Already by mid-October local birders reported seeing some first winter visitors: White-crowned Sparrow, Winter Wren, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Pine Siskin, and Dark-eyed Junco are among the sightings. Leaves are changing colors and squirrels and chipmunks are stashing acorns. Our culinary interests shift from corn on the cob and garden-ripened tomatoes to chili and pot roast. Warm weather locales are nice, but I enjoy the change of seasons.

Continued thanks to all the leaders of Conococheague Audubon for your dedication and hard work. Thanks, too, to the members who have made a monetary contribution to keep our activities going. For those who haven’t donated yet, it’s not too late! Mail your check made out to “Conococheague Audubon” to CAS, PO Box 20, Fayetteville, PA 17222.

Our education chair, Terri Kochert, was very successful in interesting 3rd-5th grade teachers in Audubon Adventures. We purchased 52 kits for the classrooms – a record high number! We didn’t budget for that many, so we need additional funds to cover the shortfall. You can sponsor a classroom for just $45! Please consider making an extra donation this year and mail your check made out to “Conococheague Audubon” to CAS, PO Box 20, Fayetteville, PA 17222. Write “Audubon Adventures” on the memo line to specify that you want to sponsor a classroom with this contribution.

Would you like to be our new Conservation Chair? The Conservation Chair keeps abreast of local, state, and national governmental policies and actions affecting the natural environment and conservation of natural resources. The Chair informs the membership about those issues at meetings and via this newsletter. The Chair also writes letters and sends emails to public officials, representatives, and local newspapers. It’s easy to stay informed about and take action on issues important to Audubon by signing up for email alerts at http://www.audubon.org/takeaction. If you are interested in serving as Conservation Chair, please contact Valerie Barnes (717-352-4397 or BarnesVa4@comcast.net).

The Board is working on an update to the Conococheague Audubon “plan” for the next several years. Here are our draft goals:

1. Make a difference in our local community by being good stewards of the earth in our daily lives.
2. Share our passion for conservation, birding, and the natural world through programs; opportunities for observation of birds, other wildlife, and plants; projects in our local community; and other activities.
3. Educate the public about climate change, science-based decision-making, and promote the conservation of wildlife and natural environment.
4. Contribute to research in the fields of conservation and ornithology by monetary support and/or active participation.
5. Encourage the engagement of more citizens in the development of policies that support conservation.

Stay tuned for more in future issues of the Naturally. All of us will need to work together to achieve our goals. Please share your ideas about how to do that. Good birding!
Christmas Bird Count December 17, 2016

by Valerie B. Barnes

I saw my first Junco yesterday, so that means the Christmas Bird Count must be just around the corner! We’ve scheduled this year’s Christmas Bird Count for Saturday, December 17, 2016. The more people who participate, the more birds we’ll find. You don’t have to be an expert at identification to help; spotting birds and recording what the team sees is important to the effort. This long-running citizen science project helps Audubon to assess the health of bird populations and guide conservation action. The one-day annual event is an opportunity to meet other local birders, hone your birding skills, take part in a seasonal tradition, and contribute to conservation. You can start counting just after midnight on the 16th; owls sometimes sound off in the wee hours of the morning. Please help!

We need teams of volunteers to count every bird in this 57th count in our designated 15-mile diameter circle. Our count area center is at a point just off Spring Road near the headwaters of the Falling Spring. Zone captains organize volunteers in different sections of the circle.

Zone 1 Bill Oyler 360-5191
Zone 2 Earl Nollenberger 532-7558
Zone 3 NEW! Bill Franz 776-4463
Zone 4 Eric and Rhetta Martin 597-8675
Zone 5 Dale Gearhart 597-3979

If you participated before, your zone captain should contact you, but if he/she doesn’t call you, please contact him/her to sign up again. If you are new to the count this year, have a new phone number or email address, or don’t remember who your captain is, please contact Valerie Barnes (352-4397). If watching your feeders is more to your liking, and you live inside the circle, call Joan Applegate (263-3855) so she can send you a recording form. You don’t need to be an experienced birder to participate and the length of time you wish to count is up to you.

The Christmas Bird Count is fun and you never know what you might see. Make it a family affair!

National Audubon asks for donations to support the CBC. If you would like to donate toward the expense of the count, donations may be given to any zone captain or the treasurer (write check to CAS and note it is a donation for the CBC; mail to CAS, PO Box 20, Fayetteville, PA 17222. Audubon appreciates your support.

We’ll gather to tally results at a new location: the Fleck Center at Luther Ridge on Monday December 19th at 6:00 PM. Dinner will be herb chicken, house salad, roasted potato, green beans, and cherry pie. The cost per person will be only $12 payable to SpiriTrust Lutheran. Martha Buckey (264-4234; 1206 Arbor Ridge, Chambersburg, PA 17201) has graciously agreed to collect the checks; she’ll collect at the November meeting, or you may mail your check to her. Please sign up and pay no later than December 5th if you plan to join the tally dinner. To get to the Fleck Center, go to Luther Ridge at 2998 Luther Drive, Chambersburg 17202. Luther Drive makes a loop with two entrances from Route 997/Black Gap Road. Enter the community at the easternmost entrance and follow the sign for the “Community Center”. That will take you straight across at the St. Paul/St. Joseph intersection and stop sign. Once you are through the intersection, look for the Fleck Community Center on your right. There’s a flag pole next to the parking lot. Use the main entrance for the building. We’ll be in the Dining Room on the left.

You are welcome to come to the tally dinner even if you don’t participate in the count itself. But, counting is fun, so please try to join us!

Other Local Christmas Bird Counts

York Springs area: Thursday, December 29, 2016. For these contact Vern Gauthier, 717-385-9526 or pabirder@gmail.com
Newville area: Saturday, December 31, 2016.
The first field trip for the 2016-17 season was held at Heisey Orchard and Michaux SF for Fall Migrants. Bill Oyler led 6 birders who saw 52 species. New to the tally list are: Sharp-shinned Hawk, Great Horned Owl, Chimney Swift, Fish Crow, Mourning Warbler, Field Sparrow and Lincoln Sparrow. The tally list now has 94 species.

Shirley Fenstermacher led 5 birders at the Conococheague Institute at Welsh Run. They sighted 28 species. New to the tally list is the Gray Catbird. The list now includes 87 species.

The Big Spring field trip was canceled due to rain.

Conococheague Audubon Offers Scholarships
The Conococheague Audubon Society is pleased to offer scholarship support for educational activities in keeping with our mission: promoting the conservation of wildlife and the environment by appreciating, studying, and observing nature.

We especially encourage youngsters to apply for help in attending a birding-related camp. Individuals or groups may apply for aid.

Details/applications are available on our webpage http://conococheagueaudubon.org/scholarship.htm

Nature Film Nov. 17
American Serengeti
See first-hand results of a massive project to restore the wildlife of America’s Great Plains. Films are free. Pre-show musical entertainment at 7 p.m., film begins at 7:30.
CASHS South, 1151 E. Mckinley St., Chambersburg, PA.

November & December Meetings
Nov. 14 Opossum Lake Revival: A local dam restored
by Mary Franco, president, Friends of Opossum Lake

Dec. 12 Ruffed Grouse on the Michaux: The state of our state bird
by Roy Brubaker, Michaux District Forester
at 7 p.m. in the Community Center at Norlo Park, 3050 Lincoln Way East.

Green Jeans
By Debby Hook
Sigh … your favorite blue jeans are tattered beyond repair, or they no longer fit. There’s no need to despair, thanks to an organization called Blue Jeans Go Green, which collects old denim to be upcycled into home insulation!

The latest newsletter from New Hope Recyclers, a volunteer group in Hopewell Township, Cumberland County, includes information about this denim product, UltraTouch, produced by Bonded Logic Inc. The denim insulation contains no carcinogens, formaldehyde or other chemical irritants. According to the group’s website, this 80% post-consumer product provides 30% better sound absorption than traditional fiberglass insulation. The manufacturer has also donated to more than 30 Habitat for Humanity affiliates and provided insulation to Hurricane Katrina victims.

Blue Jeans Go Green accepts denim jackets, skirts, shirts as well as those well-worn jeans. The organization works with retailers, as well as colleges and universities throughout the country, which collect denim for the manufacturer. To find out when and where to unload your denim, visit bluejeansgogreen.org.
(New Hope Recyclers does not collect denim.)
Climate Change: A Look at the Data  by Valerie B. Barnes

Searching for answers about climate change? Three key indicators are carbon dioxide levels, global temperature, and sea level. Carbon dioxide is a greenhouse gas that contributes to warming temperatures. A rise in global temperatures may lead to more volatile weather, earlier arrival of spring and later arrival of winter, melting of land and sea ice, and shifting of animal and plant ranges. As the sea level goes up, coastal land is lost and storms such as hurricanes are likely to reach farther inland.

Here are a few compelling graphics about these three indicators, courtesy of NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration). Graphics and text came from NASA’s Global Climate Change website, http://climate.nasa.gov

Carbon Dioxide Levels Rise. CO₂ is a greenhouse gas that is released though human activities such as deforestation and burning fossil fuels, as well as natural processes such as respiration and volcanic eruptions. The first chart shows atmospheric CO₂ levels in recent years, with average seasonal cycle removed. The second chart shows CO₂ levels during the last three glacial cycles, as reconstructed from ice cores.”

Global Temperature Rise. “This graph illustrates the change in global surface temperature relative to 1951-1980 average temperatures. The 10 warmest years in the 134-year record all have occurred since 2000, with the exception of 1998. The year 2015 ranks as the warmest on record. (Source: NASA/GISS). This research is broadly consistent with similar constructions prepared by the Climatic Research Unit and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.”

Continued on next page ...
Sea Level Rise. “Sea level rise is caused primarily by two factors related to global warming: the added water from melting land ice and the expansion of sea water as it warms. The first chart tracks the change in sea level since 1993 as observed by satellites. The second chart, derived from coastal tide gauge data, shows how much sea level changed from about 1870 to 2000.”

What can each of us do to combat climate change? Here are ideas from Greenpeace:

Save energy by switching off and/or unplugging appliances when not in use. Use energy-efficient lighting and appliances. Insulate doors and windows, plug leaks, and use efficient windows and doors. Install a programmable thermostat to automatically adjust the temperature when you are away or asleep.

Use renewable energy such as photovoltaics and solar thermal systems to power your home and heat water. If it’s time to replace your HVAC system, install a renewable system. Choose a renewable electricity provider.

Use climate-friendly transportation by walking or riding a bike, taking a bus, or buying an electric or hybrid vehicle. Carpool when you can.

Start an eco-food revolution by buying from local farms. Try to buy sustainably-produced or organic fresh produce. Avoid processed foods; they take more energy to produce. Reduce meals with meat and dairy; it takes lots of energy to produce and transport meat and dairy products. Encourage your community (local stores, schools, friends, and family) to adopt these ideas.

1. https://climate.nasa.gov/vital-signs/carbon-dioxide/
**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 the 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.

**November / December 2016 Schedule:**

**Nov. 14, Monday**  
**MEETING**  
7:00 PM. *Opossum Lake Revival: a local dam restored* by Mary Franco, president, Friends of Opossum Lake. Arranged by Debby Hook.

**Nov. 17, Thursday**  
**FILM**  
7:30 PM. *American Serengeti.* See first-hand results of a massive project to restore the wildlife of America’s Great Plains. (50 min.)

**Dec. 3, Saturday**  
**FIELD TRIP**  
6:00 AM. Blackwater NWR, Maryland, auto tour for WATERFOWL. Leave from Martins’ home, return that night. Bring scopes, binoculars, CBs, and lunch.  
**Eric and Rhetta Martin,** 597-8675.

**Dec. 12, Monday**  
**MEETING**  
7:00 PM. *Ruffed Grouse on the Michaux: The state of our state bird,* by Roy Brubaker, Michaux District Forester. Arranged by Bob Kochert.

**Dec. 17, Saturday**  
**CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT**  
All day, Chambersburg area. Dinner/tally at 6 PM Monday, **Dec. 19,** in Fleck Center, Luther Ridge, 2998 Luther Drive, Chambersburg, PA. **Valerie Barnes,** 352-4397.

**Dec. 29, Thursday**  
**CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT**  
All day, York Springs area. For information contact **Vern Gauthier,** 385-9526 or pabirder@gmail.com.

**Dec. 31, Saturday**  
**CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT**  
All day, Newville area. For information contact **Vern Gauthier,** 385-9526 or pabirder@gmail.com.

**Jan. 9, 2017, Monday**  
**MEETING**  
6:00 PM. Covered dish dinner and members’ photo show. All are welcome. Arranged by Terri Kochert

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Send all mailing changes to the assistant editor.

**Copy Deadline December 15 for January 2017 Newsletter.**

**Conococheague Audubon Officers:**

President: Valerie B. Barnes  
Vice President: Debby Hook  
Recording Secretary: Rhetta Martin  
Corresponding Secretary: Bobbie Stewart  
Treasurer: Doug Powless  
Immediate Past President: Conway Bushey

**Directors:**  
Bob Kochert, Terri Kochert, Janet Tice,  
Earl Nollenberger, Eric Martin, Linda Kaiser

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**Conococheague Audubon**

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED