Gone Native – 10 Years In!
(FREE 10-year celebration for Native Plants Garden)
Everyone!
Norlo Park, 3050 Lincoln Way East, Fayetteville, PA 17222. (Just below the farmhouse)
Thursday, September 10, 3 PM – 7 PM
Rain or shine!
* Tour the garden and learn about native plants
* Pick up a free native plant while they last!
* Learn how to “go native” on your property
* Learn about how our efforts can fight climate change
* Learn about the Kittatinny Ridge project
* Enjoy light refreshments

As we celebrate the 10th anniversary of our Native Plants Garden at Norlo Park, perhaps you are considering going native on your own property. National Audubon Society recently prepared a How To flyer called “Simple Steps to Create a Native Plant Garden at Your Place of Worship”. The steps apply regardless of location, so the material below is adapted from that flyer and augmented with specific ideas about our area.

Like us, birds need food, water, and shelter. You can transform your outdoor space into a bird sanctuary that also saves resources such as water and combats climate change. The secret to success lies in choosing locally native plants, which brim with nutritious insects, berries, nectar, and seed to give birds vital food and refuge. Use these steps to create and maintain a bird-friendly habitat that brings colorful birds, sweet melodies, vibrant colors, and more of nature’s gifts close.
Conservation Corner: Go Native!
Continued from page 1

1. Select a site that’s practical to convert into a garden and allows room to expand. Consider:

Do you have full sun? Partial sun? Shade? Is the soil rocky, loamy, sandy, clay, or gravel? Does it drain well? Is your site flat or hilly? Near water? What’s the elevation?

See the Norlo Park Conococheague Audubon Native Plants Garden brochure (included with the annual mailing of the Activities List and film tickets) for a list of what is in that full-sun garden.

For ideas about plants for other environments, visit DCNR’s [www.iConservepa.org](http://www.iConservepa.org) website. The Plant Smart section is a tremendous resource about what native plants grow well under different site conditions, templates for gardens, controlling invasive plants, and best practices.

2. Plant in the spring or fall months and on cooler days. Follow planting instructions carefully and get tips on mulching around plants. Water only as needed when young plants are adapting to their new habitat.

3. Prepare your garden well to save headaches later. You may need to dig up lawn, remove invasive plants, and add organic compost to the soil. An easy method is to lay down newspaper at least six sheets deep, with plenty of overlap; wet it down; cover it with 4 to 6 inches of mulch, and let it sit until you are ready to plant. Use deep edging to keep out lawn grass.

4. Plan for a variety of shapes, sizes, and kinds of plants to give vertical structure to your garden.

Cluster the same plant species together.
Design for color palettes and seasonal blooms.
Add habitat features like hollowed boulders that catch rainwater for birds to drink and bathe in.
Visit the Garden Templates section on the [www.iConservepa.org](http://www.iConservepa.org) website for nifty layout suggestions for Shady/Dry, Shady/Moist, Sunny/Dry, Sunny/Moist, or Butterfly & Hummingbird gardens.

5. Steward your native plant garden with tender loving care.

Pull up noxious and invasive weeds.
Enhance with brush piles that hide birds and shelter other wildlife too.
Leave dead trees and branches.

6. Focus on plants that support high variety and quantity of bird food.

Red tubular flowers—columbine, jewelweed, and bee balm serve up nectar for hummingbirds.
Native sunflowers, asters, and coneflowers produce seeds for songbirds.
Bushes with berries ripen at different times, so include a seasonal variety to sustain birds: dogwood and spice-bush; cedar and holly trees.

Have fun and improve your bird habitat by Going Native!
ON THE RECORD
By Donna Hocker

MIGRATION COUNT
The Pennsylvania Migration Count (PAMC) for Franklin County had a few highs, some lows and beautiful weather. We had a total of 81 participants either in the field or watching feeders. This was above our average of 72. We had a total of 147 species well below our average of 169. We counted a total of 12,133 birds that was about our average.

Our highs for the count were Black Duck (5), Black Vulture (51), Eurasian-collared Dove (10), Starling (1616), Brewster’s Warbler (2), Redstart (222), and Cerulean Warbler (28). Cedar Waxwings were at the lowest (26) since the 1990s. There were no Blackburnian Warblers or Palm Warblers.

Thank you to all who participated.
NEXT YEAR’S COUNT WILL BE HELD MAY 14, 2016.

Spring Birding Field Trips
What a lovely evening these eight birders had in the Edenville area. Highlighting the trip were Bobolinks, Barn Owl, Grasshopper Sparrow, Scarlet Tanager and Baltimore Oriole. Thanks to Rhetta and Eric for leading the trip.

The trip to the area around Letterkenny Army Depot was led by David Cooney. Sixty-one (61) species were seen including 4 new birds; Bufflehead, Greater Yellowlegs, Barred Owl, and Vesper Sparrow. The list totals 135 species.

Fifty-one (51) species were seen on the Little Cove trip led by Dale Gearhart with 10 birders participating.

A new trip was held on the Lehman Property. Of the 147 species seen by Helen and Larry Lehman, the 11 birders saw 37 species including a Red-headed Woodpecker.

Bob Keener led a trip to Path Valley with 15 birders. An American Coot was seen for the first time bringing the list to 136. Total species count for the day was 80.

The last field trip for the season was led by Rhetta and Eric Martin. The 12 observers saw 40 species in Caledonia State Park and the IBA area of Michaux Forest.

Field Trip Photos:
BARRED OWL
LITTLE COVE TRIP
4/25/2015
BY DALE L. GEARHART

BLUE-GRAY GNATCATCHER
AND PALM WARBLER
LETTERKENNY TRIP
4/18/2015
BY JANET TICE.

Hawk Watch Starts This Month
Conococheague Audubon Society has two Important Bird Areas (IBAs) in its area. The IBAs cover Tuscarora Ridge / The Pulpit and South Mountain / Caledonia State Park / Michaux State Forest.

The Hawk Migration Watch at the Pulpit starts in September and continues daily into November. Contact the Hawk Watch Coordinator, Tom Neveil, neveil@embarqmail.com (717-263-9162) to help.
The 2015 Beginning Birder Workshop, held on June 6th at Caledonia State Park, was Conococheague Audubon Society’s seventh annual event for persons interested in becoming birders. We were again fortunate to have excellent weather and special thanks again to all of our devoted volunteers and the staff at Caledonia who helped organize and participate in this event.

We were pleased with the turnout of 35 participants, including several children, 16 volunteers and 42 species of birds. We added two new species this year, the Great Blue Heron and the Yellow-throated Vireo. We provided instruction on the use of binoculars and field guides, viewing of birds in their habitat during three different bird walks. We also tried something new this year. Val presented a Birding Quiz during our intermission. We had excellent participation; all of the children in the front row were having such a great time guessing the birds they saw on the walks. Conway’s granddaughter got most of them correct. We also had a couple mention to me about how much they learned about bird ID in such a short time. With that being said, this workshop was a GREAT success! Hope to see you all again next year. -- Dave Cooney Jr.

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 give preference to an individual or group who wishes to defray the costs of attending a conservation workshop, ornithology conference, or Audubon Leadership Camp.

To apply for aid, go to our webpage
http://conococheagueaudubon.org/scholarship.htm

Complete the application and return it to CAS President at wcbushey@embarqmail.com. If you prefer, you may mail your application to the President, Conococheague Audubon Society, P.O. Box 20, Fayetteville, PA 17222.

Scholarship requests should not exceed $250 and will be reviewed on a rolling basis. Please be sure to submit your application no later than 45 days prior to the event for which funding is sought. The President will inform the applicant whether the scholarship request will be granted or has been denied. Reimbursement requires proper receipts, a Google map for mileage expenses, and a short written report or pamphlet describing the event.
### Coming Up ... September & October 2015

**SEPTEMBER 10, 2015**

3 - 7 p.m. **10-YR. CELEBRATION OF NATIVE PLANT GARDEN AT NORLO PARK**, see p. 1 for details.

**REGULAR MEETINGS**

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

**SEPTEMBER 14, 2015**

7 p.m. **BIRDS AND CLIMATE CHANGE** by Laura Jackson (arranged by Rhetta Martin)

Short business meeting follows presentation.

**OCTOBER 12, 2015**

7 p.m. **BEAUTY OF THE NATURAL WORLD** by Jon Dale (arranged by Val Barnes)

**FIELD TRIPS (CONTACT LEADER IN ADVANCE)**

**SEPTEMBER 12**

Saturday 6:30 a.m. Moderate walks of less than 1/2 mi. in wet grass at **MENNO HAVEN CREEK SIDE, HEISEY RD.**, and **MICHAUX FOR FALL MIGRANTS**. Meet at Menno Haven’s pond at rear of nursing home (2011 Scotland Ave.) Bring scopes, binoculars, lunch. Field trip ends no later than early afternoon. **Bill Oyler**, 360-5191.

**OCTOBER 3**

Saturday 7:30 a.m. End of **FALL MIGRATION ALONG BIG SPRING** near Newville in Cumberland Co. Meet at the parking lot at upstream end of the Big Spring – 300 yds. north of old fish hatchery near 844 Big Spring Rd., Newville. Plan on 3 mile walk. Bring water and snack. NO restrooms. **Linda and Bill Franz** 776-4463.

**OCTOBER 24**

Saturday 6 - 9 P.M. **KINGS GAP FOR NORTHERN SAW-WHET OWL BANDING**. Special evening with Scott Weidensaul’s team. Meet at Kings Gap Environmental Education Center, 500 Kings Gap Rd, Carlisle. Pre-register with **Val Barnes**, 352-4397.

**NATURE FILM:**

**HOTSPOTS, AMERICA’S VOLCANIC LEGACY**

Presented by Gary Warriner

**Thursday, November 5, 7:30 p.m.**

Chambersburg Area Middle School South, 1151 E. McKinley St., Chambersburg, PA

CAS Website: [www.conococheagueaudubon.org](http://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 OCTOBER 15 FOR NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER.**

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![Photo by Tom Neveil](image-url)