Upcoming BAS Board Meeting

Mark Swansiger, president

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

Upcoming BAS Membership Meeting

Ann Craig, program chair

September 13-Monday- Come and join us for our first meeting of the new 1999-2000 season. Dick Craig will present a colorful slide show of the reintroduction program of the Atlantic Puffin along the coast of Maine. Our meetings are held at the United Methodist Church in Slippery Rock, PA at 7:30 p.m. and are free and open to the public. Refreshments are served.

Upcoming BAS Field Trips

Russ States, field trip chair

September 26-Sunday- BAS members and friends are invited to visit the chapter’s newest Wildlife Sanctuary at Sweet Soil, Inc., near Brockway, PA. The property was purchased three years ago from Western Pennsylvania Conservancy as an orphan piece of land and reclaimed as a productive parcel. Meet at 8:30 a.m. in the King’s Restaurant parking lot off Route 8 and I-80. Bring a picnic lunch to share with others. Sweet Soil will provide cold drinks, snacks and dessert. Questions: call Gene Wilhelm at 724-794-2434 before Sep 7 or after Sep 23.

Notes of the Aug. 16th BAS Board Meeting

Sundee Swansiger

The Bartramian Audubon Society Board held its first meeting of the 1999-2000 calendar year at Slippery Rock United Methodist Church on August 16, 1999 at 7:40 p.m. The meeting was called to order by President Mark Swansiger and reports were given as follows:

Dick Craig reported for Program chair Anna Craig on the upcoming program schedule. Dick will present a slide show at the September meeting and Susan Fodor will report on her activities at this summer’s ecology camp in December. Many suggestions were given for the open schedule of the October, November, March and April meetings. Anna will follow through and distribute the entire schedule as soon as possible. As Publicity Chair, Dick submitted a bill totaling $148.58 to Treasurer Robert Love for money spent in postage etc. for publicity last year. He also plans to mail a questionnaire to publicity contacts, determining usage of releases and notifications.

Sanctuary Chair Gene Wilhelm reported that currently there are 13 Wildlife Sanctuaries and 18 Bird and Butterfly Sanctuaries. All sanctuaries need to renew now ($15) for the 99-00 season.

Hospitality Chair Shirley McCarl listed the hostesses for upcoming meetings as follows: September- Anna Craig and Shirley McCarl, October- Pat Jones and Glenda Kimm, November- Helen Ferguson and Margie Kirk, December- members potluck, March- Bob Waleczak, April- Joanne Wilhelm and Kate Brydon, and May- assigned to the members.

Education Chair Helen Ferguson reported on the Audubon Adventures program- (see separate report inside). She noted that only one application was received this year for the Ecology Camp. A question was raised about resuming mailing Upland Informers to all Audubon Adventures teachers. A list of teachers and their addresses will be mailed to Membership Chair Linda Wagner.

Corresponding Secretary Pat Jones reported that a thank you was sent to the Mr. and Mrs. Squires for hosting the field trip held at their Sanctuary. She will write to the Church notifying them of the dates we would like to use their facility.

Nestbox Chair Mark Swansiger reports that the publicity posted requesting people to call or write regarding their bluebird nestboxes has gotten a favorable response the numbers of respondents are climbing.

Membership Chair Linda Wagner was asked to add all Sanctuary owners to the Upland Informer mailing list along with the Natirarhon Sponsors and the Audubon Teachers beginning with the next issue.

OLD BUSINESS: The 1999 Spring Birding Festival was a success with 30 participants along with 10 McKeever staff and 10 BAS staff. The evaluations returned following the festival were all positive, no negatives were mentioned! BAS earned $1225 for their assistance.

Marguerite Geibel’s plaque was hung in the Butler Public Library in the room where the Friends of the Library meet.

NEW BUSINESS: Word of the BAS Sanctuary programs is spreading throughout Western PA and Audubon. Several requests have been received from persons outside of the 4 county area. A motion was made that we follow National Audubon policy that anyone wishing to join Audubon can join any chapter that they choose and specify. A motion was made to accept Sweet Soil Inc. in Brockway, PA as a Wildlife Sanctuary and Jacqueline Schiering’s property as a Bird and Butterfly Sanctuary. Her brother David’s property was also approved pending his decision. This was seconded and passed as the property has already been assessed.

The McKeever BAS Spring Birding Festival for 2000 was discussed. McKeever is interested in continuing the festival
using Western PA Grasslands, Forests and Birdlife as the theme. The money collected will be divided with these changes: McKeever keeps all vendors fees, the full $20 registration and pays BAS $20/person on fieldtrip and $80/person for workshop. Each field guide pays their own fees for room, food and travel. McKeever will exclude the registration fee for guides. Guides will be reimbursed for expenses. There will be no keynote speaker and the Festival will run Friday night to Saturday night, concluding with a dinner and evaluation. BAS will supply the wine for the Friday night kickoff. Motion made, seconded and passed that BAS participate in the Second McKeever Spring Birding Festival with their cooperation and with the changes and theme requested.

Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology is studying the Golden-Winged Warbler and has requested assistance with collecting data in order to prevent overlap of territories studied. BAS has agreed to be included in the next project. A motion that BAS cooperate with Cornell on the Golden Winged Warbler project was seconded and approved after discussion. This would involve having one person designated per county to collect data, send to Gene Wilhelm for compilation and forwarding to Cornell.

A suggestion was made that we consider sending monetary assistance to Tamarack Wildlife Rehabilitation program. It was also suggested that BAS collect donated supplies such as old towels, sheets, blankets etc. and send them along. A list of needed items will be obtained.

Field Trips need scheduled and coordinated with Programs Chair. It was announced that there are 41 breeding pairs of Bald Eagles this year in PA!!! Motion to adjourn at 9:15 p.m. seconded and approved.

Audubon Adventures

Helen Ferguson, Education chair

BAS is pleased to announce that 124 classrooms will receive Audubon Adventures for 1999-2000 with a total cost to BAS of $4457.80. We would like to thank the following BAS Corporate Sponsors who have elected to support some of these classrooms - BILO Market of Grove City, First National Bank of Slippery Rock, Nicholas Enterprises, Inc., Peoples Bank of Western PA, US Generating Company, and Wal-Mart of Grove City. A complete listing of sponsors, teachers and classrooms will be in an upcoming Upland Informer. The Audubon Adventures series this year will be shipped to teachers on September 17th and will cover such topics as Alaska, the Everglades, Forests, and 'People and Wildlife', and will also include a video, a NAF First Field Guide, and a watchlist for kids website.

Naturthon Results

Ruth Crawford, Naturthon Chair

A gentle rain was falling as the day began. The temperature was 59°. The ten participating teams saw a combined total of 190 different species of birds. This included 6 vireo species and 33 species of warblers. Hawks and owls, thrushes, and grassland species were also well represented. Other birding highlights included the Upland Sandpipers for which our chapter is named and the locally famous Sandhill Cranes. Many species of wildflowers and butterflies were recorded. Mid day clearing gave way to scattered afternoon showers and strong SW-W winds and a temperature of 63°.

Teams

E-Cause - team of Gene Wilhelm with Bob and Bobbie Davis, Clark Trouterman, and Joanne Wilhelm. (Butler County)

We and My Dog - team of Carolyn Worley and Hannah with Paula Bitten-Bender. (Venango County)

The Love Birds - team of Robert and Jean Love. (Butler County)

The O-Team - team of Don Oesterling with Ann Oesterling and Jim McDowell. (Butler, Mercer, and Lawrence Counties)

The Real McCoy - team of Priscilla Stoughton. (Lawrence and Butler Counties)

Troeger Birding Team - team of Neil Troeyer with Eli Troeyer, Harvey Troeyer, Jerry Troeyer, Junior Troeyer, and Melvin Troeyer. (Mercer County)

Upland Sponsors - team of Helen Ferguson with Harriet Bauer, Betty Starr, and Marjorie Kirk. (Butler County)

Venango Voyagers - team of Russ States with Jerry Stanley and Kathie Goodblood. (Venango County)

Wing-Dings - team of Barb and George Dean, with Beth Dean Jones, Candy Gonzalez, Mary Miller, Nancy Rodgers, and Bob Walczak. (Butler and Lawrence Counties)

Young Nocks - team of Suzanne Butcher and Ruth Crawford with Gene Butcher and Ruby Ralston. (Butler, Venango, and Mercer Counties)

Birds Seen by Team Members


**Wildflowers Identified**


**Butterflies Observed**

American Copper, Black Swallowtail, Brush-footed Butterfly, Cabbage Butterfly, Comma Butterfly, Mourning Cloak, Red Admiral, Spicebush Swallowtail, Sulfur Butterfly, Tiger Swallowtail.

As you all know, the primary function of the Naturthon is to raise funds each year for projects of our local Bartramian Audubon Chapter with the majority of the money being designated for our school programs. Hundreds of local school children and the local environment will benefit from your generosity. We appreciate all of your efforts in this endeavor and thank both the team captains and their team members for their efforts and their pledges for their monetary support. All of the teams should be commended especially those consisting of a single person. While total number of species seen or identified is of interest, the real rewards of our efforts are in the money raised for Audubon. Each and every dollar is deeply appreciated. We would like to given our deepest thanks to our many valued individual contributors, and to the following corporate and organizational sponsors of BAS.

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**Naturthon Corporate and Organizational Sponsors**


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**June Picnic**

Sande Swansiger

The Bartramian Audubon Society held its annual June picnic on June 5, 1999 at Tam-O-Shanter Golf Course, Hermitage, PA, a member of the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for golf courses. Superintendent Richard Kerins provided the group with golf carts and led us on a guided tour of the course, its ponds, gullies, woodlands, a butterfly garden designed by Mary Lehett, Master Gardener and it's bluebird nestbox trail maintained by Jason Giddings, Eagle Scout. Tam-O-Shanter was chosen for our picnic because of the innovative program required to become an Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Golf Course and the kindness of Richard Kerins to offer the site. The steps to become an Audubon Sanctuary Golf Course require the course to register, complete an inventory of their resources, make an environmental plan and obtain certification. Certification requirements include environmental planning, wildlife and habitat management, integrated pest management, water conservation and quality management and outreach and education. What this means is a wildlife friendly course with areas set aside to promote habitat, abating from the use of toxic chemicals in favor of beneficial insects and nematodes, providing ponds with clean water, providing nestboxes and using native plants and grasses to reduce the need for fertilizer and water. A tremendous amount of work and planning goes into any golf course, becoming an Audubon Cooperative golf course shifts methods but allows the course to maintain its primary focus on golfing. It evolves into a course with many interesting, enjoyable and important extras. Seeing wood ducks in the stream, or bluebirds and squirrels in the fairways, butterflies at the edges and bullfrogs in the pond adds the chance to connect with nature as well as the golf ball! And even if you game goes into hibernation, you can still enjoy the day! Our thanks and appreciation to Richard Kerins and his family for the hard work and time to make Tam-O-Shanter a part of this wonderful program.

The history of Tam-O-Shanter Golf Course began in 1929 when T. Wade Walker built and Emil Leoffler designed the lovely, challenging course, and it has hosted such greats as Sam Snead, Betsy Rawls and many others. Purchased in 1948 by Jack and Mary Kerins, the course is one of the oldest in western PA. It remains a family business with sons John Kerins, Director of Golf and Richard Kerins, CGCS Superintendent continuing the tradition. The commitment to creating and preserving a beautiful, environmentally friendly course is underscored by the fact that the families live and raise children right adjoining the course and spend so much time there.
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

U18

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Upcoming BAS Board Meeting

Mark Swansiger, president

October 18 - 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

October 11-Monday: Sue D'Arment, director of the Tamarack Wildlife Rehabilitation Center in Sagerstown, PA will present a program on wildlife rehabilitation. Our meetings are held at the United Methodist Church in Slippery Rock, PA at 7:30 p.m. and are free and open to the public. Refreshments are served.

Notes of the Sept 13th BAS Membership Meeting

Sandee Swansiger, recording secretary

The Bartramian Audubon Society held its first membership meeting of 1999-2000 season on Mon. Sept. 13. The meeting was opened by Vice-President Bob Walczak at 7:45 p.m. Minutes of May 10, 1999 meeting were read and approved. Treasurer Robert Love reported that the yearly income is as follows: Natathon netted $6100, dues split $1954 and the Birding Festival $1225. Expenditures were $4381 for Audubon Adventures, mailing and copying $1700, also signs, donation to the Church and other miscellaneous. Current balance is $3245 in checking, $4000+ in First National Bank of Slippery Rock, CD of $12,000 and money market account of $2000+.

Education Chair Helen Ferguson reported that 124 classrooms will receive Audubon Adventures this year. Cost increased to $35+ $5.95 postage per classroom. Teachers should receive entire packet around Sept. 17. Marguerite Geibel's plaque was hung in the Butler Public Library, meeting room #1. Natathon Chair Ruth Crawford reported that the Natathon in May earned $3702 in general donations and $2450 in corporate contributions. Our thanks to all who contributed!

Hospitality Chair Shirley McCarl reported that she and Anna Craig are tonight's hostesses. October is assigned to Pat Jones and Glenda Kimm, November will be covered by Helen Ferguson and Margie Kirk, and December will be our traditional holiday potluck. In Russ States's absence, the fieldtrip on Sun. Sept. 26 to Sweet Soil Inc., our newest Sanctuary, was announced by Gene Wilhelm. Program Chair Anna Craig reported that tonight's speaker is Dick Craig, and assisted by Anna, the program is on the Puffin Project. Anna and Dick went to the Maine coast in June and took a voyage out to Small Eastern Egg Rock to view the birds. Puffins are small! Only about 10 inches in height and weighing ~1 pound! They are sometimes called Sea Parrots and these charming little Puffins look remarkably like footballs with wings in flight. They are true Pelagic birds, coming ashore only to nest and raise young. It takes 4-6 years before they breed and they nest in burrows they dig in the ground, sometimes up to 8 feet deep! Their wings beat 400-600 times per minute. When the first settlers land in the 1600's these diminutive birds inhabited 6 coastal islands of the eastern United States. However, they were soon used for food and decoration, and even the eggs were eaten. Eventually as of 1901 only 1 pair remained on the Maine coast. A lighthouse keeper watched over the birds and their offspring until it became illegal to kill them in 1918. In 1973 Steve Kress undertook a reintroduction to these islands and now they number 150 pairs on Matinicus Island with smaller groups on surrounding Islands. If you would like more information on this ongoing Project Puffin contact Tilbury House Publishers, 2 Mechanic St. #3, Gardina, ME 04345 or call 800-582-1899, or check out the web page at http://www.tilburyhouse.com.

Bob Walczak reported that 4 new Purple Martin houses were placed by the Moraine Preservation Fund bringing the total available units to 70 of which 67 were used! Forty-one more Barn Owls were released and 2 more broods are expected to be released this fall. The Monarchs are heading to Mexico. For information on this incredible migration visit monarchwatch.org online. The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m. to wonderful refreshments.

Notes of the Sept 20th BAS Board Meeting

Sandee Swansiger, recording secretary

The Bartramian Audubon Board met on Mon. Sept. 20, 1999. Meeting was called to order at 7:45 p.m. Absent were Dick and Anna Craig, Russ States, Gene Wilhelm, Bob Love, Shirley McCarl, Ruth Crawford and Linda Wagner. The minutes of the previous membership meeting were approved as written. Corresponding Secretary Pat Jones reported that letters have been sent to the church giving the dates we would like to use their facility, and to Cindy Dunn, A thank you will be sent to the Craigs. Sandee Swansiger will call the church to clarify some dates (Dec.13, Feb.14 and Dec. 18, the date of the CBC chili supper.) Education Chair Helen Ferguson reported that a list of the schools receiving Audubon Adventures and the sponsors will be published in the Upland Informer.
She will check to see if teachers have received their packets for next meeting. Newsletter Chair Suzanne Butcher is asking that timely fieldtrip and program descriptions be sent to her so she can include them in the newsletter. Articles or artwork for publication would also be appreciated. She also recommended establishing guidelines for the sending of complimentary issues. Over 640 newsletters were mailed in September with a postage cost of $98.95. Mark Swansiger will look into bar coding of the address labels to reduce both the mailing costs and the time spent in the sorting for mailing. A suggestion was accepted that a special flyer regarding the availability of scholarships for the summer ecology camp be sent in the spring to our Audubon Adventures teachers and all other interested parties. There being no further reports the meeting was ended at 8:25 p.m.

Audubon Adventures Classrooms

Helen R. Ferguson, education chair

Audubon Adventures is an environmental education program for children in grades 4 to 6. Developed by professional environmental educators, AUDUBON ADVENTURES presents basic, scientifically accurate facts about birds, wildlife, and their habitats. The program is used by classroom teachers, after-school program coordinators, special education instructors, language arts teachers, and homeschoolees. Since its inception in 1984, over 7 million youngsters have participated in the program. The goal of Audubon Adventures is to develop in young people an appreciation, awareness, and understanding of the natural world — birds, other wildlife, and all living things; the habitats, systems, and interplay of forces that affect living things; and the connections between people and nature. Such an awareness of nature creates in young people (and their teachers and families) a sense of stewardship for the natural world.

The Bartramian Audubon Society along with its school designated corporate sponsors - BiLo of Grove City, FNB of Slippery Rock, Nicholas Enterprises Inc., Butler, Peoples Bank of Western PA, New Castle, U. S Generating Co., Kennerdell, and Wal-Mart of Grove City - is pleased to announce the following schools, teachers, and classrooms receiving the Audubon Adventures for the 1999-2000 school year.

Slippery Rock Area Elementary School in Slippery Rock has the third grade classrooms of Jill Tackach, Pam Croll, Amanda Part, and Sue Malavette; the fourth grade classrooms of Kim Burch, Kathy Young, Donna Meredith, and Kim Creasy; the fifth grade classrooms of Barry Skadak, Becky Suesser, Mariann Snyder, and Nancy Moser. Slippery Rock Area Middle School has the sixth grade classrooms of Linda Croll and Suzanne Fodor; the sixth grade classrooms of John Sabih and Stu Ketzel; the seventh grade classroom of Kirby Burns and the eighth grade classroom of Sue McKissick. Har-Mer Elementary in Harrisville has the third grade classroom of Patricia Montgomery; the fourth grade classroom of Ron Cokain; and the fifth grade classroom of Tim Drennen. Barnes School in Grove City has the sixth grade classroom of Vickie Franklin. Hillview Intermediate Center in Grove City has the fifth grade classrooms of Doreen Fabiano, Shelbee Hostetler, Tom Hutcheson, Stephanie Mattocks, Carol Pechar, Rose Phillips, Steve Snyder and Sharon Turner. Moraine Elementary in Prospect has the third grade classrooms of Shawn Kuhn, Patty Daniels, Louise Summerville, Sue Rackert, and Maureen Gomlie; the fourth grade classrooms of Russell Auth, Russell Brown, Barbara Putorti, and Daniel Zacherl; and the fifth grade classrooms of Barbara Cavanaugh, Donna Glenn, Nancy LeViere and Jean Allen. Dassa McKinney Elementary School in West Sunday has the third grade classrooms of Nancy Adams, Gay Travagilo, and Donna Metz; the fourth grade classrooms of Gary Kohlmeyer and Betty Myford; the fifth grade classrooms of Judy Kennedy, Ann Kohlmeyer, Tom Morton, and Steven Wilson; and the sixth grade classrooms of Mark Kosick, Ed Rynd, and Robert Snyder. Washington Elementary School in Parker has the sixth grade classrooms of Chuck Muehbronn. Central Elementary School in Franklin has the fourth grade classroom of Sue Sloss and Connie Lienderzau, and the sixth grade classroom of Carol Porter. Sandy Creek Elementary School in Franklin has the fourth grade classrooms of Shawnick Novak and Julie Krupa; the fifth grade classrooms of Collette Barnett and Clar McMurthy; and the sixth grade classrooms of Sally Knox and Linda Linn. Center Avenue Elementary School of Butler has the fifth grade classroom of Shirley Bilowich and the sixth grade classroom of Jodi Leech. Broad Street Elementary in Butler has the fourth grade classrooms of Karen Krenitsky and Ruth Stiltz and the sixth grade classroom of Jared Starr. Emily Britann Elementary School in Butler has the sixth grade classrooms of Kathleen Rutkoski and Julie Dandoy. Meridian Elementary School in Butler has the fourth grade classroom of Mary Beth Cooper and the sixth classroom of John McCool. Oakland Twp. Elementary in Butler has the fourth grade classrooms of Rebecca Martin and P.J. McMillen; the fifth grade classroom of Janet Enright; and the sixth grade classrooms of Charles Birch and D. Schur. McQuiston Elementary School in Butler has the fourth grade classroom of Debbie Wilson and the fifth grade classroom of Stacy Ellis. St. Wendelin's School of Butler has the sixth grade classroom of Rose Kostelnik. Northwest Elementary School of Butler has the sixth grade classrooms of Vicki Semes and James Swidzinski. Summit Township Elementary School of Butler has the fifth grade classroom of James Huenne. St. Paul's Catholic School in Butler has the fourth grade classrooms of Elizabeth Spohn and Mary Cherry. Connoquenessing Elementary School in Renfrew has the fifth grade classrooms of Jodi Leech and Arthur McCormick and the sixth grade classroom of Linda Gibala. Wilmington Area Middle School of New Wilmington has the fifth grade classrooms of Marcia Curry and Michael Janovich; and the sixth grade classroom of Dwight Haeglan. New Wilmington Elementary School of New Wilmington has the fourth grade classroom of Diane Stevenson. Saint Joseph's School in Sharon has the fourth, fifth, and sixth grade classrooms of Peggy Uzlar, Lakeview Middle School in Stoneboro has the fifth grade classrooms of Celia Taylor and the sixth grade classroom of James Wilson. Reynolds Elementary School in Greenville has the fourth grade classroom of Tom Scott, and
the fifth classroom of Jane Trucic. Mercer Elementary School in Mercer has the fourth grade classroom of Dave Tomson, and the classrooms of Bobbie Kemis, Linda Hoover, Karen Watson, and Marta Bowker. Riverside Middle School in Ellwood City has the fourth grade classroom of Ruth Repetti. George Washington Intermediate School in New Castle has the fourth grade classrooms of Rita Elsesser and the sixth grade classroom of Sandra Sager. Shenango Elementary School in New Castle has the classroom of Kevin Rorabaugh. Karn City Middle School in Karn City has the five sixth grade classrooms of Kurt Crosole and the SpecEd classes of Nancy Lenirowak and Cindy Allen. West Hill Elementary School in Sharon has the classroom of Patricia Fisher. Musser Elementary School in Sharon has the classroom of Beth Shupp. St Michael's School of Greenville has the fourth, fifth, and sixth grade classroom of Joan Duffy. The BAS and its corporate sponsors will support Audubon Adventures for 124 classrooms at a cost of $4457.80.

**BirdSource Fall and Winter Projects**

...NAS and Cornell Lab of Ornithology

BirdSource is a revolutionary partnership between citizens and scientists. Designed and managed by the National Audubon Society and Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, BirdSource is an interactive web site where the enthusiasm of birders is combined with state of art technology to promote conservation and environmental learning. BirdSource offers the estimated 60 million Americans who enjoy watching birds to “Bird with a Purpose” when they record and share their counts of birds on line. Through the extensive citizen participation BirdSource is becoming a powerful new tool for bird conservation and education. Participants improve their scientific literacy as they contribute data that helps scientists and conservationists define bird ranges, populations, migratory pathways and habitat needs. BirdSource will use this data to track and display the density of birds just like meteorologists track the weather. BirdSource’s interactive information system will become the definitive long-term record of North American bird population thought out the 21st century.

With the fall and winter bird feeding and birdwatching seasons nearly upon us, BirdSource is eager to tell about their upcoming citizen-science projects. Each offers a unique and enjoyable way for you to put your bird observations to work for science and conservation. Some of you may already know about these projects, in which case you can review the most recent results of your input and expertise.

**Project FeederWatch** is a joint research and education project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology, the National Audubon Society, Bird Studies Canada, and the Canadian Nature Federation. For the last 13 years, thousands of "FeederWatchers" across the U.S. and Canada have been counting the numbers and kinds of birds that visit their feeders from November to early April. In the process, they’re learning more about birds and bird behavior. Each year, the data FeederWatchers collect grows in significance. Scientists are already beginning to see trends and stories in these data. FeederWatchers include people of all ages and backgrounds, from retirees to school kids, from trained ornithologists to beginning bird watchers. Because participants receive project materials, FeederWatch is fee-based to partially offset costs that are subsidized by the Lab. The cost is $12 for Lab members, $15 for non-members. For more information, contact project coordinator Laura Kammermeier at Project FeederWatch- Cornell Lab of Ornithology, P.O. Box 11, Ithaca NY 14851-0011.

The oldest and largest ornithological citizen-science project, the venerable Christmas Bird Count celebrates its 100th anniversary this winter. Between December 16th and January 3rd, over 50,000 people will identify and count birds in more than 1600 "count circles" across North America. The millions of pieces of data that have been collected over the last 99 years are now available for enjoyment and use at http://birdsource.org. This year, most count compilers will submit their results directly online, so species and numbers will be available for review almost immediately.

The Bartramian Audubon Society will again sponsor the Butler County and Pleasantville CBC’s. Information on how you can participate locally will be in the next Upland Informer. The Great Backyard Bird Count 2000 will take place February 18-21. Last year, BirdSource received some 42,000 reports, tripling the number from its inaugural year in 1998. In an effort to involve as many youth groups as possible, educational materials for classrooms and youth organizations that will be available on the web this fall have been created. By participating in these events, you will help us document the status of birds at the end of the millennium, providing the framework of science that we need for the next era of bird conservation.

**McKeever Environmental Learning Center**

Presents

**Birds of Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge**

Dr. Gilbert Twiest, Nature Photographer

Saturday, October 23, 1999 at 7:00 P.M.

NO CHARGE FOR PROGRAM

Bosque Del Apache National Wildlife Refuge is located about 60 miles south of Albuquerque, New Mexico. The refuge is on the flood plain of the Rio Grande and is surrounded by desert except for some irrigated agricultural land on the flood plain. The photographs for the lecture were taken throughout the month of March. During this period, large flocks of sandhill cranes and snow geese leave the refuge for their nesting grounds in the north. The lecture will show many shots of the cranes and geese as well as the many waterfowl that are found on the refuge. In addition, hawks, bald eagles and coyotes will be featured. Other birds include white-winged doves, gambel’s quail, desert birds, marsh birds and shorebirds.

Dr. Gil Twiest wrote and photographed over 65 science filmstrips and slide sets for commercial publication. His photographs have been published in many books, journals and magazines. Gil has taught nature photography courses at the McKeever Center and the Saw Mill Center for the Arts in Cook Forest State Park.
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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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

U18
7XCH8
Upland Informer

Editor: S. R. Butcher

Volume 19 Issue 3 Official Newsletter of the Bartramian Audubon Society

October 11th BAS Membership Meeting

Mark Swansiger, president

November 15th - 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

November 8th - Monday - Robert Cox of the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy will present a program "General Wildflowers in Western Pennsylvania".

December 13th - Monday - Suzanne Fodor, the 1999 Giant Eagle, Inc., Pittsburgh Environmental Education Scholarship Recipient will report on her experiences at the Greenwich, CT Audubon Ecotone Camp. Our traditional potluck Christmas Party will follow.

Upcoming BAS Field Trips/Activities

Rus Stutes, field trip chair

Sunday - November 21st - Presque Isle State Park - Early Waterfowl - Meet at 8:30 am at the first parking lot. Contact Russ States at 814-676-6320 for further details.

Saturday - December 18 - Butler County CBC - See details inside

Sunday January 2nd, 2000 - Pleasontville CBC - See details inside

Saturday, Feb 5th, 2000 - Venango County Birds - Assuming decent weather and passable roads, we will trek off to Venango County to target any northern species that show up this winter. With winter in full swing we will look for Common Raven, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Common Redpoll, Pine Siskin, Crossbills, Evening Grosbeak, Rough-legged Hawk, Northern Goshawk, and Saw-whet Owl. We will just have to see what this winter brings. MEETING TIME AND PLACE: Meet at the McDonald's in Franklin at 9:00 AM. 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 McDonald's is on the right. Please be on time. Questions contact Russ States 814-676-6320.

Notes of the Oct 11th BAS Membership Meeting

Sande Swansiger, recording secretary

The October 11th meeting of Bartramian Audubon Society was called to order at 7:40 pm by President Mark Swansiger. The minutes from the September meeting were read and with one correction were approved. Committee reports were then given. Hospitality Chair Shirley McCarr introduced Glenda Kemm and Pat Jones as hostesses for tonight and announced Helen Ferguson and Margie Kirk for November, and the traditional potluck for December. Education Chair Helen Ferguson brought attention to the listing of schools and teachers receiving Audubon Adventures in the October Upland Informer. Newsletter Chair Suzanne Butcher asked anyone turning in information (i.e. fieldtrip schedules or reports, program schedules or changes) to get it to her as soon as possible so it can make the November newsletter. She also announced December 18th as the day of the Butler County Christmas Bird Count (CBC). Past participants will be receiving a flyer asking for help again this year. Anyone who would like to participate is welcome, experience not needed. The more eyes, the more birds seen, and it helps enormously to have a 'secretary' along as the driver can cover more than 100 miles in that day! Publicity Chair Dick Craig also requested that information to be published be e-mailed or sent to him 10-14 days prior to the desired publication date. Treasurer Robert Love reports that the current checking account balance is around $2200 with outstanding bills for publication still pending. Fieldtrip Chair Russ States sent a schedule of trips to be listed in the Upland Informer. Chair Anna Craig then introduced Sue B. DeArment from Tamarack Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center. Following an excellent and informative program we all enjoyed delicious refreshments provided by Pat and Glenda.

Tamarack Wildlife Rehabilitation and Education Center
21601 Stall Rd,
Sagertown, PA 16433,
(814) 763-2574

Tamarack presented a fascinating program on the perils and joys of Rehabilitating a variety of Pennsylvania's wild animals. There are about 50 such programs to cover the entire state of Pennsylvania. Tamarack of Saugertown has to cover the 19 counties in NW PA. Sue explained that extensive training is required before one can get a license to rehabilitate, and wild animals are not permitted to be raised or kept in the state without such a license. To obtain a license is a challenging prospect. It takes over two years, studying under a licensed rehaber and veterinarians, then an extensive written test on the categories in which you wish to work, passerines, raptors or mammals, then an oral exam by a board of vets and rehabers. The Game commission inspects your facilities and you are ready! A large part of the job involves education, answering questions and teaching people wildlife facts. No funding is provided, money must be raised through donations and grants. A common mistake among people is to think that a "baby" animal is abandoned because the mother is not right there. This is a protective move as the mother has a scent and would alert predators to the young. She feeds and cares for
them quickly, then moves away, usually where she can still be aware of any activity. Picking up an abandoned fawn or rabbit can mean its death sentence. They are wild, and no one can raise them as well as Mom. Then how can you tell if they are abandoned? Check for a mature dead animal of the species relatively close by. Leave the fawn where you found it. Touching it will not cause Mom to leave her baby, but will stress the youngster. She will move it after dark if she is able. For rabbits, a mother will abandon her bunnies if she picks up the scent of blood. To check, get unbleached flour and make a 'ring' around the nest site at dusk. Leave everything as is and check the next morning. If rabbit tracks are seen, either the mother has visited or the bunnies are old enough to fend for themselves. Rabbits are very difficult to rehab. They should be handled as little as possible and only get fed 2-3 times a day. This brings us to a difficult subject. With limited time, space, and resources available should every rabbit, raccoon and squirrel be placed in rehab? Nature is a cruel mother, only permitting the survival of the fittest in order to ensure that the species survives. Genetically, she doesn't want 'dumb bunnies' to make it and degrade the gene pool. Some of the best tips for aiding wildlife are don't disturb, don't keep as pets, and don't feed! That squirrel looks so cute, standing on his hind legs and begging peanuts from your hand, but he is not learning to forage, loses his fear of dogs, cats, and people and could be carrying rabies! For that reason a choice had to be made concerning the rehab center and rabies vector species such as raccoons. They are no longer rehabbed. They are experiencing a population explosion due to loss of natural predators, the convenience of dog and cat food left outside, and with habitat loss due to building, there are more animals competing for less space and food. Saving them to release later and starve is not humane. Rehabilitating a species that is overabundant is counterproductive. These factors also bring them closer to people and carries the grave danger that someone will contract rabies from a bite. Rabies is a virus transmitted from saliva to blood and any time you are bitten by a wild animal or even a family pet seek treatment immediately. Once symptoms begin, you are dead. Raccoons also carry canine and feline distemper so immunize your pets! They carry raccoon roundworm which, if ingested by humans can lead to blindness and neurological problems. How would we catch it? Do you have a sandbox? Do you cover it? Animals think it is a wonderful litterbox provided just for them.

Possums are also another animal seen in rehab. They have short life spans of 2 years, but the species has been around for 90 million years. They have survival figured out. They are the only North American marsupial and have 24-35 babies per litter, all of which can fit on a teaspoon. The gestation is 13 days, then the young are born and crawl to the mother's pouch where they latch on to a nipple and continue to develop. They are omnivorous and scavange regularly on roadkill and have thumbs on their hind feet.

Skunks are another nocturnal animal whose reputation is well-deserved. Most of us encounter their scent on our pets and it is a memorable experience for all. Great Horned owls are their only natural predators, as most birds (except Turkey Vultures) have no sense of smell. When a skunky animal is brought in to rehab, the deodorizing process is as follows: Dawn detergent, 1/4 cup to 1 gallon of warm water is used to wash the animal, being careful to avoid the eye area and thoroughly rinsed out. This removes the oil but the stink remains so the animal is sprayed or wiped down with Scope mouthwash. This leaves them smelling sweet and fresh until they get wet again, when you just repeat the Scope.

Many of these animals are unwelcome when they put stops at our homes on their nightly routine. In order to discourage them, remove any pet food, lid garbage cans tightly, and as they hate the smell of ammonia, use ammonia soaked rags in strategic spots for 4-5 nights and they will cross your list. Repeat as necessary.

One of the things anyone involved with treating wildlife must learn is to know the animal - what danger it poses and how it defends itself. They don't know that you're trying to help and think you are threatening their lives. They will do anything to survive and use whatever they have that works in the wild. Deer look fragile with their slender legs and beautiful brown eyes but their hooves are very sharp and they will kick and slash with them. A buck can weigh enough to do serious injury or kill you if it makes contact. Swans and Canadian geese will club you with their wings and can knock a six-foot man over and pummel him! Great Blue herons tend to jab for the face and eyes, and with lightning reflexes and power enough to stab and kill it's prey serious injuries can result. Too many people don't realize what nature has provided the animals for their defense. R-E-S-P-E-C-T them! If you do find an injured animal and think it needs help, don't try picking it up. Instead get a cardboard box with holes punched in, place it over the animal and slide a piece of cardboard under box and then tape them together. You can call Tamarack and they will assess the situation and determine the best course of action.

We then were introduced to three raptors that have sustained injuries rendering them incapable of surviving in the wild. They are used for educational purposes and we thank Sue for bringing Lady Hawk, a beautiful Redtail; Sassy, a tiny but very vocal Merlin; and Ichabodette, a female Great Horned Owl. It was a great program and we thank Sue and all those involved in doing the rehab for their efforts.

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**September Field Trip Revisited**

*Sandee Swansiger, recording secretary*

The Bartramian Audubon Society held a fieldtrip on Sept. 26 to their newest Wildlife Sanctuary in Brockway PA, Sweet Soil Inc. owned by Jackie Schiering. This abandoned, stripped and barren area is gradually being transformed through the efforts of Jackie and her brother David Stone into a beautiful example of what recycling and reclamation can accomplish. All the soil is extremely acidic and even though pine trees were planted 30 years ago at this site most barely stand five feet tall. Jackie is using virgin paper shreds from a mill in nearby Dubois, composting them and using the mulch to improve the soil and sustain corn, soybeans and grapes. Turkeys and deer abound. The soybeans are much appreciated by the wildlife, as is a 7/8-acre man-made lake, complete with a dock and stocked with large mouth bass. David is building a beautiful picnic pavilion at the lake and these areas will be used for education and enjoyment. Their long-term goals are to demon-
strate to the public and officials what can be done by recycling waste and utilizing the recycled materials to produce crops and improve soils instead of filling more dumps. The project is self-sustaining; thus the net cost to the public is $0! Many plans and ideas are yet to come and we welcome Sweet Soil Inc. and thank Jackie, David and their mom JoAnn for their dedicated efforts.

Christmas Bird Counts- 100 and still counting

Every year since 1900, the National Audubon Society has conducted its original citizen science project, the Christmas Bird Count, which has changed the way scientists monitor the environment. This year, the Christmas Count hits a significant milestone as it celebrates its 100th anniversary. What began as an effort to mobilize the early conservation movement now culminates in a vast database that sheds light on how human activity has impacted the environment over the entire 20th Century.

Over 50,000 volunteers in all fifty states, every Canadian province, Central and South America, the Caribbean and several Pacific Islands (areas where North America's breeding birds winter) will count and record every bird species encountered over one calendar day during the December 17, 1999-January 3, 2000 period. Compilers will enter their group's results at BirdSource, the on-line source for bird information, run by Audubon and the Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology. From humble beginnings nearly a century ago as 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. 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 per- spiration 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. The CBC, like the conservation movement it first heralded, has truly come of age! The data from 99 years (and counting) of Christmas Bird Counts yields valuable insights into the shifting patterns, distributions, and population trends of bird species.

Volunteers are the heart and soul of the CBC. From feederwatchers and 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!...from http://birdsource.cornell.edu/cbc/

The Butler County CBC will be held on Saturday December 18th. The center of the 15 mile diameter of the count circle is located approximately 1.5 miles east of the junction of Lindsay Road and Rt. 528. Lake Arthur, Moraine State Park, McConnells 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 Butler 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 2, 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 Rousesville 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).

Neat Sightings of the Troyer Birding Team

The Troyer Birding team of Mercer, PA saw a Cattle Egret on September 12th near their home. It was first found by Allan Troyer and then seen by Neil, Ruth, Harvey, Jerry, Melvin, and Daniel and Eli Troyer. Ruth's brother and Marvin Byler and his brothers later saw it. It was feeding near a small farm pond with cattle nearby.

Not limited to birding, the Troyers were able to get good looks this summer at a couple of Common Buckeye butterflies. These butterflies considered rare strays to Northwestern Pennsylvania are not seen every year and now must be added to the Mercer County Butterfly list.

For more information on the

Common Buckeye

Log on to

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

U18
7XCH8
Upcoming BAS Board Meeting

Mark Swansiger, president
March 20- Monday- Meeting of the BAS Board at 7:30 p.m. at the United Methodist Church in Slippery Rock.

Upcoming BAS Membership Meeting

Ann 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 13- Monday- Butterflies of the United States – the program will be presented by award winning butterfly photographer Gerald McWilliams. We also know Jerry through his expertise on birds as the co-author of the Birds of Erie County and senior author with Daniel Brauning of the recently published Bird of Pennsylvania.

April 10- Monday- Presentation on Bats- the program will be presented by local bird and bat enthusiast, Bob Baldesberger, of the New Castle area.

May 8- Monday- Annual Awards Night

Upcoming BAS Field Trips/Activities

Russ States, fieldtrip chair

March 18, Saturday, Moraine Duck Walk. With the northerly migration in full swing, this field trip can produce numerous species of duck and waterbirds. There are many vantage points from which to observe the waterfowl. Meet at the Park Headquarters off Rt. 422 at 8:00am.

April 15, Saturday, Bird Walk at Todd Sanctuary. We will visit this property owned by the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania. Expect early warblers and birds such as vireos and gnatchatchers. We will meet at the United Methodist Church in Slippery Rock (our program meeting place) at 7:30am. We will then meet up with those going from the Butler area at the Scheetz on Rt. 356 at 8:15am. Questions call Russ at 841-676-6320.

April 29, Saturday- Sanctuary Visit- We will visit the BAS Sanctuary of Dean Kilboe and witness his impressive colony of Purple Martins. Details to follow.

May 12-13th- Friday and Saturday- Second Annual Spring Birding Festival at McKeever.

May 13, Saturday, BAS Naturthun and North American Migration Count. Form teams and bird your favorite areas. Also open to those who prefer to watch butterflies or count wildflower species. Designed to get you out and observe nature. This is the major fundraiser for our BAS chapter.

June 5- Monday- Annual Picnic- Helen Phillips has offered to host the picnic at her new BAS Sanctuary.

Notes of the Dec 13th Membership Meeting

Sande Swansiger, Recording Secretary
The Bartramian Audubon Society held its December meeting on Mon. Dec. 13, 1999. The meeting was opened at 7:50pm by Gene Wilhelm as President Mark Swansiger was out of town. Brief committee reports were given as follows: Sanctuary Chair Gene Wilhelm reported that one new Wildlife Sanctuary and one new Bird and Butterfly Sanctuary are being added and that seven more sanctuaries are under consideration. Our newest sanctuary owner, Helen Phillips, has offered to host our June picnic. A special program on the Arctic National Wildlife refuge is slat for Jan. 19 at 7 p.m. and BAS is a co-sponsor. All are invited. The Second Annual Spring Birding Festival of Western PA is to be May 12 and 13. This is also the date of the North American Migration count and our Naturthun so opportunities abound for birding. Awards night will be May 8, 2000 and Cindy Dunn will be attending. Education Chair Helen Ferguson encouraged teachers to apply for ecology camp. Newsletter Chair Suzanne Butcher reported the next newsletter will be after the upcoming CBCs and before the March meeting. This is the 100th CBC since the first count was held by the National Audubon Society. Our chapter area has been participating since the early 1980’s and Suzanne is working on compiling a book on the count results over the years. Naturthun/CBC chair Ruth Crawford reported that she has the CBC maps now compiled and assigned-please obtain your copy tonight. Treasurer Robert Love reported that $2000 is in the checking account with additional funds in CD’s. Publicity Chair Dick Craig reported that Tamarack Wildlife Rehab Center is in need of volunteers and he and Anna will be assisting the weekend of Jan 16. Dick announced that he is considering getting a group together to travel to Nebraska to see the migrating Sandhill Cranes in March -17-21. Hospitality Chair Shirley McCarl reported that hosts for March are Bob Walczak and Sandee Swansiger. April hostesses are Joanne Wilhelm and Kate Brydon. A
GREAT BIG THANKS TO ANNA AND DICK CRAIG for the great napkin holder they contributed to the kitchen! Field-trip Chair Russ States reported that CBC’s are on Dec. 18 (Butler) and Jan.2 (Pleasantville), Feb. 5, 2000 is Winter Birds of Venango Co., and March 18 is the Moraine Duck Walk. Minutes from the previous meeting were approved. Program Chair Anna Craig reported on upcoming programs and then introduced Susan Fodor, this year’s Ecology Camp Teacher. Susan presented a delightful, interesting and educational program on her experiences at Ecology Camp. Topics included astronomy, owl calling, night insects, tidal pools and “chasing deer”! Did you know that if you hold a flashlight very low to the ground after dark you can see all the night’s insect eyes glowing back at you? Susan admits that going to camp changed her, made her much more aware of nature, and that she now walks outdoors daily and notices so much more. She loves receiving Audubon Adventures at school and encouraged teachers to apply for camp.

A brief board meeting was held following. Sanctuaries were approved for Marty and Julie Myer, and Jennings Environmental Education Center. A motion to purchase booklets for Bird and Butterfly Sanctuary owners and additional copies to sell at Spring Birding Festival was approved. A Request was made for all SAP compilers to submit trip/bird data so we can estimate additional contributions to PSO. McKeefer Festival brochures were handed out for board members to distribute as able. Suggestions were made for this year’s award recipients. A suggestion was reviewed on donating to Tamarack.


The 100th National Audubon Society
CBC

The 100th National Audubon Society Christmas Bird Count was conducted between December 18, 1999 – January 3, 2000. The BAS participated in two of the individual counts. This is the 34-year for the Pleasantville Count, which was held on January 2. The Butler County Count, which now 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. This first count in 1966 was before the construction of Lake Arthur and the water birds on our current counts were not present then. Now that all the CBC data is readily available at Cornell's Birdsource web site, it is really interesting to go back and compare those early results to the ones we are now tallying. While we wish to thank all those who participated this year, we are also encouraging everyone to consider participating in the count next year.

PLEASANTVILLE CBC, SUNDAY JANUARY 2, 2000

Russ States, compiler

Count circle includes the area within a 15 mile diameter circle, centered 4 miles SSE of Pleasantville. Count area boundary includes Enterprise to the north, Tionesta to the East, Eagle Rock to the south, and PA Route 8 to the west.

January 2,2000: 7:30am to 4:30pm. Temperature 37-45F; Snow cover < 1”; Still waters party frozen; moving water open: wind .5mph; partly sunny am; mostly cloudy pm. Observers: 13 in field in 7 parties plus 1 at feeder. Time/distance: 41.5 total party hours; 254.5 total party miles; including 13.5 hours and 13 miles on foot and 28.5 hours and 241 miles by car. Plus 2 hours and 3.5 miles owlimg.

Weather cloudy, temp. 15F to 30F, 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:

Common Loon 1, Pied-billed Grebe 1, Great Blue Heron 3, Canada Goose 221, Mallard 10, Hooded Merganser 1, Common Merganser 36, Cooper’s Hawk 1, Red-shouldered Hawk 1, Red-tailed Hawk 18, Rough-legged Hawk 2, American Kestrel 1, Wild Turkey 1, Ring-billed Gull 1, Rock Dove 10, Mourning Dove 60, Eastern Screech Owl 4, Great Horned Owl 3, Barred Owl 1, Belted Kingfisher 6, Red-bellied Woodpecker 75, Downy Woodpecker 43, Hairy Woodpecker 7, Northern (YS) Flicker 8, Pileated Woodpecker 8, Blue Jay 1891, Am. Crow 183, Black-capped Chickadee 361, Tufted Titmouse 44, Red-breasted Nuthatch 5, White-breasted Nuthatch 76, Brown Creeper 7, Carolina Wren 10, Golden-crowned Kinglet 4, American Robin 77, Cedar Waxwing 116, European Starling 232, Northern Cardinal 39, American Tree Sparrow 43, Field Sparrow 8, Song Sparrow 4, White-throated Sparrow 11, Dark-eyed (SC) Junco 143, Purple Finch 64, House Finch 30, Common Redpoll, American Goldfinch 76, Evening Grosbeak 55, House Sparrow 57.


BUTLER COUNTY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

Suzanne Butcher, Ruth Crawford compilers

The Butler County CBC, in conjunction with the 100th National Audubon Christmas Bird Count, was held December 18, 1999 from 7am to 5pm. The day began partly cloudy with a temperature of 28° followed by clearing and an afternoon high of 42°. Winds were shifting out of the SW between 0-5 mph. There was no snow cover. Larger bodies of still water including Lake Arthur, were open while smaller ponds were partially frozen. . Moving water was mostly open.

Observers: 37 in 14 field parties; plus 5 at feeders for 26 hours; 9.5 hours and 51.5 miles owlimg. 36.5 hours and 32 miles on foot; 59.5 hours and 582 miles by car.

TOTAL PARTY HOURS: 96; PARTY MILES: 614

The count this year like our count last year produced many new highs. The total species count of 91 (with two possible additional ones still under documentation review) surpassed last year’s high of 89. In addition, the total individual count of 45,268 far surpassed the previous all time high of 12,745 re-
corded last year. The marked increase this year was due to the many large mixed flocks of blackbirds that remained in the area. While the number of feeder watchers was less than last year, we had an increase of field participants accounting for a greater in depth coverage of the count circle. Highs were also reached in several individual species. Like last year, the persistence of warm weather and open water plus the increased numbers and efforts of the many volunteers, have to be the major contributing factors for the highs reached this year.

**OBERVERS:*** Harriet Bauer, Kate Byrdon, Kate Burke, Beth Butcher, Gene Butcher, Suzanne Butcher, Susan Cegelka, Teddy Cegelka, Ruth Crawford, Dave Daney, Bobbie Davis, Barb Dean, George Dean, Helen R. Ferguson, Candy Gonzalez, Velda Graham, Sally Jamison, Marjorie Kirk, Robert Love, Jim McDowell, Alex Petridis, Melanie Petridis, Marybeth Sabin, Sandy Shuffitall, Scott Shuffitall, Jerry Stanley, Russ States, Priscilla Stoughton, Mark Swansiger, Sandee Swansiger, Harvey Troyer, Jerry Troyer, Neil Troyer, Tessa Twietter, Gene Wilhelm, Joanne Wilhem, Edward Wilver, Joan Wilver, Cassie Yeager, Debbie Yeager, Jessica Yeager, Debbie Yovanovich.

**TOTAL OBSERVERS: 42**


Species seen count week- Double-crested Cormorant, Wood Duck, Northern Shoveler, Ruffed Grouse, Yellow-rumped Warbler.

**TOTAL SPECIES 91; TOTAL INDIVIDUALS 45268**

**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. The Bartrman Audubon Society offers 2 scholarships to attend one of the week long ecology sessions. The cost of the workshop is $595. We ask that the scholarship winners 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. Two scholarship will be awarded. ALL ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY April 1, 2000. Return this application form to Helen R. Ferguson at 100 Balboa Court, Butler PA 16001. Phone 724-287-2800 for additional questions or information.

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**SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION FOR THE NATIONAL AUDUBON ECOLOGY WORKSHOP SPONSORED BY THE BARTRMAN 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 sheets as necessary
Membership Reminder

...Linda Wagner, Membership Chair

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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 U18

7XCH8
Upcoming BAS Board Meeting

Mark Swansiger, president
April 17- Monday- Meeting of the BAS Board at 7:30 p.m. at the United Methodist Church in Slippery Rock.

Upcoming BAS Membership Meeting
Ann 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 10- Monday- Presentation on Bats- the program will be presented by local bird bander and bat enthusiast, Bob Baldesberger, of the New Castle area.

May 8- Monday- Annual Awards Night

Upcoming BAS Field Trips/Activities
Russ States, fieldtrip chair
April 15, Saturday, Bird Walk at Todd Sanctuary. We will visit this property owned by the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania. Expect early warblers and birds such as vireos and gnatchatchers. We will meet at the United Methodist Church in Slippery Rock (our program meeting place) at 7:30am. We will then meet up with those going from the Butler area at the Scheetz on Rt. 356 at 8:15am. Leader- Helen R. Ferguson- call Helen at 724-287-2800 for additional questions or information.

April 29, Saturday- cancelled- The trip to the Purple Martin Sanctuary of Dean Kildoo originally set for the 29th is being rescheduled for a later date when the martins will have fledglings.

May 12-13th- Friday and Saturday- Second Spring Birding Festival of Western Pennsylvania: “Forests, Grasslands, and their Birdlife”. Sponsored by the McKeever Environmental Learning Center and the Bartramian Audubon Society. Talks and field trips. To receive registration information, contact the McKeever Center: 724-376-1000, www.mckeever.org or info@mckeever.org

May 13, Saturday, BAS Naturthon - Form teams and bird your favorite areas. Also open to those who prefer to watch butterflies or count wild flower species. Designed to get you out and to enjoy and observe nature. This is the major fundraiser for our BAS chapter. See inside for details.

May 13, Saturday- NAMC- This can be done in conjunction with the BAS Naturthon- Your NAMC reports can be sent to Naturthon chair Ruth Crawford and she will be forward them to the appropriate county compiler where the birds were counted.

June 5- Monday- Annual Picnic- Helen Phillips has offered to host the picnic at her new BAS Sanctuary near Chicora. BAS will provide the hotdogs and everyone is to bring a dish to share. Time is 5:30pm. Maps to the sanctuary will be available at the April and May meetings and on request.

Notes of the March Membership Meeting
Sandee Swansiger, Recording Secretary
The Bartramian Audubon Society held its March meeting on Monday, March 12th. The meeting was opened at 7:30 p.m. by President Mark Swansiger. Over 60 people were in attendance. Minutes from the previous meeting were read and approved. Fieldtrip Chair Russ States reported on the Venango County trip in February, reminded people of the upcoming trip to Moraine on March 18th, and reviewed the trips for the rest of the year. Newsletter Chair Suzanne Butcher reported the next newsletter will be mailed before the April meeting. Ruth Crawford, Naturthon Chair, reported that packets for the team captains will be available at the April meeting or you can call her at 724-794-5688 and one can be mailed to you. Hospitality Chair Shirley McCarl reported that Bob Walczak and Anna Craig are to be thanked for tonight's refreshments and announced that April hostesses will be Kate Brydon and Joanne Wilhelm and May is assigned potluck. Education Chair Helen Ferguson reminded all that scholarship applications are due April 1. Mark Swansiger thanked Linda Wagner and the Friends of the Hoyt for their generous donation to BAS after Linda spoke there. Mark also gave very special recognition to education chair Helen Ferguson, and also to Gene Wilhelm and all the supporters of Audubon Adventures. There are 28 Audubon chapters in PA and 640 classrooms receive Audubon Adventures. Out of this 640, BAS SPONSORS 125 OR 20%! Kudos to all! Anna Craig then introduced Jerry McWilliams, award winning photographer, butterfly expert, well known birder and co-author of Birds of Erie County and Birds of Pennsylvania. Jerry presented a stunningly beautiful and informative program. There are over 14,500 species of butterflies in the world and this number keeps growing as more new species are being identified. Most are found in the tropics but North America hosts about 700 while PA has about 120 native species with irruptions from the south in years of very mild winters. Texas is a wonderful spot for butterflies as well as birds and Mr. McWilliams is kept busy trying to decide
what he wants to observe. One suggestion is birds in the early morning and butterflies in the afternoon! Jerry displayed many excellent reference books, two of which are *Butterflies of North America* by James Scott and *Butterflies Through Binoculars: East* by Jeff Glassberg. Following the program refreshments were served and the meeting closed at 9:45 p.m.

**Notes of the February Board Meeting**  
*Sandee Swansiger, Recording Secretary*

The Board of Bartramian Audubon Society met on Monday, February 21st at the United Methodist Church, Slippery Rock, PA. President Mark Swansiger opened the meeting at 7:45 p.m. Chair Reports were given as follows: Newsletter Chair Suzanne Butcher reported that the next issue is ready to go to the printer’s. Updated labels were received. As requested a letter was prepared to go to the SAP compilers asking for a report of their 1999 activity. These will be used as a guide for future BAS support of individual SAP’s being conducted by BAS members in our four county area. Education Chair Helen Ferguson reported she has mailed applications for Ecology Camp to all teachers receiving the *Upland Informer*. She also enclosed a postcard requesting acknowledgement of their continuing interest in receiving Audubon Adventures for the 2000-2001 school year. If you wish to remain on AA list, RETURN YOUR POSTCARD BY MAY 1. Letters of thanks from teachers receiving the Audubon Adventures program were reviewed. Hospitality Chair Shirley McCarl reported on hostesses for the rest of the year. Treasurer Robert Love reported that the checking account is currently about $3000. Our quarterly dues split from National is $594. Renewal subscriptions were received. Several outstanding bills were approved. Fieldtrip Chair Russ States reported on the upcoming trips.

OLD BUSINESS: Bruce Hazen will no longer be doing signs for BAS Wildlife Sanctuaries. His cousin can do the signs at an increased cost. A motion to authorize the increase in cost was seconded and passed. Questions on status of BAS participation in the Cornell Blue/Golden Winged Warbler project were addressed. NEW BUSINESS: Camp Elliot has requested that BAS co-sponsor an Earth-Pact application grant for the Girl Scouts. Mark Swansiger was willing to represent BAS in box building and habitat management. A motion to co-sponsor was approved. It was noted that on March 16th a rally will be held at Laurel High School to discuss allowing Sechan a permit to use residential waste as landfill in strip-mined areas. Watch papers for details and please attend so your opinion can be heard! Publicity Chair Dick Craig reported that Tamarack is in need of funds. A motion to donate $500 to Tamarack Wildlife Rehabilitation Center was seconded and approved. Gene Wilhelm submitted an invitation for BAS to co-sponsor his fall birding trip to the Eastern Seashore. A decision was tabled pending further information. An Action Alert was received asking members to contact Congressional legislators encouraging their support in the creation of a new department of National Wildlife Refuge Service under the Department of Interior. Tabled. Nominations for new board members were received. Anyone interested in participating in the board of BAS please contact Mark Swansiger 724-533-5291 as nominations will close at March board meeting. Elections will be held in April. Meeting closed at 9:15 p.m.

**Notes of the March Board Meeting**  
*Sandee Swansiger, Recording Secretary*

President Mark Swansiger opened the meeting at 7:45 p.m. Due to an absence of a quorum at the meeting no votes were taken on the following business matters. Brief chair reports: Hospitality Chair Shirley McCarl thanked Bob Walczak and Anna Craig for the refreshments at the membership meeting. April hostesses are Kate Brydon and Joanne Wilhelm. May is potluck and Shirley will hand out slips at the next meeting. The Swansigers will provide the table decorations. The June picnic will be at the Sanctuary of Helen Phillips. BAS will provide the hotdogs. Education Chair Helen Ferguson reported that she has received 2 applications for the ecology workshop. Requests for Audubon Adventures for the 2000-2001 school year are trickling in. REMEMBER DEADLINE IS MAY 1. Newsletter Chair Suzanne Butcher reported that she would like to be able to take the letter to the printers this week. However she still needs some additional information on upcoming trips and meetings. Fieldtrip Chair Russ States reported that the March 18 trip was well attended and many species of ducks were observed. Helen Ferguson will be leader for the Todd Sanctuary visit. Suzanne will try to verify county compilers for the NAMC. The June picnic at Helen Phillips is scheduled for 5:30. Maps will be available at the April and May meetings. The slate for next year’s board is: President Suzanne Butcher; Vice President Mark Swansiger; Treasurer Robert Love assisted by Gene Butler; Recording Secretary Sandee Swansiger. Will still need to contact others for board positions. OLD BUSINESS: Three compilers have sent in their SAP reports. NEW BUSINESS: The U.S. Army Corp of Engineers is looking for volunteers to do surveys in several counties. BAS has offered to do the surveys at Shenango and at the same time adding this as a SAP and sending the appropriate data to Doug Gross. BAS has received promotional complimentiary copies of Microsoft Office 2000 to be distributed to key board members so that all are using the same programs. This will be very helpful in providing uniformity in material for the newsletter publication, maintaining membership lists, Web page updates, etc. A very big thank you to Microsoft, Suzanne Butler and her son-in-law. Bruce Hazen has alerted BAS to request the PA Fish Commission close Box turtle season and stop the collecting of these terrestrial turtles. They are picked up from the woods and used for pets but are not likely to breed or survive in captivity. Even if they are returned to the wild, they must be placed back were they were found or they will wander for miles and eventually die while trying to get back home. There are only few members of this delightful species left, and removal of one individual will doom a small populations chance for breeding success. Members of BAS are encouraged and requested to write their representatives etc. concerning this issue. See related story. There being no further business to discuss the meeting was closed 8:30 p.m.

“All the flowers of all the tomorrows are in the seeds of today.”
March 18th Field Trip Review

Russ States, fieldtrip chair

Saturday, March 18th, saw 14 people meeting at the Moraine State Park headquarters building at 8:00 am for a BAS field trip. The day was clear and sunny, but cold and windy. The first stop provided looks at N. Shoveler, Gadwall, Am. Black Duck, Am. Wigeon, Bufflehead, and Horned Grebe. Then a drive around the beach road produced the year’s first Tree Swallow, as well as Red-breasted Mergansers, Pied-billed Grebe, distant scaup, and Ring-billed Gulls. The group then proceeded to the Waterfowl Observation Area off Rt. 528, where an E. Phoebe, Wood Ducks, Hooded Mergansers and E. Bluebirds were seen. Continuing on Rt. 528 the group went to the upper end of the Muddy finger of the lake and were rewarded with numerous waterfowl including N. Pintail, Redheads, Blue-winged Teal and Ring-neck Duck. The final destination, the McDanel’s boat launch area, had many Am. Coots and Bonaparte’s Gulls. With 51 species we ended the morning with a look at the Barn Owls being kept for the Barn Owl release program.

Naturthon Update- May 13th

Ruth Crawford, Naturthon Chair

The day for our 2000 Naturthon - May 13th is fast approaching. Are you ready to spend a fun, game-like day counting species of birds, butterflies, and wildflowers and at the same time help our BAS chapter? Then form your own NATURTHON field team. Any member or friend of the chapter can organize a field team by simply giving your team a special name for identifying purposes or keep your team name from last year. Then start collecting pledges of so many dollars per wildlife species or a flat fee contribution from individuals, organizations, and businesses. Actually now is the time to organize your team and start collecting those pledges. Note that you do NOT have to be an expert ornithologist, entomologist, or botanist to organize and lead a field team. The whole idea is to have fun on your own or with friends identifying wildlife. And you do NOT have to count all three wildlife categories (birds, butterflies, and wildflowers) although it is more fun and enjoyable if you do. So pick your favorite natural spot and start counting! Spend as much or as little time on May 13th as you can to help our cause.

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

Help Save the Box Turtle

....Russ States

We urge the PA Fish & Boat Commission to close the season on box turtle collecting in Pennsylvania.

1. There is abundant, reliable evidence revealing the decline and disappearances of box turtle populations.
2. All species of this genus have been afforded strict international protection by the 1994 CITES treaty.
3. Border states, NY and NJ, have long prohibited box turtle collecting. Pennsylvania is remarkable in its weak conservation policies for box turtles.
4. Box turtles have small home ranges. Research indicates that they cannot detect potential mates at a distance. They therefore rely on high population densities in small areas to sustain their populations. Census studies find that most population’s densities are now far below that.
5. Because box turtles can live 100 years, reproductively depleted populations outlive the humans who misinterpret the presence of those remnant populations as a viable population.
6. The relit status of many populations goes unrecognized without lengthy studies. The long time needed for such studies means that even as the studies are being conducted the populations are in irreversible decline.
7. Unlike fish, birds, and mammals, box turtles don’t emigrate in sufficient numbers to replenish habitats which have lost them.
8. Attempts to artificially repopulate former habitats reveal the impractically of recovering destabilized and extirpated box turtle populations.
9. Captured box turtles often die in captivity. If they are released after captivity, their homing instinct propels them to disperse, exposing them to probable death from increased energy use, highway exposure, and unfamiliarity with new foraging and hibernating sites.
10. Dispersal of box turtles after collecting can also spread disease. A new disease that was spread through gopher and desert tortoise populations by released pet tortoises in the 1970’s now threatens those species with extinction. In 1998 the same disease organism was found, for the first time, in a box turtle. Given the array of ecological damage fomented by current PA policy, we urge the PA Fish & Boat Commission to revoke its permission for citizens to collect box turtles.

Letters in support of the box turtle can be written to Peter Colangelo, Executive Director, Pennsylvania Fish & Boat Commission, 3532 Walnut St. P.O. Box 67000 Harrisburg, PA 17106-7000.
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.

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

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

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

Renewing members should use the coupon mailed to them by NAS
U18 7XCH8
Upcoming BAS Board Meeting

Suzanne Butcher, president

August 21- Monday- Meeting of the BAS Board at 7:30 p.m. at the United Methodist Church in Slippery Rock. Please notify President Suzanne Butcher at sarbie@msn.com or 330-759-1945 if you are unable to attend.

Upcoming BAS Membership Meeting

Ann Craig, program chair

September 11- Monday- Come and join us for our first meeting of the 2000-01 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 September Upland Informer. Field trips will also be scheduled.

May Meeting - Awards Night

Sandeep Swansiger, recording secretary

The Bartramian Audubon Society met on Monday, May 8, 2000 for its annual Awards Night. The meeting opened at 7:40 p.m. Executive Director of the PA State Audubon Field Office, Cindy Dunn, and her mom Shirley, were present along with 45 other members and attendees. The minutes of the April meeting were read and approved. Brief Chair reports: Naturthon Chair Ruth Crawford reminded people that the Naturthon is this coming Saturday. Please collect all monies from your pledges at your leisure but return the sighting list ASAP! Hospitality Chair Shirley McCarl thanked everyone for hosting throughout the past year and thanked all those who contributed to the evening’s refreshments: Betty Starr and Jim McDowell for the nuts and mints, Helen Ferguson, Shirley McCarl and Glenda Kemm for the sandwiches, Priscilla Stoughton for the fruit bowl, Catherine Houts for the cookies, Ruth Crawford and Marjorie Kirk for relish trays, Bob Walczak and Joanne Wilhelm for the drinks, Kate Brydon and Sandee Swansiger for the brownsie and Anna and Dick Craig for the chips and dips. Our annual picnic will be June 5 at 5:30 p.m. at the home of Helen Phillips. Get a map for directions or call Swansigers at 724-533-5291. Hot-dogs and buns provided, bring your own table service and anything else you would like. Education Chair Helen Ferguson introduced this year’s Ecology Camp Scholarship recipients; Mr. and Mrs. Glen McKissic and Natalie Price. The McKissics received our first shared scholarship and are teachers at Slippery Rock Middle School. Natalie received the Giant Eagle Inc. sponsored scholarship and teaches at Butler County Community College. Teachers interested in receiving Audubon Adventures for 2000-2001 should submit requests quickly as the deadline is May 15. Publicity Chair Dick Craig reminds everyone of all the upcoming activities - the Second Annual Spring Birding Festival at McKeever co-sponsored by BAS May 12 & 13, the placing of the Sanctuary sign at Villa Marie at 12:30, the Naturthon and NAMC all on May 13, and the picnic June 5! Sanctuary Chair Gene Wilhelm reports that Cornell Lab of Ornithology has granted $1000 for field study of the following warblers: Golden-winged, Blue-winged and hybrids of the two. The grant will be used to compensate volunteers for gas and mileage. Please contact Gene, 724-794-2434 for further details. Treasurer Robert Love reports that checking account balance remains stable at ~$3000. Mark Swansiger reports that June 3 at 10 a.m. we will visit the Dean Kildoo property and view the Purple Martins. The property is 3 miles north on Rte. 258 out of Grove City, then turn on W. Liberty Road. Call Mark if you have any questions or directions. Cindy Dunn thanked all the volunteers contributing to the success of BAS. She told us of National Audubon’s goal of having 20 Audubon Centers in PA by 2020. This area has many important and diverse habitats for many rare, threatened or endangered species. Call her if any concerns or questions arise. The slate of new officers for BAS was then presented: President- Suzanne Butcher, 1st Vice President- Mark Swansiger, 2nd Vice President- Melanie Petridis, Treasurer- Gene Butcher, assisted by Robert Love, Recording Secretary- Sandee Swansiger, Corresponding Secretary- Jim McDowell. It was moved, seconded and passed to elect these persons to office, with our thanks. Chairs will be filled soon. Sanctuary Awards were then presented. This year we have two "double" awards of both Wildlife Sanctuaries and Bird and Butterfly Sanctuaries. Jackie Schiering and Helen Phillips supported BAS and it’s sanctuary program by applying for both types of sanctuaries! They received the beautiful Wildlife Sanctuary and Bird and Butterfly Signs and Certificates and copies of Butterfly Gardening and Attracting Hummingbirds. Jackie Schiering’s property, Sweet Soil Inc. is the first sanctuary given to someone outside of our program’s geographical area as she is in Elk Co. Martin and Julie Meyer of Slippery Rock, The Sisters of the Humility of Mary and Jennings Environmental Education Center all received Wildlife Sanctuaries bringing the total of protected property to around 2500 acres! The BAS Organizational Award for 2000
goes to the United Methodist Church of Slippery Rock with much gratitude for supporting BAS since it's inception, allowing membership meetings to be held in it's facility the second Monday of the month and Board meetings the following Monday. Katherine Houts presented the award. The BAS Individual Award goes to George Casselberry, an eighth grader who is an outstanding auditory birder and helps when called upon answering many, many questions about birds and their vocalizations. Along with his Dad, he makes all the membership meetings. Anna Craig presented the award. The BAS Business Award goes to Dottie and Steve Lengle, owners of Hermitage Agway. This enterprising young couple and their children have been supporting BAS by selling Bluebird boxes for us since 1994, turning all proceeds over to BAS and spreading the word about bluebirds and their needs. Mark Swansiger presented the award.

Outgoing President Mark Swansiger then spoke, thanking all who taught, supported, steered and assisted him with his presidency the last four years, enabling him to become a better birder and giving him a wonderful appreciation of the beauty, song and color of our world. Congratulations and Best Wishes to President Suzanne. The meeting was closed at 8:40 pm with a birthing joke told by Ed Wilver.

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A brief board meeting of BAS was held prior to the May 8, 2000 Awards Night. The Officers slate was rearranged due to constitutional limits on terms for treasurer, switching Bob Love and Gene Butcher for assistant Treasurer. A new Recording Secretary is needed as term limits apply here also. Gene Wilhelm is leading a 25th anniversary trip to the Eastern Seashore Oct. 22-28, 2000 and made a motion that BAS take advantage of the opportunity to earn money. The people attending would be asked to contribute $50-100 to the Nature Conservancy or Audubon of their choice- BAS, McKeever, Sandy Lake or Seneca Rocks. This would be on a sliding scale and would not increase the overall cost of the trip. Motion was seconded and approved. The Board meeting was then closed.

Award Presentations for 1999

Conservation Award for Outstanding Organization - United Methodist Church of Slippery Rock

Presented by Katherine Houts

Before 1834 members of the church met in a barroom. The Rev. John Chandler came from Pittsburgh to deliver the weekly sermon. Then in 1834 the congregation met in a schoolhouse located on the present lot in Slippery Rock. In 1840 the trustees purchased the lot from Isaac and Lydia Pearson for the consideration of one cent. The Methodist Episcopal Church was the first church in Centerville, which was the original name of Slippery Rock. In 1860 the old meetinghouse built in 1837 was torn down and a brick church was built on the lot. Through the years improvements were made from oil lamp to gaslight to electricity, and from small stoves to remsors to central heating. The church was legally chartered in 1931. In 1957 construction began on the new sanctuary, fellowship hall, parlor and kitchen. In 1964 the church became a single charge. In 1971 stained glass windows were installed in the new sanctuary, a memorial gift by Mrs. Twila Shaffer and sons in memory of Mr. Edgar Shaffer.

The greater community has used the church extensively. For example, it houses an active nursery school and students use the student room to study and sometimes cook. Kate Brydon knows of cakes being baked for roommates’ birthdays. Both Boy and Girl Scouts meet in the church as well as Weight Watchers and others men and women’s organizations. Slippery Rock Rotary makes a pancake breakfast for the public on Election Day. And then there are blood drives, hunter’s breakfasts and Slippery Rock Women’s Club who meet here as well. Finally, the Bartramian Audubon Society has held its membership meetings on the second Monday of the month, Sept.-May with a break in Jan and Feb. since the chapter’s inception in September 1982. The BAS board also meets here from Aug.-May. Over the past 166 years there have been 47 pastors of the church with the Rev. H. Rand Edwards the present minister. Thus because of its gracious kindness in opening its doors to the entire community, its willingness to share its wonderful human and physical resources with others and it’s sincere and deep concern for the environment, it gives the Bartramian Audubon Society genuine pleasure in presenting the Year 2000 Conservation Award for an Organization to the United Methodist Church of Slippery Rock, Rev. H. Rand Edwards, Pastor, accepting the award.

Conservation Award for Outstanding Business - Hermitage Agway

Presented by Mark Swansiger

In 1994, the members of BAS began a mission directed toward the propagation of Eastern Bluebirds, which had become an endangered species. The original goal, and name of the mission was entitled "2000 by 2000". And we were determined to be able to account for the active monitoring of 2000 bluebird nest boxes in our area by the year 2000. Although we fell short of this number, our efforts can hardly be considered a failure. Every year I receive information indicating that the bluebird is making a strong comeback in our area and throughout the eastern U.S. Numerous times I have heard non-birders ask, "What are those pretty little blue and orange birds in our yard?" or "I finally got bluebirds to nest in my yard for the first time!" Part of our effort involves distributing nest boxes to the general public through local merchants. One such business, which has been instrumental, is Hermitage Agway. For the past five years, Steve and Dotty Lengle, owners for the past 9 years, have been peddling our bluebird nest boxes. During one of their busiest times of the year, spring, they handle the sales from their location on Rt. 62. Their work is completely voluntary and 100% of the proceeds are given back to BAS as part of our spring fund raising projects. This money helps to fund other projects that we sponsor, such as the Audubon Adventures for educating grade school students and Summer Ecology Camps for teachers and environmental educators. Therefore, on behalf of the Bartramian Audubon Society of Slippery Rock Pennsylvania, I would like to present this year’s award for outstanding business to Hermitage Agway. And to wish Steve, Dotty and their children Mark and Kelsey, continued success with their business and the sale of our nest boxes in the future.
Conservation Award for Outstanding Individual — George Casselberry

George Casselberry is an 8th grader at Laurel Jr. Sr. High School. I have known George since he was in second grade. All of his life George has been challenged in one-way or another. In school he does most of his learning auditorially because of his visual impairment and physical disability. George has learned to type on a computer with an adapted keyboard and a talking program that allows him to hear what he types. Most of his subject material is read to him. George knows some Braille to help him label what items he wants. George is able to walk with assistance but it is easier to use a power wheelchair to get around in his school. He has been on the honor roll twice this year. There are many people in George's life to assist him with his daily routine and his schoolwork. Even with his disabilities, George does not let them get in the way. Outside of school George is involved in many other activities. He sings in the St. Joseph Worker Youth Choir and has cantered a couple of masses by himself, memorizing all the music and when to sing what and also announces what the people are to sing. He sings in Laurel's Jr. Sr. High Chorus. He has a solo in the next concert. He plays the trombone by using a bracket his dad made to help him hold the trombone. He plays by ear. George can also play the piano and melody harp. He is a member of the East New Castle Jr. Grange and has won many awards for his various talents at the local, regional and state level including a first place in "other acts" at the state for doing his bird calls. George has tried and still does many sports like challenger baseball and basketball, taekwondo, swimming, snow skiing, roller-skating, sled riding, water skiing, bowling, and horseback riding. George belongs to the Wayne Buckaroos 4-H Horse club and participates in the therapeutic riding program and shows in a walk-trot class and therapeutic trail class. He has gotten over his fear of large farm animals and has learned to ride because someday he would like to go birding in the rain forests of Central and South America. His favorite hobby of course is birding and he enjoys hanging out at the birding station that Bob Baldesberger runs on his parent's property. George rides around with Bob in a golf cart and identifies what birds he hears while Bob gets a visual. George is usually right. George enjoys listening to sound effects, birdcalls, 50's and 60's Rock and Roll, Classical and Big Band Music. It is with great pleasure that the Bartramian Audubon Society presents its conservation award for an outstanding individual to George Casselberry.

New Bartramian Audubon Society Sanctuaries

The Bartramian Audubon Society, one of over 500 chapters of the National Audubon Society in the United States, recently approved and certified the following properties as official sanctuaries:

Bird And Butterfly Sanctuaries

Jacqueline L. Schiering, Brockway, Jefferson County, PA
Helen M. Phillips, Chicora, Butler County, PA

Eastern Shore Adventure

The Bartramian Audubon Society's Wildlife Sanctuary program is unique in the country since the property owners retain title and deed yet benefit from the conservation expertise offered to such property owners by the chapter. Commencing just a few years ago, the two programs together have attracted forty properties to its rolls. Any property owner in Butler, Lawrence, Mercer and Venango Counties who is interested in learning more about the programs should contact the Bartramian Audubon Society, c/o Gene Wilhelm, 513 Kelly Blvd., Slippery Rock, PA 16057-1145 or telephone 724-794-2434 or e-mail Genewilhelm@aol.com

Presentation of Wildlife Sanctuary Sign by Gene Wilhelm, Sanctuary Chair, to David Johnson, Director, Jennings Environmental Education Center, Slippery Rock, PA.
Membership Reminder

......Sandee Swansiger, 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, Sandee Swansiger.

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-
which 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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