TANZANIA: ITS LAND, WILDLIFE, AND PEOPLE

October 10 Monthly Meeting

East Africa has emerged on the world scene only recently, yet the impact of its emergence already has led to serious man-environment conflicts. East Africa's principal attractions are its panoramic open spaces and the variety of native animals that still dwell there. East Africa is the last refuge for the great array of Pleistocene mammals in the world, but their recent declining numbers have added a sense of conservation urgency. National Parks and reserves now harbor remnants of the once huge herds as well as pocket populations of several endangered species. Much of this wildlife is found in Tanzania, which has more parks and reserves than the rest of the continent combined. Tanzania, occupying some of the best of the East African wildlife habitat, typifies the oncoming disastrous collision between people and native animals.

Join Dr. Gene Wilhelm, Jr., guest speaker on October 10, for an illustrated color slide program which depicts the monumental ecology problems facing Tanzania. Dr. Wilhelm was formerly an ecology and education consultant for the United Nations Environment Programme in Nairobi, Kenya, Professor of Environmental Studies and Biogeography at Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania, and most recently Vice President for Education, National Audubon Society, New York City.

Meeting Place: Basement of the United Methodist Church, Maple and Franklin Streets, Slippery Rock, Pennsylvania.

Time: 7:30 p.m. The program is free and open to the public.
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Volunteer organizations are, as the description implies, made up of volunteers. Sometimes people forget this when they hear of the productive work that the many organizations, such as our own, are accomplishing. It has been said that the United States is a nation of volunteers. This particular trait makes us unique among the many other countries of the world.

But tell me, who wants to attend a committee or board of directors’ meeting at 7:30 in the evening after waking up twelve or thirteen hours earlier, working an eight-hour day, and finally coming home to cook dinner? Believe it or not, many thousands of people do these extra activities within the National Audubon Society alone.

By filling out the questionnaire included at the end of this newsletter you can let us know if you would like to donate some of your valuable free time to the Bartramian Audubon Society through a special interest, talent, or skill that you may possess. You now have a chance, along with more than 100 other chapter members, to let us know how you would best be able to serve the Audubon Cause.

Please complete both sides of the questionnaire, fold it, and place a 20¢ stamp on it. Please mail the form to me as soon as possible.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Doug [signature]

BARTRAMIAN

Our chapter is named for the upland sandpiper, formerly called the upland plover and Bartramian sandpiper, an open-field species which consistently has nested on the Slippery Rock Univ campus since at least the 1930’s. The species is now quite rare in Pennsylvania and is facing severe environmental pressures through the loss of proper habitat due to human development and changing agricultural practices. Its scientific title, *Bartramia longicauda*, is derived from the 18th century Pennsylvania ornithologist John Bartram and from the fact that the species travels nearly 5,000 miles one way between the pampas of Argentina to the prairies of North America to breed each summer. Our chapter thought that the bird was a fitting symbol for our local conservation efforts.

Readers may be interested in the following description of the upland sandpiper found in Special Leaflet No. 6, Supplement to Bird-Lore, Vol. VIII, No. 6, December, 1906, National Association of Audubon Societies, and written by Abbott H. Thayer.

"The Upland Plover is among the most directly and unmixedly useful of all American birds. Being a haunter of pastures and meadows, and fitted to abound in such situations, living mostly on insects and other small animal life, it is peculiarly adapted to restrain the increase of these creatures and so to avert many a plague."

Description

A pigeon-headed brown sandpiper; larger than Killdeer. The short bill, small head, shoe-button eye, thin neck, and long tail are helpful points. Adept perch on fenceposts and poles; holds wings elevated upon alighting. Song, weird windy whistles; wheeeelo, wheeelo. Range: Mainly Canada, northern United States. Winters on pampas of Uruguay and Argentina in South America. In Pa. KNOWN TO BREED in Butler and Clarion Counties, possibly elsewhere.
CONSERVATION ISSUES

DRILLING FOR GAS AT ERIE REFUGE

(Editor's Note: That our National Wildlife Refuge System is constantly being threatened by human actions of all types is not surprising; they always have been since their origin earlier in this century. What is outright shocking now, however, is that the current pressures come from developers encouraged by the Secretary of the Interior James Watt. Watt is the Federal Government official responsible for the supposed safety of these precious wildlife habitats. Secretary Watt has opened most refuges to multiple use, each given use strongly dominated by some human act. Unfortunately, the wildlife are losing for they no longer have the freedom to breed unmolested as intended by the laws establishing the refuges.

Two refuges under current attack deserve special attention from our membership and friends: 1) Brigantine National Wildlife Refuge on the south New Jersey coast near Atlantic City is threatened by the largest new real estate development ever initiated in that state. If completed as planned, the Historic Smithville Development Corporation will construct enough homes and condominiums for 20,000 or more people, all on land adjacent to the refuge. There also would be a 700-room convention hotel, two 18-hole golf courses, schools, and a huge shopping center. Construction permits were given, although Walt Pomeroy, Mid-Atlantic Region Vice President, National Audubon Society, recommended involvement in an Administrative Appeal of the I-C permit. The NAS did get involved with litigation and a decision by a judge is expected this fall. You can help defray litigation costs by contributing to a special fund. Please make checks payable to: National Audubon Society and indicate checks for the Brigantine Defense Fund. Mail to: Mid-Atlantic Region Office, National Audubon Society, 1104 Fernwood Avenue, Camp Hill, PA 17011. All contributions are tax-deductible.

2) The Erie National Wildlife Refuge is in our own backyard and presents a more direct on-site threat. Ralph Haurwitz, ecology writer for the Pittsburgh Press, exposèd the Erie problem in the September 18, 1983 issue of the newspaper and a fine editorial in the same newspaper issue backed Haurwitz. It is strongly suggested that the chapter discuss this conservation issue at its Oct. 10 meeting. Please come prepared with ideas and comments. Thank you).

Facts

An energy development company is planning to drill the first natural gas well in the Erie National Wildlife Refuge, an expanse of marshes, forests and grasslands that provides a nesting ground and summer home for many birds, mammals, other animals, and plantlife. The 8,000-acre refuge, which is 10 miles east of Meadville, has remained untouched by energy production since its establishment in 1959. The Federal Government owns the land but not the subsurface rights in about 1,000 acres of the refuge. Under Secretary Watt, such exploration is being encouraged, to the dismay of environmental and sportsmen's groups. Some of these same groups are taking exception to the planned gas-drilling operation in Erie. Concerns are fueled by soil erosion & stream pollution that have occurred in the wake of oil and gas drilling in the Allegheny National Forest to the east. Much of the problem there is insufficient oversight by the PA Department of Environmental Resources and a failure to enforce existing laws. Would gas exploration stop with one Erie drilling?
IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

There will be a birding field trip to Erie National Wildlife Refuge on Sunday, October 16, 1983. Erie National Wildlife Refuge is near Guy's Mills, 10 miles east of Meadowville. The trip will be led by Dr. Genevieve Tvrlik, Professor of Biology at Slippery Rock University, and will be limited to 15 people. Call Dr. Tvrlik at 794-7299 (work) or 458-7770 (home) for more information or to register for the trip. Become acquainted with this lovely refuge which is being threatened by drilling.

The National Audubon Society's Annual Dinner will take place this year at the Capital Hilton Hotel, 16th and K Streets, Northwest, Washington, D.C. on Thursday, November 3. The evening will begin with cocktails (cash bar) at 6:30 p.m. followed by dinner at 7:30 p.m. in the Presidential Ballroom. The 1983 Audubon Medal will be presented to Margaret Wentworth Owings, founder of "Friends of the Sea Otter" and the Rachel Carson Council. The Annual Meeting will be on Friday, November 4 at 9:00 a.m. in the Federal Room. All Audubon members are invited to attend both the Thursday and Friday events. If you have any questions, please contact Deborah Jerome, Annual Dinner Coordinator, National Audubon Society, 950 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10022.

Due to problems with the National Audubon Society's Membership Department, the officers would like to update a new, complete list of members and friends in the Bartramian Audubon Society. A survey will be utilized to assist the membership chairman, Ronald Fodor, in compiling a complete list of all chapter members and others who receive this Newsletter. The survey will be available at the October 10 chapter meeting. Please contact Ronald Fodor, 401 New Castle Street, Slippery Rock (telephone 794-2628) if you cannot attend the October meeting.

PA BREEDING BIRD ATLAS PROJECT

The PA Breeding Bird Atlas Project is co-sponsored by the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, and the PA Audubon Council. This effort to determine breeding bird species and their range throughout the state is a cooperative effort of the state's Audubon Societies, bird clubs, conservation groups, interested state agencies, and individual volunteer birders. Dr. Gene Wilhelm, Jr., has been appointed Regional Coordinator for Butler, Lawrence, Mercer, and Venango Counties and is a member of the Planning Committee. The Bartramian Audubon Society will have the opportunity to indicate whether the chapter wants to cooperate with the project at its October 10 meeting.

Note: Regardless whether the chapter cooperates with the project or not, volunteers are desperately needed for each of the four counties. Please contact Dr. Wilhelm at R. D. 3 Box 8, Slippery Rock, PA 16057 or telephone 794-2434 for details.

WILDLIFE HOTLINE

The Bartramian Audubon Society is starting a Wildlife Hotline in October. Call 794-2434 to learn what is new in nature or to report an unusual natural occurrence in the four-county area. Also, next month the Newsletter will commence a new column NATURAL HAPPENINGS which will summarize previous field observations in the four-county area.

The UPLAND INFORMER, official Newsletter of the Bartramian Audubon Society, is published several times a year. The Society's address is: P. O. Box 264, Slippery Rock, PA 16057. Address correspondence to: Dr. Gene Wilhelm, Editor, R. D. 3, Box 8, Slippery Rock, PA 16057.
ENDANGERED PLANTS OF PENNSYLVANIA

November 14 Monthly Meeting

Paul Wiegman, Director of the Natural Areas Program, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy, will grace the November 14 chapter meeting with a presentation of his color slide program "Endangered Plants of Pennsylvania."

Mr. Wiegman is a past president and currently the Chairman, Board of Trustees, Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania (ASWP) in Pittsburgh. Paul is an expert naturalist and a master photographer who will depict problems and suggest solutions for preserving rare, threatened, and endangered plants in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania via the lens of his camera.

Paul is no newcomer to Western Pennsylvania, having lived and worked in the Pittsburgh area most of his life. Likewise, he has been an active Auduboner for 20 years and has worked for the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy for 12 years. Paul was the 1982 recipient of the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania's prestigious W. E. Clyde Todd Award, which is bestowed annually by the Society on a deserving individual for outstanding contributions to conservation in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. Let's give Paul a warm welcome and join him in a very informative program.

Meeting Place: Basement of the United Methodist Church, Franklin and Maple Streets, Slippery Rock, Pennsylvania.

Time: 7:30 p.m. The program is free and open to the public.
ERIE UPDATE

(Editor's Note: Ron Fodor and Gene Wilhelm visited Bill McCoy, Manager, Erie National Wildlife Refuge, Guys Mills, PA on Friday, October 21 at the request of the Board of Directors, Bartramian Audubon Society, to discuss the potential gas drilling problem on the refuge. Mr. McCoy is deeply concerned about the problem cooperated fully by answering our many questions and making positive suggestions as to how the BAS can help. Bill has graciously consented to appear at our November 14 meeting to informally answer any questions our members and friends may have about the drilling. Therefore, to better prepare our members for such a discussion, the following information is presented. The BAS wants to take positive steps to stop this senseless development of our only W. PA national wildlife refuge).

Erie National Wildlife Refuge is a haven for migratory birds. The area is not on the shores of Lake Erie, but lies in Crawford County, 35 miles south of the city of Erie and Lake Erie. The refuge is a namesake of the Erie Indians, an extinct tribe that resided near the lake.

The refuge consists of two separate land units. Sugar Lake Unit, the more intensely managed portion, lies 10 miles east of Meadville on the outskirts of Guys Mills village. It contains about 5,000 acres lying in a narrow valley which includes Woodcock Creek draining to the north and Lake Creek draining to the south. Beaver ponds, pools, and marshlands along the creeks are bounded by woody slopes interspersed with croplands, grasslands, and wet meadows.

The Seneca Unit is about 10 miles north of Sugar Lake Unit, or four miles SE of Cambridge Springs. It consists of 3,027 acres situated in a forested valley where Muddy Creek and Dead Ck. provide most of the wetland habitat. Possible gas drilling would occur in this unit of the refuge.

Erie NWR was established in 1959. The land was purchased with funds provided from the sale of Migratory Bird Hunting & Conservation Stamps. Its major objective is to provide waterfowl, primarily ducks, with nesting, feeding, brooding, and resting habitat. Secondary objectives are to provide habitat capable of supporting a diversity of other wildlife species and enhance opportunities for wildlife-oriented public recreational activities and environmental education.

Over 2,500 acres of wetland, including beaver floodings, marshes, swamps, man-made impoundments, creeks, and wet meadows, provide desirable waterfowl habitat. Water control structures on refuge impoundments permit the manipulation of water levels to encourage the growth of waterfowl food and cover plants such as smartweeds and bulrushes. Future plans call for more than doubling the amount of manageable habitat now available.

Wood ducks are the most prolific waterfowl nesters on the refuge. Their annual production is significantly increased by the placement of nesting boxes on refuge wetlands. Hooded mergansers, mallards, black ducks, blue-winged teal, and Canada geese are other common resident nesting waterfowl. Bald eagles and ospreys visit the refuge occasionally in search of food. Common nesting raptors are red-tailed hawks and American kestrels. During summer, shorebirds appear in small groups feeding on the mudflats. The most noticeable marsh birds are great blue herons which nest in rookeries on the refuge. In sum, over 200 species of birds have been seen on Erie NWR. Of these, 132 species are songbirds. The refuge provides nesting habitat for nearly 100 bird species.

Some 33 species of mammals are present on the refuge, the most commonly seen being the white-tailed deer, beaver, muskrat, and woodchuck. Common fish occurring in refuge waters include crappie, perch, bass, bluegills, sunfish, bullheads, trout, and suckers.
Potential gas drilling in the Seneca Unit of the refuge would cause great concern. Basically, the drilling site, only a few hundred feet inside the refuge boundary, would cause erosion and possibly emit brine and methane gas not only into the refuge aquifer but also potentially destroy private wells and springs by making their waters unfit for human consumption. In short, any gas drilling on the refuge will create a health hazard for man and nature.

Further argument against gas drilling is the fact that the National Park Service has recommended that the Muddy Creek Swamp in the Seneca Unit of the refuge be set aside both as a natural landmark and an archeological site of prehistoric importance.

According to a Natural Landmark Brief, Muddy Creek Swamp is the finest large forest swamp complex of this type in PA. It is highly diverse in nature with free flowing streams, beaver ponds, oxbow ponds, open marsh, shrub swamp, conifer and hardwood swamps, & various examples of mature northern hardwood forests. It is a classic example of aquatic plant succession with nearly all stages of primary and some stages of secondary succession present. The white pine-hemlock swamp stand is the best of its type yet discovered in PA. The archeological significance of the zone is still unknown.

In conclusion, the BAS membership is encouraged to make concrete suggestions for stopping the gas drilling on Erie NWR on November 14. Bill McCoy, Manager of Erie NWR, will be there to help us. Bring your ideas and let's act now.

(Editor's Note: Ecologists are pushing the U.S. Congress to undo former Secretary of the Interior Watt's legacy. They won a first victory last week when Senate committee voted to prohibit Interior from opening national wildlife refuges to oil/gas drilling. This may help our own Erie problem.)

NATURAL HAPPENINGS

September

(Editor's Note: NATURAL HAPPENINGS is a new column which will appear monthly in the UPLAND INFORMER. Please contact the editor if you have observed any unusual natural occurrence. Reports should be submitted in writing no later than 15 days after the conclusion of every month to Gene Wilhelm, R. D. 3, Box 8, Slippery Rock, PA 16057. Reports should include the precise date, number of species and individuals, other pertinent data, & the name, address, and phone number of the recorder).

September 1983 continued the long warm weather pattern that persisted in the four-county area since early summer. Temperatures gradually declined through the month in normal fashion but without any recording of 90°F. or higher temperatures for the month. Cooler, more moderate northwestern fronts started penetrating the area in mid-month, plunging temperatures into the mid-40°F. range between September 12-16. Unofficial minimum temperature for the month was 40°F. recorded at Slippery Rock on September 22. Precipitation correlated with temperatures: as temperatures cooled in mid- and late Sept., precipitation increased appreciably. A heavy fog occurred in the area on September 13-14 and the first measurable rain fell on September 16. Rain lasted most of the day and was heavy at times. Unofficially 0.1 inch fell, followed by 0.3 inch rain on September 21 at Slippery Rock.

Many of our PA birds migrate at night. These nocturnal migrants travel in mixed flocks of several species early in the fall, but gradually the flocks become more specialized as to species later in the season. Such heavy migrations are usually called "waves," and are quite noticeable by ear. Each species has particular call notes that identify it. Thus, small waves were recorded the nights of September 2, 3, 4, 10, 11, 12, 15, and 25. Actually,
the nocturnal waves on September 12 & 15 were heavy in species and individuals flying over Slippery Rock. The mornings after such intense nocturnal migrations are excellent for birding.

Great blue herons were still lingering in the area all month. Green-backed herons (2) were seen at Lake Arthur on Sep. 5 (Wilhelm) and at Lake Oneida (3) on Sep. 14 (Weilands). Unusual records were an Am bittern, snowy egret, and little blue heron (imm.) on Sep. 5 at L. Arthur (Wilhelm). Ducks were scarce but ten ring-billed gulls stayed at L. Arthur all month (Wilhelm).

Turkey vultures were in normal numbers but no hawk migration materialized. It was a different story for the shorebirds because of the dry, warm summer decreasing water levels. L. Oneida had many mudflats that attracted the following shorebirds on Sep. 14: black-bellied plover (2), semipalmated plover (2), killdeer (56), greater (2) and lesser yellowlegs (8), western (1), least (10), and pectoral sandpiper (8). A single Baird’s sandpiper, dunlin, and purple sandpiper in winter plumage topped the day (Weilands, Wilhelm). Killdeer reached their peak of 101 individuals on the SRU campus on Sep. 12. All six species of swallows congregated over L. Arthur on Sep. 5; est. numbers were 10,000.

Small waves of red-breasted nuthatches went through the area between Sep. 1-5 and again between Sep. 25-30. Waves of flycatchers, thrushes, vireos, and warblers were timely and consistent. Mary Kruth made the following excellent observations: Sep. 1 Acadian flycatcher (1) & red-eyed vireo (2); Sep. 2 least flycatcher (1), red-eyed vireo (5), common yellowthroat (1), Blackburnian (1), blue-winged (1), Nashville (2), black-throated green (1), blue-winged (1), and magnolia warbler (1). Some 30 species of warblers were recorded in Sep.

OUTSIDE AREA: Top bird of the month was a lone black-legged kittiwake in winter plumage on Sep. 25 at Presque Isle SP.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

+There will be a waterfowl identification field trip to Lake Arthur on Sunday, November 13, 1983. Trip will start at 8:00 a.m. at the park headquarters off U. S. 422. Bring a lunch and learn your ducks and geese at the peak of fall waterfowl season. Call Gene Wilhelm at 794-2434 for details.

+The BAS will be accepting orders for two types of 1984 Audubon calendars, NAS patches & decals, and copies of original pen and ink drawings, including our own logo the upland sandpiper, at the November 14 meeting. Samples will be available for review. Why not help your chapter financially and solve your holiday gift obligations by ordering these fine materials?

+Doug Hoskins will resign from his official position as President of BAS effective December 17, 1983. Doug will be graduating from Slippery Rock University in December and will return to his home in Camp Hill, PA. BAS appreciates Doug’s guidance and toil over the past year. We wish him well.

+The BAS will conduct its Christmas Bird Count (CBC) on Saturday, December 17, 1983, at Moraine State Park and vicinity. Central point of the 7 1/2 mi. radius count area is the Route 528 bridge crossing Lake Arthur. Volunteers are needed but need not spend all day. So come one, come all to the 1983 CBC. Call 794-2434 for complete details.

+BAS Wildlife Hotline. Call 794-2434 to learn what is new in nature or to report an unusual natural occurrence.

The UPLAND INFORMER, official Newsletter of the Bartramian Audubon Society, is published several times a year and is free to members. Friends can receive three free issues. A special subscription is $4.00 per year. The Society’s address is: P. O. Box 264, Slippery Rock, PA 16057. Address correspondence to: Gene Wilhelm, Editor, R. D. 3, Box 8, Slippery Rock, PA 16057.

MOVING? Send your change of address to Ron Fodor, 401 New Castle, Slippery Rock, PA 16057.
THE A.L.T.E.R. PROJECT
(Alternative Living Technologies and Energy Research)

December 12 Monthly Meeting

Jean Paul Sarte once said: "As long as a person is immersed in the historical situation, it does not even occur to him to realize the defects of a specific political or economic system; not because he is 'used to it', but because he sees it in its full presence and cannot even imagine that it could be otherwise."

While we are all immersed in our contemporary, historical situation, many of us are aware of its defects and agree that basic alterations must be made. But how? Dr. Robert A. Macoskey has been active in bringing the A.L.T.E.R. design to its present stage of development and has attempted with other interested folk to imagine what the viable ways and means might be for overcoming some of our present system's defects.

The project intends to demonstrate that there are practical alternatives in food and energy production at a scale large enough to make an effective and positive difference in our locality, yet small enough to avoid system complexity which is one of our society's most serious defects: the intermediate scale as advocated by E. F. Schumacher in his book Small Is Beautiful. The project intends to show this in two ways: in an energy-efficient building complex of upwards of 500,000 sq. ft. of usable space on approximately 100 ac. of marginal farm land owned by Slippery Rock University.

Dr. Macoskey was former Chairperson of the Department of Philosophy and since 1977 Professor of Philosophy at Slippery Rock University. He received the Ph. D. degree from the University of Edinburgh in Scotland in 1956 and has researched various topics varying from 16th Century Radical German Thought to Business Structures and Human Values. All Auduboners should be interested and involved in such worthy projects as A.L.T.E.R. Let's give Dr. Macoskey a sincere and warm welcome and join him in an exciting program.

Meeting Place: Basement of the United Methodist Church, Franklin and Maple Streets, Slippery Rock, Pennsylvania.

Time: 7:30 p.m. The program is free and open to the public.
OIL & GAS LEGISLATION IN PA

Oil and natural gas have been produced in PA for 123 years. For 95 of those years the industry was never regulated. When the first legislation appeared in 1956 the intent of the law was to merely avoid conflict between oil and gas drilling and coal-mining interests. Other oil-producing states have laws which deal directly with the oil and gas industry. PA allows the regulation of our state's industry to fall under the umbrella of the Clean Stream Law and the Department of Environmental Resources Rules and Regulations. However, this approach does not go far enough nor is enforcement of these laws common and widespread. The fact is clear that specific legislation is needed to bring our state up to the minimum level of regulation of other oil and gas-producing states.

The environmental impacts of oil and gas drilling have been ever-present since the beginning of such activities in 1859. But the latest sudden growth in oil and gas production (in 1980, 6,900 wells were permitted; in 1981, over 10,000) has brought with it a dramatic increase in the devastation of land, wildlife, and water.

Unlined holding pits containing oil, brine, and drilling fluids dot the PA landscape. Ultimate disposal plans have never been made. Neither is their disposal regulated. Meanwhile, the toxic contents of thousands of these pits seep or pour onto the land and into streams and groundwater.

The erosion of poorly engineered and irresponsibly constructed access roads and drilling pads chokes our once clear streams with mud, silt, and bottom-coating sediments.

Thousands of wells sit abandoned by owners and operators who are now as hidden and forgotten as the wells they left behind. The discovery of abandoned wells most often occurs as a result of the sudden flow of oil, brine, and drilling fluids spewing from the un-plugged shaft under the pressure of nearby new drilling activities.

The 1983 legislative session in Harrisburg has seen the introduction of two bills in the House. H.B. 302 has been introduced by Rep. Bill Wachob & is identical to legislation he introduced last year. H.B. 570 was introduced by Rep. Camille "Bud" George & has a companion bill in the Senate (S.B. 402) introduced by Senator Wilt. H.B. 570 and S.B. 402 were drafted as a compromise. Although the bills contain some positive aids, they fall short of required regulations and both are in need of strengthening amendments.

Nevertheless, H.B. 570 and S.B. 402 are the best-organized vehicles in which to incorporate Audubon comments and suggested amendments for obtaining responsible oil and gas legislation in PA.

What can you do? Without your voice in Harrisburg the oil and gas industry lobbyists will chip away with opposition, at H.B. 570 and S.B. 402. And as long as you remain silent, as long as our legislators do not hear our voice, they will hear and respond to only the oil and gas industry. The industry lobbyists are busy in Harrisburg right now telling your legislators what they want, not what you, the constituent, wants.

If ever there was a time for Audubon to raise its voice to strengthen oil and gas legislation in the state, that time is NOW. Contact your legislator and key members of the Senate Appropriations Committee and House Conservation Committee by writing or personal contact. A timely response to this notice is essential if PA is to have a decent law regulating the oil and gas industry. Note that the time the state Legislature will be in session between now and the holiday recess is very limited. So act NOW.

Address letters to:
The Honorable
PA Senate
Harrisburg, PA 17120
ERIE N. W. R. UPDATE

(Editor's Note: Edward Perry, Acting Field Supervisor, U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service, State College, PA sent a letter dated November 15, 1983 to Lt. Colonel John R. Richards, District Engineer, Pittsburgh District of the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers indicating the following facts:

"Meridian Exploration proposes to place their well on the Seneca Unit of the Erie National Wildlife Refuge. The well site is in an area designated by this Service as a Public Use Natural Area (PUNA), and is proposed for registration as a Natl. Natural Landmark. Public Use Natural Areas are special habitats within the National Wildlife Refuge system. We do not designate an area as a Public Use Natural Area lightly. For example, the Fish & Wildlife Service's Refuge Manual (8 RM 11.4) defines a PUNA as a "relatively undisturbed ecosystem or subecosystem that is available for use by the public with certain restrictions for protecting the area. Such an area must possess exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting an element of the natural heritage of our Nation."

"We note that as part of your public interest review, individual, as well as cumulative impacts will be evaluated. We hope that you have enough information to evaluate cumulative impacts. For example, outside parties (other than the Fish & Wildlife Service) own about 1027 acres of mineral rights on the Seneca Unit of the Erie Refuge. Over 900 acres of this lie in areas designated as a PUNA or Research Natural Area (RNA). Research Natural Areas have even tighter restrictions on use and access than PUNAs. If Meridian, or any other company, proposes to use this initial intrusion as a stepping stone to other areas on the refuge, it would be important to know Meridian's future plans and the location of other subsurface holdings or subsurface mineral rights they have obtained leases to and their future plans."

"The proposed project comprises the basic purpose and function of the Erie National Wildlife Refuge. Further, it is incompatible with the management, objectives, and use of a Public Use Natural Area. We, therefore, recommend the requested permit be denied as not being in the public interest with respect to fish and wildlife resources.

As you can see from the above letter, the battle over drilling for natural gas on Erie Refuge continues. However, it should be clear to us all that the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service has lived up to its duties and responsibilities in this case. Our chapter applauds Mr. Perry's decision to permit to allow Meridian to place fill into wetlands, to construct an access road and well pad in connection with the exploration of natural gas on Erie Refuge. However the battle is NOT over. You are urged to write Lt. Colonel John Richards, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Federal Building, 1000 Liberty Avenue, Pittsburgh 15222 IMMEDIATELY suggesting that the Corps NOT issue the necessary permit to allow Meridian the right to explore for natural gas on OUR REFUGE. That is right. We American citizens may not own the subsurface mineral rights, but we do own the surface rights and all the great natural resources that go with them. An while you are in the writing mood, send a separate letter to: The Honorable Thomas Ridge, House of Representatives, U. S. Congress, Washington, D. C. 20515

JINGLE BELLS, JINGLE BELLS, JINGLE ALLW

This will be just one of the many meals that we will be listening to during our Christmas tureen dinner on Monday 12 De. Our chapter will supply the turkey and drinks, but please bring one of these items: casseroles, vegetable dishes, salads, and desserts. Please bring your own table settings (plate, cup, silverware). If you would like to share some Christmas decorations & music, bring them too. Please come by 5:30 p.m. to set up so dinner can be served at 6 p.m. sharp. For those individual members who cannot bring a dish and for guests and friends the chapter is requesting a donation of $5.00 per person. Call Martha Rosetttsk at 458-5160 for details.
October

October in PA is always the peak of fall and October 1983 was no exception. In fact, our four-county area had one of its most colorful falls ever. The color that flies from the trees and the carpet of gold, red & vermilion on the forest floor can be seen almost nowhere else in the world. True, deciduous forests are found on other continents, but they lack the colorful diversity of species of the eastern American paintpot. Here the red maples are as bright as pyres that seem to light up the whole woods. Puffs of red burst from sugar maples, sumacs send their crimson flares, and the poplars bedeck themselves with colors of old gold.

Contrary to belief, it is not frost that paints the fall woods; rather each blaze of color heralds a subtle change in the internal chemistry of the leaf. The cool dry days of fall trigger a complicated sequence in trees, causing them to shut down their immense waterworks. During the summer each leaf begins to prepare for its death by forming at the base of its stem a layer of thin cells. Directly beneath this layer, another will form cells to heal the scar which will be made when the leaf falls off. As these two layers grow, they clog the pipelines to the leaf. The green chlorophyll is no longer renewed; it breaks down fast and disappears, revealing the riot of color—yellow, gold, and orange—what were in the leaf all summer, but masked by chlorophyll. Also, another group of pigments that in most cases were not in the leaf at all during the summer is produced. These pigments create the dramatic reds, scarlets, and purples. The cells at the base of each leaf stem disintegrate, gradually detaching the leaf until it is held to the twig only by the connecting veins that supplied it with water and nutrients during the summer. A gentle breeze or even a few raindrops are enough to break these fragile strands and leaves rain down by the billions. The pigments remain in the leaves for awhile, but soon they too break down, all except the brown tannins.

Temperatures continued above normal and precipitation was about normal for the month of Oct. in our four-county area. The first hard freeze did not occur until Oct. 26 (28°F. in SR), unusually late, followed by several morning min. temperature readings in the 20's. Oct. 22-25 was an especially rainy and foggy period with 1½ inches recorded in SR.

Nocturnal bird migrations were heavy to moderate the nights of Oct. 2, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 22, and 25. As many as 25 grey-cheeked and 20 Swainson's thrushes were recorded Oct. 2 at McKeever Env. Learning Center, Sandy Lake. The scarlet tanager and rose-breasted grosbeak were common nocturnal migrants till Oct. 10 with few vireos and warblers lingering after that date. Cedar waxwing kinglets, and brown creepers were common and widespread in the area throughout the month. Some special observations:

pied-billed grebe (1), Oct. 9 in West Sunbury (Hoskins); green-backed heron (7), Oct. 8, Thorn Creek (W. & M. Kenitsky); Canada goose (100), Oct. 19; Moraine (Wilver); osprey (1), Oct. 9, McConnells Mill (Lochner); dunlin (5), Oct. 10, L. Arthur (Geibel); sanderling (1), Oct. 9, L. Oneida (Crawford); water pipit (125), Oct. 24, Harlansburg (Geibe and common redpoll (1), Oct. 30, Barkeyville (R. Johnson). Other species also reported were: pectoral sandpiper, rusty blackbird, winter wren, evening grosbeak, pine siskin, and fox sparrow.

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THE FLORIDA EVERGLADES

January 9 Monthly Meeting

South Florida has attracted biologists for countless decades. Although the area is basically an ecological island with relatively few bird species, the tremendous aggregations of water birds coupled with the presence of a few unusual land bird species which breed nowhere else in North America have insured the continued interest of ornithologists and birders in this area.

However, it is the rich assortment of plants in South Florida, centered on the Everglades, that makes this area so biologically unique and thus worthy of preservation.

The speaker for the January 9 Audubon meeting will be Dr. Genevieve M. Tvrdik, Professor of Biology at Slippery Rock University. Her talk on the Florida Everglades will address the critical environmental problems facing this area and will be illustrated with color slides.

The Everglades are home for many fascinating species of birds ranging from the Great Egret, to the Anhinga, to the Snail (Everglades) Kite. Now the great influx of people, land development, higher demand for fresh water, and the interference with natural water flow patterns all have had a serious ecological impact on this fragile land-water ecosystem.

Dr. Tvrdik has been at Slippery Rock University since 1978. She teaches ornithology, entomology, and environmental biology among other courses. Dr. Tvrdik is a former Minnesotan who received her Ph. D. degree from the University of California at Berkeley. She taught formerly at Northern State College in Aberdeen, South Dakota, California Polytechnic State University at San Luis Obispo, and California State University at Sacramento. Before receiving her Ph. D. degree, she worked for the Division of Game & Fish of the Minnesota Conservation Department for seven years. Finally, Dr. Tvrdik has been an active member of the Bartramian Audubon Society and presently is Field Trips Chairperson.

Meeting Place: Basement of the United Methodist Church, Franklin and Maple Streets, Slippery Rock, Pennsylvania.

Time: 7:30 p.m. The program is free and open to the public.
Bartramian Audubon Society  
P. O. Box 264  
Slippery Rock, PA 16057

The following individuals constitute the officers and committee chairpersons of the Bartramian Audubon Society until the April 1984 chapter meeting when elections will be held for the following year.

**Officers**

**President:** Dr. Gene Wilhelm, Jr.  
R. D. 3, Box 8  
Slippery Rock, PA 16057  
(412) 794-2434

**Vice President:** Dr. Craig Chase  
R. D. 4  
Slippery Rock, PA 16057  
(412) 794-4662

**Secretary:** Martha (Butch) Rosendale  
R. D. 1, Box 99L-4  
Slippery Rock, PA 16057  
(no phone)

**Treasurer:** Martha Rosettsky  
212 East Pine Street  
Grove City, PA 16127  
(412) 458-5160

**Committee Chairpersons**

**Education:** Janet Strong  
R. D. 4  
Butler, PA 16001  
(412) 352-2958

**Field Trips:** Dr. Genevieve M. Tvardik  
405 Stockton  
Grove City, PA 16127  
(412) 458-7770 (home); 794-7299 (work)

**Membership:** Ron Fodor  
401 New Castle Street  
Slippery Rock, PA 16057  
(412) 794-2628 (home); 285-4731, ext. 330 (work)

**Programs:** Jim Strong  
R. D. 4  
Butler, PA 16001  
(412) 352-2958 (home); 283-5741 (work)

**Publicity:** Mary Fitzgibbons  
15 East Maitland Lane  
New Castle, PA 16105  
(412) 658-2007
THE AUDUBON 1984 REGIONAL CONFERENCE

The 1984 National Audubon Society Mid-Atlantic Regional Conference will be held near Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, at Eastern College, on June 29 - July 1. The theme for this six-state, every two-year gathering of chapter leaders and members will be "Wildlife: Progress and Promise." The local chapter sponsor will be the Valley Forge Audubon Society.

The format will include a keynote address by National Audubon Society President Russell Peterson. Other major speakers and a diverse series of workshops will fill out the rest of the weekend event. A series of different, low-cost one-day field trips will be held on Friday for any interested people. A Saturday evening banquet with presentations of a number of Regional awards and a major address on historical perspectives of John James Audubon by National Audubon Society Senior Vice President Richard Martyr, will also be part of the festivities.

A final program and registration information will be available at chapter meetings or directly from the Audubon Regional Office, which is organizing the event. Costs will be kept to a minimum. Look for further information at a chapter meeting or write: National Audubon Society, Mid-Atlantic Regional Office, 1104 Fernwood Avenue, Camp Hill, PA 17011. Telephone: (717) 763-4985

THE PENNSYLVANIA BREEDING BIRD ATLAS PROJECT

Atlasing for breeding birds in PA began in a limited way during the nesting season for 1983 and will continue in 1984. Thus far, six regions have submitted Data Summary Sheets of their field work. Some 34 blocks were atlased.

In the meantime, organization of the state into regions continues. Of the total 38 regions, 25 now have coordinators. Dr. Gene Wilhelm of Slippery Rock will be coordinator for the four-county region consisting of Venango, Mercer, Lawrence, and Butler Counties. Sub-coordinators are needed for each county, so please contact Dr. Wilhelm soon. The coordinators thus far are among the top birders and ornithologists in the state. Their participation reflects the widespread realization of the importance of the Breeding Bird Project and enthusiasm for it.

Pennsylvania Audubon Societies have taken a leading role in providing funds for the project. They have also contributed leadership in the form of regional coordinators.

Plans for 1984 include a number of important steps. First, the completion of the regional coordinator roster. Second, the beginning of statewide atlassing on a broad front with the use of newly issued handbooks and field cards. Meetings among the regional coordinators and Project Coordinator are to be scheduled the latter part of this winter and next spring throughout the state. Statewide publicity is
also planned. A newsletter for all participants should be issued as next year's (1984) atlasing comes to a close. In sum, given the logistic and financial limitations the Project seems to be in good health and is looking forward to 1984.

Edward D. Fingerhood
Acting Project Coordinator

(Editor's Note: Our chapter was one of 10 Pennsylvania Audubon Chapters that donated $50 or more to the Breeding Bird Atlas Project in 1983. A total of $900 was collected from Audubon chapters and bird clubs in 1983. The Project is jointly sponsored by the PA Audubon Council and its associated Audubon Societies, the Academy of Natural Sciences in Philadelphia, and the Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh).

PENNSYLVANIA'S COOPERATIVE ENDANGERED SPECIES PROGRAM

In 1978 the PA Game Commission and the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service signed a cooperative agreement to launch an endangered species program in the Commonwealth. Under the agreement, the federal government will provide two dollars for each dollar spent by the Game Commission during the next five years to determine the status of and improve conditions for threatened or endangered species in PA. The agreement is designed to foster better habitat management and protection for the species covered by the program. Specifically, funds are being used to determine the status of threatened or endangered species of wildlife in the state, for protection of these species through law enforcement, acquisition of habitat critical to the threatened or endangered species, intensive in-service training for Game Commission personnel on the specialized endangered species work, and public information and education.

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MOVING? Send change of address to: Ron Fodor, 401 New Castle Street, Slippery Rock, PA 16057 as soon as possible.

NOTICE: Effective with the February 1984 issue of the UPLAND INFORMER, with the approval of the Board of Directors, David DiSpinto will become Editor. Dave is a Parks & Recreation major at SRU. Welcome.
Raptors

February 13 Monthly Meeting

Earl Schriver of Braden, PA, an expert on raptors, will be the guest speaker at the next regular meeting on February 13. Earl has trapped, trained and hunted with these birds throughout the area. He is recognized locally as an authority in his field, and is, in the Audubon sense, an expert birder.

Earl Schriver's work is growing in importance because of the increasing number of raptor killings that take place. Whether deliberate or accidental killings, the raptor population's growth has been slowed down considerably. Some legal support has been gained through the Bald Eagle Act, which has been amended to include golden eagles. It carries a maximum penalty of $5000 and a year in prison for first offenders. The Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Endangered Species Act are other federal laws which protect these birds. Prosecution under all three could result in a fine of up to $25,500 and a 2½-year sentence.

More up-to-date and interesting information will be presented by Earl Schriver on the status of the raptor population and problems in Pennsylvania.

Meeting Place: Basement of the United Methodist Church, Franklin and Maple Streets, Slippery Rock, Pennsylvania.

Time: 7:30 p.m. The program is free and open to the public.

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed to assist in monitoring the bluebird nesting box program at M. K. Goddard State Park in northeastern Mercer County.

These boxes would be checked once a week to see what species of birds were utilizing the boxes and what stage of development the eggs or young birds would be in. The boxes are cleaned out after the first hatch and monitored for a second hatch.

For more details, interested individuals or groups may contact D. E. Campbell, Park Superintendent, Maurice K. Goddard State Park, R. D. 3, Box 74, Sandy Lake, PA 16145.
GOOD NEWS

- from the Pennsylvania Game News
December, 1983

Over 12,000 bald eagles were tallied during the National Wildlife Federation's 1983 winter bald eagle survey. This is essentially the same as the 1982 total, and up substantially from the 9615 counted in 1979 during the Federation's first such survey. Although bald eagles are still listed as endangered in forty-three states and threatened in five others - there are many in Alaska and none in Hawaii - these surveys indicate the bald eagle is making a strong comeback in the United States. Sixteen bald eagles - eleven matures and five immatures - were found in Pennsylvania during the survey.

DRILLING AT THE ERIE REFUGE

The prospect of the first gas-drilling operation in the Erie National Wildlife Refuge, in Crawford County, has raised fears for the future of this expanse of marshes, forests and grassland.

Those concerns are understandable.

And even if prospecting for natural gas does not necessarily translate into environmental destructiveness, this particular venture will need looking after because of its possible impact on an unusual haven for migratory birds and other animal life in Pennsylvania.

The refuge, established in 1959, covers 8,000 acres in two locations about ten miles east of Meadville. It's in a part of the state where there has been considerable gas-drilling and oil-drilling activity in recent years. But the refuge has been untouched by the energy developers - until now. A drilling firm under contract to the Columbia Gas Transmission Corporation soon will sink the first well in a natural area where even hiking and picnicking are prohibited.

The federal government owns the land but not the subsurface rights in about 1,000 acres of the refuge. Under the Reagan administration - compliments of former Interior Secretary James Watt - such exploration is being encouraged, to the dismay of environmental groups.

Some of these same groups are taking exception to the planned gas-drilling operation in the Erie refuge. Their concerns are fueled by soil erosion and stream pollution that have occurred in the wake of oil and gas drilling in the Allegheny National Forest to the east. Much of the problem there, they say, is insufficient oversight by the state Department of Environmental Resources and a failure to enforce existing laws. That doesn't offer much encouragement that the DER will be any more alert to possible drilling abuses at the Erie refuge. Perhaps they won't occur, but the first dig for gas there demands careful watching.
WHO WILL WATCH THE BIRDWATCHERS?

The public's conception of birdwatching has undergone a significant transformation in recent years. Once regarded as the genteel pursuit of nature lovers interested solely in the beauty of birds, the hobby has grown enormously in popularity, and this growth has brought with it a new quality of competitiveness. Even the name has been changed from birdwatching to birding, a subtle alteration that has drawn thousands of adherents formerly repelled by the connotations of the old designation.

A new type of birder is emerging, one whose primary interest is in seeing as many species as possible, and the excessive zeal of this small group is tarnishing the image of the vast majority whose aim is the protection of birds. After years of encouraging people to take an interest in ornithology, naturalists are now looking for ways of protecting birds from people.

While the majority of birders are well-behaved, with a protective, even affectionate attitude toward the creatures they study, concern is being felt about the proliferating body of "life-listers," people whose only concern is the adding of names to the list of birds they have seen in their lifetime. Many of these overzealous observers have no real feeling for or understanding of birds, regarding them not as creatures of beauty and grace, but as statistics in the continuing battle to outscore the competition.

G. Stuart Keith of the American Museum of Natural History has said that "the new breed of bird watchers are tough, macho young people who burn up the country in a never-ending drive to increase the length of the vital life-list at all costs."

Horror stories abound. National Wildlife tells of a grey owl which appeared in Lloyd's Harbour, New York, two years ago. It created a great deal of commotion as more than 500 visitors a day poured into the small town. Hoping to get a glimpse of the owl, some of the visitors shook the tree in which it was nesting while others tried to scare it out by shouting and even throwing rocks at it.

The National Audubon Society feels that the basic love and fascination that birders feel for birds will, in the long run, serve to correct the abuses of the overenthusiastic minority. The Society suggests that a code of ethics should be adopted, to include such common sense rules as the following:

* Avoid the use of taped bird songs, particularly when the birds are breeding.
* Observe birds from sufficient distance that they are not disturbed.
* When photographing birds, do not use flash and never damage foliage in the vicinity of nests.
* Respect private property and obey posted signs.

- John Duffie
FREE LITERATURE

Pennsylvania Game Commission
P. O. Box 1567
Harrisburg, PA 17105-1567

Bronze Beauty of the Big Woods (Turkey)
Duck Identification Chart
Environmental Concern and Wildlife - a Humane Approach
50 Birds and Mammals of Pennsylvania
Get Your Geese in the Southeast
Job with Wildlife, A
List of Protected Birds and Mammals of Pennsylvania
Nesting Boxes, Bird Houses - How to Build Them
Of Prey and Predators
Organization & Responsibilities of the Pennsylvania Game Commission
Oriental Bombshell (Pheasant)
Our Man-Made Environmental Crisis
Plans for a Martin House
Plans for a Wood Duck Nesting Box
Pymatuning Story
Shohola Waterfowl Management
Whistlin' Robert - Bobwhite Quail
Why a Spring Gobbler Season?
Wildlife Crossword Puzzle
Wings Out Your Window (Birds - Food & Cover)

Wildlife Notes on:
Bobwhite  Eagles and Osprey  Ruffed Grouse
Canada Goose  Heron  Vultures
Crows & Ravens  Owls  Wild Turkey
Diving Ducks  Raptors  Woodpecker
Doves  Ring-Necked Pheasant  Woodcock

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MOVING? Send change of address to: Ron Fodor, 401 New Castle Street, Slippery Rock, PA 16057, as soon as possible.
MEMBERS' SHOW AND TELL NIGHT

March 12 Monthly Meeting

You, the active members of the Bartramian Audubon Society, will be in the limelight at our next membership meeting. You are invited to share, exhibit, or even discuss anything of an ecological nature with us. Your presentation may be audio, visual, or a combination of both, provided that you limit yourself to 5-10 minutes of time.

This is the first time that our chapter has attempted this type of program, so we are encouraging one and all to participate. You may have some terrific nature slides or photographs to share, a natural history story to tell, an outdoor poem to recite, a landscape painting or nature collage to display, or your own favorite music that you would like all of us to hear. Above all, don't be shy. This is the appropriate time to tell us, or show us, what your favorite activities or hobbies connected with nature may be. All of us in Audubon share a love and respect for nature, so help us make this unique program an overwhelming success.

Table space, a pin-up bulletin board, a chalk board, and a Kodak Carousel projector with screen will be available for your use.

However, if you plan to take part in this program or need any special equipment, please call in advance (no later than March 9) Jim Strong at 283-5741 so that an attractive program can be arranged. Invite your friends and neighbors to join us for a lively and educational evening.

Meeting Place: The basement of the United Methodist Church, Franklin and Maple Streets, in Slippery Rock, Pennsylvania.

Time: 7:30 p.m. The program is free and open to the public.

WELCOME to new members of the chapter: Suzanne Butcher, Louise Gates, Priscilla Stoughton, and David DiSpirito have recently joined our ranks,
CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

At the March 12th meeting, the Bartramian Society Board of Directors will propose a constitutional amendment for the members to vote on. The proposed amendment would replace the present office of Secretary with the offices of Recording Secretary and Corresponding Secretary, dividing the duties as indicated below. The wording of the proposed amendment and the renumbering of the subsequent sections would be as follows (additions are underlined, and deletions have a line through them):

ARTICLE IV Section 1. The Officers of the SOCIETY shall be a President, a Vice-President, a Recording Secretary, a Corresponding Secretary, and a Treasurer.

Section 7. The Recording Secretary shall keep a record of all proceedings of the SOCIETY and of the Board of Directors. He shall send notice of all meetings. The Secretary shall conduct all correspondence of the SOCIETY except such correspondence as, by the instructions of the Board or at the discretion of the President, shall be conducted by another officer of the SOCIETY. He shall preserve the seal of the SOCIETY, if any, and affix it to all documents requiring the seal of the SOCIETY, and shall attest to the same.

Section 8. The Corresponding Secretary shall conduct all correspondence of the SOCIETY except such correspondence as, by instructions of the Board or at the discretion of the President, shall be conducted by another officer of the SOCIETY. He shall send notice of all meetings. He shall preserve all correspondence of the SOCIETY.

Section 8 2. The Treasurer ...

Section 9 10. All checks ...

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE WON ONE. Michael C. Linn, Vice President and General Counsel for the Meridian Exploration Corporation in Pittsburgh, sent a letter dated December 23, 1983, to Mr. Timothy Weston of the Department of Environmental Resources indicating that the company had decided against proceeding with the drilling of the gas well located in the Erie National Wildlife Refuge in Rockdale Township, Crawford County, PA. What a wonderful belated Christmas present. This should be proof that little people DO make a difference. A special thanks to those fine members in our chapter who wrote letters and sent telegrams to the right people and stirred up public opinion to fight this threat to our state's only pure national wildlife refuge.

BLUEBIRDS. Bluebirds, believe it or not, are already in our four-county area. The males start searching for appropriate territories and nesting sites in late February or early March, depending on weather conditions. Females soon follow, mate with the males, and inspect nesting sites chosen by the males sometime in mid-to late March, again depending on the weather. Females make the final decision as to where the nesting sites will be: always in natural or man-made cavities. Our chapter is cooperating with the PA Game Commission in declaring 1984 the YEAR OF THE BLUEBIRD and has volunteered its services to disperse man-made bluebird nesting boxes within the next month. All boxes meet the special specifications and requirements of this particular species.

Please help this beautiful thrush make a comeback in our four-county area by purchasing a bluebird box directly from our chapter or from the following merchants who have agreed to carry a limited supply of the boxes at no profit to themselves: Agway and the Farm Bureau in Grove City, Agway and Service Star Hardware in Slippery Rock, Agway of Portersville, and True Value Hardware in Harrisville. More
merchants may join the program. The cost is just $7.00 per nesting box, which is $3.00 to $5.00 less than other known sources. Our chapter will share in the proceeds; the PA Game Commission will receive $4.00 and our chapter $3.00 per box. Won't you help this worthy project today? Remember, next month will be too late.

BIRD WALKS. It's that time of year again when we start planning ventures afield. Our chapter has agreed to co-sponsor the following bird walks in the next few months, so mark your calendar NOW. Saturday 24 March: WATERBIRDS OF LAKE ARTHUR. Meet at Day Use Area near Moraine State Park Headquarters off U.S. 422 at 8:00 a.m. Leader: Dr. Gene Wilhelm (in cooperation with the Audubon Society of Western PA).

Friday 6 April: WOODCOCK AERIAL DISPLAY. Meet on Prairie Side of Jennings Nature Reserve off PA Route 8 at 6:30 p.m. Leader: Dr. Gene Wilhelm.

Sunday 29 April: JENNINGS BIRD WALK. Meet at 8 a.m. at Center. Also, Sunday 6 May and Sunday 13 May: JENNINGS BIRD WALKS. Meet at 5 p.m. both days at the Center. Leaders to be announced (in cooperation with Jennings Environmental Education Center).

SPRING 1984 BIRDATHON. Our chapter has decided on Saturday 12 May 1984 as the BIG DAY for our second annual Birdathon. Detailed information will be coming at our March membership meeting and in next month's newsletter, but we want EVERYONE to get involved with this annual fund-raising event. Last year our chapter raised over $1,500. THINK AND PLAN AHEAD.

CONGRATULATIONS AND THANKS. The President has appointed, with the approval of the Board of Directors, Joan Wilver as interim Corresponding Secretary and Priscilla Stoughton as Chairperson of the Conservation Committee. Filling these two positions should improve the efficiency of our chapter.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE. Our chapter will hold its annual election of officers at the April 9, 1984, membership meeting. The President has appointed, with the approval of the Board of Directors, the following three members to constitute the Nominating Committee: Helen Ferguson, Chairperson, Priscilla Stoughton, and Joan Wilver. Any member who would like to nominate a fellow member for the positions of President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, and Treasurer should do so immediately by contacting Helen at 287-2800, or Priscilla at 368-8865, or Joan at 368-8984.

BIRDING WORKSHOP. The McKeever Environmental Learning Center in Sandy Lake, PA, is offering a birding Workshop Weekend, June 8-9-10. The idea is to get away from your usual tasks and responsibilities and immerse yourself in birding. You will learn birds by eye, ear, habitat, and ecology, stroll along the beautiful trails of McKeever, and be able to identify 50 bird species by Sunday noon. Leader: our own Dr. Gene Wilhelm. Cost: just $69 per person for accommodations, birding materials, excellent instruction, and personal attention. This workshop is strictly for beginning birders only. So don't be shy. Bring the whole family.

FIELD TRIPS. Genevieve Tyrdik, Chairperson of the Field Trip Committee, would like a couple of volunteers to serve on the committee. Committee members need not conduct field trips unless they wish to. Duties involve: scheduling field trips, finding leaders for them, and keeping records of the field trips taken.

Field trips scheduled at this time for the spring season are already listed in the previous column under BIRDWALKS.

For more information about these trips call Dr. Gene Wilhelm (794-2434) or Genevieve Tyrdik (453-7770; 794-7299).
ACID RAIN

Acid Rain is quickly becoming an issue with possibilities for national action. Despite a "smokescreen" of disinformation from industry, a rising tide of scientific evidence has now confirmed that Acid Rain can result from long range transport of SO\textsubscript{2} and NO\textsubscript{2}. Public pressure can be the key to obtaining quick action in Congress.

In an earlier era, much the same corrosive air pollution was well known in major cities around the world, due to dense populations of people burning wood or coal in smoky fireplaces and furnaces. The effects were locally disastrous — very smoky skies, rampant respiratory illnesses, and blackened buildings. In today's modern world, we burn mostly oil and coal, and have learned to disperse our smoky pollutants high into the sky with tall smokestacks. This directs the pollution out of our local environment, but that's not the end of the story. The heavy load of acidic residue which enters the air eventually returns to earth either as Acid Rain or as dry deposits of acidic particles. The scientifically measured effects include lakes and streams too acidic to support normal fisheries, stunted growth of crops and forests, corrosion of bridges, roads and buildings, hazy skies, and contamination of public water supplies through leaching of metals in our pipes. The threat to public health may also include respiratory effects, similar to those known in earlier times. The economic effects are immense, not only to forestry and agriculture, but also to tourism and from rapid degradation of our infrastructure.

The Sikorski-Waxman-Gregg Acid Rain bill (H. R. 3400) would require immediate clean-up of the fifty dirtiest coal-fired power plants in the U. S., improved emission standards for diesel trucks built in model year 1986 and thereafter, and more research into the effects of Acid Rain and solutions to this crisis.

- David Hall

The Blue Jay
Bergen County (NJ) Audubon Society

Do you have some clothing, a field guide carrier or binocular case that would look better with an Audubon cloth patch affixed to it? Two sizes of the blue patch with the white Common Egret and the words "National Audubon Society" are available: 4" for $2.00 and 2½" for $1.50. To order, send a check payable to "National Audubon Society" along with a small self-addressed, stamped envelope to: Patch Order, National Audubon Society, Mid-Atlantic Regional Office, 1104 Fernwood Ave., #300, Camp Hill, PA 17011.

WATCH FOR PURPLE MARTINS

According to the Nature Society at Purple Martin Juncton in Griggsville, IL, purple martins will return to the Mid-Atlantic states in March and April.

Watch for them in March south of the Appalachian Front and in April north of the Appalachian Front.

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MOVING? Send change of address to Ron Fodor, 401 New Castle, Slippery Rock, PA.
THE SNAKES OF PENNSYLVANIA

April 2 Monthly Meeting

This month's program is brought to us by the Pennsylvania Fish Commission. Slides and an accompanying tape of the various snakes of Pennsylvania will be presented. Additional narration, comments, and a question and answer session will be handled by Mr. Don Kingery, who is a deputy waterways patrolman (PFC) from Allegheny County. He is a graduate of the University of Pittsburgh in biology and a professional nature photographer.

Meeting Place: The basement of the United Methodist Church, Franklin and Maple Streets, in Slippery Rock, Pennsylvania.

Time: 7:30 p.m. The program is free and open to the public.

BIRDING WORKSHOP. The McKeever Environmental Learning Center in Sandy Lake, PA, is offering a Birding Workshop Weekend June 8-10. The idea is to get away from your usual tasks and responsibilities and immerse yourself in birding. You will learn 50 bird species by eye, ear, habitat, and ecology, stroll along the beautiful trails of McKeever, even take an early morning canoe trip on Lake Wilhelm. Leader: our own Gene Wilhelm. Cost: just $69 per person for dorm accommodations, birding materials, excellent instruction, and personal attention. This workshop is strictly for beginning birders only, so don't be shy! Spaces are limited, so call 794-2434 for details now.

WELCOME. The President has appointed, with the approval of the Board of Directors, Susan McCarvey as the succeeding Chairperson of the Publicity Committee, effective immediately. Susan can be reached at Box 1, North Washington, PA 16048 (412)894-2177.

NOTICE. There will be a Board Meeting on Monday, March 26, 1984, at 7:30 p.m.
NEW SLATE

The following slate of officers was recommended, nominated, and approved by the chapter's members at its March 12th, 1984, meeting: Dr. Genevieve M. Tyrlik for President; Dr. Earl Houels for Vice President; Janet Strong or Joan Boozel for Recording Secretary; Joan Wilver for the new position of Corresponding Secretary; and Martha Rosettsky for Treasurer.

Elections will be held at the April 9th membership meeting. All members are encouraged to attend and cast their votes.

Thanks to Helen Ferguson, Chairperson of the Nominating Committee, and the other committee members, Priscilla Stoughton and Joan Wilver, for a great job.

BOOK REVIEWS

WEST VIRGINIA BIRDS

Distribution and Ecology

by

George A. Hall

This is the first book detailing the birds of the state to be published since 1944. Dr. Hall started his intensive and systematic study of birds of West Virginia in 1950. Since that time he has made observations on birds in at least 35 of the 55 counties in the state. This book represents the compilation of his extensive data integrated with the literature and unpublished data from many other researchers.

This compilation concentrates, as the subtitle indicates, on the general distribution of the ecology of the species.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS

Our chapter is cooperating with the PA Game Commission in declaring 1984 as the "Year of the Bluebird." To help this beautiful thrush make a come-back in Western Pennsylvania, the chapter has enlisted the aid of several local merchants who are carrying bluebird nesting boxes at cost (just $7.00), but at no profit to themselves. All boxes meet the special specifications and requirements of this particular species. Agway and Farm Bureau of Grove City, Agway and Servistar Hardware of Slippery Rock, Agway in Portersville, and True Valu Hardware in Harrisville are the merchants involved in the program. Chapter members are encouraged to contact these merchants without delay, since the boxes are selling rapidly. Our chapter hopes to have sold 100 nesting boxes by April 15.

THE BIRDS OF THE LIGNONIER VALLEY

by

Robert C. Leberman

Published in 1976, this book focuses on the birds of the Ligonier Valley of western Pennsylvania where the Carnegie Museum of Natural History has maintained a bird-banding station since 1961. The 254 species accounts contain much data gleaned from this extensive program.

There are six color plates by H. Jon Janosik and thirty line drawings of birds by Carol H. Rudy. The book is bound in a heavy paper cover.

Both books can be purchased from the Publications Secretary, Carnegie Museum of Natural History, 4400 Forbes Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15213.
THE BIG DAY: SECOND ANNUAL SPRING BIRDATHON

The Bartramian Audubon Society has chosen Saturday, May 12, 1984, as the BIG DAY for its second annual spring birdathon. Last year our chapter raised over $1,500, and this year we have set $2,000 as our target. However, the chapter needs the hard work, financial support, and fine cooperation of all its members if we are to attain that lofty goal.

What is it? A birdathon is like a walkathon, except that instead of pledging a certain amount on the number of miles an individual walks, people are asked to pledge on the number of bird species that a team records on the BIG DAY. The BIG DAY is well-named, for it covers a 24-hour period of one calendar day, running from midnight to midnight.

Anyone can be asked to pledge—chapter members, relatives, friends, neighbors, and business associates. After the event, sponsors are notified of the number of bird species recorded by a team and the amount of their contribution. A list of the composite total number of bird species and a thank you note are given to each sponsor. Last year the composite total number of bird species was 177. Our chapter is determined to exceed that total this year.

Finding sponsors and collecting birdathon pledges is not difficult, but it will take the efforts of a coordinator. Gene Wilhelm will be the 1984 birdathon coordinator. He will explain the event in detail at the April 9 membership meeting and instruct members on how to approach potential sponsors. Hopefully, there will be at least three teams consisting of two or more individuals in each team representing the chapter.

Please note that there is a pledge sheet enclosed with this newsletter. Please use it to help the team of your choice by pledging yourself, or by getting others to do likewise; 5, 10, 25, 50 cents, $1.00, or more per bird species. Remember, if each chapter member would collect just $10 in pledges for the 1984 Birdathon, our chapter would reach its goal of $2,000.

FIELD TRIPS

Saturday, March 24, 8 a.m. WATERBIRDS OF LAKE ARTHUR. (In cooperation with the Audubon Society of Western PA). Meet at Day Use Area near Moraine State Park Headquarters off Highway 422. Leader: Dr. Gene Wilhelm (794-2434).

Friday, April 6, 6:30 p.m. WOODCOCK AERIAL COURTSHIP DISPLAY. Meet at the Blazing Star Prairie parking lot at Jennings Nature Reserve. Leader: Dr. Gene Wilhelm (794-2434).

Saturday, April 28, 2 p.m. SPRING WILDFLOWER WALK. Meet at Nature Center parking lot at Jennings Nature Reserve. Leader: Priscilla Stoughton (368-8865).
Sunday, April 29, 8 a.m. JENNINGS BIRD WALK. Meet at the Blazing Star Prairie parking lot at Jennings Nature Reserve. Leader: Dr. Genevieve Tvdik (794-7299 or 458-7770).

Sunday, May 6, 5 p.m. JENNINGS BIRD WALK. Meet at Nature Center parking lot at Jennings Nature Reserve. Leader: Marguerite Geibel (283-2154).

Sunday, May 13, 5 p.m. JENNINGS BIRD WALK. Meet at Nature Center parking lot at Jennings Nature Reserve. Leader: Priscilla Stoughton (368-8865).

Saturday, May 19, 9 a.m. SPRING WILDFLOWER WALK near Wolf Creek. Meet at Miller tract parking area (first left turn after crossing bridge over Wolf Creek coming from Slippery Rock). Leader: Dr. Richard Medve (794-7152 or 794-8426).

THANK YOU. Mary E. Fitzgibbons resigned her position as Chairperson of the Publicity Committee effective February 21, 1984. Mary's family is moving to York, PA, in April. Our chapter appreciates the loyalty, dedication, and hard work that Mary gave our fledgling chapter this past year. Mary had the major responsibility of getting our word into print and on the air waves, and she did a splendid job. Good luck, Mary and family, in York, PA. Let us hear from you in the future.

PENNSYLVANIA CAVITY NESTOR WORKSHOP

SPONSORED BY: The Pennsylvania Game Commission and the National Audubon Society

WHEN: Friday, June 8 and Saturday, June 9, 1984

WHERE: Middle Creek Wildlife Management Area Visitors Center, R.D. 1, Box 820, Sunnyside Road, Newmanstown, PA 17073 Phone: 717-949-3582

The UPLAND INFORMER, official newsletter of the Bartramian Audubon Society, is published several times a year and is free to members. Friends may receive three free issues. A special subscription is $4.00 per year. The Society's address is: PO Box 264, Slippery Rock, PA 16057. Address correspondence to: David DiSpirito, Editor, RD 3, Box 186, Slippery Rock, PA, 16057.

MOVING?: Send change of address to Ron Podor, 401 New Castle St., Slippery Rock, PA, 16057.
ECOLOGY

May 14 Monthly Meeting

The speaker for May is Dr. Pete Dalby. Dr. Dalby is Professor of Biology at Clarion University of Pennsylvania. He received his B.S., M.S., and Ph.D. at Michigan State University.

His current research is in the areas of small animal ecology, fire ecology, and the phenomena of acid rainfall.

He is currently president of the Clarion County Sportsmen Federation and is a member of the Seneca Rocks Chapter of Audubon Society.

Meeting Place: The basement of the United Methodist Church, Franklin and Maple Streets, in Slippery Rock, Pennsylvania.

Time: 7:30 p.m. The program is free and open to the public.

New Officers

Officers of the Bartramian Audubon Society were elected at the annual meeting held on April 9th. The newly elected officers are:

President - Dr. Genevieve Tvedtik (458-7770, 774-7294)
Vice President - Dr. Earl Houts (774-2438)
Recording Secretary - Mrs. Janet Strong (352-2958)
Corresponding Secretary - Mrs. Joan Willyar (368-8934)
Treasurer - Mrs. Martha Rossetsky (458-5160)

Congratulations to the new officers. We extend thanks and appreciation for a job well done to last year's leadership, and look forward to another year of growth and activity in Bartramian Audubon Society.
Of Love Songs and Mud Bats

- John Hadson

In all the animal kingdom, no class is more spectacular than Aves. If birds don't have it all, they have most of it: grace, majesty, beauty of voice and form, the gift of free flight, dazzling colors.

And then there's the woodcock. Various known as timberdoodle and mud bat, and seeming to be made up of spare parts that other birds didn't want, it flies like a drunken moth. There's something wrong with its face, with eyes near the top of the head and ears in front of the eyes, and it has the sleek flight lines of a pear. It eats fishworms, mainly, which it sometimes finds by probing through cow-pies. Withal, one of the more unblessed of birds.

But none has a more gallant or graceful courtship. While most birds perform their spring rites in the public view and full light of day, the woodcock's sky-dance is something intimate and personal, a private affair done in near-darkness when few people see it.

It begins in spring, so early that patches of snow may still remain on north slopes. At dusk and in pre-dawn, just before or after full dark, the little male woodcock comes onstage, say to a sparsely grassed opening in an old field that may have gone to brush and scrub timber. He walks slowly around this courting ground and chooses the barest place, draws himself proudly erect to his full eight inches, gives a low cooing call, then opens his long bill and utters a louder, buzzing 'peent.' He may repeat these calls a few times, or a hundred. Then, his presence duly established and hopefully noticed, he takes wing.

He spirals upward a hundred meters or more above the courting ground, the three outer primaries of each wing producing a faint twittering as air is driven through them. As he levels off, usually unseen in the deepening twilight, he begins the song that accompanies his sky-dance, a soft warbling that continues as he spirals back down to his 'peenting' place. He may sky-dance a dozen times or more, 'peenting' in the intermissions, if his lady doesn't show. The sky-dancing and calling can go on for several hours when moon and stars produce the necessary .05 foot-candles of light intensity that triggers his ardor, and may be resumed at the same light levels before dawn.

At either show, the love songs and sky-dancing of the timberdoodles are not likely to have a human audience. It's just not the season, time, or place to be abroad - unless you're a small, feathered comic with the soul of a peacock.
Field Trips

Saturday, April 28th, 2 p.m. SPRING WILDFLOWER WALK. Meet at the Nature Center parking lot at Jennings Nature Reserve. Leader: Priscilla Stoughton (368-8865).

Sunday, April 29th, 8 a.m. JENNINGS BIRD WALK. Meet at the Blazing Star Prairie parking lot at Jennings Nature Reserve. Leader: Dr. Genevieve Tyrdik (794-7299 or 458-7770).

Sunday, May 6th, 5 p.m. JENNINGS BIRD WALK. Meet at Nature Center parking lot at Jennings Nature Reserve. Leader: Marguerite Colbel (283-2154).

Sunday, May 13th, 5 p.m. JENNINGS BIRD WALK. Meet at Nature Center parking lot at Jennings Nature Reserve. Leader: Priscilla Stoughton (368-8865).

Saturday, May 19th, 9 a.m. SPRING WILDFLOWER WALK, near Wolf Creek. Meet at Miller tract parking area (first left turn after crossing bridge over Wolf Creek coming from Slippery Rock). Leader: Dr. Richard Medve (794-7152 or 794-8426).

New Committees

The Bartramian Audubon Society is in need of members for two new committees. We wish to form a Hospitality Committee, whose function will be greeting people who attend our monthly meetings, arranging for coffee, tea, and cookies at each meeting, and washing cups after the meeting. We also need a Financial Committee to plan ways that the Bartramian Society will use to augment our treasury. We also need members to serve on the Field Trip Committee to plan field trips for the coming year. Field Trip Committee members need not lead trips unless they wish to; their main function is organizing them. Anyone interested in serving on any of these committees, please phone Genevieve Tyrdik or any of the other officers.

Wildlife Art Show

The Bartramian Society has been invited by the staff of Jennings Nature Reserve to sponsor and organize a wildlife art show at Jennings next fall. We are in need of a chairman to head the committee to organize this show, if our chapter is to undertake this affair. Jennings will require an answer to their request soon. Invitations to appropriate wildlife artists must be made months ahead of the date selected. Anyone interested in serving on this committee, please phone Genevieve Tyrdik or any of the other officers.
Recycling Roadside Litter
Keeps Pennsylvania Beautiful

Lori Sozzafava

Annually, the Governor of Pennsylvania initiates the "Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Campaign." As part of the campaign, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Maintenance Offices of each county organize volunteers to remove litter from Pennsylvania public areas. The success of the campaign can be estimated by the tons of trash collected from the roadside. Unfortunately, the litter usually is buried in landfills with no regard for what can be recycled from it.

Columbia and Montour Counties face the litter problem differently. They recycle litter. According to Bruce Thomas of PennDOT, Bloomsburg, more than 50 percent by weight of what is discarded along the roads is recyclable. In 1983 seven tons of material collected in the litter campaign was sent to the recycling center operated by Volunteer Recycling, Incorporated in Bloomsburg.

Preparation for the litter clean-up is extensive — a year long process handled solely by PennDOT. Several days in April are designated for the actual clean-up. Volunteers are recruited to do the work. Scouts, students, church groups, and other concerned citizens of all ages donate their time. The program is organized so that each group chooses a mapped section of road, lake, school, park or public area to clean. Younger groups handle the more rural sections. For safety reasons, each participant is issued a red reflective vest. The participant keeps the vest and also receives a shoulder patch and a certificate of campaign participation. The business sector contributes and supports the program by acting as sponsors.

In the past collected litter was buried in landfills. However in 1981, PennDOT's Columbia County Office, in cooperation with WRI, devised a system for volunteers to sort recyclables as they went along. Garbage bags and four different colored ribbons were issued to each group. Each colored ribbon corresponded to a specific type of item: metal, clear glass, colored glass or trash. PennDOT collected the color-coded bags which contained recyclables and delivered them to WRI. The bags tied with the colored ribbon assigned to trash were hauled to the landfill.

The results of the effort were impressive. PennDOT's Thomas reports records of 1981 showed 800 participants collected 4.7 tons of recyclables.

Every year the amount of recyclable litter has increased. In April of 1983 seven tons of recyclables were reported. Once these have been processed and sold, the materials are worth hundreds of dollars.

Now is the time for recycling groups and other organizations to become involved in the 1984 Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful Campaign. Contact the PennDOT District Maintenance Office in your county.
June 11 Monthly Meeting

The speaker for June is Mr. Craig A. Miller, who is employed by the Pennsylvania Game Commission. Mr. Miller is presently Acting Director of the Pymatuning Wildlife Museum. He received his B.A. in Biology from Slippery Rock University, and is presently working on a master’s degree in Environmental Education in the Parks and Recreation/Environmental Education Department at Slippery Rock University. He is originally from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

Mr. Miller will give an illustrated talk on the Waterfowl of Pymatuning. Members of the audience will have the opportunity for active participation in a program on waterfowl identification. Mr. Miller will also provide information on the resident bird populations of Pymatuning.

Meeting Place: The basement of the United Methodist Church, Franklin and Maple Streets, in Slippery Rock, Pennsylvania.

Time: 7:30 p.m. The program is free and open to the public.

Wildlife Art Show. We are still in need of a chairman to head a committee to organize a wildlife art show at Jennings Nature Reserve next fall. The Bartramian Audubon Society has been invited by the staff of Jennings to sponsor and organize a wildlife art show there. If we are to undertake this affair, we will need a chairman to head this committee. We have one volunteer to serve on the committee, but still need a chairman. Jennings will require an answer to their request soon. Invitations to appropriate wildlife artists must be made months ahead of the date selected. If you have an interest in wildlife art or art shows, we need your help. Anyone interested in serving on this committee, please phone Genevieve M. Tvrzik (458-7770) or (794-7299) or any of the other officers.
Wood Stork Makes Endangered Species List

The wood stork, an object of protective management and devoted study by Audubon scientists since 1957, is the 247th species found in the United States to be added to the endangered species list. In making the ruling last month, the federal Fish and Wildlife Service estimated that the breeding population of *Mycteria americana* have declined 75 percent since the 1930s.

Most of the 4500 remaining breeding pairs nest in peninsular Florida. Much of the species' decline can be attributed to human manipulation of water tables through construction of drainage canals and levees, says Sandy Sprunt, Audubon's director of field research. Lumbering of the big cypress trees -- communal nesting sites -- has also contributed to the birds' decline.

The largest stork rookery in the country is in Audubon's Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary, 30 miles northeast of Naples, Florida. But even in this refuge, the sunny state's poll-mell growth has affected water levels, making stork management temorous. In 1960, Sprunt says, 13,000 storks hatched at Corkscrew. Since then the numbers have fluctuated wildly -- 2000 in 1980, none in 1982, 900 in 1983 -- but the trend has been steadily downward.

The wood stork, also known as the wood ibis, is the only stork native to this country. It reaches a height of three feet or more, and flaps slowly and audibly about on 30-inch wings. It feeds by probing in muddy waters for fishes, frogs, and snakes. Breeding populations (to which the endangered species designation applies) are now found only in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and Alabama. Migrants from Mexico and Central America are sometimes spotted in other southern states.

The Fish and Wildlife Service did not recommend designating any areas as critical habitat for the stork, claiming that because the birds frequently change their colonial nesting and feeding sites, no particular areas could be singled out for this special protection.

- from *The Audubon Leader*
Note of Thanks to Birdathon participants. Bartramian Chapter extends its thanks to all the leaders, team members, and others who participated in this year’s Birdathon. There was an accumulative total of 162 species observed. There will be a detailed report at the June meeting; however, we are pleased to report that Mary Kruth and Ruth Crawford saw a Carolina chickadee at Jennings Nature Reserve, and a merlin and least bittern were spotted by George Wilson and Gene Wilhelm, Jr.

Following is a listing of the teams:

A Team - Gene Wilhelm, Jr. - leader
    Robert Walczak
    George Wilson

B Team - Marguerite Geibels - leader
    Helen Beck
    Helen Ferguson
    Betty Starr

C Team - Ruth Crawford - co-leaders
    Mary Kruth

D Team - Priscilla Stoughton - co-leaders
    Joan Wilver

E Team - Joyce Hoffmann

**YOU STILL HAVE TIME TO PLEDGE** The deadline is May 31; our goal is $2000! Checks should be made out to Bartramian Audubon Society; they should be sent to: Gene Wilhelm, Birdathon Coordinator, R.D. 3, Box 8, Slippery Rock, PA, 16057.

Field Trip in June. On Saturday, June 6, there will be a birding field trip at Knox, PA, to observe the man-made prairies and grassland birds. Meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Slippery Rock Plaza behind the First National Bank Branch Building. Bring your lunch. The leader is Gene Wilhelm, Jr.

Reminder. When your membership renewal for National Audubon Society comes up, please remember to write "Bartramian Audubon Society" on your renewal notice before you send it in. If you don’t do this, we will not receive that portion of your dues that is allotted to local chapters. (National will then keep all the dues themselves.) If many members forget to do this, it becomes quite a drain on our treasury, because it costs more than $3.00 per member to send the newsletters for a year. If you designate us as your local chapter, National will send us a portion of your dues payment to help defray those costs.
Outdoor Pennsylvania

Pennsylvanians are invited to grab their boots and go on an Outdoor Pennsylvania excursion with public television this June (check local listings). This hour-long special produced by WPSX-TV highlights the diverse geography and beauty of the Commonwealth as it follows Pennsylvanians through four different outdoor experiences.

Bob Clark, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Forestry Association, decodes the mysteries of the wild turkey, through signs and calls. Two different styles of fishing are shown at Raystown Lake, in Huntingdon County: a high-tech approach, using sonar, phmeters and thermometers, and another more traditional method of getting the fish to bite. In an adventure segment, Paul Risk, a nationally known expert in wilderness survival, takes 18 adults into the marshes of Black Moshannon State Park, in Centre County. Using a few basic survival items, the participants, simulating the experience of plane crash victims, cross a swamp, build shelters, set signal fires, forage for food and spend the night in near-freezing temperatures. A segment produced by Ed Finn for WVIA-TV (Scranton) captures the excitement of whitewater rafting in the mountains at Pine Creek Gorge, the "Pennsylvania Grand Canyon," near Wellsboro, Tioga County.

"What we set out to capture and communicate," says Bruce Adams, Executive Producer of Outdoor Pennsylvania, "is a sense of wonder and surprise. The focus is not on how but on wow! And, of course, we hope some people are inspired to learn the secrets."

Air Times for Outdoor Pennsylvania

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<th>Station</th>
<th>City</th>
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<tr>
<td>WQLN/54</td>
<td>Erie</td>
<td>Tuesday, June 12, at 8 p.m.</td>
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<td>Scranton/Wilkes Barre</td>
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<td>Wednesday, June 27, at 10 p.m.</td>
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<td>WHYY/12</td>
<td>Philadelphia</td>
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- from Department of Communications
The Pennsylvania State University

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