



Avian Conservation Center of Appalachia

Newsletter

Volume 6, Issue 1

Spring 2017

You're Invited to Morgantown Migratory Bird Day!

On Saturday, May 13, we are looking forward to celebrating Morgantown Migratory Bird Day again this year at Cooper's Rock State Forest! This will be our 6th annual celebration, and we hope it's better than ever.

The day begins with a guided bird walk on the Raven Rock Trail at 7:30am. David Daniels will be the leader. Meet at the trailhead for a chance to see and hear cerulean warblers, American redstarts, red-eyed vireos, hooded warblers, wood thrush, and more. (Pictured right: folks enjoying last year's bird walk!)



After the walk, join us in the pavilion near the overlook for Birds & Beans Coffee and treats. Birds & Beans is triple-certified as Bird Friendly, Fair Trade, and USDA Organic. The ACCA is a conservation partner of Birds & Beans, and we offer their coffee for sale as a fundraiser; we will have bags of a variety of roasts available for purchase in the pavilion.

At 10am and 12pm, the ACCA's live birds of prey will be on hand in the pavilion for educational programs, and at 11am we will have a special bird-watching activity for kids.

Ongoing in the pavilion from about 9am until 2pm will be crafts for kids of all ages, educational displays, owl-pellet dissection, items for raffle, our always-popular "Keep Calm and Carrion" shirts, coffee, and more. **Can't wait to see you at Morgantown Migratory Bird Day!**

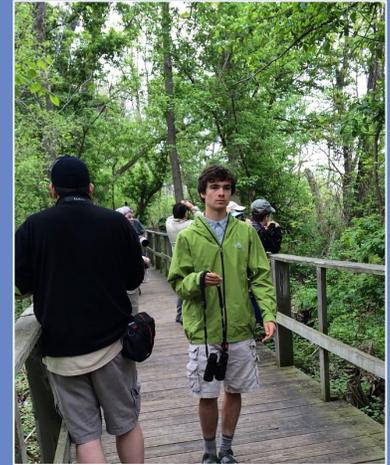
Our Mission:

To conserve wild birds through scientific research; education and public outreach; and rescue and rehabilitation

Volunteer Profiles: Caden Haines & Beth Goodwin

By Crissa Coeey

Caden Haines (top, right) is a senior at Morgantown High School, who has been volunteering at the ACCA since 2013. His interest in birds brought him to the ACCA, where he wanted to see them in a different setting and help take care of them. Caden enjoys feeding the birds, and he recalls a day when Canaan was so excited to be fed she almost grabbed the food from his hand. He liked her eagerness to eat and enjoyed that moment. Caden does not have a favorite bird at the ACCA but thinks that they each have their own beauty and interesting features. He hopes to continue volunteering to help treat the birds, as well as teach people about them. Next year Caden plans on studying Wildlife and Fisheries Resources at WVU. He hopes that one day his studies and experience with the ACCA will help him get a job where he can incorporate his love of birds and wildlife. Caden is also a former student of our next volunteer...



Beth Goodwin (below, right) has a degree in Elementary Education and a Master's in Reading, which prepared her for her career as a Title I reading teacher in Morgantown. In the fall of 2014, Beth decided to volunteer at the ACCA after attending a Turkey Vulture release event at Cooper's Rock State Forest. She was so impressed with the dedication of the volunteers in helping to rehabilitate and release the vulture that she wanted to be part of the group. She enjoys conducting education programs at schools and summer camps. Beth believes it's pertinent to teach kids about the importance of taking care of wildlife, as everyone plays a role in a species' wellbeing and survival. The next generation will need to take responsibility and have a stake in the future of wildlife. While at education events, Beth loves getting Tundra, the Peregrine Falcon, out of the carrier, as many kids become excited at her "kek kek kek" call and then ask interesting questions, because for many, this is the first time they have seen an animal like her. Beth's favorite bird to work with is Crystal, the gray morph Eastern Screech-owl, because she was the first bird Beth ever handled on a glove, she is easy to work with at presentations, and she seems to like being in front of an audience. Besides education events, Beth likes helping to exercise birds that are getting ready for release. She says it is a privilege to help the birds become stronger and to eventually return them to their habitat. In the future, Beth would like to handle Canaan so that she can take her to education events.



Congratulations to Erin Katzner!

We are very proud of board member and co-founder Erin Estell Katzner for being elected President of the International Association of Avian Trainers and Educators! Erin accepted the presidency at the 25th Annual IAATE Conference, held this February in Atlanta, GA. Two of the ACCA's bird trainers and educators, Katie Fallon and Meghan Jensen, attended the conference, too, to learn ways to improve our education program as well as to stay up to date on the latest information on bird training and education. Congratulations again, Erin!



Species Profile: Red-tailed Hawk

Red-tailed Hawk (*Buteo jamaicensis*; Latin for a species of hawk and belonging to Jamaica, as this is the collection location for the type specimens)

The Red-tailed Hawk is one of the most widespread raptors in North America. There are even 16 sub-species of Red-tailed Hawks on the continent. They are the largest of the broad-winged (Buteo) group of hawks in North America, with a wingspan of about 4 feet, length of up to 22 inches, and weight about 2 to 3 pounds. They are named due to the russet color of their tails as adults.

Red-tailed Hawks live in all types of open habitat throughout the U.S. You can often identify them in flight by their wings being held in a shallow “V” formation while soaring and by their pale underside (possibly with dark streaking on their belly) and dark “shoulders” when viewed from below. You will often see them soaring over open fields before diving with their legs outstretched to catch their prey. Small mammals make up the majority of their diet, but they will also eat small birds, snakes, and carrion; some prey may even be stolen from other raptors.

They are known for performing elaborate aerial courtship displays. A breeding pair will often use the same nest as previous years (in a tree canopy, on a cliff ledge, or on an artificial structure), lay up to 5 eggs per brood, and will often stay together until one of the pair dies. Red-tailed Hawks are considered partial migrants, as many individuals will remain in their area year-round. Their distinctive “kee-eeee-arr” call is commonly used as an eagle or other raptor call in movies.

Meet Canaan



Canaan is our resident Red-tailed Hawk and has been with us since the summer of 2013, when she was about one-year old. She was found by one of our board members (and our veterinarian), Jesse Fallon, when he and a couple of friends from vet school were on a fishing trip in the Canaan Valley. After examination, they discovered that she was missing the end of her left wing, most likely shot off by a rifle.

She has adjusted well at the ACCA. She likes sitting in the sunlight in her enclosure and going for walks in the sun while perched on the glove. Canaan has even “trained” some of the volunteers to feed her mice (her favorite) and to remove their tails (her least favorite). This beautiful photo is by volunteer Andrew Sealy.

- By Crissa Coeey

ACCA Annual Membership Application

Name

Address

Phone

Email Address

Please mail your membership application and your \$20 or more donation check made out to ACCA to:

286 Fairchance Road, Morgantown, WV 26508

Help Us Help the Birds

Running an avian conservation center is expensive! Costs include medicine, bird food, and more. We will accept monetary donations in any amount, and donating \$20 or more will make you an ACCA member for one year. Members will receive our quarterly newsletter and periodic email updates. We will also accept donations of gift cards and supplies--check out our Wish List on Amazon.com.

Volunteer and Spread the Word:

If you'd like to find out more about volunteering with the ACCA, email admin@accawv.org. Also, please spread the word about us! Pass on our contact information, suggest our Facebook page to your friends, and follow us on Twitter. And of course, if you find an injured bird, call (304) 906-5438.

2017 **HELPING BIRDS ALONG THE WAY** International Migratory Bird Day

You're invited to the 6th Annual

Morgantown Migratory Bird Day

Saturday, May 13, 2017

Cooper's Rock State Forest

Hosted by the Avian Conservation Center of Appalachia



7:30am: Bird Walk on the Raven Rock Trail. All are welcome! Meet at the trailhead. Led by David Daniels of Mountaineer Audubon.

9am: Birds & Beans Coffee in the pavilion near the overlook

10am: Live bird presentation with the ACCA's non-releasable raptors (in pavilion near overlook)

11am: Kids' Bird Walk and Activities (meet at pavilion)

12pm: Live bird presentation with the ACCA's non-releasable raptors

Ongoing in the pavilion from 9am-2pm: Kids crafts, owl-pellet dissection, raffles, and more. Everything is free & open to the public!



For more info: katie@accawv.org

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