Upcoming BAS Board Meeting

Mark Swansiger, president

September 21 - Monday - Meeting of the BAS Board at 7:30 p.m. at the United Methodist Church in Slippery Rock.

Upcoming BAS Membership Meetings

Anna Craig, program chair

September 14 - Monday - "Wetlands," the speaker will be Ed Perry of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

October 12 - Monday - "Owls and Martins!" the speaker will be Dr. Tom Serfass, Frostburg State University, Maryland.

Upcoming BAS Field Trips

Russ Stakes, field trip chair

September 19 - Saturday - Fall North American Migration Count- Similar to the spring count - Count the species and the numbers of each using the county lines as the boundaries. Hope you all can be out birding so our 4 county area of Butler, Lawrence, Mercer, and Venango is well represented by BAS members. More details and forms will be provided at the September membership meeting or contact Russ at 814-676-6320 for further instructions.

October 10 - Saturday - Autumn Walk at Penney Swamp - Meet at the Penney Parking lot off of No. 2 Mine Rd. at 8:30 am. Leader - Linda Wagner - 724-657-0867.

Notes of the Aug. 17th BAS Board Meeting

Sandee Swansiger

The Bartramian Audubon Society held its first board meeting of the 98-99 season on Monday, August 17th. The meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. Minutes from 5-11-98 were read and approved. Treasurer's report - Bob Love reported that income for the year exceeded expenses by about $400 with adequate monies remaining in bank accounts. Program Chair Anna Craig has all programs scheduled for the 1998-1999 season. Corresponding Secretary Pat Jones was introduced and given supplies with BAS logo. Education Chair Helen Ferguson reported that donations were received from First National Bank and Wal-Mart for Audubon Adventures. We are now sponsoring 114 classrooms! Names and addresses of Ecology Camp teachers were given to Anna Craig for a future program, possibly in December. Membership Chair was given 12 returned Upland Informer for address corrections. The database has been corrected and correlated with National Audubon Member list. New Membership Chair Linda Wagner given updated list. Currently we have 509 members. Newsletter Editor Suzanne Butcher reported that she now has a scanner which makes it easier to copy notes and insert pictures! She plans to purchase paper in bulk as last year. She hopes to have the next newsletter mailed before the September meeting. Nurturance Chair Ruth Crawford reported the Nurturance was successful. This year's CBC was tentatively set for December 19th. Sanctuary Chair Gene Wilhelm reported that he currently has three new requests for Wildlife Sanctuaries and two requests for Bird & Butterfly Sanctuaries. Vice-President Bob Walczak has also agreed to be Conservation Chair. Hospitality Chair Shirley McCarr requested hosts for September. Mark and Sandee Swansiger volunteered to do food and Suzanne Butcher will do tables. In October Shirley McCarr and Kate Brydon will handle the refreshments. Publicity Chair Dick Craig was given list of newspapers for publicity releases. Bluebird Nestbox Chair Mark Swansiger reported on instructing 5 classrooms at Cranberry School in setting up a trail with 25 boxes. Girl Scouts at Camp Elliot also received a brief seminar and information was sent to Jameson Health Place. About 200 new boxes were added this spring. He requested that anyone who sees a bluebird box please stop and ask owner regarding activity so it can be added to list. Mark will do a program in February at McKeever and will check on the boxes on SRU campus. OLD BUSINESS: Helen Ferguson spoke to the Butler County Youth Conservation- showing slides to 16 people, ages 14-17. Shirley McCarl gave a program at Grove City Manor over the summer. NEW BUSINESS: Gene Wilhelm moved that the initial fee for the Bird and Butterfly Sanctuaries be raised to $39 with renewal remaining at $15 each year. Seconded and passed with one no vote. Suzanne Butcher reported on a request from Deane Hoffman of Harrisburg, PA, who is looking for PA Bird Compilers for the fall NAMC to be held on Sept. 19. Any Volunteers? She also reported on concern over the funding status of WRCF as the money from license plates is diminishing (See inside). Please let Gov. Ridge know that we encourage his support in approving the use funds from the General Fund for the WRCF. Discussion followed on a proposed new BAS fund-raiser idea. Meeting adjourned at 9 p.m.

From the Education Chair

Helen R. Ferguson

Audubon Classrooms for the 1998-99 school year:

The Bartramian Audubon Society and its Audubon Adventure Corporate Sponsors- BiLo of Grove City, Wal-mart of Grove
City, First National Bank of Slippery Rock and the U.S. Generating Co.- are pleased to announce the following schools, teachers, and classrooms receiving the Audubon Adventures for the 1998-99 school year. This will be an exciting year with the teachers and students covering such topics as "Nature Goes to School" which asks such questions as what is a schoolyard habitat, the "Mississippi River and other Rivers of the U.S.", "Colonial Nesting Water Birds", and "Home Sweet Home" a program featuring a variety of wildlife homes. The classroom resource manual also contain information on setting up a classroom nature center, how to keep a nature journal, and many additional hands-on activities.

**BILo OF GROVE CITY AUDUBON ADVENTURES CLASSROOMS** at Barnes School in Grove City will include the shared classrooms of Marsha Phipps and Beverly Graham, Grades 3-6, and Vickie Franklin, Grade 6.

**WAL-MART OF GROVE CITY AUDUBON ADVENTURES CLASSROOMS** at Hillview Intermediate Center in Grove City will include the classrooms of Rose Phillips, Grade 5, Tom Hutcheson, Grade 5, Sharon Turner, Grade 5, Mrs. Dreves, Grade 5, Dorcen Fabiano, Grade 5, Mrs. Pechar Grade 5, Steve Snyder, Grade 5, and Mr. Pollock, Grade 5.

**FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF SLIPPERY ROCK AUDUBON ADVENTURES CLASSROOMS** include the classrooms from Slippery Rock Area SD Elementary School in Slippery Rock of Kim Crensy, Grade 4, Rod Nicholson, Grade 5, and Pat Gabcarski, Grades 4-5. **Slippery Rock Area Middle School** includes the classrooms of Linda Croll, Grade 6, Suzanne Fodor, Grade 6, Tim Leary, Grade 6, and Ken Starz, Grade 6. **Har-Mer Elementary** in Harrisville includes the classroom of Ron Cokain, Grade 4, and Tim Drennen, Grade 5. **Moraine Elementary Daniel** in Prospect includes the classrooms of Russell Auth, Grade 4, Russell Brown, Grade 4, Barbara Putorti, Grade 4, Daniel Zachin, Grade 4, Barbara Cavanaugh, Grade 5, Nancy LeViere, Grade 5, and Donna Glenn, Grade 5. First National Bank will also sponsor the following classrooms from the Meadville School District. From Dassa McKinney Elementary School in West Sunday, the 4th grade classrooms of Betty Myford, Cindy Thompson, Gary Kohlmeyer, Jason Shorr, and one additional classroom. From the 5th Grade, the classrooms of Ann Kohlmeyer, Judy Cramer, and Tom Morton. From the 6th Grade, the classrooms of Robert Snyder, Edward Rynd, and Mark Kosick. From Washington Elementary School in Parker, the 4th Grade classrooms of Debbie Banks, the 5th Grade classrooms of Jack Dietman, the 6th Grade classrooms of Chuck Muehlbronn, Jason Shorr, and Harry Cunningham.

**THE US GENERATING CO. AUDUBON ADVENTURES CLASSROOMS** include the 4th Grade classroom of Sue Sloss and Connie Luderbaugh, the 5th Grade classrooms of Scott Lynch and Kim Bresenhan, and the 6th Grade classrooms of Ginni Grafton, Terry Hoover, and Carol Porter of Central Elementary School in Franklin. The Sandy Creek Elementary School in Franklin includes the classrooms of Shawnie Novak, Grade 4, Char McMurdy, Grade 5 and Linda Linn, Grade 6.

**BARTRAMIAN AUDUBON ADVENTURES CLASSROOMS** comprise Broad Street Elementary in Butler with the classrooms of Karen Kreutzsky, Grade 4, Cindy Elmam, Grade 5, Marie Fair, Grade 5 and Jared Sturr, Grade 6. **Emily Brittain Elementary School** in Butler has the classrooms of Kathleen Rutkowski, Julie Dandoy with Shirley Fox, Grade 6. **Meridian Elementary School** in Butler includes the classroom of John McCool. **Oakland Twp. Elementary** in Butler has the classrooms of Charles Birch and Rebecca Martin, Grade 4, and Jill Fritch, Janet Enright, and Duss Schmir, Grade 5. **Connoquenessing Elementary School** in Renfrow includes the classrooms of Jodi Leech and Arthur McCormick, Grade 5, and Linda Gibala, Grade 6. **McQuiston Elementary School** has the classrooms of Tracy Ellis and Debbie Wilson, Grade 4. **St. Wendelin's School** in Butler includes the classroom of Debbie Barnhart, Grade 4. **Northwest Elementary School** of Butler includes the classroom of Judy Musgrove, Grade 4 and James Swidzinski Grade 5, and. **Summit Township, Elementary School** of Butler includes the classroom of David Herlinger, Grade 4 and James Huemmer, Grade 5. **Wilmington Area Middle School** of New Wilmington includes the classrooms of Marcia Curry and Michael Janovic, Grade 5, and Dwight Hoagland, Grade 6. **New Wilmington Elementary School** of New Wilmington has the classroom of Diane Stevenson, Grade 4. **Saint Michael's School** in Greenville has the classroom of Joan Duffy. **Saint Joseph's School** in Sharon includes the classrooms of Peggie Uzzlac, Grades 4,5,6. **Lakeview Middle School** in Stoneboro has the classrooms of Celia Taylor, Grade 5, and James Wilson, Grade 5. **Reynolds Elementary School** in Greenville includes the classroom of Tom Scott and Jane Trucie, Grade 4. **Mercer Elementary School** in Mercer has the classroom of Dave Tomson, Grade 4. **Riverside Middle School** in Ellwood City has the classroom of Ruth Roper, Grade 4. **St Paul's Catholic School** in Butler includes the classrooms of Elizabeth Spahn and Mary Cherry, Grade 4. **George Washington Intermediate School** in New Castle includes the classrooms of Rita Elesser, Grade 4, and Sandra Sager, Grade 6. **Shenango Elementary** in New Castle includes the classrooms of Jean Butera, Grade 4. **Laurel Elementary** in New Castle includes the classroom of Mrs. Paglia, Grade 6. **Karnes City Middle/High School** in Karns City has the 5 classrooms of Kurt Cribosie, Grade 6. **Mohawk Elementary School** in Besserer has the 3 classrooms of Harold Workman. A total of 114 classrooms will be sponsored this year at a cost of $3990.00

**WRFC Needs Our Help Now!**

The WRFC (Wild Resource Conservation Fund) was created in 1982 by the General Assembly and is the funding source for research and conservation for the thousands of species of native plants and non-game animals that make Pennsylvania such a biologically rich and diverse place. In its 16 years, the
WRCF has allocated almost 6 million dollars to more than 450 conservation projects from reintroduction of river otters, ospreys, and fishes to wide ranging surveys of poorly understood groups like aquatic insects, fungi, and freshwater mussels. The fund has also aided in the research and preservation of native plants, and sponsored educational programs and materials such as the beautiful and informative poster on butterflies of the state given to our Bird and Butterfly Sanctuary participants. The fund also supported the Pennsylvania Breeding Bird Atlas in the 1980’s and currently the Pennsylvania Herpetological Atlas. Most grants are relatively small, providing seed money to the largest number of projects possible each year. Allan Greg of the Pennsylvania Society of Ornithology notes that "the long term support of the WRCF is critical to the success of PSO's organizational goals and missions. Our Special Areas Project, for example, is extremely dependent on financial support from the WRCF. This ongoing project to inventory birds on our state's public lands puts volunteer bird watchers in the field at our state parks, state forests, game lands and Department of Conservation and Natural Resources natural areas. The data they generate from their field trips on these lands is providing the basis for new bird checklists for birding locations across the state. These checklists, in turn, benefit the business community through wildlife-oriented tourism. The data also have an important conservation application; for example, helping the managers of our public lands to know where threatened and endangered species are nesting on the lands they manage. It is safe to say that the Special Areas Project and other conservation-related projects in our state would either not exist or would be severely curtailed without the financial backing of the Wild Resource." Indeed, the Bartramian Audubon is participating in three of these Special Areas Projects the Glades State Game Land, Pennsy Swamp, and Moraine State Park. Up to now the WRCF has been funded solely by direct contributions, state income tax check-offs, and sales of saw-whet license plates. But both tax check-offs and license plate sales have declined sharply as other competing check-offs and plate designs were added. And now after years of erratic, financial support, the fund has less than $23,000 left and unless an attempt is made for secure future funding, this year will mark the first time in its 16 year history that the WRCF will be unable to fund any projects. Hope rests with an amended version of H.B. 2475 which would authorize the use of general fund money to support WRCF, something now prohibited. This bill is currently in the state senate appropriations committee and it must be amended to include a $600,000 appropriation for FY 1998-9 and moved out of committee for reconciliation with the House and a full vote. We need to let Governor Ridge and our state senators know that the WRCF enjoys wide support among all branches of Pennsylvania's conservation community. Please write a respectful letter, no more than a single page to Mr. Duncan Campbell, Director of Coalitions, The Governor's Office, PO Box 11667, Harrisburg, PA 17108 or to your state senator and tell them how you feel. Time is of the essence as we have only until September 28 when the General Assembly comes back in session! Thanks to all of you for your help!
Corporate Sponsors Receive BAS Thanks
On behalf of its many members and friends, the Bartramian Audubon would like to thank the following CORPORATE SPONSORS for their generous contributions in support of the chapter’s successful May 1998 NATURTHON- our major annual fund-raiser:

Advanced Ob-Gyn Associates, Inc.
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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)
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Name ________________________________
Address ________________________________ 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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Upland Informer

Volume 17 Issue 2 Official Newsletter of the Bartramian Audubon Society Oct 98

Editor: S. R. Butcher

Upcoming BAS Board Meeting
Mark Swansiger, president
October 19- Monday- Meeting of the BAS Board at 7:30 p.m. at the United Methodist Church in Slippery Rock.

Upcoming BAS Membership Meetings
Anna Craig, program chair
October 12- Monday- "Ooters and Martens", the speaker will be Dr. Tom Serfass, Frostburg State University, Maryland.
November 9- Monday- "Keystone State's Mammals, Past and Present" presented by Dr. Joseph Merritt.

Upcoming BAS Field Trips
Russ States, field trip chair
October 10- Saturday- Autumn Walk at Penney Swamp. Meet at the Penney Parking lot off of No. 2 Mine Rd. at 8:30 am. Leader- Linda Wagner - 724-657-0867.
November 21- Saturday- Trip to Pymatuning and Hartstown Swamp for ducks and other waterfowl.
December 19- Saturday- Butler County CBC
January 3- Sunday- Pleasantville CBC.

Notes of the September 14th BAS Membership Meeting
Sande Swansiger, Recording Secretary
The Bartramian Audubon Society held its first membership meeting of the season on Monday, September 14, 1998 at the Slippery Rock United Methodist Church. The meeting was opened at 7:35 p.m. by Vice-president Bob Walczak. He reviewed the notes from the President, Mark Swansiger. Minutes from May 11, 1998 were read and approved. Publicity Chair Dick Craig is submitting publicity to newspapers and radio. A suggestion was made to bring in the various papers to see the articles. Newsletter Chair Suzanne Butcher submitted a bill for printing, the paper supply for upcoming year, and postage. The Field Trip chair was absent but upcoming field trips scheduled are: Saturday, September 19- North American Migration Count and Saturday, October 10- autumn walk at Penney Swamp. Program Chair Ann Craig reviewed upcoming programs for the year. Ann then introduced Bonnie Crosby from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service who spoke on the topic of wetlands in Pennsylvania. New Business: Suzanne Butcher spoke briefly on the financial difficulties of the WRSCF funding and urged writing Governor Ridge and elected state congressmen with your concerns. She also reported that the extensive mudflats at Shenango Lake this year have led to excellent opportunities for viewing shorebirds. Bob Walczak reported that the Moraine Preservation Fund has already released 44 Barn Owls and will be releasing 12 more by the end of this year. There being no other business, meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m. Refreshments were provided by Sandee Swansiger.

Notes of the September 18th Board Meeting
Sande Swansiger, Recording Secretary
The board meeting of the Bartramian Audubon Society was held September 21, 1998 at the Slippery Rock United Methodist Church, Slippery Rock, PA. The meeting was opened by President Mark Swansiger at 7:40 p.m. Nine board members were present. Minutes from August 17, 1998 were read, corrected, and approved. The Vice President and Conservation Chair Bob Walczak reported that more written support of the Wild Resources Conservation Fund is needed. Also, the Interior Appropriations bill has riders attached impacting public lands and endangering wildlife. Postcards were sent out and all were urged to contact their Senators. A Clean Water Action Fund Workshop will be held on October 17. On Oct. 23-25, the fall retreat of the PA Audubon Council will be held at Canoe Creek. In March 1999, the PA Audubon Council is sponsoring a Nature tour of colonial Mexico. Contact Bob for details. Corresponding Secretary Pat Jones reported sending letters of thanks to Jennings and the 3 Rivers Environmental Awards Committee. She will send letters from BAS concerning the WRSCF, the Interior Appropriations bill and a thanks to Bonnie Crosby following last week's presentation. Treasurer Robert Love reported the current balance in checking is $1678. He also reported the Audubon dues split is now paid quarterly by direct deposit to the First National Bank of Slippery Rock. The Split this year is $459 every 3 months. He needs to pay for the P.O. Box and several outstanding bills. The Church was paid $150 last May. He was instructed to call on any members of board if he needs assistance.
A question was raised concerning drawing up the budget for the upcoming year. Discussion followed but no action was taken. The treasurer was instructed to bring unusual or expensive bills before board before reimbursing. Hospitality Chair Shirley McCarl reported the schedule for upcoming year is now filled: October- Kate Brydon, Shirley McCarl with Suzanne Butcher and Ruth Crawford to do tables; November - Pat Jones and Glenda to hostess. Sanctuary Chair Gene Wilhelm reported that 5 new properties are waiting for approval by the board and Education Chair Helen Ferguson reported that total number of classrooms receiving Audubon Adventures this year is 114. Any further inquiries will go on next year list. Gene will send publicity blurb. Field Trip Chair Russ States was absent, so Mark reviewed the upcoming fieldtrips. It was mentioned that the Tam-O-Shanter Golf Course in West Middleton, PA was contacted and they are happy to have fieldtrips sometime in late May/June at their facilities. Spring picnic plans still need to be made. Membership Chair Linda Wagner was absent. Sandee Swansiger will forward the new subscriptions to her. The need to designate a greeter for membership meetings was discussed. Membership dues for associate members, sanctuary members, and Upland Informers subscriptions are NOW DUE! Naturnorth Chair Ruth Crawford was thanked in absentia for work done last year. Seven contributors still need to be added to the Sponsors list in the Naturnorth Brochure. Gene will send their names to Suzanne. Program Chair Anna Craig will be absent for the program in October and the Swansigers will be the contact persons for Dr. Tom Serfass who will speak on Otters and Martens. The BAS Ecology Camp recipients will present the program in December. OLD BUSINESS: none. NEW BUSINESS: Sanctuaries: Three new Bird and Butterfly Sanctuaries- the Love and Franke property and the Don and Anne Oesterling property, both in Butler County, and the Bires Family property in Mercer County. New WILDLIFE SANCTUARIES are the Nicholas property in Butler County and the McKeever Environmental Learning Center in Mercer County. All five sanctuaries were approved by the BAS Board of Directors at its September 21 meeting. Congratulations to these new partners for helping the Bartramian Audubon Society carry out its special preservation mission.

**New BAS Sanctuaries**

...Gene Wilhelm, Sanctuary Chair

The most recent BIRD AND BUTTERFLY SANCTUARY additions are the Love and Franke property and the Don and Anne Oesterling property, both in Butler County, and the Bires Family property in Mercer County. New WILDLIFE SANCTUARIES are the Nicholas property in Butler County and the McKeever Environmental Learning Center in Mercer County. All five sanctuaries were approved by the BAS Board of Directors at its September 21 meeting. Congratulations to these new partners for helping the Bartramian Audubon Society carry out its special preservation mission.

**First Spring Birding Festival of Western Pennsylvania**

... Gene Wilhelm

The precipitous loss of wetland habitats across the United States is of national concern and has dramatically altered the way these valuable habitats are now used. Unfortunately, much of Pennsylvania's wetlands already have been altered and some are lost forever. Although representing only five percent of the Commonwealth's land area, its wetlands truly support one-third of the avian species breeding in the state. Many of these species are restricted entirely to these wetlands found in northwestern Pennsylvania and their rare avifauna. The goal of this birding festival is threefold: 1) to introduce both birders and naturalists to these restricted habitats in northwestern Pennsylvania and their rare avifauna; 2) to educate these interested parties to help preserve such endangered wetlands and their birds; and 3) to have fun birding and camaraderie in beautiful natural settings of western Pennsylvania.
Target birds include the following elusive, rare, threatened and even endangered breeding Pennsylvania species: Pied-billed Grebe, American Bittern, Least Bittern, Green Heron, Treen-winged Teal, Blue-winged Teal, American Wigeon, Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Northern Harrier, Sandhill Crane, King Rail, Virginia Rail, Sora, Common Moorhen, American Coot, Common Snipe, Black Tern, Alder Flycatcher, Willow Flycatcher, Sedge Wren, Marsh Wren, Warbling Vireo, Prothonotary Warbler and Swamp Sparrow.

The birding festival is intended to be an all day Saturday and Sunday morning OUTDOORS EVENT. Each registrant has the option of choosing either TWO FIELD TRIPS TO TWO DIFFERENT SITES ON SATURDAY (one in the morning, a second in the afternoon) OR taking the BIRDING 101 WORKSHOP which will visit ALL FIVE WETLANDS SITES Saturday and Sunday morning. The workshop starts on Friday evening and ends Sunday morning and is INTENDED MOSTLY for beginning and intermediate birders who want to learn wetland birds by using a six-key field identification system.

The birding festival is offering three cost packages: 1) FRIDAY EVENING THROUGH SATURDAY EVENING, including Friday evening indoor events, refreshments, night birding, overnight and Saturday breakfast, lunch, banquet dinner with keynote speaker, 1 morning and 1 afternoon wetlands (2 different tours), van transportation to/from wetlands with leader and driver service; 2) FRIDAY EVENING THROUGH SUNDAY MORNING including adding Saturday overnight and Sunday breakfast to #1 + McKeever birding on your own Sunday morning; and 3) FRIDAY EVENING THROUGH SUNDAY MORNING BIRDING (including everything in #2) for Workshop 101 participants. Note that all festival participants are requested to be present FRIDAY EVENING to get an important preview of wetlands and target birds and meet your leaders. Participants who register for the Birding 101 Workshop MUST REMAIN AS A GROUP FROM FRIDAY EVENING THROUGH SUNDAY MORNING and should register for package #3 only. ALL FIELD TRIPS AND THE WORKSHOP ARE STRICTLY LIMITED AS TO SPACES AND ARE FILLED ON A FIRST-REGISTERED, FIRST-SERVED BASIS ONLY. Prompt registration is encouraged. Questions: Call 724-376-7585 or fax 724-376-8235.

Individual Contributors to BAS Naturhon
Receive Thanks

Ruth Crawford, Naturhon Chair

We would like to thank the following individual sponsors of the 1998 BAS Naturhon. Inadvertently a few names were not listed in the first printing of the 1998 Naturhon Brochure and we want to be sure that ALL contributors to this years fund raiser receive our proper thanks and recognition. Thanks to these gracious individuals for their fine financial support--- Donna Atwell, Marcia Baker, Sharon Balint, Scott Basile, Betty Bauer, Helen Beck, (in memory of Marguerite Geibel), Roger Beck, Linda Bennett, Hope Bitter, Nancy Blewett, Donna & Dave Bloom, Linda Bortz, Kate Brydon, Bessie Burd, Suzanne & Gene Butcher (in support of the Troyer Birding Team), Lori Campbell, Jane Scott Cleary, Tony Consbruck, John & Katherine Conway, Ann Lucille Cooke, Betty Cooper, Nina & Tom Cooper, Lib Cotton, Courtney Cox, Ruth Crawford, Marian Curran, Bobbie & Bob Davis, Jane Davis, Barbara & Mike Detliefon, Marilyn & Bob Dispirito, Marab Drennen, Tim & Debbie Drennen, Les Dumtre, Shirley Dunn, Bob Eisler, Margaret Emery, Barbara Estelman, Helen R. Ferguson, Ron & Suzanne Fodor, Art Forbes, Vicki Franklin, Linda & Don Gibala, Judy Gimble, Joan Goodheart, Peg Graber, Soni Graff, Sandra Graham, Norma Grantham, Dennis Grosky, Pearl Grossman, Janet Heater, Dorothy Heim, Gerald Heller, Marlene Helm. Carol Herbert, Mary Hogg, Rich Hosack, Kathryn Houts, Roy Johnson, Marilyn Johnston, Pat Keelan, Mrs. Richard Kind, Jeanne Klinger, Deb Knapp, Nancy Knepper, Patty Kradel, Sonie Laughhead, Norma Laughner, Robert Love, Heidi Lucia Anne MacKinney, Jean MacKinney, Vivas Macoskes, Robert & Bereneice Madjaric, Sue Magee, Dave Magrish, The Martin Family, Stephanie Mattocks, Julie McCandlen, Joan McClelman, Kathleen McCool, Jim McDowell, Mary McElhatten, Janie McFarland, Mary Jane McGowan, Mary McKinnis, Sally McKissick, Pat Medina, Carla Mitchell, Tim Mitchell, Joyce & Paul Montag, Sue & Russ Morrow, Dave Mott, Ruth Mott, Dr. David Napor, Norma Neely, Don & Ann Oesterling, Jean Pagano, Samantha Pease, Linda Peters, Marsha Petrarca, Chuck & Carol Porter, Jaque Quast, Ruby Ralston, Bonnie Renick, Nancy Rodgers, Doris L. Rose, F. Duane Rose, Jeanne Schlicht, Mrs. Joseph Shanосьky, Becky Sheeler, Mike Sherman, Judy Shorrard, Brenda Slater, Richard and Betty Snow, Garnet Snyder, The Sounders Family (Terri, Megan, Andrea, John), Jack Squires, Russ Stutes, Stacey & Terry Steele, Ruth Steininger, Priscilla Stoughton, D. Stuyvansant, Ruth Sutton, Patti Tenerowicz, Genevieve Tvdik, Mark Uber, Linda Wagner (with thanks to the Swansigers), Barbara Wilk, Ruth Warheit, Lorraine Weiland, Gene and Joanne Wilhelm, Mary Williams, Chris & George Wilson, Jennie & Ashley Worley.

Shorebird Sightings at Shenango Lake

Suzanne Butcher

This undoubtedly has been the best opportunity in many years to see shorebirds in Western Pennsylvania at Shenango Lake. Almost daily postings on the PA Birds listserver have been made by Randy Stringer, Paul Hess and others of what they have been finding on the extensive mudflats now present. Shorebird sightings include- Black-bellied Plover, American Golden-Plover, Semipalmated Plover, Killdeer, Greater Yellowlegs, Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpiper, Spotted Sandpiper, Ruddy Turnstone, Sanderling, Semipalmated Sandpiper, Western Sandpiper, Least Sandpiper, White-rumped Sandpiper, Baird's Sandpiper, Pectoral Sandpiper, Stilt Sandpiper, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Short-billed Dowitcher, and Long-billed Dowitcher. Other birds in the area include Great Egret, Osprey, Merlin, and Peregrine Falcon. Even a Western Kingbird, quite rare for Western Pennsylvania, has been seen.
Membership Reminder

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 membership chair, Linda Wagner.

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, P.O. Box 315, Slippery Rock, PA 16057 with a self-addressed stamped envelope and one will be mailed to you.
Upland Informer

Volume 17 Issue 3 Official Newsletter of the Bartramian Audubon Society Nov 98

Editor- S. R. Butcher

Upcoming BAS Board Meeting

Mark Swansiger, president

November 16- Monday- Meeting of the BAS Board at 7:30 p.m. at the United Methodist Church in Slippery Rock.

Upcoming BAS Membership Meetings

Anna Craig, program chair

Membership meetings are held the 2nd Monday of the month at Slippery Rock United Methodist Church at 7:30 p.m. - refreshments served.

November 9- Monday- "Keystone State's Mammals, Past and Present" presented by Dr. Joseph Merritt.


Upcoming BAS Field Trips

Russ States, field trip chair

November 22- Sunday- Trip to "Pymatuning and Hartstown Swamp". This field trip will be a search for waterfowl migrants in the Pymatuning/Hartstown area of Crawford County. If you have never spent time in this area you may want to come along on this trip as it is worth exploring. We will start out at Hartstown and search for waterfowl. There will be some walking, but it will be easy walking along an old railroad bed (i.e. flat). Then we will head up to the Pymatuning area and search the area near the fish hatchery and Miller Ponds and if time permits continue to other areas of the lake. Possible birds include: Bald Eagle, many Canada Geese, many ducks, possibly Rough-legged Hawks, Tundra Swans, maybe a late shorebird or two, and hopefully some early winter migrants. MEETING TIME AND PLACE: Meet at the parking lot next to the BP station at the intersection of I-79 & Rt. 208 at 8:30AM. The parking lot is on the northeast corner of this intersection. Please be on time, so we can get started. Any questions please contact Russ States, 814-676-6320 (talk to machine - I never answer the phone).

December 19- Saturday- Butler County CBC- see inside for details

January 3- Sunday- Pleasantville CBC- see inside for details

February 6- Saturday- "Venango County Birds"- Assuming decent weather and passable roads, we will trek off to the the great white (?) north of BAS's four county area. With winter in full swing we will target any northern migrants that show up this winter. Possibilities include: Common Raven, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Common Redpoll, Pine Siskin, Cross-bills (I know it's a long shot), Evening Grosbeak, Rough-legged Hawk, Northern Goshawk, Saw-whet Owl, etc. We will just have to see what this winter brings. MEETING TIME AND PLACE: Meet at the McDonald's in Franklin at 9:00AM. McDonald's is on 13th Street. As you come into Franklin on route 8, you come down a steep hill. At the bottom traffic turns right. After you turn right go to the 2nd light and turn left. Go two blocks and McDonalds is on the right. Please be on time. Questions contact Russ States 814-676-6320 (again talk to machine).

Notes of the October Membership Meeting

Sandee Swansiger, Recording Secretary

The Bartramian Audubon Society held it's October membership meeting on Monday October 12, 1998. Fieldtrip Chair Russ States led the meeting and reviewed committee reports. Minutes from September 14 were read and corrected. Treasurer Robert Love reported receiving several Bird and Butterfly Sanctuary checks, balance now ~$1800. Sandee Swansiger welcomed guests and members. Newsletter chair Suzanne Butcher thanked all who wrote the governor and state legislatures concerning the WRCF. The upcoming fieldtrips were reviewed by Russ States. It was noted that the chili supper after the Butler CBC would be at the United Methodist Church. A brief report of the October 10 fieldtrip given. Publicity Chair Dick Craig received several newspapers with BAS publicity blurbs, so information is getting published. Education Chair Helen Ferguson reported that 114 classrooms have received Audubon Adventures. She will bring in a packet for people to see. Hospitality Chair Shirley McCari thanked Kate Brydon for assisting her with the night's refreshments and reminded Pat Jones and Glenda Kemm that they have November. Then, the featured speaker Dr. Tom Serfass of Frostburg State University, Maryland, showed a slide presentation and spoke concerning otter reintroduction in PA. Dr. Serfass reminded us that otters were once plentiful in PA along with many other carnivores such as Fishers, Martens, Cougars and Wolves. With the settling of the area, trapping for the fur market and acid mine drainage due to extensive mining, the spe-
cies declined and eventually only a small portion of range remained in the Poconos in the northwest corner of the state. Otters are very intelligent, dexterous, small carnivores weighing 12-20 pounds and feeding mainly on fish and aquatic life along streams. In order to successfully reintroduce the animals, studies were done concerning diet and habitat requirements and public relations campaigns were utilized to inform people of the results. Otters eat fish, but their primary fish is sunfish, followed by suckers and crayfish. They do eat trout when they can get it but they were found to have NO impact on trout streams as the otters prefer to take the easiest supper, leaving trout to the fishermen! They have been successfully reintroduced into several large streams and since 1982 have been breeding and extending their territories. We enjoyed and appreciated the information, slides and stories shared by Dr. Serfass and wish him continued success in his reintroduction efforts.

Notes of the October Board Meeting

...Sandee Swansiger, Recording Secretary

The Bartramian Audubon Society Board met on Monday, October 19, 1998, but due to a tragic accident and resultant power failure to the Methodist Church, board members went to Highland Presbyterian Church who graciously allowed us to use their facility. The meeting called to order by President Mark Swansiger at 8 p.m. The minutes from September 21 were read and approved. Committee reports: Corresponding Secretary Pat Jones reported sending a thank you to Bonnie Crosby and a letter to Congress. She will send a thank you to the Highland Presbyterian Church. Membership Chair Linda Wagner was given correspondence from National, a renewal subscription and is continuing to update and correct membership list. Publicity Chair Dick Craig was absent but Anna Craig reported that the publicity information for the November meeting is ready. Hospitality Chair Shirley McCarl reported that at the November meeting Pat Jones and Glenda Kemm will be the hostsess and December is potluck. A motion was made to purchase a new coffee maker for use at the meetings. This was seconded and passed. Shirley will purchase one. Naturalist Chair Ruth Crawford had no report but discussed plans for the December 19th CBC. The post count chili supper will be at the Methodist Church. Flyers are being sent to last year's participants. The contributors to the meal can bring the same item as last year. Shirley will be the contact person for the supper. Nestbox Chair Mark Swansiger will contact Jerry Stanley concerning wood for nestboxes. Sanctuary Chair Gene Wilhelm reported that Bruce Hazen will make sanctuary signs, but requested no more than 5 this year with cutoff date of December 31st. He also reported that the Nichols property was signed into Sanctuary status. McKeever is waiting to coordinate their signing with the President of SRU. Dean Kildoo will make Bird and Butterfly signs but requested someone else to paint and stencil them. Newsletter Chair Suzanne Butcher reported that she will get an issue out in November. Conservation Chair Bob Walczak had no report. Education Chair Helen Ferguson will check to see if teachers have received Audubon Adventures packets and will attempt to get two packets for BAS to see. Fieldtrip Chair Russ States reported on the upcoming field trips. OLD BUSINESS: Gene Wilhelm reported on the Spring Birding Festival at McKeever. Fieldtrip leaders will be Shirley McCarl, Mark and Sandee Swansiger, Russ States and Randy Stringer. McKeever continues to work with the University regarding financial matters. Question regarding slide projector- we have incorrect carousel. Mark to check with Marci Mowrey as she had last slide program. Question as to purchase of bird slides from Cornell. Members giving programs have purchased their own. Question as to lapsed BAS sanctuary membership. To check into status with National, and then to draft a letter to member inquiring as to intent. Motion to table pending further information seconded and approved. NEW BUSINESS Russ States reports on new group MAGIC- Mid-Atlantic Grasslands Initiative Corporation which is a non profit concern focusing attention on grasslands, trying to study them and preserve them. ANNOUNCEMENTS: The League of Conservation Voters has a publication with the track record of all elected officials in regards to environmental matters. National Audubon working on wildlife and forestry. Nature Conservancy new program- Wings of the Americas. BAS has opportunity to get online with it's own webpage. Motion made to adjourn at 9:15 p.m. seconded and approved.

Christmas Bird Counts

...from http://birdsource.cornell.edu/cbc/

From humble beginnings nearly a century ago as a protest to the excessive slaughter of birds, the National Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count has become the world's largest all-volunteer bird survey. More than 45,000 people participate each year in this all-day census of early-winter bird populations. The results of their efforts are compiled into the longest running database in ornithology, representing close to one hundred years of unbroken data on trends of early-winter bird populations across the Americas. Simply put, the Christmas Bird Count, or "CBC", is citizen science in action. Up until the turn of the century, people commonly engaged in a holiday tradition known as the Christmas "Side Hunt": They would choose sides and go afield with their guns; whoever brought in the biggest pile of feathered quarry won. Conservation was in its beginning stages at the turn of the century, and many observers were becoming concerned about the indiscriminate slaughter of wildlife, and concurrent declines in bird populations. On Christmas Day 1900, ornithologist Frank Chapman, an early officer in the then budding Audubon Society, called for an end to the slaughter. He suggested that, rather than shooting birds, people count them instead. So began the Christmas Bird Count. Thanks to the inspiration of Frank M. Chapman and the perspiration of twenty-seven dedicated birders, twenty-five Christmas Bird Counts were held that day. The locations ranged from Toronto, Ontario to Pacific Grove, California with most counts in or near the population centers of northeastern North America. Those original 27 Christmas Bird Counters tallied a total of 90 species on all the counts combined. Today there are more than 2000 CBCs held in every state and Canadian Province, and in many Latin
American countries. The CBC, like the conservation movement it heralded, has truly come of age!

The data from 98 years (and counting) of Christmas Bird Counts yield valuable insights into the shifting patterns, distributions, and population trends of bird species during the count period, which is from mid-December to early January. This period is referred to as "early winter," because many birds at this time are still in the late stages of their southward migration, so it is not "true" winter. When we combine these data with other surveys such as the Breeding Bird Survey and Project FeederWatch – as we are doing with BirdSource – we begin to see a clearer picture of how American bird populations have changed in time and space over the past hundred years. The information is also vital for conservation. For example, local trends in bird populations can indicate habitat fragmentation or signal an immediate environmental threat.

Volunteers are the heart and soul of the CBC. From birders to birders to field observers to count compilers and regional editors, everyone who takes part in the Christmas Bird Count does it for love of birds and the excitement of friendly competition – and with the knowledge that their efforts are making a difference for science and bird conservation. As long as there are birds to be counted, the Christmas Bird Count will go on being the most popular, fun, and rewarding bird census the world over!

The Butler County CBC will be held on Saturday December 9th. The center of the 15 mile diameter of the count circle is located approximately 1.5 miles east of the junction of Lindsey Road and Rt. 528. Lake Arthur, Moraine State Park, McConnell's Mills, Wolf Creek Narrows and the campus of Slippery Rock University are within the circle. If you are interested in participating, either by being a feeder watcher or field observer, contact Ruth Crawford at 724-794-5688 or Suzanne Butcher at 330-759-1945 as soon as possible so count assignments can be made. The after count traditional chili supper for all participants will be held at the United Methodist Church in Slippery Rock at 6pm.

The Pleasantville CBC will be held on Sunday January 3, 1999 from dusk to dark (or earlier or later if you are so inclined). The circle for this count encompasses the area approximately from Titusville in the northwest to Pleasantville to Tionesta in the northeast south to President east to Oleopolis and Rouseville and then north along the western edge of Oil Creek State Park. The count is centered on the historic ghost town of Pithole. Please feel welcome to participate in this count. Assignments can be made for an easy to get to area if you are unfamiliar with this count. Also needed are feeder watchers who live in the area. If you are unsure if you are in the count circle and would like to help, please contact Russ. This is a more northern count than the Butler count, so expect some more northern species. If you are interested in helping, please contact: Russ States 814-676-6320 (please talk to the machine).

Troyers find Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow

Suzanne Butcher

The Troyer Birding Team identified a Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow on October 10th near Mercer. The bird was identified by brothers Jerry and Harvey and was later seen by brothers Eli and Neal, and cousin Melvin. The Sharp-tailed Sparrow complex was recently split into the Nelson's Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Ammodramus nelsoni, (with sub species subviridus, alterus, and nelsoni,) nesting from Maine and Nova Scotia west to Alberta, and the Saltmarsh Sharp-tailed Sparrow, Ammodramus caudacutus, (with sub species caudacutus and diversus), nesting on the Atlantic coast from Maine southward to North Carolina. Of the thirteen specimens in the Carnegie Museum taken at Presque Isle in September and October of 1900, 8 are nelsoni and 5 are altera. One collected at Powdermill Nature Reserve in 1972 was recently reclassified by Kenneth C. Parkes as caudacutus. Although most Sharp-tailed Sparrows in Western Pennsylvania would probably be Nelson's, because of this later bird, the Salt Marsh Sharp-tailed can not be totally excluded. The Mercer bird showed the field identification markings of the Nelson's. This appears to be the first county record and one of only a few sightings for Northwestern Pennsylvania. It is considered a rare migrant at Presque Isle with records present in six of the ten years between 1974 and 1985. See Birding, Vol. XXVII: No 3, June 1996, and PA Birds, Vol. 6: No 1, 1992 for more information regarding this rare migrant in Pennsylvania.

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.
Membership Reminder

......Linda Wagner, 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 membership chair, Linda Wagner.

The Upland Informer is the official newsletter of the Bartramian Audubon Society (a chapter of National Audubon Society) and is published six 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.

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
Upcoming BAS Board Meeting

Mark Swansiger, president

March 15- Monday- Meeting of the BAS Board at 7:30 p.m.
at the United Methodist Church in Slippery Rock.

Upcoming BAS Membership Meetings

Anna Craig, program chair

Membership meetings are held the 2nd Monday of the month at Slippery Rock United Methodist Church at 7:30 p.m. - Refreshments served.

March 8- Monday- Chuck Brunson of the Pennsylvania Game Commission will present a slide program on "Elk in Pennsylvania".

April 12- Monday- Fran Willaims will present "Wildflowers in Western PA"

May 10- Monday- Annual Awards Night

Upcoming BAS Field Trips

Russ States, field trip chair

March- Nest Box Placement- details provided by Mark Swansiger, 724-533-5291

March 20- Saturday- Spring Duck Migration at Moraine State Park. Participants will meet at the south shore parking lot of the Park Headquarters off Rt. 422 at 8:00 am. From here the group will proceed to areas of the lake that have an easy access to the road and view what we hope will be a myriad of ducks and other waterbirds.

April 17- Saturday- Sanctuary visit- we plan to visit one of the BAS wildlife sanctuaries- details to follow.

May 8- Saturday- Naturthon - Annual fund raiser for our chapter- details in the next newsletter, chairperson- Ruth Crawford.

May 8- Saturday-North American Migration Count- this can be done in conjunction with the Naturthon, more details in the next newsletter.

May 21-23- Friday-Sunday- First Spring Birding Festival of Western Pennsylvania "Preserving Pennsylvania's Wetlands and it's Bird Life" Sponsored by The McKeever Environmental Learning Center and the Bartramian Audubon Society.

Send in your non-refundable fee of $15.00 to reserve your place on field trips. Registrations are recommended prior to May 7, 1999. There will be a $30.00 registration fee for walk in registrants.

Marsh Wren Package (Friday - Saturday)

includes one night lodging, breakfast, lunch, banquet, evening social, Friday evening program and two field trips. $95.00

Blue-winged Teal Package (Friday - Sunday)

Includes two nights lodging, all meals, banquet, evening social, Friday evening program and two field trips. $120.00

Swamp Sparrow Package/Birding 101(Friday-Saturday)

includes two nights lodging, all meals, banquet, evening social, Friday evening program and visits to all 5 field trip sites. $185.00

Questions: Call McKeever Environmental Learning Center, 55 McKeever Lane, Sandy Lake, PA 16145, 724-376-7585

Notes of the November Membership Meeting

Sandee Swansiger, Recording Secretary

The meeting opened at 7:40 p.m. Minutes from previous meeting read and approved. Hospitality Chair, Shirley McCarl reviewed the schedule of upcoming hostesses. She also mentioned that Esther Allen will be speaking on Wildflowers at Mercer Extension Office. Fieldtrip Chair Russ States reported on the upcoming fieldtrips. Corresponding Secretary Pat Jones reported that thank-yous were sent to Bonnie Cosby and Highland Presbyterian Church. Sanctuary Chair Gene Wilhelm reported gaining 3 Bird & Butterfly Sanctuaries and 2 Wildlife Sanctuaries. Treasurer Robert Love reported that National Audubon is now sending dues splits quarterly. Checks totaling $535 break down to $133.75/month. The current checking balance is $2130. Newsletter Editor Suzanne Butcher reported that the next newsletter would be distributed after the first of the year. Anyone wishing to participate in CBCs should contact Suzanne, Ruth or Russ States. More information will be available at the December meeting. Program Chair Ann Craig introduced Dr. Joseph Merritt who showed slides and spoke on Pennsylvania mammals. Dr. Merritt is Director of the Carnegie Biostation which also is known as Powderrmill. Intense research is conducted here on 300 acres. In 38 years over 500,000 birds have been banded in order to
study migration. Dr. Merritt’s special interest is mammalian adaptation to cold. In the Eastern part of the United States, 63 species of mammals are commonly found and 10 additional species are considered rare or occasional. Pennsylvania has been home at one time to most of these rare species with the list of onetime residents including Bison, Elk, Gray Wolf, Wolverine, Moose, Lynx, Badger, Fisher, River Otter and, Cougar. These species are currently in the process of being reintroduced. Most of the others were extirpated in the late 1800’s and early 1900’s due to competition from man and his impact on the environment. The last native White-tailed Deer was killed in the 1800’s but it’s reintroduction has been a tremendous success story... Currently, some of the endangered mammals in PA are the Indiana Bat, Wood Rat and Bobcat. Common mammals are Snowshoe Hare, Cottontail Rabbit, Opossum, Ermine, Long and Short-tailed Weasel, Least Weasel, Groundhog, Skunk, Star-nosed Mole, Short-tailed Shrew (this mammal has a poisonous bite!), Woodland and Meadow Jumping Mice, Black Bear, Chipmunk, White-footed Deer Mouse, Northern and Southern Flying Squirrels, Fox and Gray Squirrels, Porcupine, Beaver and many more. The slides and information that Dr. Merritt shared were enjoyed by all.

Notes of the December Membership Meeting

Sandeep Swansiger, Recording Secretary
The meeting opened at 7:40 p.m. with 26 members and guests attending. Minutes from November 16, 1998 were read and approved. Brief chair reports followed. Program Chair Russ States reported on the trip to Pymatuning and reminded everyone of upcoming CBCs: Butler on Dec. 19, and Pleasantville on Jan. 3, 1999. Hospitality Chair Shirley McCarr thanked Pat Jones and Glenda Kemm for tonight’s refreshments. March hostesses are Joanne and Helen Ferguson, April is Anna and Dick Craig, May is planned potluck. Sanctuary Chair Gene Wilhem reported that our 14th Wildlife Sanctuary has been created - the Slippery Rock University/ McKeever Wildlife Sanctuary. Treasurer Robert Love reported that checks have been received from Slippery Rock University and Sanctuary Renewals and about $2000 is in the checking account. Several requests for BAS patches and bluebird boxes have been turned over to appropriate chairs. Christmas Bird Count Chair Ruth Crawford reported that packets are ready, please pick them up if you are a participant! The post count chili dinner will be held at the church at 6 p.m. Members and guests were welcomed and introduced. Ecology Camp Teachers Ken Starz and Kimberly Wingard were introduced and then spoke on their camping experiences, presenting an interesting and entertaining program. Both agreed that the food was phenomenal, even better than a cruise ship. Kimberly told us that there were enough stone walls in Connecticut to circle the globe at the equator. She also gave us a recipe for making homemade paper and gave us a hands on demonstration. Ken said he enjoyed his trip and was amazed by the volume of material covered and made available and by the terrific teachers. Seems the students (teachers remember) in one ‘class’ were having difficulty listening to the instructor as there was an albino junco outside the window. In order to concentrate on what the instructor was saying, the class had to have the blinds drawn! Both enjoyed their trip and would recommend it to any interested teacher. The meeting concluded at 9:30pm. All then adjourned for refreshments and fellowship.

Recipe for making paper: You need a square section of fine window screening taped at edges to make stiffer and prevent scratches. You need a plastic flat-bottomed container to place paper pulp into. Using a blender, blend 3-4 pieces of discarded paper such as construction paper, newspaper, wrapping paper, tissue etc. and enough water to form a soupy pulp. Pour into the plastic container, ‘dip’ screening into water mixture and ‘strain’ out paper. The thickness of the paper will be controlled by the amount of pulp placed on screening. Then, squeeze water out by pressing carefully with a towel. Now flip over onto an iron safe surface, I from screening and iron with hot, dry iron until semi-dried. Finish paper by allowing to air dry. Dried, crushed flowers can be added for color, texture and scent. Experiment! It really works.

The 99th National Audubon Society CBC

The 99th National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count was conducted between December 18, 1998 – January 3, 1999. The BAS participated in two of the individual counts. This is the 33-year for the Pleasantville Count which was held on January 3rd. The Butler County Count, which actually includes parts of Lawrence and Mercer counties, was first begun in 1966 and since the early 1980’s has been under the auspices of the BAS Society. Now that all the CBC data is readily available at Cornell’s Birdsource web site, we can go back and compare those early results to the ones we are now tallying. Next year marks the 100th National count and special events are already being planned. While we wish to thank all those who participated this year, we are also encouraging everyone to consider participating in the centennial count next year.

PLEASANTVILLE CBC, SUNDAY JANUARY 3, 1999
Russ States, compiler

Due to the ice storm that moved through the area on Saturday, many participants cancelled because of the weather. That left us with five (5) field participants in two parties and four (4) feeder watchers.

Weather cloudy, temp. 15°F to 30°F, though it was warmer in the am and got colder as the day progressed. Ice and snow cover 3" to 6". Count ran from 8am to 4:30pm.
Total miles - 94, total hours - 14.5, Car miles - 90, car hours - 10.5, Foot miles - 4, foot hours - 4.0

SPECIES AND NUMBERS:
Pied-billed Grebe 1, Canada Goose 156, American Black Duck 24, Mallard 37, Gadwall 4, Am. Widgeon 1, Hooded Merganser 3, Common Merganser 28, Bald Eagle 2, Red-tailed Hawk 7, Ring-necked Pheasant 1, Wild Turkey 19, Killdeer 2, Herring Gull 2, Rock Dove 2, Mourning Dove 15, Belted Kingfisher 1, Red-billed Woodpecker 5, Downy Woodpecker 19, Hairy Woodpecker 5, Northern (YS) Flicker 1, Pileated Woodpecker 3, Blue Jay 61, Am. Crow 71, Common Raven 2, Black-capped Chickadee 103, Tufted
Titmouse 22, White-breasted Nuthatch 36, Carolina Wren 2,
House Wren 1, Golden-crowned Kinglet 7, American Robin
8, Cedar Waxwing 15, European Starling 4, Northern Cardi
nal 21, American Tree Sparrow 85, Field Sparrow 1, Song
Sparrow 3, White-throated Sparrow - , Dark-eyed (SC) Junco
392, Purple Finch 4, House Finch 8, American Goldfinch 33,
House Sparrow 57.
House Wren second for count. Gadwall
third time on count.

BUTLER COUNTY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT
Suzanne Butcher, Ruth Crawford compilers
The December 1998 Butler County CBC, a part of the Na
tional Audubon Society's 99th CBC was held December 19,
1998 from 7am to 5pm. The temperature ranged from 41
early in the morning to 38° F later in the day. Winds out of
the S-SW were between 0-10 mph. The snow cover was patchy
ranging between ½-1 inch. Snow cover was at about 95-100%
open, while moving water was totally open. It was cloudy for
most of the morning but ligh light rain and drizzle beginning
in the early afternoon.
Observers: 36 in 13 field parties; plus 13 at feeders; 39 hours
at feeders; 9.5 hours and 35.5 miles owl.
31.75 hours and 29.5 miles on foot; 55.25 hours and 484
miles by car.
TOTAL PARTY HOURS: 87; PARTY MILES: 513.5

The count this year produced many new highs. The speci
cies count of 89, the total individual count of 12,745, and
the total number of observers were all new highs. Highs were also
reached in 22 individual species. In addition, five new species
were added to the composite list dating back to 1984—Green
winged Teal found by Dick Byers and his group near McCon
nels Mills, a Merlin and the infamous Black-headed Gull seen
by Gene Wilhelm, Dick Craig, and Clarke Trauterman at Lake
Arthur; a Gray Catbird heard by Ruth Crawford on the Ralston
properties, and a Common Yellowthroat discovered by Barb
and George Dean and Candy Gonzales in Lawrence County.
Of these, the Black-headed Gull, first discovered at Lake Ar
thur on December 5th, was certainly the most noteworthy and
we were fortunate it remained to be included in the count.
Dave Darney and Debbie were able to find the Northern
Shrike that had also been lingering at this location. Both the
existence of warm weather and the high number of CBC
observers were contributing factors in reaching these all time
highs.
Following a very successful day in the field and at the feeders,
many of the participants joined in sharing their day at the an
nual post-count chili supper held at the United Methodist
Church. Our thanks go to Shirley McCarel and her team who
organized the good food.

OBERVERS: Harriet Bauer, Kate Brydon, Suzanne
Butcher, Ken Byerly, Dick Byers, Susan Cegalika, Teddy Ceg
elika, Carole Chapman, Dick Craig, Ruth Crawford, Dave
Darney, Bobbie Davis, Barb Dean, George Dean, Kimberly
Donovan, Noah Donovan, Ele Egli, Helen R. Ferguson,
Candy Gonzalez, Kathy Goodblood, Bruce Hazen, Hope
King, Marjorie Kirk, Robert Love, Shirley McCarel, Jim
McDowell, Ann Oesterling, Don Oesterling, Mary Oesterling.
Vic Oesterling, Tom Pearson, Jim Pemberton, Jerry Stanley,
Russ States, Priscilla Stoughton, Sandy Shuffstall, Terry
Steere, Mark Swansiger, Sandee Swansiger, Clark Traut
erman, Linda Wagner, Gene Wilhelm, Joanne Wilhelm, Ed
ward Wilver, Joan Wilver, Cassie Yeager, Debbie Yeager,
Jessica Yeager, Debbie Yovanovich

BIRDS: Common Loon 3, Pied-billed Grebe 3, Horned
Grebe 11, Double-crested Cormorant 1, Great Blue Heron 5,
Canada Goose 410, Green-winged Teal 2, American Black
Duck 55, Mallard 461, Northern Pintail 2, Northern Shoveler
12, Gadwall 21, American Widgeon 8, Canvasback 18, Ring
necked Duck 52, Lesser Scaup 10, Bufflehead 79, Hooded
Merganser 30, Ruddy Duck 101, Bald Eagle 1 (adult), Nor
thern Harrier 4, Sharp-shinned Hawk 4, Cooper's Hawk 8,
Red-shouldered Hawk 1, Red-tailed Hawk 27, Merlin 1,
American Kestrel 21, Ring-necked Pheasant 1, Ruffed
Grouse 1, Wild Turkey 135, American Coot 999, Killdeer 6,
Common Snipe 7, American Woodcock 1, Black-headed
Gull 1, Bonaparte's Gull 19, Ring-billed Gull 348, Herring
Gull 1, Rock Dove 657, Mourning Dove 528, Eastern Screech
Owl 5, Great Horned Owl 6, Barred Owl 1, Belted Kingfisher
18, Red-bellied Woodpecker 34, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 1,
Downy Woodpecker 87, Hairy Woodpecker 27, Northern
Flicker 6, Pileated Woodpecker 6, Horned Lark 363, Blue
Jay 180, American Crow 682, Black-capped Chickadee 485,
Tufted Titmouse 141, Red-breasted Nuthatch 2, White
breasted Nuthatch 106, Brown Creeper 9, Carolina Wren 15,
Winter Wren 1, Golden-crowned Kinglet 86, Ruby-crowned
Kinglet 1, Eastern Bluebird 55, American Robin 1664, Gray
Catbird 1, Northern Mockingbird 3, American Pipit 2, Cedar
Waxwing 95, Northern Shrike 1, European Starling 1550,
Yellow-rumped Warbler 1, Common Yellowthroat 1, Nor
thern Cardinal 206, Eastern Towhee 1, American Tree Sparrow
300, Chipping Sparrow 1, Song Sparrow 31, Swamp Sparrow
4, White-throated Sparrow 38, White-crowned Sparrow 2,
Dark-eyed Junco 799, Red-winged Blackbird 44, Common
Grackle 12, Brown-headed Cowbird 25, Purple Finch 5,
House Finch 134, American Goldfinch 105, Evening Gros
beak 50, House Sparrow 385 -Brown Thrasher Count Week
(Bold type- new for list since 1984; underlined, new species
high)
TOTAL SPECIES 89. TOTAL INDIVIDUALS 12,745

Notes from the Membership:
Shirley McCarel and Rosie Noll recently presented a program
on birds and butterflies at Grove City Manor.
Linda Wagner recently presented the program titled "Fast
Food for Flyers" on bird feeding to the New Castle and New
Wilmington Garden Clubs.

The BAS wishes to thank Mrs. Kathryn Houts for her dona
tion of bird recordings presented to the society in memory of
her late husband, Dr. Earl Houts.
Membership Reminder

...Linda Wagner, Membership Chair

We welcome the many of you who have recently joined Bartramian Audubon Society. As a reminder, we delete member’s 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 the membership chair, Linda Wagner.

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Upcoming BAS Board Meeting

Mark Swansiger, president

April 19- Monday- Meeting of the BAS Board at 7:30 p.m. at the United Methodist Church in Slippery Rock.

Upcoming BAS Membership Meetings

Anna Craig, program chair

Membership meetings are held the 2nd Monday of the month at Slippery Rock United Methodist Church at 7:30 p.m. - Refreshments served.

April 12- Monday- Fran Williams will present “Wildflowers in Western PA”

May 10- Monday- Annual Awards Night- awards will be presented by BAS in three categories, Individual, Organizational, and Business based on their contributions in promoting the mission of the society.

June- Annual picnic - Place and time to be announced in May.

Upcoming BAS Field Trips

Russ States, field trip chair

April 17- Saturday- Sanctuary visit- We will be visiting the Wildlife Sanctuary of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Squires. We will meet at the property, which is located on the north side of the road about three miles west of Slippery Rock on Rt. 108. Look for the Sanctuary sign. We will meet at 9am and visit the property until 11:30am. Call Gene Wilhelm 724-794-3433 if you have any questions.

April 24- Saturday- Wolf Creek Narrows/ Miller Tract

Our annual spring walk for birds and wildflowers. Early migrants and spring arrivals will include the Blue Gray Gnatcatcher, Yellow-throated Warbler, and Louisiana Waterthrush. Meet at 9 a.m. Leaders Bob Love and Priscilla Stoughton.

May 8- Saturday- Naturthron- Annual fund raiser for our chapter - details inside the newsletter, chairperson- Ruth Crawford, 724-794-5688.

Notes of the March Membership Meeting

Sandee Swansiger, Recording Secretary

The Bartramian Audubon Society met Mon. March 8, 1999 at Slippery Rock United Methodist Church. The meeting was opened at 7:40 p.m. by President Mark Swansiger. Minutes from the previous meeting, Dec. 1998 were approved as read. Education Chair Helen Ferguson reported that applications for Ecology Camp will be in next Upland Informer. Fieldtrip Chair Russ States reported that March 20 will be the Spring Migration Fieldtrip at Moraine State Park; April 17, the Visit to the Squire’s Sanctuary. This is located on Rt. 108 W of Slippery Rock. Meet at 9 a.m. at property, marked by Sanctuary sign. April 24, Wolf Creek Narrows; May 8, Naturthron and NAMC; 21-23 Spring Birding Festival at McKeever. Sanctuary Chair Gene Wilhelm reported that we have 10-12 new sanctuaries and signs will be presented on Awards Night. Hospitality Chair Shirley McCullough thanked Joann and Gene Wilhelm and Helen Ferguson for their night’s refreshments and reminded us that April hosts were Dick and Anna Craig. May
to be assigned potluck. Treasurer Robert Love reported that current dues split is $479.00, four times/year. Current checking balance: $1928. Program Chair Anna Craig introduced Officer Chip Brunst who gave a presentation on the elk of PA. Officer Brunst started off by answering some questions about coyotes as one was sighted walking across a lawn in Slippery Rock! They are not known to be vicious attackers and are quite bashful but have adapted to life around humans very successfully. He also informed us that the Eagle pair in Butler Co. has been busy. Last year their nest tree was blown over and all eaglets in the nest were lost. He and Ned Weston worked last fall to prepare a new tree for the Eagles, choosing an old live oak, clearing the smaller, brushy branches and hauling saplings into the site to give the Eagles a good foundation to work with. The Eagles worked on their nest last fall, continued this year and the female is now setting! The number of eggs is unknown, but we'll keep you posted on their progress. Officer Brunst then showed a film on the elk which was very interesting. The Elk are the largest mammals in PA, males weighing between 600-1000 lbs. and standing 50-60 inches at the shoulder. Currently, the herd is growing and efforts are being made to catch and release animals to other areas, thereby spreading the population into several sites. For further information or to obtain the video, contact the PA Game Commission, Dept. MS, Harrisburg, PA. Phone (717) 783-7507.

Shirley McCarl reported that potluck assignments will be distributed at the April meeting. Nurtthon Chair Ruth Crawford reported that information will be in next newsletter with packets distributed at the April meeting. Membership Chair Linda Wagner reported that current newsletter distribution is 454. Nestbox Chair Mark Swansiger reported that placement of next boxes will begin once the weather improves. He will contact Officer Brunst for name/phone number of the person heading the Lawrence and Mercer Co. Bluebird Society. Reports of bluebirds are increasing. OLD BUSINESS: Fran Byers is asking that information on Spring Birding Festival be given to vendors. Please contact him with any suggestions. NEW BUSINESS: We will need Awards Night nominations for Individual, Business and Organization awards. Several nominations were discussed for all three categories and will and these will be voted upon at the next board meeting. Board members were asked if they would like to be included as speakers on Chamber of Commerce program. No action taken. It was noted that the Pennsylvania Audubon Society has received a $60,000 grant for Important Birding Areas. It was announced that on March 25, Ken Coska will be speaking on Purple Martins for Moraine Preservation Fund dinner at the Garden Gate. Linda Wagner distributed mealworms and information from Grubco. Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m. Next meeting of BAS Board is April 19, 1999.

Notes of the March Board Meeting

....Sande Swansiger, Recording Secretary

The Bartramian Audubon Society Board met on Monday, March 15, 1999 at Slippery Rock United Methodist Church. The meeting was opened by President Mark Swansiger at 7:40 p.m. Minutes from Feb. board meeting were read and approved. Fieldtrip Chair Russ States reported on the upcoming field trips as listed in the newsletter. Plans are still being made for the traditional June picnic and the possibility of having it at Tam-O-Shanter Golf Course in West Middlesex, PA is under investigation. Sanctuary Chair Gene Wilhelm reported that the following 6 new Bird and Butterfly Sanctuaries have been added: Terry and Stacey Steele, Jim and Judy Loughren, Fran and Nancy Bires, Donald and Anne Osterling, Lori Love and Rich Franke and Barb Walwic. Two new Wildlife sanctuaries added are McKeever/SRU and Chip Nicholas. All will receive recognition and signs on Awards night, May 10. Education Chair Helen Ferguson reported that Ecology Camp Scholarship application form will be in next Upland Informer. The deadline for returning the applications will be April 30th. The cost has increased to $595 which includes a $100 non-refundable registration fee. As in the past, the teachers are asked to pay for registration and the BAS scholarship will cover the remaining $495. The BAS will reimburse the registration fee when the teacher gives a presentation on the experience. Newsletter Editor Suzanne Butcher reported that the next issue will be in before the April meeting and the last issue of the calendar year will be after our Awards night and the Nurtthon in May. Proper wording in the membership coupon in the newsletter was discussed. Hospitality Chair..
Asian Longhorned Beetle Alert

"Bird Alert" from Jim Lockyer USDA Forest Service, Radnor, PA jlockyer@fs.fed.us of the USDA Forest Service a request is being made for birders to be on the look out during their normal birding activities for the Asian Longhorned Beetle or signs of beetle infestation. Although outbreaks have occurred only in the Chicago and New York City areas thus far, dead beetles have been found at 14 other sites. The Asian Longhorned Beetle was first discovered in the New York City area in August 1996 and again in Chicago, IL in July of 1998. The most recent outbreak occurred in Queens NY in February 1999. This large beetle from China tunnels into and kills hardwood. IT IS A SERIOUS AND URGENT THREAT and the only way to control it is to cut down and destroy the infested trees. With their natural curiosity and experience using binoculars, birders are particularly equipped for locating and reporting Asian beetle outbreaks and in fact birders have already been instrumental in locating the outbreaks in Chicago. The beetle arrive in wooden pallet material from China. Dead beetles have been found in pallets in both OH and PA. Please take time to look at the website: http://www.fs.fed.us/na/ALHB.htm and distribute it as you see fit.

Asian Longhorned Beetle- (3/4 to 1-1/4 inches long)
Please note that other longhorned beetles occur in Pennsylvania, ed.

Connecticut Audubon Adventures for Teachers –
BAS Ecology Workshop Scholarship Application

Helen Ferguson, education chair

At the Audubon Adventures for Teachers Workshops held in weekly session in July and August at the Audubon Center in Greenwich Co, educators come to improve their professional skills in sessions that emphasize practical teaching techniques for school classes, youth groups, and local Audubon chapter education programs. These workshops offer total immersion in the major natural habitats and ecosystems of New England. Leisurely hikes are taken on the beautiful 522-acre nature sanctuary through magnificent deciduous and hemlock forests, across lush meadows, alongside fish-filled lakes, ponds, and streams. In one week there are the opportunities to explore beach, intertidal, and marine ecosystems on Long Island Sound. Lecture and lab work supplements field studies, while optional classes might include nature photography, animal tracking, and orienteering. Facilities include a

library, auditorium, and double-occupancy rooms furnished with private baths.

The Bartramian Audubon Society offers scholarships to attend one of the week long ecology sessions. The cost of the workshop is $595. We ask that the scholarship winner pay the $100.00 registration fee and the BAS will pay the balance of $495.00. 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 $100.00 application fee will be refunded. One scholarship will be awarded. ALL ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY April 30th, 1999. Return this application form to Helen R. Ferguson at 100 Balboa Court, Butler PA 16001. Phone 724-287-2800 for additional questions or information.

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.

HUNTERS WEAR ORANGE, BIRDERS SHOULD TOO!
SPRING G O B B L E R S E A S O N , B E A R D E D B I R D S O N L Y
MAY 1-29, 1999
Membership Reminder

..... Linda Wagner, Membership Chair

We welcome the many of you who have recently joined Bartramian Audubon Society. As a reminder, we delete member’s 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 the membership chair, Linda Wagner.

Bartramian Audubon Society
Associate and Newsletter Application

Please check below

$15.00 associate fee- includes newsletter

$5.00 newsletter only

Please send this form with payment to

Bartramian Audubon Society
P.O. Box 315
Slippery Rock, PA 16057

National Audubon Society Membership Application

Please enroll me as a new member in National Audubon- includes membership in the National Audubon Society and Audubon magazine and the local Bartramian Audubon and the local chapter newsletter, the Upland Informer.

Current introductory membership offer $20.00
Student/Senior (62 and above) membership $15.00

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Please send this form with payment to

National Audubon Society
Membership Data Center
PO Box 52529
Boulder CO 80322-2529

Renewing members should use the coupon mailed to them by NAS

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Upcoming BAS Board Meeting

Mark Swansiger, president

August 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 724-533-5291 if you are unable to attend.

Upcoming BAS Membership Meeting

Ann Craig, program chair

September 13- Monday- Come and join us for our first meeting of the new 1999-2000 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. Program listing will be in the next Upland Informer.

May Meeting - Awards Night

Sandy Swansiger, recording secretary

The Bartramian Audubon Society held its Fifth Annual Awards Night meeting on May 10, 1999. The meeting was opened by President Mark Swansiger at 7:30 p.m. The minutes from the April meeting were approved as read. Chair Reports: Hospitality Chair Shirley McCarl reported that the schedule for next fall will be passed around and extended a great big THANK YOU to all who provided refreshments for tonight and throughout the past year. Vice President Bob Walczak reported that David Parket is asking for volunteers to monitor the Bluebird trail at Moraine. Newsletter Editor Suzanne Butcher reported there would be a summer issue of the newsletter. Naturthon Chair Ruth Crawford asked that the Naturthon results be sent to her as soon as possible. Treasurer Robert Love reported that the checking account balance is currently $3500. Upcoming Fieldtrips: The annual picnic will be at Tam-O-Shanter Golf Course in Hermitage, PA at 5 p.m. on June 5th. Sanctuary Chair Gene Wilhelm reported that the Spring Birding Festival is fast approaching and there are some spaces for commuters. The Giant Eagle, Inc. Scholarship for the Audubon Ecology Camp will go to Susan Fodor this year. Program Chair Anna Craig will be looking for programs for next year. Any ideas? Contact her at 724-652-7314. Sanctuary signs and certificates were then presented. Receiving Bird and Butterfly Sanctoriums this year were Lori Love and Rich Franke, Donald and Anne Oesterling, Fran and Nancy Bires, Jim and Judy Loughren, Terry and Stacey Steele, Michael and Jennifer Antal, Sally S. Jamison, Craig and Janice Lawson, Barbara Walwik, the Mihalik Family, Laura Owens and Rodolfo and Michol Piero. Our thanks and congratulations to all.

Wildlife Sanctuary status was awarded to Ralph A. (Hap) Nicholas Jr. of Butler, PA and the McKeever Center of Sandy Lake, PA, Fran Bires, Director. They each received a beautiful Sanctuary sign and Certificate and our thanks for pledging these properties to remaining wild.

The Bartramian Audubon Award for Business went this year to Central Electric Co-op while the Award recognizing an Organization was presented to the Moraine Preservation Fund. The Individual Award was posthumously given to Marguerite Geibel with Betty Starr accepting. These awardees have supported BAS and the Environment and we give our heartfelt thanks and congratulations.

The meeting was followed by wonderful refreshments, organized by Shirley McCarl (THANK YOU!) and the meeting ended at 9:30 p.m.

A brief BAS Board Meeting was held before the membership meeting May 10, 1999. Motions were made to accept Michol and Rodolfo Piero as Bird and Butterfly Sanctuary recipients and to grant the Giant Eagle Inc. Ecology Camp Scholarship to Susan Fodor of Slippery Rock. Also voted on were $500 to Bruce Hazen for the lovely signs, $50 each to the Special Projects Area sites of which there are five (requesting that we be given data compiled for these areas), and donating $150 to the United Methodist Church of Slippery Rock with our thanks and gratitude for the use of their facilities. All issues were seconded and approved. There being no further business to conduct, the meeting was closed.

Award Presentations for 1999

Marguerite A. Geibel (in memoriam)

Marguerite A. Geibel was born February 5, 1916 and died February 11, 1998 at the age of 82. She was the daughter of John and Irene Green Geibel. She was a graduate of Butler High School and Slippery Rock Normal School. Teaching positions were very scarce at that time so she worked at the Junior High doing mostly office work or substituting in classrooms when needed. She received a permanent teaching certificate by attending summer school.

...presented by Helen R. Ferguson
Marguerite worked as a nature guide for school children at Lutherlyn Camp and Jennings Nature Preserve. Marguerite had traveled to forty-eight states in the pursuit of a new bird to add to her list. She was a member of St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church, Butler Area Public Library, Butler Symphony Association, Bartramian Audubon Society, Sierra Club, Humane Society, PASR and AARP.

Tributes to Marguerite were published in the Upland Inforner in the March-April 98 issue. We thank Marguerite for sharing her zeal with us. I believe Marguerite would agree with this quote from The Birds Talk to God by Jane Lauzon. "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."

Marguerite taught her students to love nature and she inspired many of us in her pursuit of bird watching. The award certificate was presented to Betty Starr, Marguerite's birding companion for many years. The award will be placed in the Butler Public Library.

Moraine Preservation Fund-

The Moraine Preservation Fund is a non profit volunteer organization that works in conjunction with Moraine State Park staff to provide more environmental activities within the park. The Moraine Preservation Fund was organized in 1988 by four Zelienople businessmen in response to severe budget cuts to Pennsylvania State parks. They began slowly by soliciting donations of equipment and cash. The organization grew as those who used the park wanted to help to achieve the group's goal of maintaining and improving Moraine State Park. Work began with the building of replacement picnic tables and improving the fish structure in the lake, continued with assisting in painting and roofing buildings in need of repair and grew to the development of the osprey and barn owl species re-introduction programs, the McDanel's Launch projects and an environmental education program in cooperation with the operation of the Nautical Nature.

McDanel's Launch Project: At McDanel's Launch is the greatest evidence of the work of the organization. Just eleven years ago the launch area was very primitive and unused, boarded-up buildings were the only structures there. MPF volunteers dismantled and removed those structures, cleaned up the entire area, and went on to construct the fishing pier, courtesy boat docks, restrooms, picnic pavilion, outdoor environmental education classroom and just recently completed in the past year or so the Propagation Center and "Owlet" Gift Shop.

Osprey Re-introduction: The Moraine Preservation Fund has hacked ninety-six birds in the four years from 1993 until 1996. The last year of the project was 1996 and it represented the culmination of a very successful program with thirty-one birds being received from Virginia and Maryland to be hacked, which complements the thirty-five birds received in 1995, the twenty-four in 1994, and the six birds in 1993. Total losses amounted to nine birds over four years, or 9%. Of those lost, seven were lost in 1995. Seven of the losses were due to great horned owl predation, one to raccoons, and the last was shot. Also, in 1996 a male osprey that was hacked at Moraine State Park in 1993 returned with a wild female and nested on a nesting platform that had been erected. In 1998, there was two pair of nesting ospreys at Moraine, with both pair successfully fledging three young birds.

Barn Owl Re-introduction: The initial goal is to have 600 participating properties with nesting boxes installed in a 3 county area of Butler, Lawrence and Mercer counties. Currently, 300 property owners have called, volunteering their properties and our goal is 200 farms in each of the 3 counties. Each of the participating property owners must agree to stop using rodenticides when MPF starts releasing owls. In addition, we are trying to get property owners to reestablish fence row habitat. MPF will also ask property owners to consider planting warm weather grasses which are hay grasses that do not require mowing until after the songbirds and small mammals have finished nesting in the late spring. This will enhance populations of mice to be more stable, as well as increasing songbird populations. In 1998, MPF released 53 barn owls in Butler and Lawrence counties. So far in 1999, they have released 14 young barn owls. Moraine Preservation Fund's goal is to release as many young owls as possible over the course of the next five years.

Nautical Nature: Our "Nautical Nature" pontoon boat serves as a floating classroom for school groups that perform water quality studies and wetland experiments. The boat also serves as a tour boat and can be chartered by groups like the VA Hospital to take handicapped passengers on a tour of the lake. It is also popular with church groups and family reunions for a fun and educational change to their gatherings. Other cruises that are available and popular are the Friday osprey cruises, Fall foliage cruises, Thursday nature tours, Saturday dinner cruises and the Sunday brunch cruises. In addition, we have an arboretum and are working on a butterfly trail that will enhance the area with native plant species and provide an easy walk where many different species of butterflies can be seen. During 1999, MPF in conjunction with the Purple Martin Conservation Association will erect a gourd rack at McDanel's Launch where color banding of young purple martins will be conducted to learn more about the migration of this species. Also, different kinds of starter nesting material (white pine needles vs. cedar chips) will be placed in the artificial gourds to see if the adult purple martins have a preference.

If you are interested in joining Moraine Preservation Fund or want any additional information about the organization please phone (724)-368-9185.
Central Electric Cooperative

The Central Electric Cooperative was formed in August of 1938 and currently serves all or part of the western Pennsylvania counties of Allegheny, Armstrong, Butler, Clarion, Forest, Mercer, and Venango. The Cooperative currently serves 23,000 customers and has over 3,000 miles of lines. Central Electric Cooperative, which is owned by the people it serves, has eight directors, in rotating four-year terms. Two new directors are elected every year by the membership.

The mission of Central Electric Cooperative is to increase the quality of life in rural areas. Some of the ways the Cooperative is carrying out this goal is helping with economic development in rural areas so that these areas can compete on an economic level with the larger cities. Central Electric Cooperative is currently working on experimental wastewater techniques for septic systems and they have installed lights for community ballparks and have put up Christmas lights for smaller communities unable to afford them.

In the conservation area, Central Electric Cooperative has participated in the release of river otters on along the Allegheny River on its property in Venango County. They have erected a utility pole in Clear Creek State Forest for an Osprey nesting platform. They are currently a member of the Moraine Preservation Fund and are helping with the Barn Owl hacking and release program. Central Electric Cooperative has agreed not to use herbicides on their right-of-ways through Moraine State park, and they have created a BAS Sanctuary on 196 acres of land along the Allegheny River, along side of the Scobgrass Power Plant BAS Sanctuary.

The award was accepted by Ken Malecki, of Parker, PA and Robert McClintock of Saxonburg, PA.

McKeever Birding Festival

McKeever Environmental Learning Center and Bartramian Audubon Society held the First Spring Birding Festival of Western PA on May 21-23. The three day event focused on Wetlands and included field trips to several wetlands in the area, night birding and a banquet with keynote speaker Ned Weston, recently retired from the PA Game Commission. The facilities at McKeever were greatly enjoyed and the weekend included meals and lodging. Transportation was provided through Slippery Rock University to the various sites. Participants came from as far away as New York City, NY and as close as 'just down the road.' An interesting, educational and profitable weekend was had by all, enjoying some of the uncommon and unusual sites to be found in a wetland environment. Some of the birds seen or heard at Penns Swamp included a Sora Rail, Willow Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Tree Swallows, Barn Swallows and Bank Swallows, Cedar Waxwings, Ruby-Throated Hummingbird, Yellow-billed Cuckoo and Green-Backed and Blue Herons. At the Conneaut-Geneva Marsh all the above and many more including 4 Osprey and Bald Eagles! There were also field trips to the Erie National Wildlife Refuge and Maurice K. Goddard State Park. Thanks to the staff at McKeever, Fran Bires, Gene Wilhelm and the volunteers who helped make this successful weekend memorable for all.

Election for NAS Board of Directors

National Audubon is holding an election for the position for the NAS Board of Directors from the Mid-Atlantic Region. As a local chapter, having less than 500 members, we are entitled to one ballot. The Chapter Services Office has accepted the nomination of one candidate: David H. Pardoe. As this candidate is running unopposed, I feel that the most reasonable way to hold the election in our local chapter is by action of our Board of Directors, which is an option we are entitled to so long as you, the members, are notified of and agree to such action. Therefore, if any member objects to my conducting the election in this manner or are opposed to the election of the above candidate, please contact me by June 27 at: Telephone: 1-724-533-5291 E-mail: swanster@ccia.com Also if you agree to election by our Board of Directors but know of any reasons why this candidate should or should not be elected, I would appreciate your input. Mark Swansiger BAS President

Audubon Adventures Teachers

...Helen R. Ferguson

If you teach Grades 4-6 and would like to receive AUDUBON ADVENTURES for your classroom during the 1999-2000 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.

Fall PSO Meeting

The PENNSYLVANIA SOCIETY FOR ORNITHOLOGY will hold its 10th Anniversary Annual Meeting on 24-26 September, 1999 at the Holiday Inn in Morgantown, Pennsylvania (Berks County). All birders are welcome! You do not have to be a member to attend. Speakers and programs include: Louis Bevier - Hummingbird Identification, Scott Weidensaul - Saw-Whet-Owl Banding in Pennsylvania, Dave Brandes - Solving the Puzzle of the Spring Golden Eagle Migration through Pennsylvania, Scott Klinger - The Impact of Agriculture and USDA Programs on the Abundance of Grassland Birds: Can we Restore Declining Grassland Bird Populations on Pennsylvania Farmland?, Paul Rodewald - Habitat Use and Foraging Behavior of Neotropical Migrant Songbirds during Migration in Central Pennsylvania. The banquet speaker will be Pete Dunne presenting “Spishing 101” Field trips will be to Carr’s Park, Lake Ontelaune, Blue Marsh Lake, Rte 183 Hawk Watch, and a trip by boat in quest of a Sharp-tailed Sparrow. For more information please contact Pennsylvania Birds, 2469 Hammertown Road, Narvon PA 17555.
Membership Reminder

Linda Wagner, Membership Chair

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Slippery Rock, PA 16057

National Audubon Society
Membership Application

Please enroll me as a new member in National Audubon - includes membership in the National Audubon Society and Audubon magazine and the local Bartramian Audubon and the local chapter newsletter, the Upland Informer.

Current introductory membership offer $20.00
Student/Senior (62 and above) membership $15.00

Name

Address

City State Zip

Please send this form with payment to

National Audubon Society
Membership Data Center
PO Box 52529
Boulder CO 80322-2529

Renewing members should use the coupon mailed to them by NAS

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