Upcoming BAS Board Meeting

...Mark Swansiger, BAS president

September 15- Monday- Meeting of the BAS Board Members at 7:30 p.m. at the United Methodist Church in Slippery Rock. Please notify President Mark Swansiger at 412-533-5291 if you are unable to attend.

Upcoming BAS Membership Meetings

...Beth Egger, program chair

September 8-Monday- Six grade teachers Linda Gibola and John McCool, Jr., of the Butler Area School District will report on their week-long stay at the National Audubon Society Greenwich, Connecticut Ecology Workshop. Linda and John were winners of BAS Ecology scholarships supported in part by Giant Eagle, Inc. of Pittsburgh.

Refreshments will be provided by Helen Ferguson and Garnet Snyder.

-Meeting previews-

October 13- Monday- Chuck Teague of the Nature Observer News will present a program on owls.

November 10- Monday- Sharon Goldstein, Education Coordinator of the Rachel Carson Homestead Association in Springdale, PA will be the featured speaker.

December 8- Monday- Annual Christmas Party and Slide Show by members.

Upcoming BAS Field Trips / Activities

...Russ Stakes, field trip chair

September 20- Saturday- Fall North American Migration Count- This is the first fall national migration count which is being patterned after the now successful spring count. The rules are the same. Count the species and the numbers of each using the county lines as the boundaries. Call Ruth Crawford at 412-794-5688 for report forms or request one from her at 366 Ralston Road, Slippery Rock, PA 16057. More details and forms will be provided at the September membership meeting. Hope you all can be out birding so our 4 county area of Butler, Lawrence, Mercer, and Venango is well represented by BAS members.

October 11- Saturday- Walk along the Neshannock Creek for fall migrants- Meet at the far end of the parking lot (the one with the train cars) at Volant at 8:30 am. Leader- Shirley McCarl - 412-748-3433.

October 26- Sunday- Autumn Walk at Pennsy Swamp- Meet at the Pennsy Parking lot off of No. 2 Mine Rd. at 8:30 am. Leader- Linda Wagner - 412-657-0867.

Notes From the August 18th Board Meeting

...Sondra Swansiger, recording secretary

Board meeting Minutes from 8/18/97

The 97-98 board of the Bartramian Audubon Society held its first meeting on Monday night at the home of President Mark Swansiger. Officers present were: Suzanne Butcher, Newsletter chair; Beth Egger, Program chair; Shirley McCarl, Hospitality chair; Gene Wilhelm, Sanctuary chair; Sondra Swansiger, Recording Secretary and Membership chair; Helen Ferguson, Education chair and Ruth Crawford, Natrurhon chair. After a light supper and enjoying the song and antics of a Carolina Wren, the meeting was opened. Beth presented the upcoming list of programs: Sept: Ecology camp teachers, Oct: Chuck Teague, Nov: Sharon Goldstein, Dec: Christmas program, March: Officer Brunst, April: Marci Mowery and May: Awards night. Suzanne plans to have a newsletter out before our first meeting Sept 8. Helen passed out lists of the 40 teachers who's classrooms are receiving Audubon Adventures this year! They will be placed on the mailing list and receive the Upland Informer. Shirley reports that all but two meetings are covered for refreshments. We still need someone for Oct. and May. A list will be passed at first meeting. Mark reports that 40 nestboxes where placed in the Titusville area this spring after an article was published in the paper. He also reports a design change which discourages sparrows and which will be incorporated in future boxes. The bat house is built, using plans from the Penn State Extension and will be placed shortly. Gene reports that he's working on new sanctuaries and has several new programs in mind. He also provided Treasurer Bob Love's report of expenses from July 1, 1996 to June 30, 1997. Income was $8,245.53, expenses were $3,650.61. We are in the black $2,594.92. He requested information concerning the maturity date (6999) and interest rate (6.05) of a CD currently held in New Wilmington. Old Business concerns: Mark continues to work
on issues involving reimbursement and a new cupboard for BAS supplies. New Business: Awards night needs to be worked on starting in the fall. Gene suggests a committee that will work/coordinate Awards night and the Naturthon well in advance, possibly drawing up guidelines for yearly planning. Approval of the Hazen property as our newest sanctuary was unanimous. A new program was suggested and met with enthusiastic approval. This program, known as "Wings over Western PA" will begin this fall. The goals are to recognize the increasing popularity of birding, educate the public on western PA birding, and encourage people to participate. Certificates of Recognition will be given on Awards Night. Based on number of bird species identified in each county. For 50-99 species an American Kestrel Certificate will be given; 100-149 a Red-tailed Hawk Certificate, 150-199 species a Northern Harrier Certificate, and 200+ species a Peregrine Falcon Certificate. Who will be the first to reach these goals? The next exciting development was the inception of our "Bird and Butterfly" Sanctuary Program for all those interested in having a sanctuary who do not have a large amount of property. Program benefits include a list of suggestions for attracting birds and butterflies, tips on how to create habitats for wildlife, and a one-year associate membership which entitles you to participate in all programs and receive "Upland Informer" and a sign identifying your property as a bird and butterfly sanctuary. Cost to homeowners is $25. Forms to submit information will be available at the next meeting. Bruce Hazen has volunteered to make signs at cost for the sanctuary. Discussion of a new category of membership for businesses donating more than $25 to our Naturthon was approved and Corporate Memberships will receive "Upland Informer" and recognition. Mark has been asked to do a site assessment at the New Castle Airport. He will also be in charge of notifying the Methodist Church of our meeting schedule. National Audubon has asked for our October activity list as this month marks many significant anniversaries in Audubon. Tentatively, depending on Russ States Fieldtrip Chair, activities include: Walk at Nesheamock Creek Oct. 11, Autumn walk at Pennsy Oct. 26, can sorting to be scheduled with the Wilvers. Get your hiking shoes and binoculars on and join us for some interesting outings. Children welcome too! After a few more minor matters we adjourned at 10:00 p.m. having accomplished a great deal and instituting several new programs. Please join us in our exciting new season!

"Wings Over Western Pennsylvania" .......press release from BAS
"Wings Over Pennsylvania", announced by the Bartramian Audubon Society with members in Butler, Lawrence, and Mercer Counties, is a new program in response to a growing awareness of the popularity of birdwatching in western Pennsylvania. The program is designed not merely to recognize the accomplishments of local birders but also to promote increased birding skills through local Audubon field activities and to educate the public about the ecological importance of our fine feathered friends.

Open to anyone of any age, a certificate will be given to each participant at the annual Awards Night in May based on the number of bird species observed individually in Butler, Lawrence, Mercer, Venango or any other western Pennsylvania county between Lake Erie and the West Virginia boundary.

Award levels are:
- American Kestrel 50-99 species
- Red-tailed Hawk 100-149 species
- Northern Harrier 150-199 species
- Peregrine Falcon 200+ species

If interested in this free program, please mail your county bird list(s), name, address and telephone number to the: Bartramian Audubon Society, WINGS OVER WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA, P.O. Box 315, Slippery Rock, PA 16057.

New Bird and Butterfly Sanctuary Program .......press release from BAS
The Bartramian Audubon is announcing a program as an attempt to help wildlife survive in these stressful times by encouraging the sharing of your property with them. Called the "Bird and Butterfly Sanctuary Program", any landowner is welcome to enroll simply by agreeing not only to encourage wildlife—especially birds and butterflies—to use such property but also to strive to improve even established natural habitats and biological diversity there. This conservation effort is a timely, beneficial, ecological complement to our already successful PRIVATE PROPERTY WILDLIFE SANCTUARY PROGRAM by emphasizing the fact that ecology truly begins at home. Program benefits to landowners include: 1) a sign identifying your property as a certified BAS BIRD & BUTTERFLY SANCTUARY, 2) a list of suggestions for specifically attracting birds and butterflies to your yards and gardens, 3) a list of tips and reference on how to diversity habitats and wildlife in yards, gardens, grounds, living or working sites and 4) a one-year Associate Membership in BAS, all for a $25 enrollment fee. Succeeding year fee is just $15 from July 1st - June 30th.

Please request an official application form and instructions from: Bartramian Audubon Society, BIRDS AND BUTTERFLIES SANCTUARY PROGRAM, P.O. Box 315, Slippery Rock, PA 16057.

Corporate Sponsors Receive BAS Thanks .......press release from BAS
On behalf of its many members and friends, the Bartramian Audubon would like to thank the following CORPORATE SPONSORS for their generous contributions on behalf of the chapter’s successful May 1997 NATUTHON- our major annual fund-raiser:
- Agway of Slippery Rock
- Agway of Grove City
- BiLo of Grove City
- County Market of Grove City
- First National Bank of Slippery Rock
- Giant Eagle, Inc., Pittsburgh
Luigi’s Restaurant of Slippery Rock
Saturn of Wexford
U. S. Generating Company, Kennerdell
Westinghouse, Inc.

Such fine community support will insure that our schoolroom AUDUBON ADVENTURES, Bird and Butterfly Sanctuary, Wings over Western Pennsylvania, Private Property Wildlife Sanctuary, Special Area Projects, and wetlands monitoring programs will continue unabated. The chapter encourages its members and friends to personally say ‘thank you’ to our CORPORATE SPONSORS and to patronize their establishments.

First Sanctuary in Lawrence County

The Bartramian Audubon Society recently approved the property of Bruce Hazen as its first wildlife sanctuary in Lawrence County. The land is located near Hell’s Hollow in McConnell Mill State Park.

The beautiful parcel consists of 19.1 acres with approximately 1 acre being used for a residence, outbuildings and gardens. Other nice features include a ¼ acre stocked pond, two small unnamed tributaries to Hell Run, 500 white pine seedlings and a dense deciduous woodland of American beech, black cherry, red and sugar maple, and various species of oaks and hickories.

The Society was primarily interested in the property’s biodiversity which is rich in ferns and birds. While assessing the property, the Society discovered at least 10 species of warblers breeding on the site. A variety of habitats allow for such a rich diversity in natural life.

The Bruce Hazen property is the eight wildlife sanctuary approved by the Society since the program’s inception in September 1995. The other sanctuaries are located in Butler and Venango Counties.

The sanctuary program is unique since the property owners retain title and deed, yet benefit from the conservation expertise offered to such property owners by the Bartramian Audubon Society. Any property owner in Butler, Lawrence, Mercer, and Venango Counties who is interested in learning about the Private Property Wildlife Sanctuary Program should contact the Bartramian Audubon Society.

From the Nestbox Chair


Helen Ferguson, education chair

The following teacher and their classrooms have been selected as this year’s First National Bank of Slippery Rock recipients in the Audubon Adventures program. This is the second year that the local community bank has financed this worthwhile environmental education program for fourth, fifth, and sixth grade students.

Marie Fair, Broad Street Elementary, Butler Area, Grade 5; James Huehne, Summit Twp., Butler Area, Grade 6; Dave Tomson, Mercer Elementary, Mercer Area, Grade 4; Jane Trucle, Reynolds School, Greenville Schools, Grade 6; Vickie Franklin, Barnes School, George Junior Republic, Grade 6; Rebecca Martin, Oakland Twp., Butler Area, Grade 4; Linda Gibala, Connoquenessing, Butler Area, Grade 6; John McCool, Meridian Elementary, Butler Area, Grade 6; Elizabeth Spohn, Butler Catholic, Grade 6; Rita Elsesser, George Washington Int., New Castle Schools, Grade 4; James Wilson, Lakeview Middle, Lakeview Schools, Grade 6; Rodney Nicholson, Slippery Rock Elementary, Slippery Rock Schools, Grade 5; Jill Takach, Slippery Rock Elementary, Slippery Rock Schools, Grade 4; Suzanne Fodor, Slippery Rock Middle, Slippery Rock Schools, Grade 6; Celia Taylor, Lakeview Middle, Lakeview Schools, Grade 5; Daniel Zacherl, Moraine Elementary, Slippery Rock Schools, Grade 4; Charles Birch, Oakland Twp., Butler Area, Grade 6; Sondra Laughhead, Connoquenessing, Butler Area, Grade 5; Tim Drennen, Har-Mer Elementary, Slippery Rock, Grade 5; Marsha Petracca, Meridian Elementary, Butler Area, Grade 5; Ruth Roperti, Riverside Middle, Ellwood City Schools, Grade 4; Judy Custead, Northwest Elementary, Butler Area, Grade 4; Tom Scott, Reynolds School, Greenville Schools, Grade 4; Kim Burch, Slippery Rock Elementary, Slippery Rock Area, Grade 4; Jared Starr, Broad Street Elementary, Butler Area, Grade 5; Bill Hetrick, Broad Street Elementary, Butler Area, Grade 5; Cindy Ehrman, Broad Street Elementary, Butler Area, Grade 5; Kathleen Cupp, Oakland Twp., Butler Area, Grade 5; David Herlinger, Summit Twp., Butler Area, Grade 4; Mary Cherry, Butler Catholic, Grade 4; Judy Musgrave, North Elementary, Butler Area, Grade 4; Des Schaur, Oakland Twp., Butler Area, Grade 5; Carolyn Porter, Central Elementary, Franklin Area, Grade 5; Jenny Winner, Central Elementary, Franklin Area, Grade 5; Sue Sloss, Central Elementary, Franklin Area, Grade 4; Connie Tuderbaugh, Central Elementary, Franklin Area, Grade 4; Kim Bresnen, Central Elementary, Franklin Area, Grade 5; Howard Campagna, Central Elementary, Franklin Area, Grade 5; Virginia Grafton, Central Elementary, Franklin Area, Grade 6; Terry Hoover, Central Elementary, Franklin Area, Grade 6.

Mark Swansiger, nestbox chair

It’s the end of the nesting season, so all you bluebird monitors please drop me a note on how your boxes did this summer. I also would like to get a jump on things and put up a few trails in October. This would be beneficial in at least two ways. We won’t have to try to battle the elements in the spring in a hurry to get boxes up before the nesting season and it will give the new wood a chance to weather over winter, which some birders say makes the boxes more attractive. We still need trail monitors so if you are interested please give me a call at 412-533-5291.

Also, I have obtained a 22-page booklet from Penn State on Bats and dealing with bat problems. If you have either give me a call or you can call Penn State directly at 814-355-2819.
Habitat Improvement Workshop

Audubon Council of PA is conducting a "Facilitators Training Workshop for Habitat Improvement in the Schoolyard, Backyard & Park". The workshop is designed for teachers and homeowners who have an interest in protecting our environment through landscaping, volunteer activities and training others. Topics will include:

- an historic overview of habitat loss in Pennsylvania
- alternatives to lawn and traditional gardens
- plant selection, groupings, "how-to", and steps
- integrated pest management
- conservation planning
- workshop planning considerations
- site planning
- resources
- habitat requirements
- hands-on planting at their demonstration site

The workshop will be held on Sept. 19-20 at King’s Gap Environmental Education Center in Carlisle, PA. The cost is $25 and the deadline for registration is Sept. 8th. For more information call either Marcy Mowery at 717-763-4985 or Rebecca Wertime at 717-236-8825. Space is limited to 25 applicants!

National Audubon Society
Bartramian Chapter
Membership Application

Please check membership rate below:

$20.00 Introductory Rate for National Audubon Society (includes magazine and chapter newsletter)
$15.00 Associate membership in Bartramian Chapter (includes newsletter)
$5.00 Subscription to this newsletter

Name ____________________________
Address __________________________
City __________________ State _____ Zip ______

Send check payable to Bartramian Audubon Society
P.O. Box 315
Slippery Rock, PA 16057

Chapter information call 412-533-5291

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Volume 16 Issue 2 Official Newsletter of the Bartramian Audubon Society October 1997

Editor: S. R. Butcher

**Upcoming BAS Board Meeting**

Mark Swansiger, president

October 20- Monday- Meeting of the BAS Board Members at 7:30 p.m. at the United Methodist Church in Slippery Rock. Please notify President Mark Swansiger at 412-533-5291 if you are unable to attend.

**Upcoming BAS Membership Meetings**

Beth Egger, program chair

October 13- Monday- Chuck Tague will present Owls of Western Pennsylvania. This program combines slides and stories to illustrate the diversity of the eight species of owls that regularly occur in the Commonwealth plus their unusual life histories. Accompanying Mr. Tague will be the Eastern Screech Owls from the Nature Observer’s school assembly program.

Chuck Tague is the founder and publisher of the Nature Observer News. The Nature Observer, a journal for educators and naturalists in Western Pennsylvania, is published twenty times a year and features timely articles and information on the natural history of our area. Mr. Tague is a long-time bird enthusiast. He presents classrooms and assembly programs on birds and ecology in schools and nature centers all over the Tri-state area. He also writes and provides on-air commentary for the Allegheny Front, the area’s only locally produced radio environmental program.

Mr. Tague is an instructor in the Conservation Ecology Program at the Rachel Carson Institute at Chatham College and is President of the Wissahickon Nature Club. Previously, he was the Education Curator at the Pittsburgh Aviary and an advisor to the Board of Directors of the Moraine Preservation Fund. He volunteers as a naturalist at the Greater Pittsburgh Guild for the Blind, leads birds outings for the Western Pennsylvania Audubon Society and was awarded a 1997 National Conservation Medal from the Daughters of the American Revolution.

November 10- Monday- Sharon Goldstein, Education Coordinator of the Rachel Carson Homestead Association in Springdale, PA will be the featured speaker.

December 8- Monday- Annual Christmas Party and Slide Show by members.

Get those slides and photos ready, and prepare a favorite food!

**Upcoming BAS Field Trips / Activities**

Russ Stites, field trip chair

October 11- Saturday- Walk along the Neshannock Creek for late fall migrants and early winter visitors. Meet in Volant at the far end of the parking lot (the one with the train cars) at 8:30 am. Leader- Shirley McCrnl - 412-748-3433.

October 26- Sunday- Autumn Walk at Pennsy Swamp. Meet at the Pennsy Parking lot off of No. 2 Mine Rd. at 8:30 am. Leader- Linda Wagner - 412-657-0867.

**Notes from the September 8th Membership Meeting**

Sande Swansiger, recording secretary

The Bartramian Audubon Society opened its 97-98 season with a terrific program presented by our Ecology Camp teachers John McCool and Linda Gabila. They went to camp not knowing what to expect and returned with more knowledge and experiences to share with their sixth grade classrooms beyond what a person could use in a lifetime of teaching. They had a “crash” course on everything from geology to stargazing and identification. John reports that the bell rings at 6:45 every morning and they start you off with a deluxe breakfast which you soon work off walking throughout the facilities. There are trails to explore, insects to learn and meadows to practice butterfly and flower identification. Gourmet lunches too. Linda showed some fantastic slides of waterfalls, isolated frog ponds, flowers, butterflies, bees and mushrooms- mushrooms of all colors, shapes and sizes. The discussed learning dichotomous keys for species identification and that bats eat 600 mosquitoes per hour per bat! (If you’re interested in building a bat house call your local county extension office. They should have plans.) They spent time along the ocean turning over rocks and reminded us that you should always put them back to minimize disturbance to all the life beneath them. Their enthusiasm is contagious and will educate and inspire their classrooms and all who meet them. They recommend this program highly, thanked BAS for sending them, and will be teaching from it for years to come!

The Sept. 8 meeting opened at 7:40 p.m. with 22 people present. Suzanne Butcher reports that she has extra copies of the Upland Informer to distribute tonight and also copies of the Naturthon results that can be given to all who sponsored a
team. Shirley McCarl reports that Helen Ferguson and Garnet Snyder are hostesses for this evening and Ruth Crawford, Beth Egger and she will hostess October. November hostesses will be Beth Egger and Dottie Lengle and December is potluck by members. Treasurer Robert Love reports that our checking account is healthy and that our 3 CD's continue to grow enabling us to continue to sponsor our programs. Helen Ferguson, Education Chair reports that Audubon Adventures are ordered. Sanctuary Chair Gene Wilhelm reports a good response to the Bird and Butterfly Sanctuary program. Upcoming field trips were discussed. Nestbox Chair Mark Swansiger reports that he has completed a project east of Butler at Sugar Creek Rest Home putting up a Batbox for 300-500 bats! Hope they like the new home. He also reports receiving a request from EPA for information on breeding/sighting of rare or endangered species at the Elliott Mills area. EPA has a request for a sand and gravel pit for this wetlands and anyone who has information please call Mark at 533-5291. He has also been asked to help New Castle in assessing a site for a nature trail in Parkstown. Hawk Mountain is asking for volunteers for their 50th Anniversary. Anyone Interested? Gene Wilhelm will be teaching a workshop on bird identification on Nov. 21-23 at Villa Marie and has a beautiful new book out. New membership chair Sandee Swansiger welcomed visitors and asks for everyone's patience while she comes to a compromise with her computer. Please notify her if you are having problems receiving your Upland Informer. Program chair Beth Egger reports that there are many interesting programs on this year's agenda including a presentation by Chuck Teague on October 13th on OWLS, possibly with some feathered participants. Hope to see you there.

Notes From the September 15th Membership Meeting

..... Sandee Swansiger, recording secretary

Board Meeting of BAS on Sept. 15, 1997

Education Chair, Helen Ferguson reports all going well with Audubon Adventures classrooms program and gave corrected addresses to Sandee Swansiger.

Newsletter Chair Suzanne Butcher reports that she purchased all the paper for the Upland Informer for the next year at a savings for BAS. National Audubon birding committee report was discussed and the 20th as it seemed to be for the rest of the country. Hopefully this will be resolved by next year. She also reported working on the award certificates for our "Wings over Western PA" program, and plans to obtain copies of the PA Checklist of Birds for people to use.

Naturthon Chair Ruth Crawford reports that she is already planning for next spring and looking into certificates for businesses that donate, possibly making booklets and selling ad space.

Treasurer Robert Love reports that the checkbook balance is $2189, recent expenses were for the P.O. Box, paper and labels. He suggested that we consider a financial committee to assist in the planning of future program spending. He is receiving a large amount of correspondence at the post office box and inquired if the correspondence chair could handle this? Mark Swansiger to check with Willis Ratzlaff. He also discussed what monies should be included in the total of the Naturthon efforts.

Sanctuary Chair Gene Wilhelm reports that he has received 14 requests for Bird and Butterfly Sanctuary status in 2 weeks!! Dene Kildoo is working on a design for a sign. Bruce Hazen is continuing his work on our Wildlife Sanctuary signs. Gene also requested permission to approach the Slippery Rock Council with a proposal to make the whole borough a Bird and Butterfly Sanctuary. The was presented as a motion which was moved and passed. The board then discussed the possibilities of obtaining booklets on plants to attract birds and butterflies, getting a butterfly poster, distributing seeds and divisions from members and downloading information from the internet for those who join.

Hospitality Chair Shirley McCarl thanked Helen Ferguson and Garnet Snyder for refreshments in September and reported that October will be cider (Ruth Crawford) and doughnuts (Beth Egger, Shirley) with Kate Brydon handling the table decorations.

Membership Chair Sandee Swansiger reports that we have close to 500 members listed in our four counties.

OLD BUSINESS: The nature trail in New Castle across from the airport still needs an assessment. Mark plans to go with Linda Wagner and Suzanne Butcher. Members discussed the formation of an ad hoc Birding Committee to oversee the Christmas Bird Count, Wetlands monitoring including SAP and IPA projects, Spring and Fall American Migration Counts and Breeding Bird Survey routes.

NEW BUSINESS: Representative Howard Fargo has proposed legislation concerning land purchases. National Audubon has established a PA office. Otter restocking continues. We received a request for a donation to outfit animals with radio telemetry collars. Shirley McCarl moves $600 be donated toward the project. Suzanne Butcher seconds, passed unanimously.

July 1997 AOU Changes

..... Suzanne Butcher, UP editor

In July 1997, the Forty-first supplement to the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU) Check List of North American Birds was published, officially changing the taxonomy of American birds. Of particular note to Pennsylvania birders is the "split" of the Solitary Vireo. The Solitary Vireo typically found in PA as a migrant and breeder is the nominate species and is now called the Blue-headed Vireo (Vireo solitarius).

Christmas Bird Count, December 20th

..... Suzanne Butcher, UP editor

The Christmas Bird Count for the Bartramian Audubon Society is scheduled for December 20th so mark your calendar now. Information packets with maps will be forthcoming both for those in the field and those much needed feeder watchers. Please let either Ruth Crawford (412-794-5688), Gene Wilhelm (412-794-2434), or myself (330-759-1945), if you wish to participate in this fun event.
Electric Posting From Dave Pardoe, Mid-Atlantic Board Representative, National Audubon Society

Suzanne Butcher, UP editor

Our Bartramian Audubon Society is a chapter of the National Audubon Society. When I recently saw this posting on the internet by our Mid-Atlantic board representative, Dave Pardoe, I thought you might be interested in seeing this edited report of the most recent national meeting. I think we can be especially proud of the accomplishments our Bartramian chapter has made in the areas of bird conservation and monitoring, and in education at the local level, Ed.

Meeting of Board of National Audubon Society, September 11-14, 1997 (edited)

The recent meeting of the Board of Directors of the National Audubon Society in Tucson, Arizona was an occasion to experience first hand the dramatic progress that is happening within Audubon today. The Strategic Plans goal of creating state Audubon offices is moving ahead at a steady pace. There are 14 state offices now open and operating and another 4 with plans to possibly open offices in early 1998. Several more state councils are also in the midst of plans which will meet the definite proposal stage sometime in 1998. We are almost half way toward the goal of a professionally staffed office in every state. These are very much grassroots, bottom up, chapter driven exercises, and there is no single model for an office. The chapter and state council leaders defined the priorities for their state. The Board has advised that the major broad areas of the Audubon strategic plan be present in each state office, including bird conservation, education, public outreach, and conservation advocacy. How each state office approaches those major areas and what their immediate priorities are will be determined by the Audubon volunteer leaders in the state. There is considerable enthusiasm among the volunteer chapter leaders for these offices as they see the benefits for the Audubon movement in their individual states and the strengthening of the local chapters through the additional resources of the office and the coordinated effort of the chapters state-wide.

The Science Committee of the Board has continued its deliberate progress toward developing an Audubon Bird Conservation policy with specific strategies and proposed programs. The goal of this effort is to stabilize and then increase the sizes of troubled bird populations in North America, Latin America and the Caribbean. The determination of the Board and senior staff is to move beyond rhetoric to practical and effective efforts to identify, protect, and enhance the habitat required to sustain the bird populations of the western hemisphere. The number 1 strategy is to build chapter capacities and state programs as Audubon's primary grassroots delivery systems for bird conservation programs and campaigns. Other strategies involve establishing a national data base in cooperation with the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology and involving citizen scientists in activities to monitor bird populations and lead effective conservation efforts; targeting top priority habitats, such as the Delaware Bay, and engaging in a systematic elimination of the threats to these places which birds depend upon for rest, breeding, and food. This will be the most practical national effort ever undertaken on behalf of bird populations in America, and the chapters and state offices will play very major roles in the accomplishment of this policy.

The Board Education Committee has proposed, and the full Board has agreed, that education will be co-equal with advocacy efforts, and that a major thrust will be to develop community-based education programs involving children, parents, teachers, youth leaders, adult educators, chapter volunteers, sanctuaries, nature education centers, and the full arsenal of available resources. Audubon Adventures has been greatly improved and praised by educators. While designed primarily for elementary science classes, it is also being used effectively in literature classes, contemporary issues classes, and in high school classes teaching English as a second language. Audubon's TV programming is going through a thorough evaluation, along with education using various electronic media. This will be an expanded area of the Audubon education strategy.

For those of you who have read the articles in the Audubon magazine, The Living Bird, published by the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, or other sources about the incredible devastation of arctic tundra habitat by a snow goose population which has exploded, the Audubon Board has addressed the issue. Changes in agricultural practices along the migratory routes, basically increasing the food supply, have resulted in a dramatic increase in the number of snow geese which successfully return to the breeding grounds and successfully breed. The population explosion has created a moonscape in the arctic tundra areas frequented by the snow goose and greatly reduced the populations of other animal and bird species dependent upon this fragile habitat. The Audubon Board has approved a policy to reduce the mid-continent snow goose numbers to a level of about 50% of current numbers by the year 2005. This is a problem of the mid-continent and central flyway populations because of the agricultural practices in the states the geese travel through. East coast snow geese are not affected.

The Audubon Board also continued its prior support for strong environmental protection as part of international trade agreements. Historic progress was made in the inclusion of environmental issues in the NAFTA environmental side accords, which Audubon supported. The Board has called for a strengthening of the enforcement of these agreements and stated fast track legislation must include basic environmental objectives that ensure both trade liberalization and environmental protection.

Bird Watch on PBS
Suzanne Butcher, UP editor

Local PBS stations begin airing this October a 13 part series called BIRD WATCH with Don and Lillian Stokes. This has been created for people who love birds. Consult your local listings for dates and times.
Membership Reminder

......Sandee Swansiger, Membership Chair

We welcome many of you who have recently joined Bartramian Audubon Society. There are many levels of membership available as noted on the Membership Application in this newsletter.

As a reminder, we delete members names from our rolls one year after the membership expires. This generous policy allows our members plenty of time to renew. If you have any questions about your membership, feel free to contact Sandee Swansiger (412) 533-5291.

Upland Informer is the official newsletter of the Bartramian Audubon Society (a chapter of National Audubon Society) and is published 6 times per year. The newsletter is a benefit of membership. Our meetings are held at the United Methodist Church in Slippery Rock, PA the second Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. and are free and open to the public. Non-members can receive this newsletter for a contribution of $5.00 per year.

New Logo Patch

......Gene Wilhelm, Ph.D.

BAS is pleased to announce the availability of our new beautiful logo patch depicting two Upland Sandpipers in flight. The three-inch circular patch is a fitting companion to our logo T-shirts and commemorative patch. The new patch is brown, red and white. A $5.00 contribution to BAS will entitle you to one of these handsome embroidered patches or send a check in that amount made payable to Bartramian Audubon Society, PO Box 315, Slippery Rock, PA 16057 with a self-addressed stamped envelope and one will be mailed to you.
Upcoming BAS Board Meeting

November 17- Monday- Meeting of the BAS Board at 7:30 p.m. at the United Methodist Church in Slippery Rock. Please notify President Mark Swansiger at 412-533-5291 if you are unable to attend.

Upcoming BAS Membership Meetings

November 10- Monday- Mark Tomlinson, Executive Director of the Rachel Carson Homestead Association in Springdale, PA will be the featured speaker.

The Rachel Carson Homestead is the birthplace and childhood home of ecologist and nature writer Rachel Carson, whose 1962 best-seller *Silent Spring* launched the modern environmental movement. Born in this five-room farmhouse, Rachel Carson's childhood here in southwestern Pennsylvania nurtured a love and respect for nature and natural things which would guide her the rest of her life. *Silent Spring* warned of the dangers of indiscriminate pesticide use and established Rachel Carson as one of the most important and influential environmental activists in history.

The Rachel Carson Homestead Association is a 501©(3) private nonprofit organization was formed in 1975 to preserve and restore Rachel Carson's birthplace and to provide environmental education programs which advance her environmental ethic. They offer guided tours of the house and grounds, environmental education classes, school and outreach programs and they serve as an international resource for information about Rachel Carson's life and work.

Mark Tomlinson has been executive director of the Rachel Carson Homestead since January of 1996. A graduate of Lafayette College, his museum background included the Carnegie Museums, Carnegie Science Center, and Fallingwater. He is enrolled in the H. John Heinz III School of Public Policy and Management at Carnegie Mellon University, he brings a strong personal interest in environmental issues to his work with the Homestead.

December 8- Monday- Annual Christmas Party and Slide Show by members. Get those slides and photos ready, and prepare one of your favorite holiday foods for all to enjoy!

Upcoming BAS Field Trips / Activities

November 22- Saturday- Annual Fall trip to Preque Isle for waterfowl. Meet at the first parking lot at 8:30-9:00 am. Leader- Russ States - 814-676-6320.


January 4- Sunday- Pleasantville Christmas Bird Count- our other count, further north, look for different species and counting conditions. Anyone who likes birds is welcome on either count. - Leader Russ States 814-676-6320.

Notes From the October 13th Membership Meeting

The Bartramian Audubon Society held it's second meeting with Chuck Tegue as its featured speaker. The general meeting was opened by President Mark Swansiger at 7:30 p.m. The minutes from the previous meeting were read and accepted. Hospitality Chair Shirley McColl thanked hostesses Garnet Snyder and Helen Ferguson for refreshments in September, Ruth Crawford and Beth Egger for tonight's refreshments, and reminded Dottie Lengle and Beth Egger that their month is November. She also reported on the walk along Nesbannock Creek and the survey of Westpark in New Castle for a nature trail. No reports were given by Sanctuary Chair, ACP representative or CBC Chair. Newsletter Chair Suzanne Butcher reported that information on Wings Over Western PA and the Bird and Butterfly Sanctuary Program is available on the back table, along with the Program Guide for the 1997-98 season. She also mentioned that some members of the Westmoreland Audubon Society might be interested in participating in this year's Christmas Bird Count. She is unsure whether it's the chance to bird Lake Arthur or the chili dinner that's attracting them. Treasurer Robert Love reported that the Otter Project received a $600 donation from BAS and that the checking account balance is ~$1800. Education Chair Helen Ferguson reported that the Audubon Adventures teachers have received their packets which included a video on wolves! Guests and visitors were welcomed by the Membership Chair.
Notes From the October 20th Board Meeting

The October board meeting of the Bartramian Audubon Society was held on Monday, October 20th. Highlights of the meeting were Ruth Crawford's report on the material she has found for our Bird and Butterfly Sanctuary participants. Program Chair Beth Egger's report that while the speaker has changed, the November membership meeting will still be on the Rachel Carson Homestead. The board voted to purchase a slide projector for BAS as it is frequently needed. Treasurer Robert Love reports that the checking account remains healthy, though not wealthy. We are well below the limit the IRS gets interested in! Hospitality Chair Shirley McCarr reports that all went well at the October meeting and a big thank you to Shirley, Beth, Ruth, and Kate Brydon. Beth is on again for November along with Dottie Lengle. Nestbox Chair Mark Swansiger reports that while interest in the 2000 by 2000 Project remains high, the attrition rate is also high. The boxes go up but people don't/can't monitor effectively. As a result, more house sparrows are raised which contributes to the decline in available space for bluebirds. He will continue to work at his trail and asks all those who have boxes to really make an effort to monitor and report. Sanctuary Chair Gene Wilhelm reports that 20 applications for Bird and Butterfly Sanctuaries were sent out with 2 returned. Gene is waiting for further information from VA before approaching the Slippery Rock Borough.

OLD BUSINESS-The nature trail at West Park in New Castle was assessed by BAS and recommendations were made to leave the area as natural as possible with suggestions made for improving the present trail around the 3 ponds and possibly building an observation tower at the southeast corner. Plan is to put in additional pines and rotating the mowing of brushy areas every 3 years to continue to attract such birds as Savannah, Song, Swamp and possibly a LeConte's Sparrow!

NEW BUSINESS-There is now a huge source on birding being developed on the WWW with CBC's dating back to 1959 being included and other historical data. The first Bird and Butterfly Sanctuary sign was given to the Swansigers!

Gene Wilhelm reminded board members of the workshop he is presenting - "A Beginner's Guide to Birding: Ecology Begins with Birds, November 21-23, 1997 at the Villa Maria Community Center, Villa Maria, PA. Resident fees are $100.00 and commuter fees are $70.00 for this three day event. Contact Gene for further registration information.

Field Trips Revisited

Volant Walk along the Neshannock Creek, October 11th

A foggy cool start soon became an ideal day to be outdoors. Pam Courtney from Mercer joined the group a few minutes down the trail. While waiting for latecomers we were treated to a Carolina Wren serenading us. Then a White-breasted Nuthatch, a Tufted Titmouse, a Cardinal and a Red-bellied Woodpecker were seen. Cedar Waxwings were in the cherry tree. A Great Blue Heron and a single Chimney Swift were fly-overs. Birding activity was not as great as the fishing activity but we still had Black-capped Chickadees, House Finch, and several Yellow-rumped Warblers were seen eating poison ivy berries from a large vine. Killdeer and Downy Woodpeckers could be heard and many Red-winged Blackbirds flew overhead. Four Wood Ducks were on the water. A Yellow-bellied Sapsucker was added to our list before we started chatting with the fishermen. We learned Mr. McConathy from Dubois was a guide while he lived in Wyoming and he was in route back there to begin a guiding trip. He showed us the many flies he had tied. He was so interesting and informative. I was ready to try fly fishing. Sure I had my license with me--ooophs no pole! All in all the Neshannock Creek and fall leaves on the trees and on the water added much pleasure to our trip.
Butler Christmas Bird Count, December 20th

...Suzanne Butcher, CBC compiler

The Butler Christmas Bird Count for the Bartramian Audubon Society is scheduled for December 20th. So mark your calendar now. Information packets with maps and instructions will be available at the November membership meeting. Both field participants and feeder watchers are needed. (REMINDER for feeder watchers—remember for each species you see, record only the highest number that you see at any one time during the count period. For instance, if you would see 2 Chickadees at 9am, 4 at noon and 5 at 5pm, you would record only 5 chickadees, not the total of 11 seen for the day.) Please let either Ruth Crawford (412-794-3688), Gene Wilhelm (412-794-2434), or myself (330-759-1945) know if you wish to participate in this fun event.

Changes are taking place in the recording methods for the CBC. The National Audubon Society in conjunction with the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology is developing BirdSource, an interactive World Wide Web-based tool for monitoring North American bird populations in near real time. However, this can not be accomplished without you - the volunteers collecting the data.

Of "Friends" and "Fiends", an Apology

...Suzanne Butcher, M.D., UP editor

When I volunteered to assume the responsibilities of editor of the Upland Informer, I knew I was taking on a task far removed from my area of expertise. After practicing medicine for over thirty years, my calling was certainly in another field of endeavor. Typing was strictly a foreign skill and a computer was more of a fete than a friend. However, with the help of my son-in-law who is a 'Microsoft Developer', I am equipped with the latest in computer technology. But those of you who are computer literate can recognize the limitations of such technology and understand my plight. Microsoft Word 97 has both grammar and spell checkers. If you misspell a word, it is automatically underlined in red. If your grammar is questioned, the entire sentence or offending phrase is underlined in green. Thus I try to have a colorless screen before me. But does this prevent embarrassment with the printing of nonsense? Wrong! Where is Bill Gates when I need him? As many times as I proofread the copy, I just do not seem to see all of the glaring errors. I could blame it on my circumstances—working alone and with time constraints. I could fault the Redbreasted Nuthatch outside my window for diverting my attention. I could even say I am hampered by my bifocals. But alas, I think it is the loose computer connections within my head that are at fault. So back to the "fiends" of BAS, as published in one of the recent Upland Informers. To my critics who are quite vocal in pointing out my shortcomings, I apologize as I eat my humble pie. I know, as Bill Gates does not, that we should have only "friends" here at Audubon.

From the ASWP Hotline

Those of us in Western Pennsylvania are lucky to have an active birding hotline (412-963-0560) sponsored by the Audubon Society of Western PA. and under the direction of Mary Jane Seipeler of Murrysville. Here one can always find the latest status of birds sightings in our area. Below is an edited version of the October 23 listing on the internet of just some of the postings in our area.

- Special birds mentioned- SEDGE WREN (Mercer County), EVENING GROSBEAK (Westmoreland County), PINE SISKIN (Westmoreland County), WESTERN SANDPIPER (Westmoreland County)

Contributing compilers: Gene Butcher, Suzanne Butcher, Ken Byerly, Ruth Crawford, Randi Gerrish, Sarah Gerrish, Paul Hess, Margaret Higbee, Gloria Lamer, Denna Laffuer, Barbara Levitt, Sid Levitt, Shirley McCall, Mark McConaghy, Jerry McWilliams, Dennis Schmeltzer, Alan Troyer, Daniel Troyer, Jr., Eli Troyer, Harvey Troyer, Jr., Jerry Troyer, Melvin Troyer, Neal A. Troyer, Chuck Tague, Tim Vechter, Linda Wagner

transcriber: Mary Jane Seipeler, Grosbeaker@iol.com, 412-325-3571

Allegheny County: at Harrison Hills County Park on the 19th RUBY-CROWNED KINGLET, HERMIT THRUSH, BLUE-HEADED VIREO, YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER, WHITE-THROATED SPARROW, and PURPLE FINCH (PH)

Butler County: on the 16th at Moraine State Park, 170 RUDDY DUCK, 500 AMERICAN COOT, 2 COOPER'S HAWK, 8 EASTERN BLUEBIRD, 2 FIELD SPARROW, 2 WHITE-THROATED SPARROW, and 1 WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW (CT)

Cambia County: near Patton on the 19th, 3 LAPLAND LONGSPURS, and 50 HORNED LARK (GL)

Erie County: at Presque Isle State Park, Bonaparte's Gull have started to arrive and there are a few hundred around the park. On the 16th Ring-Necked Grebe and Surf Scoter flying past Sunset Point; on the 18th one MERLIN at Gulf Point flying in from Canada and one adult LITTLE GULL flying past Gulf Point; on the 18th, 10 PINE SISKIN at a feeder in Waterford (JM). At Presque Isle State Park on the 19th, one albino AMERICAN COOT (BL, SL)

Yellow Creek State Park on the 21st 4 DUNLIN, 1 MUTE SWAN, 366 AMERICAN COOT, 13 MALLARD, 5 KILDREE, 3 SWAMP SPARROW, 10 COMMON SNIPE, 2 GOLDEN-CROWNED KINGLET, 1 DONNY WOODPECKER, 2 LESSER SCAUP, 7 AMERICAN WIGEON, 5 RING-NECKED DUCK, 6 YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER, 3 PURPLE FINCH, 1 BLUE-HEADED VIREO, 19 RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD, 1 YELLOW-BELLIED SAPSUCKER, 123 CEDAR WAXWING, 63 AMERICAN CROW, 1 BROWN CREEPER, 1 DARK-EYED JUNCO, 6 EASTERN TOWHEE, 26 WHITE-THROATED SPARROW, 1 SHARP-SHINNED HAWK, 28 RUSTY BLACKBIRD, 24 PIE-BILLED GREBE, 3 GREAT BLUE HERON, 1 KINGFISHER, 2 COMMON LOON, 16 RUDDY DUCK, 2 DOUBLE-CRESTED CORNORANT, 10 GADWALL, and 1 AMERICAN BLACK DUCK (MI)

Mercer County: on the 16th one SEDGE WREN, CHIPPING SPARROW, FIELD SPARROW, VESPER SPARROW, SAVANNAH SPARROW, SONG SPARROW, SWAMP SPARROW, WHITE-THROATED SPARROW, WHITE-CROWNED SPARROW, and PINE SISKIN (at a feeder). (GB, SB, RC, SM, AT, DT, ET, HT, JT, MT, NT)

Lawrence County: on the 16th in a plowed field just north of the intersection of Plain Grove and Old Ash Roads, 1 NORTHERN HARRIER, 4 SANDHILL CRANE, and 2 HORNED LARK (CT). At Pennsly Swamp (State Gameland 284) on the 17th, RED-WINGED BLACKBIRD, SONGSPTARROW, NORTHERN FLYCROSS, WOOD DUCK, SHARP-SHINNED HAWK, EASTERN BLUEBIRD, BELTED KINGFISHER, WHITE-THROATED SPARROW, YELLOW-RUMPED WARBLER, BROWN-HEADED COWBIRD, WINTER WREN, DARK-EYED JUNCO, CAROLINA WREN, RED-TAILED HAWK, BLUE-WINGED TEAL, AMERICAN COOT, and PIE-BILLED GREBE. At West Park in New Castle (reclaimed strip-mines) on the 17th, 3 EASTERN MEADOWLARK, 2 FIELD SPARROW, 1 RED-BELLED WOODPECKER, 1 HAIRY WOODPECKER, and 19 MALLARD (LW).
Printed on Recycled Paper

BARTRAMIAN AUDUBON SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 315
SLIPPERY ROCK, PA 16057

Membership Reminder

Sandee Swansiger, Membership Chair

We welcome many of you who have recently joined Bartramian Audubon Society. There are many levels of membership available as noted on the Membership Application in this newsletter. As a reminder, we delete members names from our rolls one year after the membership expires. This generous policy allows our members plenty of time to renew. If you have any questions about your membership, feel free to contact Sandee Swansiger (412) 533-5291.

Upland Informer is the official newsletter of the Bartramian Audubon Society (a chapter of National Audubon Society) and is published 6 times per year. The newsletter is a benefit of membership. Our meetings are held at the United Methodist Church in Slippery Rock, PA the second Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. and are free and open to the public. Non-members can receive this newsletter for a contribution of $5.00 per year.

BAS Logo Patch

BAS is pleased to announce the availability of our new beautiful logo patch depicting two Upland Sandpipers in flight. The three-inch circular patch is a fitting companion to our logo T-shirts and commemorative patch. The new patch is brown, red and white. A $5.00 contribution to BAS will entitle you to one of these handsome embroidered patches or send a check in that amount made payable to Bartramian Audubon Society, PO Box 315, Slippery Rock, PA 16057 with a self-addressed stamped envelope and one will be mailed to you.

National Audubon Society
Bartramian Chapter
Membership Application

Please check membership rate below:

- $20.00 Introductory Rate for National Audubon Society (includes magazine and chapter newsletter)
- $15.00 Associate membership in Bartramian Chapter (includes newsletter)
- $5.00 Subscription to this newsletter

Name ____________________________
Address ____________________________
City __________________ State _______ Zip _____

Send check payable to Bartramian Audubon Society
P.O. Box 315
Slippery Rock, PA 16057

Chapter information call 412-533-5291

U18
7XCH8
Upcoming BAS Board Meeting

February 16- Monday- Meeting of the BAS Board at 7:30 p.m. at the United Methodist Church in Slippery Rock. Please notify President Mark Swansiger at 412-533-5291 if you are unable to attend.

Upcoming BAS Membership Meetings

March 9- Monday- Wildlife Conservation Officer Brunst of the Pennsylvania Game Commission will present a program on beavers.

April 13- Monday- Marcia Mowery, PA State Population Coordinator for the National Audubon Society will present a slide program making the connection between population growth and bird species decline.

Upcoming BAS Field Trips / Activities

February 7- Saturday- Winter Finch Search
Due to the lack of owls that we have been able to locate, we are going to shift gears on our February 7 BAS Field Trip. The trip will now be a Winter Finch Search. We will scour Northern Venango and Forest Counties looking for the following winter visitors: Common Redpoll, Pine Siskin, Evening Grosbeak, Purple Finch, and White-winged Crossbills. Also others may show up in the meantime. As of the first week of January these finches were being seen regularly. Please feel free to contact Russ States 814-676-6320 before the trip to see if they are still around. Also should the Owls return, we will make a side trip to see them. Again if you are interested in these call ahead. Because the finches are more reliable in the morning, the trip TIME WILL CHANGE. Please take note. We will meet in the Burger King parking lot on Rt. 8, a couple miles north of Franklin at 9:00 am. Please be prompt- The Burger King is on the left as you travel north on Rt. 8. Plan to car pool. The finches are about 15 miles north of this on a busy highway with not many pull-offs. We will try to find them on a side road, but we have to go where the birds are.

Notes From the Membership and Board

Meetings

November 10- Membership Meeting
The Bartramian Audubon Society held its meeting Monday November 10, 1997 at Slippery Rock United Methodist Church. The meeting was opened by President Mark Swansiger and brief reports by chairs were given as follows: Minutes of previous meeting were read and approved. Treasurer Robert Love reports that dues split continues to keep our checking account around $1600 with a purchase of a slide projector for BAS bringing current balance to ~$1200. He is receiving various mailings from other Audubon groups which will be on back table. He has also received an updated watch list which includes such favorites as the Red-headed Woodpecker, Bobolink, Red Knots, Short-eared Owls, Black-throated Blue Warbler and many others. This information and much more can be found on Audubon's Watchlist website at: www.audubon.org/bird/watch/>. A web page for each species including photograph, natural history, range map and outline of threats is available. Field Trip Chair Russ States reported on upcoming field trips: November 22 at Presque Isle for waterfowl, Butler Christmas Bird Count on December 20, Pleasantville CBC on January 4 and cross-country skiing, weather permitting, in January also. News letter editor Suzanne Butler reported that she is undecided on an additional newsletter for 1997, and that she has a newsletter release from National concerning Christmas Bird Counts that she will mail to Swansigers for further distribution. Ruth Crawford, CBC co-chair requests that all interested parties contact her SOON as circle divisions need made. Packets for the CBC will be available at the December meeting. Hospitality Chair Shirley McColl and Dottie Lengle for the refreshments and reminded everyone that December is potluck. Program Chair Beth Egger reminded everyone to bring slides, pictures and interesting sightings for our December meeting. She then introduced our speaker, Mark Tomlinson from the Rachel Carson Homestead who presented a very interesting and informative program on Miss Carson's life and works. She was an avid birders and enjoyed all aspects of the natural world. Her efforts to ban toxic chemicals like DDT for use in this country have been successful but it continues to be manufactured here and shipped to other countries worldwide including such places as Mexico! Her legacy still
is to remind us that all life, peoples and places is interconnected

November 17- Board Meeting
Meeting opened at 7:30 with Bruce Hazen presenting design for Sanctuary Signs. Two Upland Sandpipers in flight with 'Bartramian Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary' on an oval sign. Bruce to experiment with colors, staining etc. Mark passed brochure with National Membership matters and T-shirts around for discussion. T-shirts can be used for promotions and membership, awards night etc. Minutes from previous meeting read and approved. Membership. To check regarding subscriptions for two individuals. Hospitality chair Shirley McCarl reports that December will be potluck, Suzanne Butter to decorate. Field trip Chair Russ States reports that upcoming trips will be Presque Isle on November 22, Butler Christmas Bird Count December 20, Pleasantville count January 4. Field trip for May 17 may need a date change, will pursue. Sanctuary chair Gene Wilhelm reports that new sanctuary added October 20. Bob Love, Joann and Gene Wilhelm assessed, did signing for 32 acres along Wolf Creek, property of Jack and Beverly Squires. Several other persons are seriously considering joining sanctuary program, including three camps. Bird and Butterfly Sanctuary- Third participant Dick and Anna Craig of New Castle. Four or five requests received. Christmas Bird Count Co-Chair Ruth Crawford reports much interest for feeder watchers from Lawrence and Mercer Counties but unfortunately, this is outside of count area. Has 5 teams signed up, will have information packets at December meeting. Newsletter Chair Suzanne Butler absent, next batch of mailing labels given to Ruth Crawford.

Bluebird Box Chair Mark Swansiger reports that Girl Scouts are again interested in building boxes, will probably be in February. OLD BUSINESS: Ruth Crawford reports that several Boy Scout Troops are interested in participating in building houses. Also interested in 'Wings Over PA' program. Nominated Tam-O-Shanter Golf Course and Richard Kerins for business award. Course does not use pesticides, herbicides, has a bluebird trail and is a member of the Audubon Co-op Sanctuary program. NEW BUSINESS: Jennings again requesting that donation from Westinghouse be funneled through BAS. After discussion, voted not to participate. Shirley Donner of Cesera requesting volunteers for roundtable discussions on environmental issues affecting western PA in Meadowville. Joann Wilver, daughter and grandchildren have all the cans sorted!! Thank you, thank you! Would like cans disposed of soon. Shirley McCarl moves that BAS pays full fee for participants of Butler and Pleasantville CBCs. Gene Wilhelm second, passed unanimously. Mark Swansiger reports receiving catalogue of programs from National Audubon. Suggestions for Nominating Committee for '97-'98 for next meeting. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

December 8- Membership Meeting
The annual Christmas party and Membership of BAS was held on Monday December 8, 1979 at 7:30 p.m. Minutes of previous meeting were read and approved. Membership announced Audubon Gift Subscription postcards were available. Field trip chair Russ States announced that upcoming events were: Christmas Bird Counts on December 20, January 4; Cross-country skiing on January 18, depending on snow, February 7 owl walk at Buttermilk Sanctuary. Call Russ for further information. Report was given on Presque Isle trip November 22. Several people came from Pittsburgh to enjoy the rain, wind and diving ducks galore! Among those sighted were: Coots, Oldsquaws, Swans, Canada Geese, Horned Grebes, Canvasbacks, Ruddy Ducks, Gadwalls, Black Ducks and 4 species of gulls.

Ruth Crawford reported on the CBC plans for December 20. Circle has been moved slightly Northwest, includes 528 bridge, all of McConnell's Mills and all of Slippery Rock. Feeder Watchers needed, as well as field teams. Education Chair Helen Ferguson reports that she's receiving thank-you letters for Audubon Adventures, some of which she's forwarding to First National Bank of Slippery Rock. Hospitality Chair Shirley McCarl reports that this year's schedule is filled, with Swansigers taking March, April a pizza night and May-assigned potluck. Robert Love, Treasurer reports that checking account -$1170, with can money $324 to be added. Mark reports can money is down 25% due to vending machines with plastic bottles. Sanctuary Chair Gene Wilhelm reports that 10th BAS Sanctuary has been added, with two more possible. Bird and Butterfly Sanctuary owners Anna and Dick Craig, and Tim Titch were presented their signs. We need to get the word out in Mercer and Lawrence Counties. Program Chair Beth Egger announced programs: for March- Officer Brunst, April-Marci Mowry and May-Awards Night. There being no other business, we enjoyed some slides, photographs and exhibits along with a wonderful array of refreshments. (Especially enjoyable was the presentation given by Mrs. Kathryn Houts of her late husband Dr. Houts' collection of slides of the early years of our Bartramian Audubon Society -ed)

1997 Butler County Christmas Bird Count sponsored by
The Bartramian Audubon Society

Many thanks to all participants in the December 20th Butler County Christmas Bird Count. Your help contributed in making this year's count an unqualified success. The time apart from owling was from 7am to 5pm. The temperature ranged from 27° to 44° F. The winds were out of the NW and were reported between 5-25mph. No snow cover was present. Still water of lakes and ponds was about 95% frozen, while moving water of creeks and streams was open. The sky was cloudy and overcast for most of the day.

Participants: 30 in 13 field parties; plus 10 at feeders; 35.5 hours at feeders;

Total Party Hours: 78.75; Party Miles: 402.5 including 37.25 hours and 33 miles on foot; 41.5 hours and 369.5 miles by car; plus 9.5 hours and 37 miles owling.

With the recent warmer weather Lake Arthur was partially open again this year adding a nice variety of waterfowl to the list of birds tallied for the day. An adult Bald Eagle was represented for the second year in a row. A lingering Eastern Phoebe was still present on the Stoughton farm. A Lapland Longspur seen in with a flock of Horned Larks was a new
addition to the composite list. After a day in the field many of the participants joined in a chili supper at the Slippery Rock home of Mrs. Raymond Ralston. Our thanks again go to Mrs. Ralston for allowing us the use of her lovely home, now decorated in the Christmas spirit.


Total Species 78; Total individuals 6251
Count week - Northern Saw Whet Owl 1.
Compilers: Suzanne Butcher, 11 Norwich Drive, Youngstown, OH 44505, 330-759-1945; Ruth Crawford, 336 Ralston Road, Slippery Rock PA 16057, 412-794-5688

32nd CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT
PLEASANTVILLE, PA - JAN. 4, 1998

January 4, 1998: 7:00am to 6:30pm. Temperature 46 - 53 F; No snow cover; Still waters 98% open; moving waters completely open; wind SW 5-10mph; completely overcast all day with areas of fog, especially over water; light to moderate showers continuing throughout most of the day. Observers: 29 in field in 11 parties plus 8 at feeders.

Total Party Hours 69.5; Total Party Miles 365; including 20.5 hrs and 18 mi. on foot; and 49 hrs. and 347 mi. by car. Plus 15 mi. and 4 hrs. owling.
Count Circle includes area within 15 mile diameter circle; center 4 miles South South East of Pleasantville. Count area boundary includes Enterprise to the north, Tionesta to the east, Eagle Rock to the south, and Pa. Route 8 to the west.

PARTICIPANTS: Suzanne Butcher, Danny Colgan, Debbie Colgan, Mark Colgan, Mike Colgan, Scott Colgan, Ruth Crawford, Chuck Devers, Dave Edwards, Gary Edwards, Matt Hitchcock, Kenda Hoover, Kenny Hoover, Tom Hoover, Trichelle Hoover, April Moore, Sandy Shuffstall, Scott Shuffstall, Jerry Stanley, Russ States, Mark Swansiger, Sandee Swansiger, Linda Wagner, Gary Walters, Rick Walters, Gene Wilhelm, Carolyn Worley, Brett Young, Hallie Young.

Total Species - 52 (Highest # ever); Total Individuals - 3009 (Highest # ever)

Only the second time on the count for both White-winged Crossbill and Common Redpoll. Only the third time on the count for both the Tundra Swan and Yellow-rumped Warbler. Increased participation certainly helped increase both the species count and the total numbers. There were more people in the field than in certainly the last ten years and perhaps ever. The winter finches seem to be slowly increasing in numbers. The last time we had either Common Redpoll or White-winged Crossbill was on the 1971 count. The wild food crop is excellent this year. Winter finches including the Redpolls seem to be feeding a lot on black birch catkins. Many thanks to those who came up from Butler Co. to make this our best ever count!!! Thanks also to the Boy Scouts from Mercer Co. and their families who helped out this year.
Compiler: Russ States, 24 East Fifth Street, Oil City, PA 16301 814-676-6320
"On Crossbills" - from the internet

The events that Pennsylvania birders are observing with regard to winter finches, and particularly White-winged and Red Crossbills is very noteworthy. As many of you know we at the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology have been monitoring this year's irruption of winter finches in North America. This year ALL winter finches are irrupting--an event called a "superflight". Superflights occur every 15-20 years.

THIS YEAR THERE ARE MORE CROSSBILLS REPORTED IN PENNSYLVANIA THAN ANYWHERE ELSE IN NORTH AMERICA.

I would venture a guess that the concentrations of these species in the Cook Forest area are the highest that have ever been observed in the state.

I have received reports that the hemlock cone crop, and birch seed crop is heavy in that area of Pennsylvania. It would be great if people could comment more. Thanks to all the PA birders who have contributed to the winter finch survey. Pennsylvania is at the epicenter of the flight this year! Steve Kelling. BirdSource. Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, Ithaca NY http://birds.cornell.edu
Upcoming BAS Board Meeting

Mark Swansiger, president

April 20- Monday- Meeting of the BAS Board at 7:30 p.m. at the United Methodist Church in Slippery Rock. Please notify President Mark Swansiger at 724-533-5291 if you are unable to attend.

Upcoming BAS Membership Meetings

Beth Egger, program chair

April 13- Monday- Marci Mowery, PA State Population Coordinator for the National Audubon Society will present a slide program making the connection between population growth and bird species decline.

May 11- Monday- Annual Awards Ceremony

Upcoming BAS Field Trips / Activities

Russ States, field trip chair

April 18- Saturday- Visit to the Rachel Carson Homestead
The Rachel Carson Homestead is the birthplace and childhood home of ecologist and nature writer Rachel Carson (1907-1964), whose 1962 book *Silent Spring* launched the modern environmental movement. Born in the five-room farmhouse, Rachel Carson's childhood in southwestern Pennsylvania nurtured a love and respect for nature and natural things which would guide her the rest of her life. *Silent Spring* warned of the dangers of indiscriminate pesticide use and established Rachel Carson as one of the most important and influential environmental activists in history.

Meet in the parking lot of Slippery Rock United Methodist church lot by 9:30 a.m. leaders Mark and Sandee Swansigers (724-533-5291)

April 25- Saturday- Wolf Creek Narrows annual spring walk - 8:30 a.m. for birds with Robert Love; 10:00 a.m. for wildflowers with Priscilla Stoughton. Early migrants and spring arrivals will include the Blue Gray Gnatcatcher, Yellow-throated Warbler, and Louisiana Waterthrush.

May 9- Saturday- BAS Naturthon - Annual fund raiser for our chapter- chairperson- Ruth Crawford. See details inside

May 9- Saturday- North American Migration Count- this can be done in conjunction with the Naturthon. If you want to participate contact the county compilers: Venango County- Russ States; Mercer County- Suzanne Butcher; Butler County- Gene Wilhelm; Lawrence County- Barb Dean.

May 23- Saturday- Venango Sanctuary Visits- (note the change in date) Scrubgrass Power Plant Central Electric Corp., Keilty Property- leaders Russ States and John Hummel

June 6- Saturday- Annual Picnic, Meet at McDaniels launch on North Shore of Moraine Park, 5 p.m.

Notes From the Board Meetings, (edited SB)

Sandee Swansiger, recording secretary

BAS Board Meeting February 16, 1998

The board of Bartramian Audubon Society met for the first time this year on February 16, 1998. Present were: Suzanne Butcher, Gene Wilhelm, Russ States, Beth Egger, Willis Ratzloff, Helen Ferguson, Robert Love and Mark and Sandee Swansiger.

Will Taylor from Jennings Environmental Educational Center was on hand to inform us of the "Spring Into Action" program to renovate and renew Jennings, held this year on April 25. People are invited to attend the park and do plantings, rebuild trails and other projects as determined by the staff. Activities last from 9:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. with lunch being provided by Giant Eagle. Donations received from various businesses will be used for building materials, T-shirts for participants and a raffle.

Mr. Bruce Hazen brought in his completed BAS Wildlife Sanctuary sign, a beautiful rendition of two white Upland Sandpipers in flight on a brown background. He will continue to work on the other signs of which there are now eleven in number!

Minutes of Nov. 17, 1997 board meeting approved as read.

Chair reports were given by Suzanne Butcher, Sandee Swansiger, Russ States, and Beth Egger. Russ reported the trip for winter finches produced sightings of Pine Siskins and White-winged Crossbills. Gene Wilhelm reported the addition of two more wildlife sanctuaries- Mr. and Mrs. Madjaric, south of Moraine St. Park, and Beulah Land in Butler County. Gene has received 12 requests for Bird and Butterfly Sanctuary information and 2 more requests for Wildlife Sanctuary applications.

Treasurer Robert Love reported that our checking account remains around $1200 with a deposit received for cans, and monies paid out for postage and labels.

Correspondence Chair Willis Ratzloff announced he will be leaving as they are moving permanently to eastern PA. Nest box placement
is next on the agenda and Mark Swansiger will be working with the Girl Scouts on this.

Discussion of the cost of BAS Wildlife Sanctuary signs ensued and a motion to pay $100/sign was seconded and passed. Discussion also ensued on the Jennings request for assistance with their "Spring Into Action" campaign on April 25. A motion made, seconded and passed with one abstention.

Concern was raised over the future of the Volant Strips as there is property for sale throughout this short-eared owl breeding territory. Information was received from Jerry Kruth concerning a nomination for the 1999 Alexander Caudell Recognition Award given to a person working toward conservation in conjunction with business. National Audubon Society sent out memos concerning the increase in Snow Gose population and the impact on the Arctic tundra. They are in support of increased hunting.

NAS is giving complete scholarships to ecology camps in Maine, the Rockies and Connecticut. The application deadline is March 18. Helen Ferguson will distribute applications to several people, and they will be available at March meeting.

The Wetlands Campaign Network has 160 chapters participating across the country. A questionnaire was received concerning our groups activities and involvement. Cesera activity: EPA will begin testing wells in Grove City area this spring and summer.

The Fish Commission report was received concerning the proposed sand and gravel pit on Rt. 108. The Commission still is not satisfied with the proposal, and is requesting movement of the site.

Mention was made regarding the need to advocate Shade Grown Coffee which lessens habitat destruction for birds in South America.

Nominations for Awards night were discussed.

A Nomination Committee is needed to fill Chairs for next year. As it now stands we will need a Program Chair, a Corresponding Secretary, President, Vice President, Publicity Chair, Conservation Chair, Recording Secretary and Membership Chair! Please, please consider volunteering for and filling one of these positions!! Meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

BAS Board meeting March 16, 1998

The Board of BAS met on Monday March 16, 1998 with Mark and Sandee Swansiger, Willis Katzloff, Shirley McCarr, Russ Stares and Helen Ferguson present. Minutes of the previous BAS board meeting were read, corrected and approved. Membership chair reported current membership is 441 after corrections with more updating of list to be done. Publicity Chair reported sending 35 publicity blurbs out for the last meeting and will do so again for April meeting and also do some publicity on our upcoming Naturaun. Education Chair Helen Ferguson reported receiving one application for a scholarship to ecology camp and has already received a request for Audubon adventures for next year. Application blanks for ecology workshops will be published in next Upland Informer. Field Trip Chair Russ Stares reported on upcoming filed trips. Hospitality Chair Shirley McCarr reported that April is pizza with Bob Love and May is "assigned" potluck with Kate Brydon, Shirley and Joann Wilhelm doing sandwiches, Ruth Crawford, Helen Ferguson doing vegetables. Sandee Swansiger and Bob Walczak doing brownies, Mrs. Craig, Mrs. Houts and Suzanne Butler doing cookies and Russ Stares providing beverages. Sanctuary chair reported we now have 12 Wildlife and 6 Bird and Butterfly Sanctuaries. Camp Crestfield and Mary Reeder have joined the program but we still don't have a major Sanctuary in Mercer Co.

It was suggested that the compiler of the NAMC for each County also collect pledges for Naturaun. No action. The need to keep a separate list of Corporate sponsors was made and it was suggested that anyone pledging more than $25 would receive the Upland Informer. MUST HAVE CORRECT ADDRESSES! Gene Wilhelm will contact Slippery Rock, Grove City, Moniteau and New Castle school Districts regarding subscribing to Audubon Adventures. Teachers need to put their name, name of school, address, number of students in class on a postcard and send to Helen Ferguson at 106 Baloa Court, Butler, PA 16001. Grades 4-6 are eligible. Bob Stephenson has requested a speaker from BAS for the Butler Co. Youth Conservation Association July 18 7:30-8:30 p.m. Helen Ferguson will consider. Ruth can chair the Naturaun but cannot do much "legwork" as her broken leg is still mending. A Suggestion of mailing packets to Bird & Butterfly, CBC participants and Sanctuary owners was endorsed.

The Audubon Council slate of officer nominations was received and Mark Swansiger to send in our vote. Meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.

Tributes to Marguerite Geibl

Marguerite was for many year "The Bird Lady" of Butler County. Many people would call her to identify a certain bird they had seen or ask her to come to their home to identify a certain species.

Bird watching was her greatest pleasure. Betty Starr was her faithful and consistent birding companion for many years. We both looked upon Marguerite as our mentor. We have spent many hours and days enjoying birds and under her guidance learning more about them.

As a teacher, she inspired a love of nature in her students and instilled in them the importance of saving our earth.

We thank Marguerite for sharing her zeal with us. I believe Marguerite would agree with this quote from The Birds Talk to God by June Lawson.

"I believe that we are all meant to be here for a purpose: the Eagle, for instance, boastful as he is, teaches us to soar--to carry out our dreams--the Dove is the symbol of peace and love. And the little Chickadee expresses the joy of living by sharing his gladness. Yes, even that sour faced Raven must have a reason for living."


Paul Hess

For four decades Marguerite was truly a key figure in the ornithological history of Butler County. Ironically, among her earliest rarity reports in my file is one for 6 Pine Grosbeaks she found near Butler in February 1958 -- exactly 40 years ago to the month of her passing. On a personal level to many of us, Marguerite was also a charming birding companion with a quiet yet infectious delight in anything unexpected or beautiful.

For that we will miss her even more.

Suzanne Butcher

Long before I had the honor of meeting Marguerite, I knew of her influence in the birding community. I had read the acknowledgment given to her by Hal Harrison for her assistance in the preparation of his Wood Warblers World. I knew of her participation in the Christmas Birds Counts long before they became known as the Butler County Count, and I had read her contribution on birding Lake Arthur in Dave Freeland's Where to Find Birds in Western Pennsylvania. After I did meet her, I realized that she was an extraordinary person with a true love not only of the birds around her, but of botany and the whole
of nature. She will be sadly missed. I would like to reprint here some of her own words from her 1975 article on Moraine State Park in Freeland's book. They remain true today.

"In particular the years intervening between the early land acquisition and the first impoundment of Lake Arthur provided time for enjoying a rich and varied bird population. The areas included a maze of quiet streams, secluded ponds, upland hardwood forests, lowland swamps, prairie type landscapes and one of the largest and most productive cat tail marshes in Pennsylvania. However the State gaveith and the State taketh away. A 3,225 acre lake now covers much of what formerly was unsurpassed bird habitat. By way of exchange, the presence of a large water surface and its environs provide a resting and nesting place for dramatic concentrations of waterfowl...at this writing Lake Arthur is still a wonderful place for birds- but it may well be that time is running out. People pressure and habitat destruction may prove to be intolerable and the park-like many others before it-may be "loved" to death. As naturalists, we are pessimistic about the future environmental quality of Moraine State Park. Let's hope we are mistaken. Let's hope the birds can adapt better to the crowd than the birdwatchers." Marguerite Geibie - 1975.

Ecology Workshop Application

Helen Ferguson, education chair

Applications are now being taken for our BAS scholarship to attend the NAS Greenwich, CO week long ecology workshop. The cost of the workshop is $500.00. The Bartramian Audubon Society will ask the scholarship winner to pay the $50.00 registration fee and the BAS will pay the balance of $450.00. Any additional expenses, including transportation to and from the workshop in Connecticut, are the responsibility of the winner. If the scholarship winner shares his experience and knowledge gained at the workshop by speaking at a meeting of the Society in the fall, the $50.00 application fee will be refunded. One scholarship will be awarded. All entries must be received by May 8th, 1998. Return this application form to Helen R. Ferguson at 100 Balboa Court, Butler PA 16001. Phone 724-287-2800 for additional questions or information.

Naturthon Update - May 9th

Ruth Crawford, Naturthon Chair

The day for our Naturthon - May 9th is fast approaching. Are you ready to spend a fun, game-like day counting species of birds, butterflies, and wildflowers and at the same time help our BAS chapter? Then form your own NATURTHON field team. Any member or friend of the chapter can organize a field team by simply giving your team a special name for identifying purposes or keep your team name from last year. Then start collecting pledges of so many dollars per wildlife species or a flat fee contribution from individuals, organizations, and businesses. Actually now is the time to organize your team and start collecting those pledges. Note that you do NOT have to be an expert ornithologist, entomologist, or botanist to organize and lead a field team. The whole idea is to have fun on your own or with friends identifying wildlife. And you do NOT have to count all three wildlife categories (birds, butterflies, and wildflowers) although it is more fun and enjoyable if you do. So pick your favorite natural spot and start counting! Spend as much or as little time on May 9th as you can to help our cause.

You may pick up your information packets which include pledge and receipt forms, and bird, wildflower, and butterfly lists at our April membership meeting or by calling Ruth Crawford at 724-794-5688 and requesting one be mailed to you. For those of you who want to also participate in the North American Migration Count, instructions will be included with the Naturthon Packets.

"Whoever invented the word 'grace' must have seen the wing folding of the Upland Sandpiper"...Aldo Leopold

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION
FOR THE NATIONAL AUDUBON ECOLOGY WORKSHOP SPONSORED BY THE BARTRAMIAN AUDUBON SOCIETY

Name

Address

Phone number ____________ County _________

Why would you like to attend this workshop?

What do you currently do or have you done in the past to increase your students' awareness of the environment?

Please list any additional information you wish to have included in the consideration of this application.

Attach additional pages as necessary.

Imperial Grasslands Announcement

Chuck Teague

Important announcement concerning Imperial Strip Mines in Allegheny County. EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY the owner of the Imperial Strip Mines has revoked birding privileges at the mines. Grassland habitat can be observed from the Montour Trail accessible from the parking area across from the entrance to the BFI landfill at the intersection of Boggs and Potato Garden Run Road.
Membership Reminder

Sande Swansiger, Membership Chair

We welcome many of you who have recently joined Bartramian Audubon Society. There are many levels of membership available as noted on the Membership Application in this newsletter.

As a reminder, we delete members names from our rolls one year after the membership expires. This generous policy allows our members plenty of time to renew. If you have any questions about your membership, feel free to contact Sandee Swansiger (724) 533-5291.

Upland Informer is the official newsletter of the Bartramian Audubon Society (a chapter of National Audubon Society) and is published 6 times per year. The newsletter is a benefit of membership. Our meetings are held at the United Methodist Church in Slippery Rock, PA the second Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. and are free and open to the public. Non-members can receive this newsletter for a contribution of $5.00 per year.

BAS Logo Patch

BAS is pleased to announce the availability of our new beautiful logo patch depicting two Upland Sandpipers in flight. The three-inch circular patch is a fitting companion to our logo T-shirts and commemorative patch. The new patch is brown, red and white. A $3.00 contribution to BAS will entitle you to one of these handsome embroidered patches or send a check in that amount made payable to Bartramian Audubon Society, PO Box 315, Slippery Rock, PA 16057 with a self-addressed stamped envelope and one will be mailed to you.

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National Audubon Society
Bartramian Chapter
Membership Application

Please check membership rate below:

- $20.00 Introductory Rate for National Audubon Society (includes magazine and chapter newsletter)
- $15.00 Associate membership in Bartramian Chapter (includes newsletter)
- $5.00 Subscription to this newsletter

Name
Address
City State Zip

Send check payable to Bartramian Audubon Society
P.O. Box 315
Slippery Rock, PA 16057

Chapter information call 724-533-5291
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Upcoming BAS Board Meeting

Mark Swansiger, president
August 17- Monday- Meeting of the BAS Board at 7:30 p.m. at the United Methodist Church in Slippery Rock. Please notify President Mark Swansiger at 724-533-5291 if you are unable to attend.

Upcoming BAS Membership Meeting

Ann Craig, program chair
September 14- Monday- Come and join us for our first meeting of the new 98-99 season. Our meetings are held at the United Methodist Church in Slippery Rock, PA on the second Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. and are free and open to the public. Refreshments are served.

May 11th Membership Meeting - Awards

Sandy Swansiger, recording secretary

The Bartramian Audubon Society met for its final meeting of the 97-98 season on Monday, May 11, 1998 at 7:30 p.m. The new slate of officers for the upcoming two years was voted on and elected by the membership: Mark Swansiger- President, BobWalczak- Vice President, Robert Love- Treasurer, and Sandy Swansiger- Recording Secretary. A short review of Chair reports was held. BAS Chairpersons for the 1998-99 season were announced: Publicity- Dick Craig, Programs- Ann Craig, Corresponding Secretary- Pat Jones, Membership- Linda Wagner, Field Trips- Russ States, Sanctuary- Gene Wilhelm, Education- Helen Ferguson, Naturation- Ruth Crawford and Newsletter Editor- Suzanne Butcher. The minutes from April 16th were read and corrected and upcoming fieldtrips were reviewed. Bob Love reported the checking account remains strong. Gene Wilhelm had no new Sanctuary additions. Shirley McCarl thanked all who participated in the preparation of the night’s refreshments: Joann Wilhelm, Ruth Crawford, Helen Ferguson, Bob Walczak, Sandy Swansiger, Suzanne Butcher, Russ States and Ann Craig. A great big thank you was given to Shirley for providing refreshments and organizing volunteers throughout the year. Education Chair Helen Ferguson reported that two requests for ecology camp were received and announced that requests for upcoming Audubon Adventures for classrooms have more than doubled! The awards part of the evening program began with Suzanne Butcher presenting the Wings over Western Pennsylvania Awards. Gene Wilhelm presented certificates to the 6 owners of Bird & Butterfly Sanctuaries along with their signs and beautiful color posters provided by the PA Game Commission listing PA’s native butterfly species. Gene also presented certificates, BAS logo patches and beautiful signs made by Bruce Hazen to our 12 BAS sanctuary owners. Awards were then presented: Individual Award to Kate Brydon, Shirley McCarl, Organization Award to Planet Keepers by Mark Swansiger, and Business Award to the First National Bank of Slippery Rock by Robert Love. It was a joy to recognize these winners for their dedication to the environment and BAS. Ned Weston received an award from the PA Audubon Council for his many years of service to nature. Wonderful refreshments for all 63 attendees followed. Door prizes of bird and butterfly plantings were won by Ruth Crawford and Planet Keepers.

A brief board meeting followed the awards festivities. Helen Ferguson presented the two candidates for Ecology Camp: Kimberly Wingard of Greeneville and Kenneth Stark of Slippery Rock. They will be going to the Ecology Camp this summer. Kenneth will receive the Giant Eagle Inc. scholarship and Bev Wingard will be sponsored by BAS. Gene Wilhelm reported receiving 69 applications for Audubon Adventures for classrooms. The First National Bank of Slippery Rock will be sponsoring 40 classrooms again this year! This is a wonderful commitment as cost is $35 each. Mark Swansiger reported that the Principal of Cranberry School in Franklin has requested his assistance in teaching the 5th grade class to build, set up and monitor bluebird boxes! This will involve 5 classrooms and is planned to be and ongoing project. Publicity Chair Sandy Swansiger will send out one more blurb for the remaining fieldtrips. The meeting concluded at 9:30 p.m.

Award Presentations... written by Gene Wilhelm

KATE BRYDON

presented by Shirley McCarl

Katherine Ruth Barger Brydon was born August 19, 1916 on a farm near Jackson Center, Mercer County, Pennsylvania. Her parents were Edward Jennings and Agnes Anderson Barger. At the age of four, her family moved to Grove City where Miss Barger attended Central Grade School and then Grove City High School. After graduation she spent a year in Rimersburg and another year in Pittsburgh with relatives. After returning to Grove City, Katherine (Kate to her friends)
worked for the Select Market, at that time called the Westlake Shop. Then Kate married Carl Brydon in 1952 and moved to Slippery Rock. After Carl's untimely death in 1969, she returned to work at the Westlake Shop where she worked until retirement.

Kate Brydon has two daughters: Betse of Stoneboro, Pennsylvania, and Patricia of Destin, Florida, and one son William of Slippery Rock. She has six grandchildren: Bethany, Elyssa, Patrick, Brandi, Kelsea and Tessa.

Kate grew up loving nature and the outdoors but her special love always has been birds. Her Slippery Rock yard and gardens have been a natural attraction for birds and butterflies with feeders, baths, nest boxes and various flowers. Thus, perhaps, it was inevitable that when three students at Slippery Rock University sought persons interested in organizing a new chapter of the National Audubon Society between Pittsburgh and Erie in 1982, Kate was among the first to volunteer her services. She helped choose the chapter's name - the Bartramian Audubon Society - and its official logo - the Upland Sandpiper (Bartramia longicauda).

Over the next several years, Kate held various chair positions on the chapter's Board of Directors, eventually settling into the position of Librarian and Archivist. She held this post for nearly ten years and diligently worked in building the numbers of books and periodicals in our chapter's library. Kate officially retired from the chapter's Board of Directors on her eightieth birthday.

Members and friends of Audubon quickly learned to appreciate the wit and dry sense of humor that Kate displayed at Board and Membership meetings and while on field trips near and far. Further, her sound suggestions and recommendations for improving the chapter in so many different ways were especially useful and highly regarded. Finally, her love of the natural world, and especially birds, was contagious and passed to all those individuals who were fortunate enough to come in contact with her.

Therefore, it is indeed a great personal honor for the Bartramian Audubon Society, ladies and gentlemen, to present the 1998 ANNUAL AUDUBON AWARD IN THE INDIVIDUAL CATEGORY to Kate Brydon for her long and continuous devotion to the chapter's ecological mission, her deep unwavering commitment to the AUDUBON CAUSE and her personal love for all things wild and wonderful. Thank you, Kate, and congratulations.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF SLIPPERY ROCK - presented by Robert Love

A major part of the Bartramian Audubon Society's mission is in educating ourselves, our children and the public in our ecoregion of Butler, Lawrence, Mercer and Venango Counties in the laws of ecology sustainability and Earth-human relationships resulting in a quality environment and lifestyle in harmony and balance with Earth. Perhaps there is no better way to introduce the environmental education process than by involving our young people in the inter-disciplinary educational AUDUBON ADVENTURES program at the fourth, fifth and sixth grade levels.

A local business, the First National Bank of Slippery Rock, kindly accepted the chapter's invitation in 1996 to sponsor thirty-two such classrooms and that September those classrooms were designated the FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF SLIPPERY ROCK AUDUBON ADVENTURES CLASS ROOMS. Again in 1997 and 1998 the bank not only renewed its educational commitment but also increased funding to cover forty classrooms. Such financial aid serves as a corporate model for other community businesses to help the chapter meet the growing demand for AUDUBON ADVENTURES. For example, it is projected that there will be about 80 such classrooms in 1998-1999, a doubling in one year, and over 100 classrooms in 1999-2000.

The combination of financial help and community outreach is nothing new for the First National Bank of Slippery Rock. Since the original Articles of Association were executed and forwarded to the Comptroller of Cuntry in 1902, First National continually has pledged itself to old-fashioned, home service and sustainable growth in those parts of Butler, Lawrence, Mercer and Venango Counties that it serves.

A site for northern Butler County banking since 1887, the building housing the Main Office in Slippery Rock was initially known as the W. Henry Wilson Banking House. Slippery Rock citizens M. D. Maxwell, W. M. Humphrey, J. E. Bard, T. S. Coulter and W. Henry Wilson signed the charters which designated the institution as a national bank in 1902. Eighteen shareholders from Butler, Keister, Slippery Rock, Volant and Zelienople were involved with the organization of the bank. W. Henry Wilson held the office of first president. The capital of the bank at its first charter date was $25,000.

Growth of the bank is attested by a decision in 1968 to open a branch office at the proposed Shopping Center on Grove City Road in Slippery Rock which opened in September 1972. A second branch office was built in Grove City and opened for business in 1973 followed by another branch office in Prospect in 1977 and one in Portersville in 1990. Two recent acquisitions - the First Western Bancorp. of Slippery Rock in 1996 and the Mellon Bank of Harrisville in 1997 - have expanded the financial outreach capability of First National.

Thus it gives the chapter genuine pleasure in presenting the 1998 ANNUAL AUDUBON AWARD IN THE BUSINESS CATEGORY to the FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF SLIPPERY ROCK as a small token of thanks for their keen perception of the need to educate our youth in ecology and a sustainable lifestyle. Receiving the award on behalf of the bank is William Sonntag, President. Congratulations.

PLANET KEEPERS - presented by Mark Swansiger

Planet Keepers originated as an organization in 1989 when a small group of environmentally concerned Slippery Rock University students decided to initiate and facilitate campus recycling which today is managed by university authorities. The organization's mission statement is simple and straightforward: to increase environmental awareness among students, staff, faculty and administrators as well as green the university campus.

In 1990 the National Wildlife Federation recognized the student group for its fine efforts in the "Cool It" program that was circulating in schools across the country to generate awareness about world climate change. Likewise, Planet
Keepers has been responsible for bringing many expert speakers - such as internationally acclaimed ecologist David Orr - to discuss current environmental issues with the students and faculty, inaugurated and still operate campus clean-ups and each year sponsor EARTH DAY activities.

More recent major accomplishments, other than recycling efforts, include the SRU campus audit that was conducted in 1997, Ecoview articles in the Rocket, official SRU weekly student newspaper and presenting Environmental Forums. Further, the organization has encouraged student environmental involvement along with celebrating the Earth through concerts and festivals like the 1995 EARTH DAY CELEBRATION in Washington, DC that Planet Keepers attended. For the past decade members have planted trees to green the SRU campus, worked closely with the ALTER Project and the graduate MS3 Sustainable Systems program, aided CEASRA in informing the public about the Tri-County Grove City landfill hazards, donated food for the poor, measured waste from the SRU campus dining halls and worked K&N recycling.

Finally, many Planet Keepers have participated in the monthly meetings of the Western Pennsylvania - Eastern Ohio Earth Literacy Network since its inception in September 1991 and recently have volunteered in Americorps' "Children of the Earth" program to further environmental education of elementary students. Currently Planet Keepers is working with SRU's Institute for the Environment to increase campus greening and unify other university student organizations in helping achieve this goal. On EARTH DAY 1993 the organization held an Exchange Fair in the University Quad for people to swap unwanted items, a concert and volunteered in the Institute for the Environment's EARTH DAY to greet and help visiting high school students. On April 28, 1998 the organization assisted graduate MS3 students with their campus design workshop for SRU's master plan.

Thus it gives the Bartramian Audubon Society particular joy in presenting the 1998 ANNUAL AUDUBON AWARD in the Organization Category to Planet Keepers of Slippery Rock University, a student group that as consistently worked diligently for a decade at increasing environmental awareness in our greater community. Congratulations on not wavering from your mission and continued future success.

NED WESTON-

presented by Gene Wilhelm

Each year the Audubon Council of Pennsylvania, representing 25 chapters and over 30,000 Audubon members across the Commonwealth, awards a Pennsylvania resident the title of CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR. Ned Weston, retired Pennsylvania Game Commission Manager, was so nominated by our chapter for this great honor. Ned has accrued tremendous conservation-wildlife expertise and wisdom over thirty-three years of dedicated public service in western Pennsylvania. He not only loves the great outdoors and wildlife with a passion but also firmly believes that nature is something special, spiritual gift that we humans must safeguard for all future generations of life. This personal ethic of protecting life for life's sake has guided Ned since his youth, for he has been connected with the Earth since that time. Ned was born and raised in a small town in Clearfield County, Pennsylvania. Upon high school graduation, he served in the United States Navy, then attended Pennsylvania State University where he majored in engineering and architecture. But nature was drawing him back to the land he loved and on March 26, 1962 he enrolled in the eleventh class of the Ross Leffler School of Conservation in Brockway. Upon graduation on February 8, 1963 he was assigned as District Game Protector and Wildlife Conservation Officer with the Pennsylvania Game Commission, a position he held for twenty-five years. On September 8, 1987 Ned was promoted to Land Management Supervisor in the Pennsylvania Game Commission over Butler, Lawrence and portions of Beaver and Mercer Counties.

Ned always has had the natural gift of being able to listen to everyone with patience, kindness and understanding as a Land Management Supervisor. He also has had the keen ability of accepting other views than his own and admitting when he was wrong in conservation matters. For over three decades Ned knew how to weigh and balance he many different - and sometimes competing - demands of special interest groups on the restricted natural resources represented by the Pennsylvania State Game Lands. Although officially retired from the Pennsylvania Game Commission, Ned still communes with nature on a daily basis at his beautiful home overlooking the Glades (State Game Lands 93) in northeastern Butler County. There he watches over nesting Bald Eagles and various other wildlife that utilize his refurbished standing but dead giant white oaks as truly living communities.

Ladies and gentlemen, the Bartramian Audubon Society is indeed privileged in presenting this special AUDUBON COUNCIL OF PENNSYLVANIA CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION to Ned Weston for being first runner-up of the council's CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR AWARD. Congratulations, Ned, and continued good fortune.

Wings Over Western Pennsylvania

Suzanne Butcher

Certificates were presented by the Bartramian Audubon Society at the Annual Awards Ceremony on May 11th to participants in the "Wings Over Western Pennsylvania" program. A certificate is given to individuals based on the total number of different bird species they have observed in Butler, Lawrence, Mercer, Venango or any other western Pennsylvania county between Lake Erie and the West Virginia boundary. This year, certificates were presented to six awardees from Mercer County. A Red-tailed Hawk certificate was given to Sandy Kohrt Shuffstall for seeing between 100-148 different species of birds. Members of the Troyer Birding Team were also granted certificates for their participation in the program. The Troys are excellent young birders ranging from 7 to 20 years in age. Brothers Neal H. Troyer, Jerry H. Troyer, Harvey H. Troyer and cousin Melvin D. Troyer received the Peregrine Falcon certificate for seeing over 200 birds in Western Pennsylvania. Eli H. Troyer, age 7, brother of Neal, Jerry, and Harvey, received the Northern Harrier certificate for seeing between 150 and 200 birds. Congratulations!
From the Education Chair

Helen R. Ferguson

Audubon Adventures Teachers

If you teach Grades 4-6 and would like to receive "AUDUBON ADVENTURES" for your classroom during the 1998-99 school year, please send a request to Helen R. Ferguson, 100 Balboa Ct., Butler, PA 16001 including your name, school address, grade level and number of students. Audubon Adventures is a publication from the National Audubon Society with detailed information about animals and the environment. Each packet includes a Teacher's Manual, and posters for special events such as ones on Migratory Birds and Earth Day.

Ecology Workshop

The Field Ecology Workshop in Connecticut will be attended by Kimberly S. Wingard sponsored by the Bartramian Audubon Society and Kenneth J. Starz sponsored by Giant Eagle, Inc. Kimberly Wingard is on the Environmental Committee at Reynolds School District which is in the process of creating an Outdoor Classroom. She feels that she will receive new and innovative ideas to integrate into her classroom from the workshop. BAS is very happy to award this scholarship to her. Kenneth J. Starz, is a teacher in Portersville Elementary School. The Slippery Rock School district feels the workshop will help him make his students more aware of their surroundings and see the interrelationship between geography, climate and animal life. BAS is very happy to award the Giant Eagle Inc., Pittsburgh scholarship to him.

National Audubon Society
Bartramian Chapter
Membership Application

Please check membership rate below:
- $20.00 Introductory Rate for National Audubon Society (includes magazine and chapter newsletter)
- $15.00 Associate membership in Bartramian Chapter (includes newsletter)
- $5.00 Subscription to this newsletter

Name
Address
City State Zip

Send check payable to Bartramian Audubon Society
P.O. Box 315
Slippery Rock, PA 16057

Chapter information call 724-533-5291

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