



The Wildlife Watch Binocular

PO Box 562, New Paltz, NY 12561

Winter/Spring 2017

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TAIWAN BANS CONSUMPTION OF DOG AND CAT MEAT

Taiwan already had a national Animal Protection Act that prohibited the slaughter and selling of dog and cat flesh. **In April, an important amendment was added: the prohibition of the consumption of dog and cat flesh!**



President Tsai campaigned with photos of her cats and spoke out for animal protection throughout her campaign.

...and the fine is hefty: \$1,640 and \$8,200. Further, anyone convicted of *intentionally* harming or torturing ani-

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RUMORS AND SUPERSTITION CAUSE PRIMATE DEATH!



Photos from nextshark.com

Obviously, these precious animals' voices need to be heard. You can help them. See the information below this article.

As if ceaseless environmental destruction isn't enough to cause so much misery to wildlife, rumors and superstition seem to be putting the finishing touches on.

Unfortunately, for humans and monkeys alike, there is a yellow fever outbreak in Brazil. **While the disease is caused by mosquitoes, howler monkeys are falsely being blamed for it.**

According to <http://www.cnn.com/2017/05/05/health/brazil-monkeys-yellow-fever/> Roberto Alves is manager of the Vectorially Transmitted Illnesses Technical Vigilance Unit at Brazil's Health Ministry. He is tracking the outbreak and said that the death of any primate requires notification to health services. The notifications can sometimes come from environmental protection workers or from the community itself; those concerned that the monkey has passed on the virus to its members.

"Since we only discover the circumstances of death after the fact, we sometimes discover that some primates didn't have natural deaths but violent ones," Alves said. He added that "This information does not represent the

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RUMOR AND SUPERSTITION

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total, but it's a sample of what happens in some regions."

Since yellow fever can be acquired by all primates – including the native monkeys – people automatically conclude that the virus was transmitted by the monkeys – which in turn causes their senseless slaughter.

Disturbingly, residents began shooting and beating monkeys to death after the deaths of 11 yellow fever patients in the small town of Ladainha. One farmer in a rural village in the state of Minas said she believes that people are killing the monkeys, because she heard gunshots and then noticed fewer primates in the area.

Unfortunately, there's no shortage of superstition and rumor in the rest of the world.

Let's look at what's happening to the aye-aye, a lemur native only to Madagascar. According to Wikipedia, the aye-aye is the smallest lemur in the world, only two feet from head to tail. They have a thin, elongated finger which is used to tap into trees in order to pull out insects under the bark. The aye-aye was thought to be extinct due to the unfounded fear many Malagasy's have of this harmless animal, but they were rediscovered in the 1950's.

There are so many superstitions about the aye-ayes.

Here are just some:

- If an aye-aye points his thinnest tap-



The Duke Lemur Center in North Carolina welcomed, Elphaba, a baby aye-aye.

ping finger at you, he has marked you for death. **In fact, that clever finger is used to dig insects out of trees.**

- Aye-ayes can break into houses in the night and kill a human by piercing the heart with that same long, thin finger.

Those who believe these superstitions kill aye-ayes on sight.

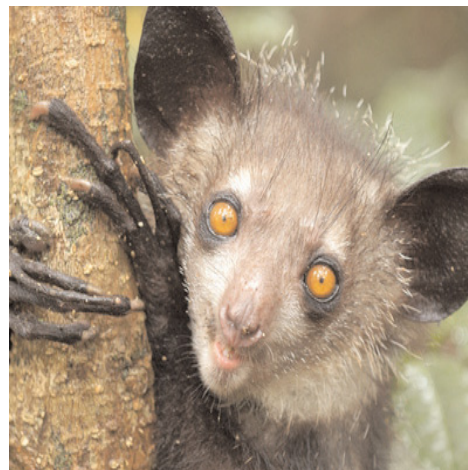
Those who are not subject to superstition, realize aye-ayes are adorable because of their large eyes that melt the heart, yet they have been demonized to the point where some Malagasy instead see them as fearsome.

These are just two examples of how supposedly rational humans will kill our animal neighbors when under the influence of superstition and fake news.

Governments must take action to counteract superstition with education, and pass laws to protect these maligned animals for the sake of the species and the individual animals themselves. Finding the correct contact information in time for publication was challenging. We are still waiting for confirmation. Meanwhile a starting point is here:

For Brazil;

Minister of Education: Mr. Mendoca



See the slender fingers of the aye-aye.

Filho Tel: (61)2022-7828 / 7822 ; Email: gabinetedoministro@mec.gov.br and **Minister of Environment:** Mr. Jose Sarney Filho, Tel: (61)2028-1057/1289/ 1422

For Madgascar;

Minister of National Education of Madagascar: Mr. Paul Andrianaina RABARY Tel: 032-07-732-32 / 034-07-732-32; Email: paulrabary@yahoo.com; **Madagascar Minister of Environment, Ecology and Forests,** Madame Johanita NDAHIMANAN-JARA sp.ministre@ecologie.gov.mg

As well, please contact **Charles Welch** at the **Duke Lemur Center** charles.welch@duke.edu who was extremely helpful in providing government contact information.

In the United States, some people are also taken in by similar influences that result in harm to animals. Think about how some people here react to seeing a black cat around Halloween, especially a black cat who crosses their path.



<http://gizmmodo.com/shelters-ban-black-cat-adoption-on-halloween-to-prevent-1652829811>

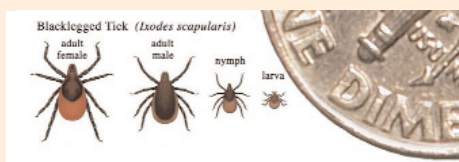
LYME DISEASE IS NOT CAUSED BY DEER! ...AND KILLING DEER WON'T PREVENT IT!

We don't have to look far to find false rumors that lead to the death of animals. Just one example is that Lyme disease is caused by deer, leading to people killing deer.

Here are some facts that, with your help, will spread faster than the fake news!

According to research published by the Humane Society of the US:

Killing deer can make matters worse with respect to human infection. Although adult ticks prefer a



Black-legged adult ticks are approximately the size of a sesame seed and nymphal ticks are approximately the size of a poppy seed.

large host like deer, they will switch to alternative hosts when their preferred host species isn't available. If deer are killed, the ticks will congre-

gate at higher densities on any remaining deer.

Scientists warn people to be extra vigilant in areas where deer have been hunted because such areas have larger numbers of ticks "questing" for a new large host in the absence of deer—leaving people and dogs extra vulnerable.

For more details, and to see how to protect yourself, visit:

http://www.humanesociety.org/animals/resources/facts/lyme_disease.html?ref=hp

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imals can face two years in jail and a \$65,000 fine! **Taiwan is not kidding!**

Violators may also see their names, photos and crimes publicized, according to Taiwan's Central News Agency.

Some forces that contributed to the new amendment include thousands of names on petitions that were sent to the government; the growing number of dog and cat "owners" in Taiwan. These dog and cat guardians have become sensitized to the animals, and now view them as the individuals they are; of course, **the main person to thank for the law is President Tsai Ing-wen, who herself is an animal lover.**



President Tsai adopted three retired guide dogs together, and promised to pass a law that would remove the restrictions that keep them from many public places. President Tsai is hoping that as



President Tsai Ing-wen's cats, Think Think and Ah Tsai, going at it.

the dogs are allowed to enter properties from where they are currently banned, more people will have seeing-eye dogs, and that will also provide homes for the dogs.

[HTTP://FOCUSTAIWAN.TW/NEWS/ASOC/201610150017.ASPX](http://focustaiwan.tw/NEWS/ASOC/201610150017.ASPX)

TROPHY HUNTER EATEN BY CROCODILE



for the crocodile skin trade. To read more about this hideous business, visit: <http://www.farmersweekly.co.za/agri-business/bottomline/crocodile-farming-controversy/>

Sometimes what goes around comes around.

Unfortunately, van Zyl's trophy hunting company continues to operate:

<http://www.ssprosafaris.com/index.php>



Scott van Zyl with lion trophy

This guy didn't have a chance to enjoy his meal. He grabbed hold of one of the deadliest humans for his species (and many others) and exacted revenge. South African hunter Scott van Zyl not only trophy hunted animals by himself, he also took people on guided hunts to the tune of thousands of dollars, for the purpose of killing giraffes and elephants for about \$9,000 USD and up.

Sadly, three crocodiles suspected of killing van Zyl were all killed. The contents of their stomachs were exam-

ined and, sure enough, DNA tests confirmed that van Zyl had been lunch for one of them.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/africa/south-african-hunter-crocodile-killed-van-zyl-skin-bone-testing-prove-show-impasse-view-37696731.html>

While the sympathies of van Zyl's family and friends no doubt rested with him (and Wildlife Watch takes no pleasure in anyone's death), it's important to realize that the crocodile above, who appears to be enjoying his day in the sun, faces extreme cruelty and exploitation. Not only are members of his species targets of hunters, but they are also raised on farms and skinned

R.O.C.K. - Rehabbers Offer Care and Kindness

The Wildlife Watch Hotline – 877-WILDHELP receives hundreds of calls every year from across the country, and a few from Canada. Police departments, conservation agencies, SPCAs, veterinary offices, and federal, state, and municipal offices have referred callers to

Wildlife Watch for help.

Your contribution to Wildlife Watch will help us to expand our volunteer service by allowing us to cover phones 24/7 and update our lists as new wildlife rehabilitators come on the scene.

WILDLIFE REHABILITATION CENTERS TO KNOW ABOUT AND SUPPORT: The Stick House Sanctuary

THE CIRCUITOUS RESCUE!

THE Wildlife Watch Hotline is just cranking up for all of the calls about injured and orphaned wild animals that we will receive during the spring and summer.

Usually, our early spring calls come from the west and south, so not surprisingly, about mid-April, we had a call from a family in Las Cruces, NM, about a baby bird who was found on the ground in bad shape and unable to fly. When the father and son returned home with the bird, they called Wildlife Watch. We checked the areas around Las Cruces for a bird wildlife rehabilitator but, to our dismay, there weren't any! The closest wildlife rehabilitation center was in El Paso, Texas!

We then called our friend, **Joe Miele**, who lives in Las Cruces and asked if he knew of a rehabber there, and he confirmed that the closest one was in El Paso, TX, about a 40-minute drive away. Joe enlisted **Rebecca Stanger**, his friend, and she drove the bird to The **Stick House Sanctuary** in El Paso, TX.

The Sanctuary folks allowed Rebecca to take a photo of the bird and his new companion. The bird Rebecca delivered is on the left. You can see him snug as a bug



Photo by Rebecca Stanger.

in an adorable hat nest that a volunteer knits for the Sanctuary's babies.

They identified the little bird as a mourning dove. It looks like he'll make it!

HELP YOURSELVES TO OUR HOSTAS

Last season, Joanne called Wildlife Watch to ask for help for a mother deer and her triplets. There really was nothing for Joanne to do, the fawns and doe were doing just fine, thank you.

We asked Joanne to take a photo for our newsletter. **Here are the babies!** We didn't have a chance to publish this, so we are doing so now. These babies would be yearlings now. Wildlife Watch wishes them

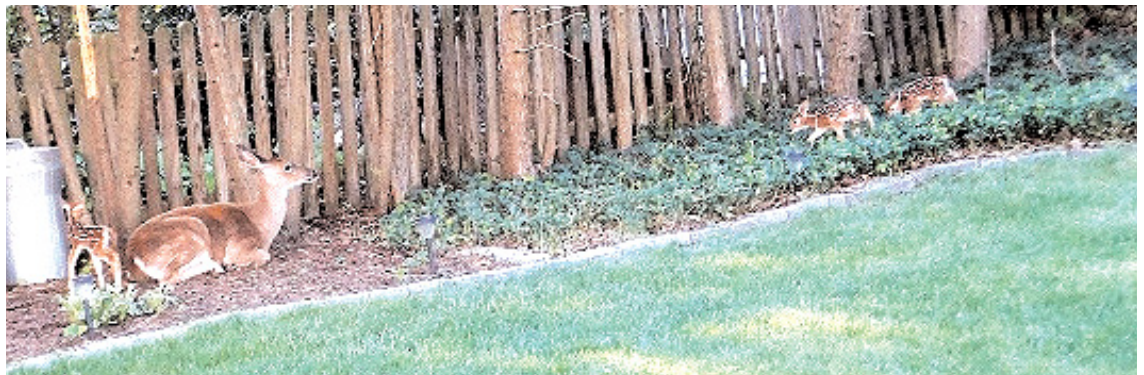


Photo by Joanne Bonwick

well. **When Joanne emailed, she wrote that she was happy they could enjoy her hostas.**

THE ABBE-FREELAND ANIMAL SANCTUARY R.O.C.K.s

Meet the “fearsome” bobcat named Preston.

They say: *Preston's such a laid-back guy. Not much bothers him. Preston is one of several animal ambassadors who live at AFAS. "Preston loves the attention of having his picture taken almost as much as he loves his little playhouse."*

Visit: <http://www.afasrehab.org/>



THE NOBLE ACTION OF RESCUING A BEE

Karen Schumaker is one of those rare individuals who lives simply in nature and cares for all of the wild animals she encounters. She is the founder of the **Newhaven Private Wildlife Sanctuary in Idaho**.

Karen writes both technically and poetically about wild animals and her sensitive interaction with them.

At one time or another, I'm sure our readers have all had the experience of trying to get an insect to safety. In the current issue of **Newhaven News**, Karen describes her attempt to rescue a bee:

Laundry is a hand-pumping operation, usually done in a 5-gallon bucket at times when midday heat makes it a pleasantly cooling job. I'd just stuck my arm into the soapy wash water when one of our gorgeous bumblebees tumbled in. He was lucky I was right there to scoop him out almost instantaneously, saying



google

aloud, "You're ok, don't be afraid." His wings and splendid yellow fur with its orange rump band were completely flattened, drenched. His movements, initially a vigorous protest, turned shocked and feeble. I debated a quick dip in the rinse, but we use earth-friendly soap, and another dunk might kill him. He couldn't manage to cling to a flat-topped yarrow, so I set

him on the metal lid of the ash bin in the warm sun. Then, fearing it would burn him, I coaxed him up off the hot metal, explaining, 'Climb up onto my toothbrush, that's what it's good for.' He spent about 20 minutes there, resting. Gradually recovering movement in his cold legs, he groomed his fur as it dried. At Newhaven, as everywhere, bee populations are down from neonic pesticide-induced disease. We don't use pesticides of course, but bees travel long distances. With the neonics scare, we're trying more than ever to protect our insects both in diversity and numbers.

Orange rump made a tentative, premature attempt to fly. He stumbled, discouraged and bewildered, onto the metal. I helped him back onto the brush. After a few more minutes, he again reflexively tried to fly. This time he made it and you could tell he was surprised as he joyously flew away.

IN MEMORIAM

LEE MATHESON sadly passed away January 13, 2017. **Lee was one of the most responsive and best wildlife rehabilitators in the Mid-Hudson Valley of NYS.**



Lee never turned down a wild animal in need. We first met Lee shortly after relocating to Ulster County, NY. We needed to find someone who knew how to help a fawn and someone recommended Lee Matheson. Lee immediately took him, telling us he would be fine.

After that time, Lee took in so many more injured and orphaned animals. We always knew we could count on her.

Lee will be greatly missed by Wildlife Watch, and by the many people and animals she helped over the years.

Preston Friedman, a member of Wildlife Watch and a friend of Lee's wrote:..."Sorry to be the bearer of bad news, but I thought you would want to know of the passing of a fine woman and great animal lover, Lee Matheson. **I know that Lee is in paradise, where she rightly belongs."**

Wildlife Watch knows that, too!

To learn more about **Karen Schumaker's** work, contact her at **Newhaven Private Wildlife Sanctuary** P.O. Box 217, Deary, ID 83823

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Anne Muller, Editor

We welcome letters/articles/photos for consideration.

Contributions are tax-deductible.

FIGHT CLIMATE CHANGE – GO VEGAN!

THE MARCH FOR SCIENCE

As President Trump would like to cut billions from the EPA and National Institutes of Health in order to increase military spending, there was an outcry from scientists and their friends. It manifested in the "March for Science" in April and was held in cities throughout the world. In one article on CNN online

HTTP://WWW.CNN.COM/2017/04/20/HEALTH/MARCH-FOR-SCIENCE-REUTERS/ a cancer researcher named Leslie Paul was featured. **Her important words went beyond her work on cancer and focused on the animals. She said: "If there was ever a time that it was important to say, 'You can't do that to the EPA, you can't disregard wildlife, you can't censor science,' it would be now."**

Another featured marcher was **conservation scientist Rachel Golden Kroner who said, "If we do nothing, we face a crisis for biodiversity and people."**

We were impressed by the fact that so many of those in attendance focused on how the animals are being affected by human caused climate change.

One very important contingent of the March for Science was the Factory Farming Awareness Coalition – FFAC-Chicago – that produced this great poster: [HTTP://WWW.FFACOALITION.ORG/](http://www.ffacoalition.org/)



WHY BE VEGAN?

We urge our readers to move in the direction of veganism for many reasons. One article that we found to be excellent is written by Ashley Capps. It can be found here:

<http://freefromharm.org/why-vegan/>

To get up close with some fortunate animals who've escaped one of the worst fates we can imagine, please visit a local farm sanctuary. Here in the Hudson Valley, NY, you'll find two great ones:

<http://woodstocksanctuary.org/your-environment/>
and <https://casanctuary.org/>

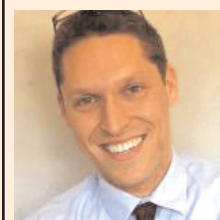
COWS HAVE FEELINGS



In spite of their dire situation, they are shown giving love to a little cat, and obviously, the feeling is mutual.

<http://www.bbc.com/news/world-us-canada-39646497>

PROGRESSIVE ORTHODOX RABBIS CALL FOR A REDUCTION OF MEAT CONSUMPTION



Shmuly Yanklowitz

In April, 2017, a group of progressive orthodox rabbis from around the world called on the Jewish community to consider the moral

and spiritual dangers associated with meat consumption. **While they condemned factory farming, they also pointed to the fact that significant and unnatural pain is caused toward animals during their raising and slaughter for human consumption, which in turn contributes to health conditions.** They asked for a reduction of meat intake and described it as a global concern.

Visit: <http://forward.com/scribe/369525/orthodox-rabbis-warn-of-moral-and-spiritual-dangers-of-eating-meat/>

WISCONSIN DNR SCRUBS LANGUAGE TO CONTINUE TO BAFLE AND CONFUSE ABOUT CLIMATE CHANGE



HTTP://WWW.MILWAUKEEJOURNALSENTINEL.COM/2017/04/20/CLIMATE-CHANGE-DNR-SCREENS/
The article reported that the DNR recently scrubbed language from an agency web page on the Great Lakes that said humans and greenhouse gases are the main cause of climate change.

Chris Jazewski, a Wildlife Watch member, sent an article from the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* by Lee Bergquist:

The DNR now says the subject is a matter of scientific debate.

The department made the changes on 12/21, striking out whole sentences attributing global warming to human activities and rising levels of carbon dioxide.

Mr Bergquist said this; **More broadly, the changes reflect how the administration of Republican Gov. Scott Walker has de-emphasized the subject since he took office in 2011.**

The Governor can be contacted here: <https://walker.wi.gov/contact-us>

Things To Know About

EXPAND YOUR KNOWLEDGE AND REDUCE YOUR FEAR OF COYOTES

Janet Kessler, a photographer and blogger, has documented and interpreted coyote life in San Francisco. In her website: www.coyoteyipps.com she advocates for tolerance and understanding of coyotes, and provides practical solutions for co-existing with this species.

Please visit her website to expand your knowledge of coyote behavior, reduce your fear, and keep your companion animals safe.



Anna Breytenbach communicates with wild animals:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HTdlMC6NZU4>

Anna Breytenbach takes us on many journeys touching our hearts and souls, as well as touching the hearts and souls of the animals.



From sharks to baboons, her extraordinary communication with animals will leave you in awe.

Additionally, Ms. Breytenbach succeeds in communicating with our own species in order to engender compassion in us.

Please visit her website and watch her extraordinary super sense in action: <http://www.animalspirit.org/> and watch her incredible videos on YouTube

THE GINNY FUND:

BY ANNE MULLER



I've known about the **Ginny Fund** for at least 20 years, and had the honor of meeting Ginny at a presentation by Philip Gonzalez. Philip was Ginny's human companion who recognized her special talent. I remember how honored I felt when, during that packed lecture, Ginny meandered through the crowd, and then chose to sit by my side. She allowed me to curl

the fur on her neck. The lecture was all about Ginny and her amazing work of rescuing special needs cats and dogs.

After Ginny's sad passing in 2005, Philip carried on Ginny's work to rescue stray cats and dogs from the streets. You can learn more about this wonderful organization by visiting:

[HTTP://WWW.LIFEWITHDOGS.TV/2016/05/THE-GINNY-FUND-THE-LEGACY-OF-A-RESCUE-DOG-WHO-PAID-IT-FORWARD/](http://WWW.LIFEWITHDOGS.TV/2016/05/THE-GINNY-FUND-THE-LEGACY-OF-A-RESCUE-DOG-WHO-PAID-IT-FORWARD/)
or her Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/TheGinnyFund/>



Citizens for Alternatives to Animal Research and Experimentation

According to CAARE, the need for improved methods of drug development is essential. **The FDA describes the current process, which is based largely on animal testing, as "complicated, time-consuming and costly." It is also extremely inhumane.**

Only 5 in 5,000 compounds that enter early testing make it to human clinical trials, and only 1 of those 5 may be safe and effective enough to reach the market.

To view the medical testing breakthroughs that replace the use of animals, please visit this website: <http://www.caareusa.org/> Bob, please close the right justification



WILDLIFE WATCH NEEDS YOU!

Wildlife Watch needs your help more than ever to continue providing our vital wildlife hotline service to the public. We receive calls from across the country and occasionally from Canada from people needing help with injured and orphaned wildlife. Our easy to remember number 877WILDHELP is recommended by veterinary offices, SPCAs, and law enforcement agencies. Additionally, we publish the **Wildlife Watch Binocular** to inform the public about animals and the people who help them, to promote wildlife watching, and to provide the understanding that all animals are individuals deserving of kinder treatment.

**Will you help our work?
YES**

<http://wildwatch.org/join/join.htm>



NEED HELP FOR
INJURED OR
ORPHANED WILDLIFE?
CALL THE WILDLIFE
WATCH HOTLINE!
1-877-WILDHEL(P)
(1-877-945-3435)

Wildlife Watch maintains current lists of wildlife rehabilitators around the country. Our hotline helps us to help hundreds of people and animals annually.

Please help us by becoming a Wildlife Watch member for \$25 annually and please make an additional contribution for the R.O.C.K. Project that will be put into a fund and used to help a rehabber help wild animals. R.O.C.K. Project funds will be distributed at our discretion up to the amount available. You can contribute by PayPal by clicking here

www.wildwatch.org/join/contrib.htm

✓ Contribute by phone with a credit card. 845-256-1400

✓ Contribute by mail:
Wildlife Watch, P.O. Box
562, New Paltz, NY 12561

Let's Go Wildlife Watching LIVING IN NEW YORK CITY? LONGING TO CONNECT WITH NATURE? CONSIDER THE *URBAN* *NATURALIST PROGRAM AT THE* *NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN*

<https://www.nybg.org/learn/adult-education/urban-naturalist-certificate-program/>



A quick look at the website summarizes the program this way:

This five-week program focuses on vascular and non-vascular plants, invertebrates and vertebrates of New York City's uplands and coastal wetland ecosystems, emphasizing the critical conservation issues facing each locale. Classroom lectures and hands-on activities are complimented with classes

in the field and working excursions in the Thain Family Forest, Bronx River, Central Park, and Pelham Bay Park, among other locations.

Chris Arenella, a friend and member of Wildlife Watch, told us about the program. She said,

When I learned that the New York Botanical Garden was offering a new program called Urban Naturalist that teaches students how to become stewards of our urban environment, I signed up.

During my field trips, I have learned to see nature with a new intimacy. My eyes have begun to focus more clearly on the not-so-apparent. I'm now even more protective of our urban natural environment. I can now identify a flower I always knew as Queen Anne's Lace as Daucus carota, or wild carrot.

If you've had an enjoyable wildlife watching experience that others will be able to have as well, please share it with us. **Photos needed.**

Please send to: wildwatch@verizon.net