Heywood's 1546 glossary *A dialogue containyng the nomber in effect of all the prouerbes in the englishe tongue* also includes the proverb: *Better one byrde in hande than ten in the wood...* The 7th century Aramaic Story of Ahikar has text that modern translations render as *Better is a sparrow held tight in the hand*



*What price is a Cooper's Hawk outside your kitchen window?*

Photo credit: Terri Kochert

*than a thousand birds flying about in the air.* Plutarch's *Moralia* has text that modern translations give as *He is a fool who leaves things close at hand to follow what is out of reach.*"

So, the notion of being happy with what you have has been around for a long time. It seems to make sense today, too. We are happy with the birds we see at our feeders each day, but there's nothing wrong with hoping for different, more unusual ones which may appear tomorrow!

Next time: "Birds of a feather flock together"



*Dark-eyed Junco*

Photo credit: Terri Kochert

## Year-round Bird Walks

— Debby Hook

Early morning birding walks continue year-round the first and third Saturdays in Renfrew Park, 1010 E. Main St., Waynesboro. Audubon members Larry and Sharon Williams begin the walks, sponsored by Renfrew Institute, at 7:30 AM from the lower parking lot off Welty Road. In April and May, birding walks take place every Saturday. For details and to join a walk, call the Williamses at 717-655-7414; or Renfrew Institute at 717-762-0373.

## Planning the 2019 Beginner Birder Workshop — Dave Cooney

We've scheduled the 2019 Beginning Birder Workshop, our eleventh such event, for Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup> at 7:45 A.M. at Caledonia State Park. Our tenth anniversary event earned a "fantastic" rating, and it is thanks to the help and expertise of volunteers that it was a great success.

We need your help this year too. Dave Cooney, again chairing this function, invites all volunteers to the first planning meeting at 6 p.m. March 11. It will be one hour prior to the March general meeting.



*Not a Cardinal! Red Fox.*

Photo credit: Dave Cooney

Of course, we welcome all volunteers, old and new. Some of the planned activities include: Bird Walks, Kid's Corner, Nature Walk, Scavenger Hunt, refreshments, parking visitors, registration of participants and assisting with visitor center set up for the day's events. If you any questions or want to volunteer, please contact Dave Cooney at (717) 264-2116 or email at [slant1cm@yahoo.com](mailto:slant1cm@yahoo.com)

## **CONSERVATION - Debby Hook**

### **Audubon Stands Against the Wall**

National Audubon Society on February 4 released a statement opposing construction of a section of the border wall at the National Butterfly Sanctuary in Mission, Texas. A wall built at this location threatens to close Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park in Texas, which hosts more than 500 bird species, reports Audubon.

The statement reads, in part: "The biological impact of destroying this habitat is incredibly high. The ecosystems along the U.S. border with Mexico are intensely rich in birds and natural beauty. They generate hundreds of millions of dollars in ecotourism and other economic benefits every year, and they support vibrant human communities.

"The wellbeing of birds and of people are deeply intertwined, and that's why Audubon has worked for decades to protect birds and the places they need ...

"Audubon believes that conservation doesn't have a party and that bird issues can bring us together. At a time when America needs solutions and understanding, Audubon remains committed to creating more common ground for birds and communities."

Audubon said it opposes the construction of any structures that would destroy or fragment important bird habitat, national parks and forests, protected wetlands and other public lands; block migration corridors for endangered species and migratory birds; create or worsen environmental risks such as flooding that would threaten birds and people; waive or weaken fundamental environmental protections such as the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, or the National Environmental Policy Act; diminish outdoor recreation or ecotourism; sever connections between communities and natural resources; or harm communities, landowners, tribes, or organizations that Audubon serves and considers its partners.

— Source: *National Audubon Society*

*A Message from the President* continued from Page 1

### **Financially Speaking**

National Audubon Society in December gave us \$1,237.50 for our chapter's annual baseline funding allocation.

After seeking local partners to sponsor the sign we plan to install along the Chambersburg section of the Cumberland Valley Rail Trail, CAS' interpretive sign committee has received two sponsorships, with more expected in the spring.

In December, our chapter gave gifts totaling \$350 to Audubon PA, Cumberland Valley Rails-to-Trails Council, TWEP (in Mercersburg), and, through the purchase of a commemorative patio brick, the new John James Audubon Center for Arts and Conservation in Mill Grove.



*Katrina Hoopes prepares pine cones for children to smear with peanut butter and bird seed during a Feb. 9 program, "Backyard Birds in Winter: The Great Backyard Bird Count," at Antietam Humane Society, Waynesboro. Ten children who visited the shelter to read to cats and dogs took part in the program led by Debby Hook and Sharon Williams.*

Photo credit: Debby Hook

## **Come to Annual Meeting!**

- Val Barnes

Don't forget to come to the Annual Business Meeting on Monday, April 8. The program will begin at 7 p.m. with a bird identification quiz, "Spring Warbler Tune-up." Game on!

We will also be voting on proposed changes to the by-laws to make it officially possible to collect votes in person or via email or phone or proxy. We need enough votes at the meeting to make the changes that were defined in detail in the last newsletter, so please participate on April 8 (where the details will be provided again). Make your vote count!



*Black-throated Green Warbler at water urn fountain*  
Photo credit: Bob Keener

# Chambersburg, PA Christmas Bird Count 2018 Report — Val Barnes

We conducted the 59<sup>th</sup> Chambersburg Christmas Bird Count on December 15, 2018, a dreary, rainy day. Although many of us feel as if fewer birds are coming to our feeders this season, the total count was about average in terms of total species and numbers of birds observed.

Each count 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 all day, giving a snapshot of the total number of birds in the circle that day.

Participants in the field: 66 (average is 57)

Participants at home watching feeders: 20 (average for past 8 years is 31)

## Species and number:

Cackling Goose CW  
Canada Goose 836  
Wood Duck 1  
Gadwall 5  
American Black Duck 3  
Mallard 767  
Northern Shoveler 2  
Northern Pintail 2  
Green-winged Teal 7  
Bufflehead 1  
Wild Turkey 93  
Great Blue Heron 17  
Northern Harrier 1  
Sharp-shinned Hawk 6  
Cooper's Hawk 8  
Red-tailed Hawk 42  
American Kestrel 19  
Merlin 3  
Peregrine Falcon 1  
Killdeer 9  
Rock Pigeon 1088  
Mourning Dove 1120  
Eastern Screech-Owl 1  
Great Horned Owl 2

Barred Owl 3  
Belted Kingfisher 5  
Red-headed Woodpecker 0  
Red-bellied Woodpecker 76  
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 5  
Downy Woodpecker 86  
Hairy Woodpecker 17  
Northern Flicker 23  
Pileated Woodpecker 13  
Blue Jay 196  
American Crow 44  
Common Raven 5  
Carolina/Black-Capped Chickadee 103  
Tufted Titmouse 59  
Red-breasted Nuthatch 10  
White-breasted Nuthatch 81  
Brown Creeper 24  
Carolina Wren 85  
Winter Wren 6  
Golden-crowned Kinglet 29  
Ruby-crowned Kinglet 2  
Eastern Bluebird 59  
American Robin 109

Gray Catbird 1  
Northern Mockingbird 58  
European Starling 14257  
Cedar Waxwing 44  
Yellow-rumped Warbler 5  
Common Yellowthroat 1  
Eastern Towhee 2  
American Tree Sparrow 5  
Chipping Sparrow 1  
Field Sparrow 1  
Fox Sparrow 3  
Song Sparrow 116  
Swamp Sparrow 7  
White-throated Sparrow 625  
White-crowned Sparrow 69  
Dark-eyed Junco 445  
Northern Cardinal 352  
Common Grackle 6  
Brown-headed Cowbird 7  
Purple Finch 1  
House Finch 189  
Pine Siskin 25  
American Goldfinch 165  
House Sparrow 728

Field counters spent: 53.25 hours on foot, walking 49.45 miles; 62 hours in cars, driving 537.5 miles; and 1.75 hours listening for owls, covering 1 mile.

Feeder counters spent 57.5 hours watching at home (average for past 8 years is 81)

Total species counted: 69 (average is 71)

Feeder species counted: 32 (8 year average is 36)

Total individual birds counted: 22,187 (average corrected for unusually high blackbird counts in 1984 is 22,112)

1,956 of birds counted were seen at feeders (average for past 8 years is 1,490)

Weather conditions: ~41-46 degrees, cloudy to rainy  
CW=Count Week

## Comments:

The total number of species seen was slightly below our average. The total number of individual birds observed was slightly below the average adjusted for large blackbird flocks that were seen in 1984. The count of birds seen at feeders this year was approximately 500 above the average for the last 8 years, due to a large flock of European Starlings at one location. Nine more birders were out in the field than average. Eleven fewer feeder watchers participated.

New to the list this year: Cackling Goose (only during Count Week). There were no new high numbers of birds seen for any species recorded.

For birds seen in more than 30 counts:

Teams reported unusually low (<25% of average) numbers of American Black Duck, American Crow, Hermit Thrush, American Tree Sparrow, Chipping Sparrow, Field Sparrow, Red-winged Blackbird, Eastern Meadowlark, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Purple Finch, and Evening Grosbeak.

Teams reported more than the usual numbers (>125% of average) of Canada Goose, Wild Turkey, Cooper's Hawk, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, Common raven, Brown Creeper, Carolina Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, American Robin, European Starling, Cedar Waxwing, Swamp Sparrow, and White-throated Sparrow.

We missed Ring-necked Pheasant, Wilson's Snipe, Red-headed Woodpecker, Fish Crow, and Horned Lark, each seen on at least 41 prior counts.

**MEETINGS – Free**, held in the Community Center at Norlo Park, 3050 Lincoln Way East, Fayetteville.

**FIELD TRIPS – Free**, most take place on Saturdays. Contact the leader in advance if you plan to go. Times listed are departure times; please arrive early. If you cannot go on a scheduled trip, contact leader for a potential mid-week option on his/her scouting trip.

**FILMS – Free**, all begin at 7:30 PM in Chambersburg Area Middle School South, 1151 E. McKinley St., Chambersburg, PA. Pre-show musical entertainment begins at 7 PM.

**March 9, Saturday** **FIELD TRIP**  
6:30 AM. Middle Creek WMA, Lancaster County auto tour for WATERFOWL. Meet in parking lot at Scotland exit, I-81 northbound. Bring scopes, binoculars, CBs, and lunch. **Eric and Rhetta Martin**, 717-597-8675.

**March 11, Monday** **MEETING**  
7:00 PM. **(Program changed)** “Birds of Antarctica and South America,” — Earl Nollenberger.

**March 12, Tuesday** **FIELD TRIP**  
7:00 PM. Tentative outing for WOODCOCKS. If trip takes place at Heisey Road orchard, meet at Chambersburg Mall, Black Gap Rd., (north side near Bon Ton wall). Bring CBs and flashlights. For update, **Bob Kochert**, 717-263-3692.

**March 14, Thursday** **FILM**  
7:30 PM. *Rhino Rescue*. Huge efforts are made to reintroduce rhinos into Botswana after herds were decimated for their horns. Music at 7 PM.

**April 8, Monday** **MEETING**  
7:00 PM. “Spring warbler tune-up” audiovisual quiz. Annual business meeting and elections.

**April 11, Thursday** **RESCHEDULED FILM**  
7:30 PM. *Great White Odyssey*. Music at 7 PM. (Rescheduled from Nov. 15.)

**April 13, Saturday** **FIELD TRIP**  
7:00 AM. Boundaries of Letterkenny Army Depot for SPRING MIGRANTS. Leave from North Pointe Center, U.S. 11 north of Chambersburg. Bring scopes, binoculars, and snack. **David Cooney**, 717-264-2116.

**April 27, Saturday** **WORK DAY**  
9:00 AM. Work in the native garden at NORLO PARK. **Josh Donaldson**, 717-264-6920.

**CAS WEBSITE:** [www.conococheagueaudubon.org](http://www.conococheagueaudubon.org)

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Send all newsletter articles and photos to the editor.  
Send all mailing changes to [conaudubon@outlook.com](mailto:conaudubon@outlook.com).

COPY DEADLINE APRIL 15 FOR MAY 2019 NEWSLETTER.

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