



## Avian Conservation Center of Appalachia

# Newsletter

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Summer 2017

### Hawk Caught in Truck Grill RELEASED at Old Hemlock

In July we received a call that a man driving a pickup truck on Interstate 68 had hit a red-tailed hawk—and when he stopped, he discovered that the hawk had cracked the grill and somehow ended up *inside* it. The hawk’s meal—a mouse—also ended up stuck in the truck’s grill. Amazingly, the young hawk suffered only minor injuries, and ACCA volunteers banded and released the hawk a few weeks later. (In the picture to the right, volunteer Beth Goodwin sends the hawk back to the wild.) We released the bird at Old Hemlock in Bruceton Mills, WV. Old Hemlock is the former home of George Bird Evans and Kay Evans, and the Old Hemlock Foundation is dedicated to preserving and promoting the Evans’ legacy. For more information, visit [www.oldhemlock.org](http://www.oldhemlock.org).



### Join us for International Vulture Awareness Day

On Saturday, September 2, 2017, you’re invited to join the ACCA in celebrating one of our favorite holidays! We will hold an informal celebration at Cooper’s Rock State Forest from noon until 3pm. Stop by our tables in the picnic area near the overlook (look for our blue canopy) for kids’ activities and educational displays. And around 1pm, be sure to stop by to meet Boris, one of the ACCA’s non-releasable turkey vultures!

### Our Mission:

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

## Volunteer Profile: Crissa Cooley

By Beth Goodwin

**Crissa Cooley** is currently a PhD student at WVU. Her official major is Forest Resource Science and she is specializing in Wildlife. She is in the process of completing all requirements in this program. Crissa's future plans are to find a job or a postdoctoral position, ideally doing fieldwork with birds.

Crissa began volunteering at the Avian Conservation Center right from its creation in 2012. She had known Jesse and Katie Fallon, and Todd and Erin Katzner, from years prior. When these couples began discussing the idea of creating an avian rehabilitation organization, she told them she would be willing to help out in any way. As a wildlife student, she wanted to get involved in local wildlife projects. Crissa says, "I've always had an interest in wildlife rehab, so I wanted to help with the rehab process of birds as best as I could." Her favorite part of volunteering at the ACCA is when birds can be released back into the wild, especially one that has been taken care of for so long. It makes her feel happy and excited for that bird to be wild and free again. Crissa also likes helping out with the veterinary aspect of avian care because she hasn't had much exposure to that in previous jobs.

When asked who her favorite educational bird is at the ACCA, Crissa has a hard time deciding. However, she does feel a special connection to Tundra, a Peregrine Falcon. "Tundra has so much energy and enthusiasm and is always ready to see us (volunteers) when we stop by her enclosure," says Crissa. In the future, Crissa would like to be involved in the development and design of the new and permanent ACCA facility. She also has plans to be involved and assist with fund-raising opportunities.



Crissa at a Double-crested Cormorant nest on Hogs Island at the top of the Door Peninsula of Wisconsin in 2011.



### Sora to Columbus Zoo & Aquarium

This May we admitted a sora—a small bird in the rail family that lives in swamps and wetlands. The bird flew into a window in Summersville and injured its shoulder. Although the injuries healed, the sora cannot fly well enough to return to the wild. But it will have a wonderful permanent home at the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium in Ohio, in the Migratory Songbird Aviary. Our sora will be able to forage for food with other soras and similar species, bathe in a pond, hide under vegetation, and explore the large aviary with other non-releasable birds.

## West Virginia Young Birders Club

For several years now the ACCA has been discussing forming a club for young birders in our state. Many states have clubs for young birdwatchers, but West Virginia does not—until now!

This summer we decided to launch our club. The West Virginia Young Birders Club will be operated as a project of the ACCA. We hope the club will help foster understanding and appreciation for West Virginia's wild birds and Appalachian ecosystems. For now, we plan to host bird walks and other events in cooperation with other organizations and groups; eventually we hope to hold an annual conference.

We kicked off club activities with a Birding Bingo walk for kids at Morgantown Migratory Bird Day in May. Despite the cool, rainy weather, we found many of our "target" species, including great looks at a black-throated green warbler and a blue-headed vireo.

In June and July, we co-hosted two walks for young birders at the West Virginia Botanic Garden. We were surprised at the turnout—we had about *fifty people* come to each walk! Clearly, there is interest in birds in our community, and we hope our club can support (and grow) that interest.

If this sounds like fun to you, please join us at the WV Botanic Garden on Saturday, September 30, 2017, for "Bird Day." The ACCA will be giving a presentation with non-releasable birds of prey at 10am, and a Young Birders' Walk will follow at 11am. Check our Facebook page or the Botanic Garden's Facebook page for more information.

Check out our website: [www.wvybc.org](http://www.wvybc.org) and our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/wvybc/](https://www.facebook.com/wvybc/). Please contact Katie Fallon if you have questions or ideas for our fledgling club: [katie@accawv.org](mailto:katie@accawv.org).



Kids on our Birding Bingo walk at Cooper's Rock enjoyed seeing birds, then putting stickers on their sheets.



Folks at our walk at the WV Botanic Garden learned to tell the difference between black and turkey vultures in flight.

### 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](mailto: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.

## **Kestrels RELEASED!**

In July the ACCA released five young American kestrels at the West Virginia Botanic Garden in Morgantown. All five kestrels had been admitted as young fledglings with injuries or from unsafe situations. They were raised together as siblings although none were related. We hope they will decide to nest at the Botanic Garden in the coming years—it's great kestrel habitat!

ACCA volunteer Ruth Bergen captured this wonderful photo of the release. From left to right are: ACCA and WVBG camp volunteer Caden Haines, WVBG Education Director Erin Smaldone, and ACCA volunteer Heather Piwowar.



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