A Message from the President — Debby Hook

Here’s to the Future!

We’ve heard it time and again: “Our children are our future.” This year, Conococheague Audubon is supporting the future of birding by promoting activities that benefit our children, grandchildren, young neighbors and other youth in our lives. Find at least one youngster with whom you can share this news:

- An exciting addition to our website (www.conococheagueaudubon.org) is access to a free download available to school-aged youth. Thayer’s Birds of North America features photos of birds, audio samples of bird songs, videos, games, maps and more. Read more about the software on our website.

- Two local contests, “Best Birding List of the Year” and “Best Bird Photo of the Year,” will award cash prizes to first-, second- and third-place winners in each of two age divisions for each contest. Eligible to enter are local youth ages 5 through 18. Look for details in this edition.

- To encourage young people to enter either contest, some winning amateur photography will be viewed following our Nov. 15 free nature film, “Great White Odyssey.” The film begins at 7:30 p.m. at CAMS South, 1151 E. McKinley St., Chambersburg.

- Each year, a scholarship is available through CAS for anyone interested in attending an environmental education program or event. This year we are encouraging a young person to consider a summer learning experience at either Wilson College or Shippensburg University. You can learn more about the available summer programs in a future edition of “Naturally.”

Let’s hear it for the kids – and make room for them to spread their wings!
any bones, but I gashed my shin. Grimacing, I finished my journey over to him, where I got a quick look at the dipper before it flew away.

I was feeling disappointed at how quick the look had been when, all of a sudden, the bird came flying back toward us, flitting low over the water (reminiscent of a Spotted Sandpiper in flight) with another dipper following close behind; two dippers for the price of one! After viewing the dippers for a few minutes, we administered some on-the-spot first aid, cleaning my wound with a travel wipe and wrapping a tube sock around another clean travel wipe as a dressing.

At the end of the day, with my leg throbbing, we went to a walk-in clinic where I received five stitches, some antibiotics and some pain meds. The doctor stitching me up asked how I had gashed my leg, so I told her the story. She asked me, “Was it worth it?”

I replied, “It most certainly was!” Not only did I get to see my life dipper, but now I had a great story to tell at Christmas bird count roundups. Think for a moment about the scene in “Jaws” where they are comparing scars and telling stories about how they came about. I will be able to lift my leg up on a table, roll up my jeans, point to the scar and say, “American Dipper, Rocky Mountain National Park, 2018!”

The stitches have been removed and the leg is healing nicely, but I will proudly bear the scar that reminds me of the memorable moment I got my lifer American Dippers!

Vern Gauthier is a member of Conococheague Audubon and an active birder in the Newville/Shippensburg areas. Do you have an interesting bird encounter story to share with readers? The next news deadline is Dec. 15. Send stories to “Naturally” editor Jane Bussard at janenbussard47@gmail.com.

Make your Dollars Work

Remember, if you order something through the “Conococheague Audubon Society” AmazonSmile page, Amazon will donate to us a dollar amount equal to 0.5% of the order. Prices are not affected by using the site. So, if you place orders on Amazon, please consider using the following site instead of the generic one: https://smile.amazon.com/ch/25-1485719.
Attention!

All local young people between the ages of 5 and 18: Conococheague Audubon Society will conduct two contests designed with you in mind.

Both our Biggest Bird List of the Year and Best Bird Photo of the Year contests involve your love of nature and your keen observation skills, and both involve using a bird field guide.

The contests will be judged in two different age groups – ages 5 to 15 and ages 16 to 18.

Biggest Bird List of the Year Contest:

From November 1, 2018, through October 14, 2019, you will keep a detailed list of the different bird species you see. Note the date, the common name of the bird, and where you saw it.

Some examples of entries might be:

12/12/18; Dark-eyed Junco; behind house.
01/09/19; Tundra Swan; Bender’s Pond.
05/19/19; Great Egret; Dover, DE (Bombay Hook Wildlife National Refuge).

On October 14, 2019, contestants will deliver their tallied bird species lists to the vice-president, Terri Kochert, at our regular CAS monthly meeting.

Best Bird Photo of the Year Contest:

This contest involves you taking photos of backyard birds, ducks, geese, etc., with your phone or camera. From Nov. 1 through September 9, 2019, you will take photos of any bird you see – hawks, owls, ducks, blue jays, etc.

On September 9, 2019, you will deliver printed copies of up to three of your favorite photos (5” X 7” size) to Terri Kochert at our monthly meeting at Norlo Park Community Center. A CAS panel will determine which photos they deem best.

Prizes: We will award prizes to first-, second- and third-place winners for each level of both contests. First-place winners will earn $50 each; second-place winners earn $35 each; and third-place winners earn $25 each.

Please look for the official rules on our website www.conococheagueaudubon.org.

Please note: You will need your parent’s/guardian’s permission to enter the contest. A permission slip is available on our website.

Great White Odyssey

— Terri Kochert


In this National Geographic Film, we 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 Nicole 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.

I invite you to attend our first free nature film to see and learn for yourself. For those who desire, we will begin the evening at 7 P.M. enjoying the music of the Bauler Sisters, students of the Cumberland Valley School of Music.
CONSERVATION
— Debby Hook

Forest in Flux

Earlier this year, Pennsylvania’s Department of Conservation and Natural Resources issued a plan for managing the state’s forests and parks in the face of a warming climate and its effects. Potential impacts of climate change include a shift in the types of plants and animals that will be able to thrive in Pennsylvania.

Released in June, DCNR’s “Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Plan” outlines how the agency is taking steps to confront as many climate-based challenges as possible to ensure the health of our forests. To test what it has learned through years of study, DCNR is beginning a pilot program in Michaux State Forest and the three state parks—Caledonia, Kings Gap and Pine Grove Furnace—that are within its boundaries.

Greg Czarnecki, DCNR’s climate change and research coordinator, spoke Sept. 27 at the fall meeting of South Mountain Partnership. He discussed the changes we can expect by the end of the century, and which in fact have already begun: warmer temperatures, extreme weather events, an increase in invasive species and greater numbers of forest pest outbreaks.

Keeping our forests healthy is the most important aspect of DCNR’s plan, said Czarnecki. We need to retain forests, no matter how they change, because they help clean the air.

“More than 70% of the emitted carbon is stored in forest soil,” he said. Tree leaves, wood and bark all store atmospheric carbon, but forested soils are the greatest storehouse of carbon, the culprit behind climate change.

Forests are also necessary to maintain a habitat corridor that will allow plants and animals to migrate into new areas with the least amount of disruption. Czarnecki said that small woodlots, ridge-tops and riparian corridors are all examples of ‘habitat connectivity’ where ‘assisted migration’ can take place. Ensuring wild habitat connectivity will require better planning for human habitation and activity.

Some major vulnerabilities in Michaux are a greater threat of wildfires; invasive pests (both plant and insect) that disrupt native plant diversity; and roadway washout and erosion due to flooding.

In Caledonia State Park, ongoing problems that were worse this rainy summer are stagnant water in low-lying areas (inviting larger numbers of disease-carrying mosquitos) and flooding. Park manager Earl Hockenberry said he had to repair service roads four times this summer.

To combat the issues in Michaux, DCNR will: use prescribed burning to help forests become more resilient to wildfires; restore and improve wetlands and floodplains to minimize flooding (this may mean rerouting some trails within the parks); and change the design and material of roads, culverts and bridges to better handle storm runoff and rising creeks.

This is just the beginning. To learn more about climate change and to read the full plan, visit DCNR’s home page at https://www.dcnr.pa.gov/Pages/default.aspx; choose Conservation; and scroll down to “Climate Change.”

Don’t Miss: Author Cindy Ross Speaking at Nov. 12 Meeting!
— Valerie B. Barnes

Be sure to come to our November 12 meeting to hear renowned author Cindy Ross speak about her family’s travel and learning experiences as she wrote about them in her new book The World is Our Classroom.

Cindy Ross writes about raising children alternatively, via outdoor adventures and travel, for a variety of publications, including the Los Angeles Times, the Toronto Star, and Backpacker magazine. The author of six published books, she has lectured on the virtues of this educational approach.

Cindy and her husband transported their children out of their insulated, narrowly-focused lives and into the big world. Come meet the author and be inspired to get outdoors and learn in nature. Cindy’s talk will be followed by Q&A and book signing. Bring the family! The meeting starts at 7 P.M. on Monday, November 12th, in the Community Center at Norlo Park, 3050 Lincoln Way East, Fayetteville, PA 17222.
We’ve scheduled this year’s Christmas Bird Count for Saturday, December 15, 2018. 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 are 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 15th, owls sometimes sound off in the wee hours of the morning. Please help!

We need teams of volunteers to count every bird in this 59th 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 717-360-5191
- **Zone 2** Earl Nollenberger 717-352-2996
- **Zone 3** Bill Franz 717-776-4463
- **Zone 4** Eric and Rhetta Martin 717-597-8675
- **Zone 5** Dale Gearhart 717-597-3979

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 (717-352-4397). **If watching your feeders is more to your liking, and you live inside the circle, call Joan Applegate (717-263-3855) or Valerie Barnes** so she can send you a recording form. Joyce Schaff (717-375-4632) will be collecting reports from feeder watchers this year.

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! Note that if the weather forecast calls for really bad weather, we may try to reschedule the count; your zone captain will contact you if that happens.

We’ll gather to tally results at the lovely and inviting Fleck Center at Luther Ridge on Monday, December 17th, at 6:00 P.M. Dinner will be Chicken Marsala, house salad, rice pilaf, steamed broccoli, and assorted pies. The cost per person will be only **$12 payable to SpiriTrust Lutheran**. Kathryn Lauver (717-264-0435; 2624 Sarah Place, Chambersburg, PA 17202) 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 make sure Kathryn has your check no later than December 10th 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 Ridge 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!

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.
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.

Nov. 12, Monday SPECIAL MEETING 7:00 PM. The World is our Classroom, by author/adventurer Cindy Ross. A multi-media program inspires all as Ross shares her family’s outdoors adventures. Arranged by Valerie Barnes.

Nov. 15, Thursday FILM 7:30 PM. Great White Odyssey. A lone 12-foot female great white shark battles hunger, fatigue and cold-water dangers on a 6,000-nautical-mile migration journey. Music at 7 PM.

Dec. 10, Monday MEETING 7:00 PM. Tuscarora Wildlife Educational Program (TWEP), by Brent Gift. History, activities, center photos. Arranged by Terri Kochert.

Winter FIELD TRIP Sign up by Dec. 10, 2018, for possible visit to Gettysburg Battlefield for SHORT-EARED OWLS (name, contact information). Bob Kochert, 717-263-3692, will advise as to sightings. Meet at Norlo Park Community Center.

Dec. 15, Sat. CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT All day, Chambersburg area. Dinner and tally at 6 PM Monday, Dec. 17, in Fleck Center, Luther Ridge, 2998 Luther Drive, Chambersburg, PA. Valerie Barnes, 717-352-4397.

Dec. 27, Thurs. CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT All day, York Springs area. For information contact Vern Gauthier, 717-385-9526 or verngauthier14@gmail.com.

CAS WEBSITE: www.conococheagueaudubon.org

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

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CONOCOCHEAGUE AUDUBON OFFICERS:
President Debby Hook
Vice President Terri Kochert
Recording Secretary Rhetta Martin
Corresponding Secretary Bobbie Stewart
Treasurer Donna Hocker
Immediate Past President Valerie B. Barnes

DIRECTORS: Jim Hook, Bob Kochert, Eric Martin and Earl Nollenberger
Larry and Sharon Williams have asked to be released as directors due to family responsibilities. We expect the Executive Committee and Board of Directors to appoint Conway Bushey and Marguerite Fries as new directors at their next meeting.