Join Us As We Visit
Serengeti National Park
in Tanzania

by Terri & Bob Kochert

Has it been your heart’s desire to see elephants, lions, zebras
and hippopotamus in the wild in their natural habitat? Then,
please join us on Monday, November 10, 2014, at 7 p.m. as
Terri Kochert along with her husband Bob take you on their
“wild adventure” to the Serengeti, Tanzania. Not only will you
see the wildlife, but also the many birds (80 species) they were
fortunate to see on their trip. Also, check out their accommoda-
tions in the middle of the Serengeti National Park. The Seren-
geti is located in northeastern Tanzania. It is so important to
society in general that wildlife refuges such as the Serengeti
continue to exist. The Serengeti provides the pathway for the
migration of so many different species of wildlife. It is also vi-
tal to bring attention to the great travesty of
“poaching,” which is decimating various spe-
cies of wildlife populations. Though the Ko-
chert’s trip did NOT take place during the mi-
gration period, they feel blessed to have seen
a great variety of wildlife and birds in a 24
hour period.

Film Series Takes You to New Places

LORE AND LURE OF THE DESERT by Sandy Mortimer
December 4 at CAMS S.

THE MISSIONS OF FATHER SERRA by Monty Brown
February 26 at CAMS N.

THE LURE OF ALASKA by Dale Johnson
April 9 at CAMS S.

Musical entertainment starts at 7 p.m. The films are at 7:30 p.m.

All films will be shown at either: Chambersburg Area Middle School
South, 1151 E. McKinley Street or Chambersburg Area Middle School
North (formerly Faust Jr High), 1957 Scotland Avenue
For tickets, contact treasurer:dougpowless@hotmail.com or 717-352-3418.

The series is our major fundraising activity.
The Conococheague Bluebird Trails fledged 68 Bluebirds in 2014. The Trails are comprised of:

- 26 boxes in the Pleasant Hall area of Franklin County – 30 Bluebirds fledged
- 27 boxes on Penn National golf courses in Guilford Township -- 30 Bluebirds fledged
- 3 boxes in Norlo Park -- 0 Bluebirds fledged
- 5 boxes in Eco Park – 8 Bluebirds fledged

Fourteen volunteers check the boxes on a rotating schedule and submit reports to the Bluebird Trail Coordinator. These reports are compiled to obtain the number of Bluebirds fledged which is reported to the Pennsylvania Bluebird 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 Bluebird 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 2014 all 26 boxes were upgraded, repaired or replaced.

Based on the Bluebird–Tree Swallow war during 2013, the placement of a box in close proximity to an existing box tested and disproved the theory that one species will not nest close to another of the same species. The tree swallows, during 2014, nested in the vast majority of the boxes. If anyone has a suggestion for a remedy, please call Frank Hocker – 717-352-8713.
Conservation Corner
Climate Change: For the Birds Part 2
by Valerie B. Barnes

The entire issue of the September-October 2014 Audubon Magazine is devoted to climate change. If you haven’t read it yet, please do. It tells a compelling story. In a seven-year investigation into the expected effects of climate change on North American bird species, Audubon scientists analyzed more than 40 years of historical North American climate data and millions of historical bird records from Christmas Bird Counts and the U.S. Geological Survey’s North American Breeding Bird Survey. Their goal: to understand the links between where birds live and the climatic conditions that support them so that they could project where birds are likely to be able to survive – and not survive – in the future.

The alarming conclusion is that of the 588 bird species examined in the study, 314 are at risk. Of those, 126 species are at risk of severe declines by 2050; 188 species face the same fate by 2080. Numerous extinctions are possible if global warming is allowed to erase the havens birds occupy today. Here are two examples:

The Ruffed Grouse is the state bird of Pennsylvania. When was the last time you heard or saw one? The Pennsylvania Game Commission attributes much of the decline in PA to a lack of the young forest habitat that the grouse require. According to the Audubon study, “Often heard deep within northern forests as it drums on top of logs for mates, this species is projected to lose 34 percent of breeding range by 2080, according to Audubon’s climate model. Across both [winter and summer] seasons the climate range is projected to drift north to the extent that it may no longer occur in the Lower 48 by the end of the century. Whether the forests it depends on will expand northward, too, remains to be seen.”

We all enjoy seeing Scarlet Tanagers, stunning with their scarlet bodies and black wings. The climate model projects “a major (93 percent) shift in the current summer range and a 26 percent decline in total suitable climate-space. A portion of the “new” suitable space is in the west, where this bird may face stiff competition from its western counterpart, the Western Tanager. As a result, the future may be grimmer for the Scarlet Tanager than depicted by the model. Scarlet Tanagers winter in South America.”

This study gives all of us a way to discuss and address global warming by bringing the issue into our own backyards and neighborhoods. It helps to identify “stronghold” areas that birds will need to survive in the future. It also reveals areas that are likely to remain stable for birds even as climate changes.

“This study gives all of us a way to discuss and address global warming by bringing the issue into our own backyards.”

Audubon recommends 6 steps we can take to help. See the list below, augmented to indicate what we are doing and where you can help. Please contact Valerie Barnes (BarnesVa4@comcast.net or 717-352-4397 or talk to me at a monthly meeting) to volunteer or make additional suggestions.

Continued on next page
Create a Bird-Friendly Yard:
Healthy birds will be better equipped to face the challenges of a warming world. Commit to creating safe spaces for birds in your home and community by using fewer pesticides, letting dead trees stand, installing bird baths, and converting lawns and gardens to native plants. School grounds, parks, vacant lots, and common areas can all be “bird-scaped,” too. Our native plants garden at Norlo Park illustrates how to do this. You could learn by joining the garden team.

Get Involved with Local Important Bird Areas:
Protect the places birds need most today and in the future by pitching in with Audubon’s IBA program, which identifies and conserves areas that are vital to birds and biodiversity. You can help with IBA restoration, cleanup, citizen science, and field trips. We have two IBAs near us – Tuscarora Ridge / The Pulpit and South Mountain / Caledonia State Park/ Michaux State Forest. Dale Gearhart runs a hawk watch at the Pulpit. We have field trips to Caledonia and Michaux, and conduct our annual Beginning Birder Workshop at Caledonia. Join these activities!

Put Birds on Your Community’s Agenda:
Begin a conversation with your neighbors, colleagues, and local leaders about why it’s important to you to protect your community’s birds, and share what you’re doing on behalf of birds. Reach more people by writing a letter to your newspaper, speaking at a community event, or visiting a local school. We provide Audubon Adventures to local schools each year. Our programs are open to the public. Would you be willing to write a letter, speak at an event, or visit a local school?

Meet With Local Decision Makers:
Share this science with state wildlife agencies, city parks departments, extension services, and other groups that manage our natural resources to illustrate how global warming imperils birds, and ask decision makers how they are planning to address global warming. For more information on how to help decision makers use and integrate Audubon’s science, email climatescience@audubon.org. Cono-cocheague Audubon’s Board is exploring how to engage local decision makers. Do you have ideas?

Support Policies That Lower Emissions:
Urge leaders at the local, state, and national levels to enact policies that lower greenhouse gas emissions and support clean energy. Renewable portfolio standards, energy efficiency targets, and other proactive measures reduce emissions and will limit the effects of global warming on birds. Put these policies on your leaders’ agendas, and publicly support efforts to make them stick. At our monthly meetings we often identify opportunities for you to take a stand and contact local, state, and national leaders. Would you be willing to write letters, make phone calls, or send emails?

Take the Pledge:
Receive the latest findings, explore climate-related volunteer opportunities in your state or local area, and get information on how to enlist in Audubon’s forthcoming citizen science project to help monitor birds and document how they respond to a changing climate by signing up on Audubon’s Take the Pledge page.

“Audubon’s message is that it is not too late to take action. But we need to act now and we need to act together. Please do what you can.”

**CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT**  
*Saturday, December 20, 2014*  
by Valerie B. Barnes

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 20, 2014.** 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 19th; owls sometimes sound off in the wee hours of the morning. Please help!

We need teams of volunteers to count every bird in this 55th count in our designated 15-mile diameter circle. Last year we saw higher than usual numbers of American Pipit, Horned Lark, Carolina Wren, Winter Wren, and Yellow-rumped Warbler. With your help, maybe we’ll find a new species for the count this year. Starting this year we will count “Chickadees” instead of trying to distinguish between Black-capped and Carolina Chickadees. The scientists tell us that it’s nearly impossible to tell the species apart in the field here because they interbreed in this area. Many birds sing the “wrong” song or show field marks of the other species.

Our count area center is at a point just off Spring Road near the headwaters of the Falling Spring. This year we have new captains for two zones. The zone captains organize volunteers in different sections of the circle.

- Zone 1 NEW: Bill Oyler 360-5191
- Zone 2 Earl Nollenberger 532-7558
- Zone 3 Russ Martz 263-3533
- Zone 4 NEW: 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 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 Bird Count is fun and you never know what you might see. Make it a family affair!

National Audubon no longer charges a per-participant fee and has switched 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 (write check to CAS and note it is a donation for the CBC; mail to Doug Powless at 7757 Lincoln Way East, Fayetteville, PA 17222). Audubon appreciates your support.

**We’ll gather to tally results at the Arbor Room at Menno Haven Village Square on Monday December 22nd at 6:00 PM.** Dinner will be rotisserie chicken, tossed salad, seasoned rice, green beans amandine, roll, water, and decaf coffee. We are looking for volunteers to bring desserts; please contact Valerie Barnes (352-4397; BarnesV4@comcast.net) to volunteer. The cost per person will be $15.25 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 16th 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. But, counting is fun, so please try to join us!
Coming Up . . .
November/December 2014, January 2015

MEETINGS
7 p.m., Community Center, Norlo Park,
3050 Lincoln Way East, Fayetteville, PA

NOVEMBER 10
SERENGETI BIRDS AND WILDLIFE TRIP by Terri & Bob Kochert

DECEMBER 8
PHARMACEUTICALS AND FEMINIZED FISH: what are environmental estrogens doing in our local streams? by Dr. Theo Light, Shippensburg University. Arranged by Heather Sahli.

JANUARY 12, 2015
6 p.m. COVERED DISH DINNER & MEMBERS PHOTO SHOW

FIELD TRIPS

HAWK MIGRATION WATCH AT THE PULPIT CONTINUES DAILY INTO NOVEMBER. CONTACT DALE GEARHART 860-5799

NOVEMBER 22
Saturday 6 a.m. BLACKWATER NWR AUTO TOUR FOR WATERFOWL. Leave from Martins’ home, return by nightfall. Bring scopes, binoculars, CBs, lunch. Eric & Rhetta Martin, 597-8675.

DECEMBER 20 & 22
Saturday all day. ANNUAL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT.
Monday 6 p.m. DINNER AND TALLY, Menno Village Arbor Rm.
Val Barnes, 352-4397.

DECEMBER 28
Sunday 1 p.m. NEWVILLE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT. Meet at barn in SGL 169. Mary Craig, 532-7630 or Bill Franz, 776-4463.

JANUARY 2015 TBA
GETTYSBURG BATTLEFIELD FOR SHORT-EARED OWLS.
Dale Gearhart, (H) 597-3979 or (C) 860-5799.

NATURE FILMS

DECEMBER 4
THURSDAY 7:30 P.M. LORE AND LURE OF THE DESERT,
by Sandy Mortimer CAMS South (E. McKinley St)
CAS Website: www.conococheagueaudubon.org

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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.

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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