Helping an Injured Bird
By Conway Bushey

Do’s
- Keep the bird in a quiet, dark place
- Keep the bird warm
- Resist the temptation to show the bird to others
- Handle the bird as gently as possible and only as necessary
- Provide water in an extremely shallow dish
- Wash your hands with soap after handling the bird
- Call a wildlife rehabilitator as soon as possible

Don’ts
- Do not handle the bird anymore than the bare minimum
- Do not play with the bird
- Do not put the bird in a bird cage
- Never force any liquids in the bird’s mouth
- Do not try to keep the bird

Wild Bird Rehabilitator:
Johanna Appel
11673 Buchanan Trail East
Waynesboro, PA 17268
(717) 749 0485
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General News
By Donna Hocker

On the Record
Carl Garner phoned me the other night to ask how many species we have recorded in the 20 years of the PA Migration Count. I hadn’t tracked that information. However, with the aid of the computer I was able to get the information quickly. The answer is 230 species. Thanks, Carl.

The Craig Farm field trip began our 2012/13 season. Nine birders saw 56 species and added five new birds to the list: the Northern Harrier, Golden Eagle, Lincoln Sparrow, Purple Finch, and the Black-crowned Night-heron. The list stands at 94 species. Thanks to Bill and Mary Craig
for again hosting this event and sharing lunch with us.

The Creekside field trip added five species to the list. They are Merlin, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Screech Owl, Blackburian Warbler, and Hooded Warbler. The total birds on the list are 74. Nine birders participated in the trip led by Bill Oyler.

Birding Hog Island Maine

Off the coast of Breman, ME lies a 330 acre island. This island is home to the Audubon Camp at Hog Island. I was hesitant about signing up for the Fall Migration and Monhegan Island program this past September - camp is not usually on my agenda. The buildings were built in the early '30s and there was no heat in any of the buildings or shared bathrooms. OH MY! But, my friend, Jo Ann and I drove 900 miles, parked my car on the mainland, boarded a boat and began our adventure.

The camp is run almost entirely by volunteers (this we did not know when we signed up). However, we were warmly greeted, and after settling in to our cool/cold room we were treated to our first meal - the cook is fantastic. Janii has been the volunteer camp chef since 1986. The first night, bathroom sharing went well, we closed the window, put on our warm Pjs and snuggled under blankets. I forgot to mention, the place is beautiful.

Our field trips included Monhegan Island, boating Muscongus Bay and hotspots on the mainland. Just a few of the workshop and field trip leaders this year were: Jeff Wells, Scott Weidensaul, Dr. Peter Vickery, and Dr. Steve Kress, director of Project Puffin and who has been part of the camp for more than 30 years.

Now, why am I telling you all this - because I would like to share this experience with you. Remember, you can go to Hog Island as either a camper or volunteer. The programs for 2013 include: Maine Seabird Biology and Conservation, Joy of Birding, Field Ornithology, Coastal Maine Bird Studies for Teens, Sharing Nature: An Educators Week, family camp, and Fall Migration and Monhegan Island. Conococheague has scholarship money available, and National Audubon has some scholarships for campers. Registration for these programs, and others, opened 15 October. The Hog Island website is: www.hogisland.audubon.org. Volunteers are provided shared accommodations, meals, parking, and time to participate in a program field trip. Applications for scholarships are due 30 November.

Can you tell that I really liked Hog Island, the birding, and the people?

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Big Spring Field Trip
By Bill Franz

Bill Franz led a filed trip on October 6th along Big Spring in Cumberland County. Five club members joined seven local birders on a three-mile hike along the creek, this hike has been held monthly for almost seven years.

Forty-seven species were seen, including the fall arrival of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, Swamp Sparrows, and Yellow-rumped Warblers. The most unusual sighting was a nine o’clock rainbow that appeared in the western sky.

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Norlo Park Garden
By Jean Morton

On Sunday, 9 September, we had the Franklin County Master Gardeners Club tour our garden. We had approximately 150 people on this tour. The tour group was very impressed and delighted to see how well our native plants were thriving, and how, over time, they have intermingled as native plants have a tendency to do. To add to our visitors enjoyment, our water feature was turned back on and seems to be working fine. Also, we had a family of bluebirds nesting in one of our boxes. I understand it has been a long time since we had bluebirds in our garden.

We should all be proud of the many volunteers who put in many long hours from the beginning to establish this garden and continue to maintain it today. I know that I was very proud, along with Judy Stenger and Rhetta Martin, to answer our visitors questions as they toured our garden.
**Help with Christmas Bird Count**
By Val Barnes

Fall is here and winter is coming. We’ve scheduled this year’s Christmas Bird Count for Saturday, December 15, 2012. 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. Please help!

We need teams of volunteers to count every bird in our designated 15-mile diameter circle. Last year we saw more American Robins than usual, but didn’t see any Chipping Sparrows. Who knows what this year will bring? Red-breasted Nuthatches, White-throated Sparrows, and Pine Siskins have made early appearances. Maybe we’ll see Redpolls on count day! 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 14th; owls sometimes sound off in the wee hours of the morning.

Our count area center is at a point just off Spring Road near the headwaters of the Falling Spring. These zone captains organize volunteers in different sections of the circle:

- Zone 1 Joan Bowen 264-9493
- Zone 2 Earl Nollenberger 532-7558
- Zone 3 Russ Martz 263-3533
- Zone 4 Dan and Barb Higgins 263-4574
- 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 Val Barnes (352-4397). If watching your feeders is more to your liking, call Joan Applegate (263-3855) so she can send you a record 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 has dropped the per-participant fee this year. To minimize the effects of the loss of fee income, American Birds will no longer be printed on paper and mailed to participants, and Audubon will move to an online delivery of the summary results of the CBC. To continue to fund the Christmas Bird Count program in the long term, Audubon will be moving to a voluntary donation model for 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 and would be greatly appreciated.

We’ll gather to tally results at the Arbor Room at Menno Haven Village Square on Monday December 17th at 6:00 PM. Come and enjoy rotisserie chicken, a tossed salad, green beans amandine, oven-roasted potatoes, whole grain roll, and peach pie. The cost is $14.25 per person (payable to Menno Haven, Inc.). Martha Buckey
(264-4234; 1206 Arbor Ridge, Chambersburg, PA 17201) has graciously agreed to collect the checks; she’ll collect at the November and December meetings. Please sign up and pay no later than December 10th. 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!

**2012 Big Sit**
By Valerie Barnes

Six women participated in the annual Big Sit at my home on October 14, 2012. We had a nice batch of 27 species. Highlights included a Bald Eagle that flew overhead (had to be looking up at just the right moment to see that one; thanks, Deb!), both Kinglets, a Tennessee Warbler, a Blue-headed Vireo, and a flock of at least 25 Pine Siskins that were at the feeders. We also saw a first of season Brown Creeper, a Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, both Nuthatches, and heard a Common Raven. What a lovely way to spend a fall day!

**Help Wanted**
By Conway Bushey

On behalf of the Conococheague Audubon Society, we want to thank Doris Burdick for her time and devotion to the *Naturally* newsletter and all of the activities associated with that task. Doris is retiring as Editor effective 30 April 2013 and we well need a replacement prior to August 2013.

The Editor is responsible for editing, organizing, and prioritizing articles and graphics and coordinating printing of the newsletter.

If you are interested in becoming the Editor of the newsletter, please contact Conway Bushey at wcbushey@embarqmail.com or (717) 262 5639.

**Scott Weidensaul Scheduled to Speak at February 11, 2013 Program**
By Valerie B. Barnes

Thanks to the efforts of Heather Sahli, Doug Powless, and the Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art, our February 11, 2013 program will feature researcher and writer [Scott Weidensaul](http://example.com).

Mr. Weidensaul will speak about the Northern Saw-whet Owl research program he coordinates at the Ned Smith Center for Nature and Art. Under his guidance, each fall volunteers band and measure the owls at multiple sites in Pennsylvania. Weidensaul has written more than two dozen books including *Living on the Wind: Across the Hemisphere with Migratory Birds* (a Pulitzer Prize finalist) and *Of a Feather: A Brief History of American Birding*. His latest book is *The First Frontier: The Forgotten History of Struggle, Savagery and Endurance in Early America*.

We are privileged and excited to have this author and naturalist coming to speak to us. Mark your calendars and plan to attend! All regular meetings are free, start at 7:00 PM, and are held at the Norlo Park Community Center (3050 Lincoln Way East, Fayetteville, PA 17222).

**Editor’s Note:** In the September 2012 edition of *Naturally*, there was an article regarding the scholarship support offered by Conococheague Audubon Society “…for individuals and groups who wish to defray costs of attending conservation workshops, ornithology conferences, and Audubon Leadership Camps.” The article by Jackie Rosenberger refers to the type of program supported by our scholarships.

I received this article from Ms. Rosenberger, a high school student in Chambersburg, who is involved in a program called the Wildlife Leadership Academy. This program is for Pennsylvania high school students with an interest in wildlife and the outdoors. “The mission of the academy is to empower youth to become ambassadors for wildlife conservation…” In her submission Jackie stated, “The PA Chapter of the Audubon Society sends representatives to our field school to instruct us throughout the week and I would like to give back by educating my local branch!”
Wildlife Leadership Academy
By Jackie Rosenberger

Most of my friends attend camps during summertime. The camps usually involve sports, music, or church. Unlike my friends, however, my idea of summer camp is the Wildlife Leadership Academy, an intense week-long summer field school, where accepted students learn extensively about a particular wildlife species. This field school has been part of my summer for the past three years, because I enjoy it so much!

The Wildlife Leadership Academy is a program for high school students with an interest in wildlife and the outdoors. The program offers a variety of field schools, each one having a single species focus. I have attended PA Drummers (Ruffed Grouse focus) and PA Bucktails (White-tailed Deer focus). The single species focus acts as a springboard in order to teach concepts in wildlife biology, ecology, habitat management, and conservation. By participating in classroom presentations and field demonstrations, I became very knowledgeable regarding these concepts and how they pertain to each species. I had the honor of learning from experts in these fields. Instructors come from organizations like the PA Game Commission, Quality Deer Management Association, Ruffed Grouse Society, PA Department of Conservation of Natural Resources, Army Corps of Engineers, Kutztown University, and of course the Audubon Society! The representatives of these groups were very knowledgeable and worked just as hard as the students, teaching us throughout the week.

The field activities were my favorite part, however, because I had the opportunity to put my acquired knowledge into action! These activities include a necropsy, plant collections, habitat evaluations, radio telemetry, target shooting, and nature photography. During the PA Drummers field school, one of my favorite activities included a trip to a bird banding station. I was so intrigued by the work of our wildlife biologists and I learned about the information they gather from studying banded birds. Also, I will never forget observing a Gray Catbird, American Redstart, Ruby Throated Hummingbird, Indigo Bunting, and Kentucky Warbler up close! The close observation of these animals strengthen my passion for wildlife and the natural world. I’ve also had many enjoyable experiences at the PA Bucktails field school. My first exposure to the WLA program occurred at Bucktails. One experience that sticks out in my mind is the afternoon at a local shooting range. I was so scared to shoot a shotgun, but with the encouragement and motivation from my peers, I gave it a try. And although I missed just about every clay disc, I was so proud of myself, and to this day I enjoy shooting trap with my family.

Not only did I obtain a wildlife education and engage in new experiences, I also worked to develop my personal leadership skills. These skills include communication, teamwork, critical thinking, and public speaking. To develop these skills we engaged in team building exercises. One example is the human knot. This activity required a combination of critical thinking, communication and teamwork. After thinking through the problem and coming up with a solution, we each communicated our ideas to the other group members. Then, by working together we got the job done, untangling ourselves from the uncomfortable knot. To develop public speaking skills students worked together in groups to present a powerpoint to the instructors and other students. Throughout the week we received media training as well, from radio and newspaper professionals.

You may be thinking why leadership and media skills at a field school that has a focus in wildlife biology and management. Well, the mission of the Wildlife leadership Academy is actually to empower Pennsylvania youth to become ambassadors for wildlife conservation. So, the field schools are designed to provide students with a good quality wildlife education, equip them with the skills necessary to become conservation leaders, and give them the confidence to engage their communities! This is why WLA is so special. It provides a unique learning experience to the next generation, so that they can give back to their communities and make a difference for the future of
conservation!

For more information and to download applications visit the Pennsylvania Institute for Conservation Education’s website www.piceweb.org or email the program director Michele Kittel at mkittel@piceweb.org.

These images were submitted by Jackie, along with her article.

*** DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES FOR JANUARY 2013 NATURALLY NEWSLETTER IS 15 DECEMBER ***

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**Conococheague Audubon Website**

The NEW URL for our website is:
http://www.conococheagueaudubon.org

Or google - Conococheague + Audubon

Visit often to keep up to date on all activities.

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