The next Audubon meeting features Terri Kochert and fellow travelers sharing their experiences on a spring birding trip to Belize and neighboring Guatemala.

Not only did we enjoy the many beautiful, exotic birds, but we also visited three different Mayan ruins covering hundreds of miles during our adventure. Our traveling party of six (two couples from Chambersburg and one from Guatemala) met at the Belize City airport. Traveling in a privately owned vehicle, we explored Belize City a bit, and then took off for the Crooked Tree Sanctuary in search of a Jabiru. We visited mostly the northern part of Belize (Altun Ha Maya ruin, Orange Walk area, Blue Creek area, the Gallon Jug Road area), then to central Belize visiting the capital city, Belmopan, and finally heading west towards Guatemala.

We experienced the unusual area of Spanish Lookout and crossed over into the Mountain Pine Ridge area. We saw the One Thousand Foot Falls, visited caves, walked through pristine jungle area, saw Howler monkeys and other wild creatures—in their native habitat! Then, we did indeed cross over into Guatemala to visit Jax Ha and the Tikal Mayan ruins. We were so fortunate to have a young experienced guide show us the birds and ruins in Tikal. It was a most memorable trip (planned out by Larry Lehman) and we were very pleased with the outcome; we saw a total of 149 different species of birds this trip.

We hope you can join us Monday, November 11, to enjoy our photos and hear our story.

Terri Kochert is a retired CASD teacher, who has been birding since 1994 along with her husband, Bob Kochert. Their birding pals, birding mentors, and fellow travelers are Larry and Helen Lehman, also of Chambersburg. The Lehmans served nearly 15 years as missionaries in Guatemala. We have enjoyed several birding trips together. We have traveled together throughout the U.S. and also to Costa Rica and now to Belize and Guatemala. Typically the men will “scout out” interesting birds, “lifers” we would like to see, buy the necessary resources to best locate these birds and plan our itinerary accordingly.
The Conococheague Blue Bird Trail is comprised of:

- 25 boxes in the Pleasant Hall area of Franklin County
- 27 boxes on Penn National golf courses in Guilford Township
- 3 boxes in Norlo Park
- 5 boxes in Eco Park

Fourteen volunteers check the boxes on a rotating schedule and submit reports to the Blue Bird Trail Coordinator. These reports are compiled to obtain the number of Blue Birds fledged and reported to the Pennsylvania Blue Bird Society. The volunteers visit in pairs and make a visit every eight weeks. One volunteer is responsible for the 27 houses on Penn National and deserves special recognition. The Penn National boxes in particular need additional volunteers. One volunteer is responsible for Eco Park and one volunteer is responsible for Norlo Park.

The Blue Bird Trail coordinator, in addition to compiling the weekly reports, closes the boxes at the beginning of the breeding season, opens the boxes at the end of breeding season, and ensures boxes are repaired or replaced as required. In 2013 six boxes were replaced.

Based on the Blue Bird–Tree Swallow war during 2013, the placement of a box in close proximity to an existing box will test the theory that one species will not nest close to another of the same species. The theory thus is that by placing two boxes close to each other, blue birds will nest in one while other species (tree swallows) will nest in the other. Should the theory prove correct, over the next five years a new box will be placed close to all existing boxes.

Reports submitted for 2013 indicate a total of 71 blue birds eggs and 54 fledged blue birds.

A final visit to the Blue Bird trail indicated the need to:
- Replace 4 boxes
- Move 5 boxes
- Repair 3 boxes

Finally, special thanks to Shirley Fenstermacher for providing established procedures and volunteer list, and Frank L. Hocker to all Blue Bird Trail Volunteers:

Ruth Ann Barton
Conway & Linda Bushey
Shirley Fenstermacher
Ann Finucane
Debby Heishman
Ike Isham
Linda Kaiser
Russ Martz
Doug Powless
Heather Sahli
Mary Sue Sarvis
Ruth Ann Smith
Donalyn Walker
Jean Morton

The 2013–2014 season began with a walk on the farm of Mary and Bill Craig in September. Eleven birders, including 10-year-old Ryan (who started birding at the Beginners Birder Workshop) saw 37 species. New to the list are the Spotted Sandpiper and the Barn Swallow.

The list now totals 96 species.

A warm and sunny walk was held in October for the second time along the Big Spring. Ten members of Conococheague Audubon walked 3 miles along the Spring. Seventeen new species were sighted: Wood Duck, American Black Duck, Common Merganser, Wild Turkey, Green Heron, Turkey Vulture, Blue-headed Vireo, Fish Crow, House Wren, Tennessee Warbler, Prairie Warbler, Black-throated Green Warbler, Field Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Indigo Bunting, Bobolink and the Common Grackle.

A total of 56 species were seen or heard.

The trip list totaled 64 species.
Help with **Christmas Bird Count**

December 14, 2013

by Valerie B. Barnes

Fall is here and winter is coming. That means the Christmas Bird Count is just around the corner. We’ve scheduled this year’s Christmas Bird Count for Saturday, December 14. 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 White-winged Crossbills for the first time, but had low numbers for American Crow. Who knows what this year will bring? Maybe it will be another winter with lots of western hummingbirds in the East, and we’ll see some in our count. 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 13th; 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 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 - you never know what you might see. Make it a family affair!

To reduce costs, National Audubon dropped the per-participant fee and transitioned 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 has moved 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 16, at 6 p.m.** Dinner will be rotisserie chicken, tossed salad, rice pilaf, honey-glazed carrots, roll, water, and decaf coffee. We are looking for volunteers to bring desserts; please contact Val Barnes (352-4397; BarnesVa4@comcast.net) to volunteer. The cost per person will be $14.75 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 9 if you plan to join the tally dinner. 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!
Bald Eagles!

Three years ago there were no Bald Eagles nesting in Franklin County and sightings of Bald Eagles were rare. This year according to Dale Gearhart, Franklin County had 3 successful Bald Eagle nest sites and 7 eaglets were fledged successfully.

At the Conococheague Audubon meeting in September, about 6 people reported sightings of Bald Eagles and Dale has had numerous calls and conversations about Eagle sightings this summer throughout Franklin County.

Though this notice is still very early, do make plans now to attend our Covered Dish dinner on Jan. 13, 2014, at 6 p.m. We would like to remind you to bring your own place setting as well as one hot dish and one cold dish to share with others. Drinks will be provided. In addition, bring your photos of birds or lovely scenes you would like to share with the other members.

-- Terri Kochert

Take the State Forest Survey

The PA Bureau of Forestry is starting to revise the State Forest Resource Management Plan and is asking citizens to take a short survey (23 questions) about the management of the state forest. As our state forests have many users, I think it is important that we each voice our input about the importance of managing the state forests from an ecological standpoint. You can take the survey online by visiting the PA Bureau of Forestry website (www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/) and selecting State Forest Resource Management Plan.

According to the Bureau website, “This survey is part of the public participation process for the plan revision. Additional opportunities for public input through 2014 will include written comment and public meetings. Your input will allow the Bureau to understand and consider the public’s interests as the plan is revised.”

-- Heather Sahli

Nature Film Series

This season’s nature films will take you from Sea to Shining Sea in America, to Sweden, and on an East African Safari. The film series is a fundraiser for Audubon.

The films are presented at Chambersburg Area Middle School South, 1151 E. McKinley St., Chambersburg. Pre-show entertainment starts at 7 p.m. with the films shown at 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 14, Stan Walsh will present Sea to Shining Sea, crossing America from the Atlantic at Cape May, N.J., to the Pacific at Morro Bay, Ca. Through the film, you will visit famous places and special people and experience America in some memorable ways.

Monday, Feb. 24, American filmmaker Dale Johnson will present Sweden, a return to the country of his ancestors. His encounters take him from south to north through Sweden. Travel Adventure Cinema Society terms this film “... a delightful present to all Americans of European descent.”

Thursday, March 6, award-winning filmmaker Rick Ray will present East African Safari, taking you to several destinations. His website Rick Ray Films promises that “... Along the way you will experience the color, excitement, adventure, and romance of one of the most exotic destinations on Earth.”
Coming Up - November & December

**MEETINGS:**
Regular meetings Mondays
Board meetings Thursdays
7 p.m., Community Center, Norlo Park,
3050 Lincoln Way East, Fayetteville, PA

**NOV. 11**  *Belize and Guatemala Bird Trip*
by Terri Kochert

**DEC. 5**  *Board Meeting*

**DEC. 9**  *Three Days in the Everglades*
by Dr. Gene Wingert, Dickinson College

**NATURE FILMS**
Nov. 14  *Nature Film Sea to Shining Sea*
7 p.m. Chbg. Area Middle School South

**FIELD TRIPS:** *(Contact leader in advance)*
**NOV. 2**  *Owl banding*, King’s Gap, 500 King’s Gap Rd.,
Carlisle, 6 - 9 p.m. Special evening of Northern
Saw-Whet Owl banding with Scott Weidensaul’s
team. Pre-register with Val Barnes 352-4397.

**NOV. 16**  *Blackwater NWR auto tour* for waterfowl.
6 a.m. from Martin’s home, return by night fall.
Bring scopes, binoculars, CBs and lunch. Eric and
Rhetta Martin, 597-8675.

**DEC. 14**  *Annual Christmas Bird Count*
All day (see newsletter page 3)

**DEC. 16**  *Christmas Bird Count Dinner* and Tally
6 p.m. Arbor Room, Menno Village
Val Barnes 352-4397 (see page 3)

**DEC. 28**  *Newville Christmas Bird Count*.
7:30 a.m. at the barn in SGL 169.
Mary Craig 532- 7630 or Bill Franz 776-4463.

Visit the Conococheague Audubon Website
for details and other activities:
www.conococheagueaudubon.org

**Newsletter Editor**  -  J. D. Wright
717-532-7326   tjwright@embarqmail.com

**Assistant Editor**  -  Joyce Schaff
717-375-4632   Pjschaff@comcast.net

Send all newsletter articles and photos to the editor.
Send all mailing changes to the assistant editor.

**COPY DEADLINE IS DECEMBER 15 FOR JANUARY NEWSLETTER.**

**OFFICERS:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Conway Bushey</td>
<td>717-262-5659</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:wcbushey@embarqmail.com">wcbushey@embarqmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vice President</td>
<td>Doug Powless</td>
<td>717-352-3418</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:dougpowless@hotmail.com">dougpowless@hotmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recording Secretary</td>
<td>Rhetta Martin</td>
<td>717-597-8675</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:rhettaanderic@embarqmail.com">rhettaanderic@embarqmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corresponding Secretary</td>
<td>Corinne Anderson</td>
<td>717-485-4214</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:corinneanderson@centurylink.net">corinneanderson@centurylink.net</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Henry Betz</td>
<td>717-263-3165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><a href="mailto:hvbetz@embarqmail.com">hvbetz@embarqmail.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immediate Past President</td>
<td>Donna Hocker</td>
<td>717-352-8713</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>d <a href="mailto:lhocker@yahoo.com">lhocker@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>