Upcoming BAS Board Meeting

...Kathie Goodblood, president

September 16- Monday- The BAS Board will meet at 7:00 p.m. at the United Methodist Church in Slippery Rock. Please notify Kathie at 814-432-4496 or bhns@csoline.net if you are unable to attend.

Upcoming BAS Membership Meetings

...program chair

Our membership meetings are held at the United Methodist Church, 130 Franklin St, Slippery Rock, PA at 7:30 p.m. and are free and open to the public. Refreshments are served.

September 9- Monday – “Save the Shellbacks”, speaker, Benjamin Atkinson. About 160 years ago there were an estimated 250,000 tortoises and fourteen varieties. Today only 15,000 remain and 3 varieties are extinct! Come and learn about the conservation, biology, and natural history of Eastern Box Turtle, and many other turtle/tortoise species with Ben Atkinson, Slippery Rock University student working with Bill Belzer on the Eastern Box Turtle Conservation Project with Clarion University. Ben will include “hands on stuff” like shells and bones, and perhaps even a live turtle.

October 14- Monday -“Talking about Deer’, speaker Kathy Randall, Conservation Program Coordinator for Audubon Pennsylvania, will address the topics of the natural history and ecological impacts of deer, the history of deer management in Pennsylvania, and current management options.

Upcoming Field Trips

...Russ States, fieldtrip chair

September 7- Saturday- Annual Fall Trip to Shenango River Lake for Shorebirds, leader Jerry Stanley. Once again the lowering of the water at Shenango Reservoir has provided the formation of mudflats attracting shorebirds on their fall migration. Meet at the Lake View parking area of the Golden Run Access Area at 8:30am. When you turn off Rt. 258 at the Golden Run Access Area sign, go to the T in the road and turn right. Drive to the end of the road and the parking will be at your left. Bring boots. If questions, please contact Jerry or Kathie at 814-432-4496 or bhns@csoline.net.

About Shenango River Lake

Shenango River Lake Reservoir located in Mercer County, PA and Trumbull County, OH is part of the flood control system operated by the Pittsburgh District Corps of Engineers of the Beaver and Upper Ohio Rivers. It was authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1938 and began full operation in February 1967. The concrete gravity dam located on the Shenango River near Sharpsville, PA, is about 33 miles above the confluence near New Castle, PA. of the Shenango River with the Mahoning River to form the Beaver River.

Shenango River Lake in Pennsylvania, including the Big Bend area along the Shenango River, is one of 74 sites selected in Pennsylvania by the scientific advisors of the Ornithologic Records Committee as an Important Bird Area (IBA). Previously this area had also been designated a SAP Special Areas Project of the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology. The IBA concept was first developed in Europe in 1965 by BirdLife International and is a pivotal part of a dynamic worldwide effort to identify and protect outstanding habitats for birds and all wildlife.

Pennsylvania through the auspices of the National Audubon Society and the Pennsylvania Audubon Society was the first state to develop and implement the IBA program. It is now under the direction of Rob Byer, Important Bird Area Coordinator, and Steve Hoffman, Director of Bird Conservation of the Pennsylvania Audubon Society.

In addition to the data collection protocol for the SAP Surveys, the Louisiana Waterthrush Survey of the IBA program is also being conducted at the site. Shorebird records are also being maintained.

During some years, the receding water levels in late July and early August through September at Shenango River Lake create ever expanding mudflats affording opportunities for seeing large varieties and good numbers of shorebirds passing through our area on their southerly fall migration. When this happens, no where in Western Pennsylvania south of Lake Erie can such impressive numbers and variety of shorebirds be found.

The Bartramian Audubon Society has adopted Shenango River Lake as an IBS under the auspices of Audubon Pennsylvania.
Meet Our New President

Kathie Goodblood, a native of Maine and president of the BAS for the two year term ending in 2004, moved to Pennsylvania in 1992 with her husband Jerry Stanley. They live in Venango County on the 450 acre Buttermilk Hill Nature Sanctuary, which they manage for the benefit of the wildlife living there. Kathie attended the University of Maine earning a B.S. degree in Special and Elementary Education. Kathie has served as the BAS Publicity Chair for the past 2 years. Kathie currently also serves on the UPMC Northwest Auxiliary Board and on the board of the Association of Hospital Auxiliaries/Northwest Region. She volunteers for the Franklin Meals on Wheels, the Box Turtle Conservation Project, the Venango Training and Development Center, and with her dog Thrasher, visits a senior day care center and the hospital transition care unit.

Her hobbies include bird watching, traveling, gardening, knitting, and cooking.

June Picnic Thanks

We wish to thank Bob and Berenice Madjaric for allowing us to have our annual picnic at their beautiful wildlife sanctuary near Portersville. Over forty people enjoyed the delicious food and each other's company in this peaceful natural setting.

May 2002 Naturthon Results

As you all know, the primary function of our annual 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 and scholarship awards. 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. While total number of species seen or identified is of interest, the real rewards of your efforts are in the money raised for Audubon. Each and every dollar is deeply appreciated. We would like to give our deepest thanks to our many valued individual contributors. We would like to give special thanks to our Corporate Sponsors and encourage each and every one of you to give them your support. This year $4891.80 was raised for Audubon causes.

Wildflowers Identified

The following wildflowers (common names) were submitted by the teams of Crow Bait, Kelly Coyotes, Upland Retrievers, and Wild Wanderers.


Butterflies Observed

Butterflies reported by the teams of ‘Crow Bait’, Wild Wanderers, and Upland Retrievers included: Eastern Tiger Swallowtail, Spicebush Swallowtail, Mourning Cloak, Spring Azure, Orange Sulphur, and Red Admiral.

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Please support our corporate sponsors!
Membership Reminder

Sandeep Swansiger, Membership Chair

We welcome the many of you who have recently joined the Bartramian Audubon Society. As a reminder, the expiration date of your membership with NAS or the BAS should be on your address label. Please renew in a timely fashion to not miss future newsletters. If you have any questions about your membership status, 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 along with your name and address 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 the National Audubon Society. This membership will include membership in the National Audubon Society and Audubon magazine and the local Bartramian Audubon Society and the local chapter newsletter, the Upland Informer, but excludes the BAS Sanctuary Program.

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

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Address

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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
Upcoming BAS Board Meeting

October 21 - Monday - The BAS Board will meet at 7:00 p.m. at the United Methodist Church in Slippery Rock. Please notify Kathie at 814-432-4496 or bhns@csonline.net if you are unable to attend.

Upcoming BAS Membership Meetings

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October 14- Monday - "Talking about Deer", speaker Kathy Randall, Conservation Program Coordinator for Audubon Pennsylvania, will address the topics of the natural history and ecological impacts of deer, the history of deer management in Pennsylvania, and current management options.

Because deer touch so many aspects of human life-agriculture, recreation, esthetics, public health and the forest industry, among others—it is understandable that different groups of people often have widely divergent opinions on how whitetails should best be managed. However, the overriding consideration should be the long-term ecological impact of deer on forest sustainability and biodiversity.

November 23- Saturday - Presque Isle State Park- for early winter waterfowl, gulls, and other specialties of the season. This has always been a rewarding trip as in past years we have had a Snowy Owl, a Northern Shrike, Redpolls, Lapland Longspurs, and a Bohemian Waxwing. We will meet at 9 am at the first parking lot on the right as you enter the park. - Co-leaders Jerry Stanley and Russ States.

December 14- Butler County CBC- compiler, Suzanne Butcher

December 29- Pleasantville CBC- compiler, Russ States

The inclusive dates of the Official Count period are now always December 14th through January 5th of each season.

BAS Salutes Audubon Adventures Classrooms

Helen Ferguson, education chairperson

BAS salutes the following schools with their classroom teachers for enrolling in the AUDUBON ADVENTURES program for this school year. AUDUBON ADVENTURES is an environmental education program for children in grades four to six. Developed by professional environmental educators, AUDUBON ADVENTURES presents basic, scientifically accurate facts about birds, wildlife, and their habitats. It comes to you packaged as a Classroom Kit (serving 32 students) or Individual Kit (serving 1 student). The program is used by classroom teachers, after-school program coordinators, special education instructors, language arts teachers, and home schoolers. Since its inception in 1984, over 7 million youngsters have participated in the program.

Broad Street Elementary in Butler has the fourth grade classroom of Karen Krenitsky and the fifth grade class of Maria Fair. Center Elementary School in Butler has the fifth grade classroom of Shirley Billowich. Emily Brittain Elementary School in Butler has the fourth grade classrooms of Julie Dando. Meridian Elementary School in Butler has the sixth grade classroom of John McCool. McQuiston Elementary School in Butler has the fourth grade classroom of Michael Prokopchak. Northwest Elementary School in Butler has the fourth grade classroom of Donna Reeder. Oakland Township Elementary in Butler has the fourth grade classroom of Rebecca Martin. St Paul's Catholic School in Butler has the fifth

October 28 and 29 - Monday and Tuesday - Allegheny Front with Seneca Rocks Audubon Society, leader Jerry Stanley. Contact Jerry Stanley at 814-432-4496 or bhns@csonline.net for details.

motel accommodations contact Jerry Stanley at 814-432-4496 or bhns@csonline.net. We need to know if you are coming.
grade classrooms of Manda Rensel. Har-Mer Elementary in Harrisville has the fifth grade classroom of Tim Drennen. Karns City Middle/High School in Karns City has the classes of Jo Ellen Hovis of Nancy Lenyak. Connoquenessing Elementary School in Renfrew has the fourth grade class of Mary K. Davis and the fifth and sixth grade classrooms of Arthur McCormick and Karen Lobb. Slippery Rock Elementary School in Slippery Rock has the third grade classrooms of Delores Bell, Pam Croll, Jill Tackach, Susan Mahamfy, and Rebecca Suesser, the fourth grade classrooms of Donna Meredith, Kim Creasy and Pat North, and the fifth grade class of Nancy Moser. Slippery Rock Area Middle School in Slippery Rock has the sixth grade classroom of Suzanne Fodor and the sixth grade classroom of Susan Lummey. Dossa McKinney Elementary School in West Sunday has the fourth grade classrooms of Gary Kohlmeyer, the fifth grade classroom of Miss Busatto, and the sixth grade classrooms of Mrs. Arnold. George Washington Intermediate School in New Castle has the fourth grade classroom of Rita Elssasser. Riverside Middle School in Ellwood City has the fourth grade classrooms of Ruth Roper and Alicia Dwyer. Hillview Elementary School in Grove City has the fifth grade class of Rose Phillips. Wilmington Area Middle School in New Wilmington has the fifth grade classroom of Michael Janovick. West Hill Elementary School in Sharon has the third grade classroom of Patricia Fisher. Mercer Elementary School in Mercer has the fifth grade classroom of Dave Tomson. Bullskin Township Elementary in Connellsville has the fifth grade classroom of Mrs. Manns and Rostraver Elementary School of Belle Vernon has the fourth grade classroom of Mrs. Boulton. An individual kit is going to Sandy Christy for home schooling and a classroom kit is being sent to Sue Seibert for the 4-H Club.

Meet Nancy Baker, BAS's New Publicity Chair

Nancy Baker is a native of Eire, PA. Her parents acquainted her with the outdoors early in her life. Camping in state parks and regular trips to Presque Isle provided Nancy's early education in natural history. The family spent hours hiking the trails on the Peninsula, a short distance from home - with Dad as guide and naturalist. Nancy graduated from Edinboro State College with a B.S. in Medical Technology. She has worked full-time in the laboratory of Franklin Hospital (now UPMC Northwest) for over twenty-five years. Since moving to the Franklin area, she has been involved in archaeological excavations along French Creek and throughout the region, and has volunteered processing artifacts at the Carnegie Museum in Pittsburgh. She enjoys birding, hiking, and painting. Nancy lives in rural Venango County with her husband Mike, and two dogs, Molly and Joker. Birds in the area benefit from several feeders, baths, and bird boxes on their property. Since the winter of 1994, Nancy has participated in Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology's Project Feeder Watch. A member of National Audubon since 1991, Nancy will serve as Publicity chair for a two-year term ending in 2004.

Buff-breasted Sandpiper on Shenango Field Trip

Getting good looks at a Buff-breasted Sandpiper was one of the highlights of the September 7th BAS field trip to Shenango River Lake. Once abundant with numbers estimated to be in the hundreds of thousands to millions, the population of this diminutive sandpiper has declined with the estimated numbers now in the 5,000 to 15,000 range. This decline initially was the result of the large scale market hunting in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Curlews, plovers, and sandpipers were shot and shipped to the East coast to be served as delicacies in wild game restaurants. In 1890 two game dealers in Boston reportedly received more than 8,000 American Golden Plovers, 10,000 Upland Sandpipers, and 5,000 Eskimo Curlews for their restaurant trade. Like the Eskimo Curlew who appears now to be close to extinction if not extinct, flocks of Buff-breasted Sandpipers were also especially vulnerable because individual birds would stay with their wounded companions rather than leave them behind. Agricultural development along migration corridors also contributed to the decline. The Buff-breasted Sandpiper now is a species of "conservation concern" as its numbers are still believed to be in the decline. Looming threats to their breeding grounds on the arctic North Slope and loss of wintering grounds are of understandable concern. Buff-breasted Sandpipers breed in the high arctic arriving there in May to early June after traveling nearly 8,000 miles from southern South America. Both northward and southward migration occurs predominantly through the central parts of Canada and central United States. They are uncommonly reported in Pennsylvania in the fall. We have recent records from Shenango of one or two individuals in 1993, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, and now 2002. The participants - Nancy Baker, Gene and Suzanne Butcher, Edward Byler, Marvin Byler, Owen Byler, Veda Depaepa, Frank Dolby, Kathie Goodblood, Maryellen and Ron Miller, Henry Miller, David Rieger, Eli Troyer, Jerry Troyer, Junior Troyer, Harvey Troyer, Melvin Troyer, Neil Troyer, Bob Walczak, Bob VanNewkirk, and Tom Wescott enthusiastically plowed through the extensive mud-flats to search for shorebirds and in addition to the Buff-breasted Sandpiper also saw American Golden-Plovers, Semipalmated Plovers, Killdeer, Lesser Yellowlegs, Solitary Sandpipers, Spotted Sandpipers, Semipalmated Sandpipers, Least Sandpipers, Baird's Sandpi-
pers, White-rumped Sandpipers, Pectoral Sandpipers, and Stilt Sandpipers. (Photo credit: Buff-breasted Sandpiper- Mike Fialkovich, Shenango 8-23-93.)

**BAS Board 2002-3**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Phone</th>
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</tbody>
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A Southern Visitor- but will she stay?

Melanie Petrakis first introduced us at BAS to the Giant Swallowtail, *Papilio cresphontes*, with the excellent photos she has taken in Florida, of this beautiful butterfly and while this species of swallowtail is seen in Pennsylvania, it has never been documented locally in our 4 county area of Butler, Lawrence, Mercer or Venango Counties. Thus when Nancy Rodgers of Volant, saw one visiting her garden on August 11th, she was quite thrilled. The butterfly lingered for several days visiting the many nectar plants Nancy has planted for both her hummingbirds and butterflies. You can then imagine Nancy’s surprise when on August 29th she found numerous larvae resembling bird droppings on her two gas plants, Dictamnus albus. One plant harbored about twenty of these strange appearing larvae and the other held about fifteen. By September 9th, all the larvae had moved off the now stripped plants, hopefully to pupate and over winter. This lovely southern visitor has established a few colonies in the state and has two broods a summer. The Giant Swallowtail uses various species of the rue family (Rutaceae) as host plants, in Pennsylvania primarily prickly ash (Xanthoxylum americanum) and the hop tree (Ptelea trifoliata). The gas plant in Nancy’s garden is a non-native cultivated member of the Rutaceae from northern Europe. It is an extremely slow grower, taking about 4 years to bloom. While we were not aware that this plant could be used as a host for the Giant Swallowtail larvae, Dr. Jared Kirtland (1793-1877) of Kirtland Warbler fame who was the first individual to seriously study butterflies in Ohio published his observations of the Giant Swallowtail using the gas plant. The Giant Swallowtail is often found in open areas adjacent to woodlands and scrubby wetland where the native host plants can be common. Hopefully such habitat is close to Nancy’s so this beautiful butterfly can establish a new colony and stay in our area. (Photo credits: adult butterfly- Melanie Petrakis, larva- Suzanne Butcher)

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**“Save the Shellbacks’ program well received**

The September program on turtles presented by Ben Atkinson, a Slippery Rock University student working with Bill Belsner on the Eastern Box Turtle Conservation Project, was well received and enjoyed by everyone attending the first BAS program for the calendar year. Ben gave an informative, entertaining and interactive discussion of the history of today’s tortoises and had plenty of hands on material with live turtles, shells, and bones. Photo shows Ben discussing some of his display items with BAS President, Kathie Goodblood.
Membership Reminder
......Sande Swansiger, Membership Chair

We welcome the many of you who have recently joined Bartramian Audubon Society. As a reminder, the expiration date of your membership with NAS or the BAS should be on your address label. Please renew in a timely fashion so as to not miss future newsletters. If you have any questions about your membership status, feel free to contact the membership chair, Sandee Swansiger.

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$15.00 BAS associate fee—includes newsletter
$5.00 newsletter only

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P.O. Box 315
Slippery Rock, PA 16057

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Please enroll me as a new member in the National Audubon Society. This membership will include membership in the National Audubon Society and Audubon magazine and the local Bartramian Audubon Society and the local chapter newsletter, the Upland Informer, but excludes the BAS Sanctuary Program.

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

Name

Address

City
State
Zip

Please send this form with payment to

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

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

Kathie Goodblood, president
The time/place of the next BAS Board Meeting will be announced by Kathie. If you have any questions, you may contact her at 814-432-4406 or e-mail at shns@comcast.net.

Upcoming BAS Membership Meetings

Our membership meetings are held at the United Methodist Church, 130 Franklin St, Slippery Rock, PA at 7:30 p.m. and are free and open to the public. Refreshments are served.

November 11- Monday- “Ecology of Backyard Prairie Restoration”, Speaker Bruno Borsari. Ph.D. of the Sustainable Systems Program (MS3) - Agroecology, Parks and Recreation/Environmental Education of Slippery Rock University, will show images of plants that are beneficial to the environment, attract butterflies, and improve the soil.

Professor Borsari is interested in the emerging paradigm of Sustainable Agriculture/Development from the agroecological perspective. His research interests include the study of sustainable methods of farming compatible with the protection of natural habitats and the incorporation of sustainable agriculture and Holistic Management principles in the undergraduate agricultural curriculum. BAS Wildlife and Bird and Butterfly Sanctuary members are especially encouraged to attend.

December 9 - Monday- Annual Christmas Party and Sharing of Slides. Members will celebrate the season with a sharing of slides, pictures, and good cheer. Don’t forget to bring your favorite holiday food for all to enjoy.

March 10- Monday- First program of the New Year- Watch for upcoming details in the next Upland Informer.

Upcoming Field Trips

November 23- Saturday- Presque Isle State Park- for early winter waterfowl, gulls, and other specialties of the season. This has always been a rewarding trip as in past years we have had a Snowy Owl, a Northern Shrike, Redpolls, Lapland Longspurs, and a Bohemian Waxwing along with the large numbers of waterfowl seen. We will meet at 9 am at the first parking lot on the right as you enter the park. – Co-leaders Jerry Stanley and Russ States.

LOCAL CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNTS
December 21- Butler County CBC- compiler, Suzanne Butcher- Note date change.
December 29- Pleasontville CBC- compiler, Russ States
See more details inside.

Upcoming Events in 2003

GBBC participants in 2002 once again reported Sandhill Cranes along the length of their eastern migration route. Sightings of these elegant birds appeared within a clear band running from Florida to Michigan on the map for the species. Possibly due to the mild winter weather, a greater number of cranes were reported along the northern end of the route than during the 2001 count. This is of interest as local participants of last year’s GBBC - Jerry Stanley, Kathie Goodblood, Russ States, and Gene and Suzanne Butcher- tallied 17 cranes on February 15th, 2002 near Black Swamp. For questions about the upcoming 2003 GBBC, contact Suzanne at 724-794-3534, 330-759-1945 or e-mail at sarbird@hotmail.com.

The prairie as a model for sustainable agriculture in America
Meet New Board Member, Tom Wescott

New BAS board member Tom Wescott is serving as a member-at-large. Tom, a native of Sandy Lake has always been interested in nature and the outdoors. Tom credits a friend with focusing him on birds and bird watching by taking him birding and helping him with field identification and suggesting he join the local Audubon Society. Tom graduated Lakeview High School and studied Parks and Recreation Management at Butler Community College, where his favorite classes were Forestry and Ecology/Field Biology. His other interests include hunting, fishing, reading and family. Tom says joining Audubon has expanded his birding horizons and he has enjoyed his association with the organization.

History of the Christmas Bird Count

Every year since 1900, the National Audubon Society has conducted its original citizen-science project, the Christmas Bird Count. 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.

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 his army 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 102 years (and counting) of Christmas Bird Counts yields valuable insights into the shifting patterns, distributions, and population trends of bird species.

Volunteers, more than 50,000 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) are the heart and soul of the CBC. In their count circle, they count and record every bird species encountered over one calendar day during the official December 14th through January 5th count 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 feeder-watchers 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. The internet now provides the tool whereby the bird data that result from their efforts--your efforts--can best be appreciated, accessed, and analyzed.

You can see more information on the CBC and find your count at http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/index.html

Our Local Bird Counts

The Butler County CBC will be held on Saturday, December 21st. The center of the 15 mile diameter of the count circle is located approximately 1.5 miles east of the junction of Lindey Road and Rt. 528. Lake Arthur, Moraine State Park, McConnells Mill, 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 Suzanne Butcher at 724-794-3534 or 330-759-1945 (leave messages) or sarbird@hotmail.com as soon as possible so count assignments can be made. Last year's count participants will be mailed a CBC Checklist/Brochure new for 2002 with sign-up information.

The Pleasantville CBC will be held on Sunday, December 29, 2001 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 Rousseville and then north along the western edge of Oil Creek State Park. The count is centered on the historic ghost town of Pidhole. 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 call and ask. 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).
The Ecological Impact Of Too Many Deer

At the October 14 BAS membership meeting, Kathie Randall, Conservation Program Coordinator with Audubon Pennsylvania presented a well attended program on the ecological impact of white tailed deer. She noted the growing agreement among wildlife biologists, land managers, ecologists, foresters, and others that white-tailed deer have over-populated much of their range. This ecologic imbalance is resulting in profound, negative consequences for both humans and many plants and animals. It is estimated that before European settlement, deer density average 8-11 per square mile of forest. Due to uncontrolled hunting and habitat loss, deer were extirpated in much of the east. However as the forests recovered, the deer herd quickly grew so that today deer density in PA ranges up to as high as 70 per square mile of forest.

As the herds have grown, conflicts with people and other natural resources have also increased with:

- Complaints from farmers that the deer are damaging their crops
- Warnings from foresters that over browsing is inhibiting tree regeneration
- A host of ecological problems from loss of plant diversity to fewer nesting song birds
- Traffic accidents, Lyme disease, and damage to residential planting on the rise

The ecological impact of too many deer resulting in the over-browsing has a ripple effect thought the forest community, and can shape the structure, composition, and health of a woodland for generations. As selective browsers, herds can over time eat some plants out of existence and slow the growth or reduce the height of others. In hard hit areas the shrub layer and intermediate canopy can almost disappear, replaced with a carpet of ferns which deer avoid eating. Tree seedlings are especially vulnerable and many native plants like trillium and Canada mayflowers may be eliminated from the forest.

Songbirds like Yellow-billed Cuckoos and Least Flycatchers that nest in the shrub and lower canopy layers disappear. As deer consume nearly three quarters of all the fallen acorns, they compete with other mammals and birds from wild turkeys to squirrels and mice for similar food sources.

A high density of deer is also bad for the deer themselves with higher rates of car collisions and greater risks of starvation in harsh winters.

While it is clear that in most places regulated hunting can be an effective solution to controlling the deer population, it is also understandable that because deer touch so many aspects of human life, different groups of people may have widely divergent opinions on how the overpopulation should be managed. However, we feel the over riding consideration should be the long term ecological impact of deer on forest sustainability and biodiversity.

What you can do-
The only way to reach a censes in management of the over population is to work together, across social, academic and political lines to determine realistic goals and implement workable policies. You can assist by getting involved - contact Audubon PA or the BAS for ways you can help.

New Wildlife Sanctuary Agreement Signed

New BAS Wildlife Sanctuary owner, Jim Barcaskey is seen watching the signing by BAS officials of the papers making his property in Mercer County, Liberty Township, a certified BAS Wildlife Sanctuary. Jim will receive the official sign in May at the Annual meeting. The 128 acres Jim purchased three years ago as a farm of vacated for twenty-seven years consisted of overgrown fields, wet woodlands and swampy bottom areas through which Black Run passes. The swampy areas are thought to support breeding Sora, this being the only sanctuary in the BAS program where this wetland bird is a probably nester. Here also both Common Snipe and American Woodcock perform their aerial displays in the spring. The intention of both Jim and his son Mitch back when the land was first purchased was to not only to preserve it but to enhance it for wildlife. Making the property a certified BAS Wildlife Sanctuary furthers their goal.
Safety First

Hunters Wear Orange
Birders Should Too!

Printed on Recycled Paper

Membership Reminder

Sandeep Swanson, Membership Chair

We welcome the many of you who have recently joined Bartramian Audubon Society. As a reminder, the expiration date of your membership with NAS or the BAS should be on your address label. Please renew in a timely fashion as to not miss future newsletters. If you have any questions about your membership status, feel free to contact the membership chair, Sandee Swanson.

Bartramian Audubon Society
Associate and Newsletter Application

Please check below
$15.00 BAS associate fee- includes newsletter
$5.00 newsletter only

Please send this form along with your name and address with payment to the:

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

National Audubon Society
Membership Application

Please enroll me as a NEW member in the National Audubon Society. This membership will include membership in the National Audubon Society and Audubon magazine and the local Bartramian Audubon Society and the local chapter newsletter, the Upland Informer, but excludes the BAS Sanctuary Program.

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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7XCH
Upcoming BAS Board Meeting

March 17- Monday- Meeting of the BAS Board at 7:00 p.m. at the Preston Environmental Center at Camp Bucoco. Please notify Kathie at 814-432-4496 or bhms@csonline.net if you are unable to attend.

Upcoming BAS Membership Meetings

NOTICE- CHANGE OF MEETING LOCATION!!
The March 10th, April 14th, and May 12th meetings will be held at the Preston Environmental Center at Camp Bucoco. The Scout Camp located near Slippery Rock is on Rt 8, ~10.6 miles south of Barkeyville and ~16 miles North of Butler. The meeting time remains the same at 7:30pm. The meeting is free and open to the public and refreshments will be served.

March 10- Monday - Jerry Stanley will present "Nest Box Placement and Monitoring". Jerry, a long time birder, has been erecting and monitoring nest boxes for 18 years and is currently monitoring over 100 boxes for several species of birds. He will share some of his experiences and knowledge he has gained. He will cover box design, where to place them, predator guards and the importance of monitoring the boxes. Jerry has been watching birds for almost 20 years. He is on the records committee for PA (PORC). Jerry, a radiologist, and his wife Kathie, our current BAS president, moved to Pennsylvania in 1992 and now live in Venango County on the 460 acre Buttermilk Hill Nature Sanctuary, which they manage for the benefit of the wildlife living there.

April 14 - Monday- Pennsylvania author Marcia Bonta will present "An Appalachian Year". Marcia will present slides and talk on what can be seen month to month on Bald Eagle Mountain. Marcia is the author of several books on this subject in addition to writing for the PA Game News.

May 12- Monday- Annual Awards Night- Conservation awards will be presented in individual, business, and organizational categories. New sanctuary members will be honored and scholarship awardees will be announced.

Upcoming Field Trips

March 22- Saturday - Moraine St. Park waterfowl trip. Meet at 8:30am at the park office. Hopefully the ice from this winter will have started to disappear in time to view the duck migration. Usually a great variety of waterfowl are seen on this popular trip.

April 26- Saturday - Woodcock walk at the BAS Wildlife Sanctuary of Jim Barcaskey. Watch for directions and time for this evening field trip.

May 10- Saturday- BAS Naturthon- Get your team together for a great day of birding, butterflying and wildflower identification while helping raise money for BAS. This is our primary fundraiser and every bit helps. Contact Kathie Goodblood or any BAS board member for more details.

May 10- Saturday- North American Migration Count
The second Saturday of each May is the annual North American Migration Count. Contact Russ States for more information.

May 28- Wednesday- BAS Community Picnic at Camp Crestfield- join us for fellowship at this Christian facility owned by the Pittsburgh Presbytery. A time for exploration of this designated BAS Wildlife Sanctuary along the Slippery Rock Creek Gorge is also planned. More details to follow.

Fourth of July Butterfly Count- plans are being made to do a butterfly count sometime in late June/early July in conjunction with the NABA annual 4th of July Count. Contact Suzanne Butcher if interested.

Field Trips Revisited
California Gull and Purple Sandpiper Highlight Trip to Presque Isle
While the 14 people who attended the November 23 outing to Presque Isle faced a blustery, mostly overcast, 35-40° F day, typical for November, the birding was anything but typical as a California Gull was seen among the many gulls present. While there have been a couple other sightings reported in the state, this was the first one documented with a photo. The final list also included a Purple Sandpiper which was a lifeser for several on the trip. Other birds of interest included Common Loon - an estimated thousand were observed in flight at Sunset Point-, huge flocks of Red-breasted Mergansers numbering in the thousands, and Pied-
billed Grebe, Horned Grebe, Eared Grebe- another good bird,-
Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Snow 'blue'
Goose, Tundra Swan, Gadwall, American Wigeon, American
Black Duck, Mallard, Redhead, Ring-necked Duck, Greater
Scaup, Lesser Scaup, Surf Scoter, White-winged Scoter, Black
Scoter, Long-tailed Duck, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye,
Hooded Merganser, Common Merganser, Ruddy Duck, Red-
tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, American Coot, American
Golden Plover, Greater Yellowlegs, Dunlin, Bonaparte's Gull,
Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Great Black-backed Gull,
Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Wood-
pecker, Cedar Waxwing, Yellow-rumped Warbler, American
Tree Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, and Snow
Bunting.

Papers Signed for Casselberry BAS B&B and
Wildlife Sanctuary
Papers making the 30 acre Casselberry property in Lawrence
County both a Bird and Butterfly and a Wildlife Sanctuary
were signed at the December membership meeting. Many of
us know George Casselberry, Jr. as he was awarded the Bar-
tramian Audubon Society’s Conservation Award for an out-
standing individual in 2000.

PLEASANTVILLE CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The Pleasantville CBC was held on Sunday Dec. 29 2002.
The day started at 2am owling in Oll Creek St. Park. Three
species of owls were found during the night, producing 20
individuals. Several parties also had owls during the day, giv-
ing us our best owl report ever with 17 Eastern Screech Owls,
3 Great Horned Owls, and 4 Barred Owls. For daytime bird-
ing there were six parties with a total of 15 individuals. The
count went until 4:45 pm, with a get together at Jerry &
Kathie's place afterwards. The count tallied 46 species and
439 individuals, and while not as good as the last couple years,
is about average for this count. Species of note were
Hermit Thrush seen by 2 parties, and Eastern Towhee.

BIRDS:
Great Blue Heron 2, Canada Goose 344, American Black
Duck 18, Mallard 40, Common Merganser 70, Bald Eagle 7,
Sharp-shinned Hawk 1, Cooper's Hawk 1, Red-tailed
Hawk 15, Ruffed Grouse 1, Wild Turkey 39, Rock Dove
21, Mourning Dove 65, Eastern Screech Owl 17, Great
Horned Owl 2, Barred Owl 1, Belted Kingfisher 5, Red-
bellied Woodpecker 18, Downy Woodpecker 58, Hair
Woodpecker 18, Northern Flicker 4, Pileated Woodpecker
21, Blue Jay 143, American Crow 180, Common Raven 2,
Black-capped Chickadee 355, Tufted Titmouse 74, White-
breasted Nuthatch 98, Brown Creeper 8, Carolina Wren 9,
Winter Wren 1, Golden-crowned Kinglet 14, Eastern Blue-
bird 53, Hermit Thrush 2, European Starling 134, Cedar
Waxwing 73, American Tree Sparrow 67, Song Sparrow 12,
White-throated Sparrow 17, Dark-eyed Junco 250, Northern
Cardinal 36, Purple Finch 5, House Finch 28, American
Goldfinch 80, House Sparrow - 79

TOTAL SPECIES – 46, TOTAL INDIVIDUALS - 2459

Bold numbers indicate high count for that species. Bold spe-
cies indicate unusual or uncommon species for the count.
Dec. 29, 2002: 2:00am to 4:45pm. Temp. 32-34°F; Snow
cover 2 – 3", Still waters frozen; moving waters open; wind 2-
5mph; overcast am; overcast in pm. Observers: 15 in field in 6
parties. Time/distance: 41.25 total party hours; 278.5 total
party miles; including 7.0 hours & 15 miles on foot and 34.25
hours & 263.5 miles by car. Plus 5.5 hrs and 7 miles owling.
Count Circle includes area within 15 mile diameter circle, cen-
ter 4 miles SSE of Pleasantville. Count area boundary in-
cludes Enterprise to the north, Tionesta to the East, Eagle
Rock to the south, and Pa. Route 8 to the west.
Thanks to Jerry Stanley and Kathie Goodblood for hosting the
post count meeting at their home, thanks to all those who par-
ticipated and thanks to the Bartramian Audubon Society for
sponsoring this event. Hope to see you again next year!

BUTLER COUNTY CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

The Butler County CBC, in conjunction with the 103rd Na-
tional Audubon Christmas Bird Count, was held on December
21, 2002 from 5:30am to 8pm. A blistering wind from the
WSW at 16mph with accompanying snow squalls welcomed
the dawn and the early Eastern Towhee at our feeder, and con-
tinued persistently throughout most of the day. The 28°F tem-
perature in the morning felt like a chilly 17°. The day's high of
34°F was reached in the early afternoon. Afternoon clouds
and the occasional snow squall gave way to only a rare but
much welcomed sun break.
Reports of snow cover varied between .5 and 2 inches. With
the lengthy cold weather of early December, still water of
ponds and lakes, including Lake Arthur, was mostly frozen.
However, moving water of streams and creeks was open offer-
ing some refuge at least to the Great Blue Heron we saw feed-
ing along Patterson Run flowing unabated next to our frozen
A record number of observers at 67 just about equaled the number of species seen.

Observations: 54 in 15 field parties; 30.5 hours and 27 miles on foot, 52 hours and 479 miles by car, plus 13 at feeders for 62 hours, and 2.5 hours and 18.5 miles owling.
TOTAL PARTY HOURS: 82.5, PARTY MILES: 506

The total species count at 69 is just about average as the species count average of the last twenty years is a close 69.5. No new highs were seen in individual bird counts, and most species were present in just about average numbers. Even the high number of European Starlings was not a record high. With Lake Arthur mostly frozen, the low numbers of water birds were expected. However, there were some obvious misses with both the Barred and Great-horned Owls not recorded even among those out owling. Count week birds, not a part of the total, are designated as (cw). The Savannah Sparrows and the Lincoln’s Sparrow, considered unusual species (US) for this time of year in Western Pennsylvania, have been well documented and are under review by the regional CBC coordinator. The complete bird count is as follows:

**BIRDS:**

Common Loon 1, Great Blue Heron 5, Canada Goose 203, Gadwall 2, American Black Duck 11, Mallard 59, Greeter Scaup 2, Lesser Scaup 9, Common Goldeneye 2, Common Merganser 11, Bald Eagle 2, Northern Harrier 4, Sharp-shinned Hawk 4, Cooper’s Hawk 6, Red-shouldered Hawk 1, Red-tailed Hawk 19, Rough-legged Hawk 1, American Kestrel 13, Ring-necked Pheasant 1, Ruffed Grouse cw, Wild Turkey 45, Bonaparte’s Gull 3, Ring-billed Gull 17, Herring Gull 7, Rock Dove 516, Mourning Dove 638, Eastern Screech-Owl 5, Short-eared Owl cw, Northern Saw-whet Owl 2, Belted Kingfisher 4, Red-bellied Woodpecker 37, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker 1, Downy Woodpecker 60, Hairy Woodpecker 28, Northern (Yellow-shafted) Flicker 5, Pileated Woodpecker 4, Blue Jay 158, American Crow 324, Horned Lark 281, Black-capped Chickadee 230, Tufted Titmouse 151, White-breasted Nuthatch 72, Brown Creeper 6, Carolina Wren 24, Winter Wren 1, Golden-crowned Kinglet 41, Eastern Bluebird 26, Hermit Thrush 1, American Robin 64, Northern Mockingbird 1, Brown Thrasher 1, European Starling 3065, Cedar Waxwing 61, Eastern Towhee 1, American Sparrow 222, Chipping Sparrow 1, Field Sparrow cw, Savannah Sparrow 6 (US), Song Sparrow 35, Lincoln’s Sparrow 1 (US), Swamp Sparrow 10, White-throated Sparrow 44, White-crowned Sparrow 1, Dark-eyed (sized) Junco 335, Northern Cardinal 253, Red-winged Blackbird 9, Common Grackle 18, Brown-headed Cowbird 56, Purple Finch 10, House Finch 150, American Goldfinch 117, House Sparrow 334.

TOTAL SPECIES: 69, INDIVIDUALS: 8038

Volunteers are the heart and soul of the CBC’s and the dedicated people this year doing the Butler count included seasoned veterans like Helen Ferguson completing her thirty-third count and both Ruth Crawford and Joan Wilver reaching the remarkable twenty year milestone. We also had participants counting for the first time.

We were especially happy to have the participation of Boy Scout Troop 10 of Butler with leader Jerry Heindl and scouts Mike Chips, Kevin Evanko, Justin Green, Larry Kley, Kyle Mahon, Devim Smith, Carl Wagner, Howard Wagner, Michael Wagner, Robert Wagner, Mark Wilson and parents John Chips and Don Wagner. We certainly enjoyed the afternoon of hiking over the varied terrain of Camp Bucoco in search of birds to add to our list.

We particularly want to welcome back old timers David Green who participated in 1968, 1969, and 71, and John Stehle who counted back in 1970 and the first timers- Jim Barcaskey, Leo Glenn, Rita Hawrot, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Andrew Johnson, Eric Nilson, Shelly Nilson, Alex Petriddis, Terry Steele, Celia Taylor, and Eli Troyer. The complete list is as follows and once again, thank you for all your years’ participation. See you next year!

**OBSERVERS:**

Anna Aspinall (3), Pamela Aspinall (3), William Aspinall (3), Jim Barcaskey, Harriet Bauer (12), Kate Byrdon (11), Gene Butler (11), Suzanne Butler (18), John Chips, Mike Chips, Sandra Christy (2), Perry Christy* (2), Robert Christy* (2), Ruth Crawford (20), Dave Darney (7), Debbie Darney (8), Bobbie Davis (4), Charles Davis (2), Sharon Davis (2), Veda

DePaepe (2), Kevin Evanko*, Helen Ferguson (33), Leo Glenn, Candy Gonzalez (5), Katie Goodblood (2), David Green (4), Justin Green*, Rita Hawrot, Jerry Heindl, Margaret Higbee, Roger Higbee, Sally Jamison (4), Andrea Johnson, Blanche Kind, Hope King (4), Larry Kley*, Kyle Mahon*, Eric Nilson, Shelly Nilson, Tony Pegno (2), Alex Petriddis*, Melanie Petriddis (4), Arthur Richards (3), Marybeth Sabin (4), Devin Smith*, Jerry Stanley (5), Russ States (6), Terry Steele, John Stehle (2), Celia Taylor, Clark Trauteman, Eli Troyer*, Jerry Troyer* (3), Carl Wagner*, Howard Wagner*, Linda Wagner (2), Michael Wagner*, Don Wagoner, Robert Wagner*, Gene Wilhelm (23), Joanne Wilhelm (11), Mark Wilson*, Edward Wilver (16), and Joan Wilver (20), Cassandra Yeager (3), Debby Yeager (3), and Fred Yeager. *(18/under)
Safety First
Hunters Wear Orange
Birders Should Too!

Membership Reminder
Sandee Swansiger, Membership Chair

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P.O. Box 315
Slippery Rock, PA 16057

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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
rev 9/02 U18 7XCH
Upcoming BAS Board Meeting

April 21- Monday- Meeting of the BAS Board at 7:00 p.m. at the Preston Environmental Center at Camp Bucoco. Please notify Kathie at 814-432-4496 or bhms@csoline.net if you are unable to attend.

Upcoming BAS Membership Meetings

NOTICE- CHANGE OF MEETING LOCATION!!
The April 14th and May 12th meetings will be held at the Preston Environmental Center at Camp Bucoco. The Scout Camp located near Slippery Rock is on Rt 8, ~ 10.6 miles south of Barkeyville and ~16 miles North of Butler. The meeting time remains the same at 7:30pm. The meetings are free and open to the public and refreshments will be served.

Upcoming Field Trips

April 26- Saturday – Evening Woodcock walk at “An Bonnan Bui”, the BAS Wildlife Sanctuary of Mitchell and Jim Barcaskey. The woodcocks return to our area in late February or early March depending on local weather and snow cover conditions. Once on their breeding grounds the remarkable spring courtship begins. As darkness descends, the male woodcock begins “peetings”, before ascending high above to commence his courtship display - hurling back and forth in the air and “twittering” on his spiraling back to earth. We will meet at the Barcaskey’s at 7 pm. Directions: From 79 Grove City Exit go east on Rt. 208 1/4 mile, turn right on Rt. 258 south go 1 mile and turn left on to Amsterdam Rd (at mini storage building) go 1 mile, after crossing Black Run look for signs immediately passed second house on right. Turn right onto dirt lane and follow signs to parking area. From Slippery Rock take Rt. 258 north, proceed thru North Liberty then go ~ 3 1/2 miles. Turn right on Amsterdam Rd proceed as described above. From Grove City/Route 8 take Rt. 208 west out of town, go ~ 2 mile make left turn on Center Church Rd go ~1 1/2 miles, at “tee” make left on to Amsterdam Rd. Then go 1/4 mile proceed as above.

April 14 – Monday- Pennsylvania author Marcia Bonta will present "An Appalachian Year". Marcia will present slides and talk on what can be seen month to month on Bald Eagle Mountain. Marcia is a free lance nature writer who in addition to her books on the Appalachian Seasons is the author of Women in the Field: America’s Pioneering Women Naturalists, Outbound Journeys in Pennsylvania, More Outbound Journeys in Pennsylvania and Escape to the Mountains. She writes the feature "Pennsylvania Outbound Journeys for the Family" for Pennsylvania Wildlife and the series "The Naturalist Eye" for Pennsylvania Game News. She is a popular lecturer on nature and nature writings.

May 10- Saturday- BAS Naturthon- Get your team together for a great day of birding, butterflying and wildflowers identification while helping raise money for BAS. This is our primary fundraiser and every bit helps. Contact Tom Wescott at 724-376-7380 - please see additional details inside.

May 10- Saturday- North American Migration Count- The second Saturday of each May is the annual North American Migration Count. Contact Russ States at 814-676-6320 - see more details inside.

May 28- Wednesday- BAS Community Picnic at Camp Crestfield- join BAS and Camp Crestfield for fellowship at this Christian facility owned by the Pittsburgh Presbytery. A time for exploration of their designated BAS Wildlife Sanctuary along the Slippery Rock Creek is also planned. Bring your own table setting and a dish for sharing. Hotdogs, buns, and drinks will be provided. Help us celebrate the splendor of the Slippery Rock Creek Gorge. We will meet at the Campgrounds at 5pm. Questions call Kathie at 814-432-4496 or e-mail at bhms@csoline.net.
Fourth of July Butterfly Count- Plans are being made to do a butterfly count sometime in late June/early July in Mercer County in conjunction with the NABA annual 4th of July Count if there is enough interest. The butterflies would be counted within a 15 mile diameter circle and there would be garden watchers as well as counters in the field. We would anticipate doing some of the counting on SGL 130 grounds. Contact Suzanne Butcher as soon as possible at 724-759-1945, sarbird@hotmail.com if you would like to participate.

Naturthon Update- May 10th

....Tom Wescott, Naturthon Chair

The day for our 2003 Naturthon - May 10th 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 helping 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 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 remember, 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 10th 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 Tom Wescott at 724-376-7380 or e-mail at tom@TOOLCITY.net and requesting one be mailed to you.

North American Migration Count – May 10th

The North American Migration Count (NAMC) is fast approaching. As most of you know, this is the day set aside to count the returning Neotropical migrants as part of a national-wide campaign to track population trends, with emphasis on migrating species. This year, Saturday, May 10, 2003 is the official date. The rules are simple: spend a day in the field counting birds in a specified area, and keep track of hours & miles by foot, car, boat, or feeder watching. The area for any one count is not a 15-mile diameter circle, but an entire county. The idea is simple: spread coverage to as many habitat types as possible to get at least an indication of presence/absence of a species. Ideally coverage should be proportional to the area of the habitat in the county, but there will be a bias to getting into woodlands for spring warblers and spending less time looking at pastures. In addition, one to four separate lists are tallied: STATIONARY: For cases where the observer stays in ONE place and counts birds which are mostly migrating by [e.g., a hawkwatch]. FEEDER: Those observers who attract birds to their yard and do ALL of their observations in or near their yard. In general, the observer does not move and the birds are more or less stationary. REGULAR: This is the most common list; it contains all of the birds found day-to-dusk (or any time you have available) by observers who are moving from place to place, by foot, car, boat, etc. In general, the observers move and count birds which are more or less stationary. NIGHT: Those birds seen or heard before dawn and after dusk. Last year, the count in Pennsylvania was an enormous success Pennsylvania was one of the best represented states in the country. Contact Russ States 814-676-6320 (talk to the machine) russss@esonline.net to find out how to participate in the North American Migration Count in your county.

Tom Wescott, Jerry Stanley and Gene Butcher discussing bird box management.
Education News

Helen R. Ferguson, education chair

Audubon Adventures teachers-
The packets of the "Audubon Adventures" you have been receiving from the National Audubon Society are a gift from the Bartramian Audubon Society utilizing monies raised during our annual Natruthon. We hope you have been finding the material covered in the packets both helpful and informative for you and your students. In May, a list of classrooms will be compiled to receive the "Audubon Adventures" for the school year 2003-04. We need to know if you DO or DO NOT wish to receive the materials for next year. Please let us know your preference on the postcard sent to you as soon as possible and definitely before May 15, 2003. Other interested teachers of Grades 4, 5, 6 please contact Helen R. Ferguson, 100 Balboa Court, Butler, PA 16001 or call her at 724-287-2800 if you have questions or need more information.

Ecology Scholarships Available--
The Bartramian Audubon Society with the support of Giant Eagle, Inc of Pittsburgh offers introductory and advanced scholarships to qualified applicants to attend Audubon-sponsored ecology camps at the Audubon Center of the North Woods in Minnesota and to the Maine Audubon Camp at Hog Island.

The scholarship covers the cost of the camp excluding the initial registration fee. This fee will be paid to the scholarship recipients if they elect to share their experiences and knowledge gained at the camp by speaking at a membership meeting of the BAS. Any additional expenses, including transportation to/from the camp are the full responsibility of the recipient.

Applications can be requested from Helen R. Ferguson, 100 Balboa Court, Butler, PA 16001 and must be returned to her by April 15, 2003 Telephone Helen at 724-287-2800 if you have questions or need more information.

The Winter Birding Blues Turn 'Red'

Suzanne Buccher

Those of us who by choice prefer to brave the cold and snow that winter brings do so with the anticipation that we may witness an irruption of species not commonly seen amidst our usual winter birds. This winter as November passed and the December CBC's were completed, it became apparent that the siskins, grosbeaks, crossbills, and their kin were staying north. Even the Red-breasted Nuthatch at my feeder is considered a local resident. Then someone posted to PA Birds, the sighting of a single Red-necked Grebe, a casual winter visitor which is usually seen in PA as an infrequent migrant during the spring and fall. What followed the posting of this first grebe turned out to be one of those rare events, last experienced in 1994, when there is a winter influx of Red-necked Grebes in PA, OH, NY and other neighboring states. Our winter birding blues turned 'Red' as we witnessed this birding phenomenon. Reports of hundreds of these grebes flooded the hotlines. Various explanations have been postulated. While it is known the species winters along the North Atlantic coastline, it has also been speculated that large numbers may also winter on the great lakes, specifically Lake Superior. As Lake Superior froze over, the grebes began appearing giving credence to this theory for their sudden and dramatic appearance.

In Pennsylvania, Red-necked Grebes were reported from about half of the state's counties. In our four county area, they were seen along French Creek and the Allegheny River in Venango County. Although birders searched in Mercer, Lawrence, and Butler Counties, none were reported as our lakes were frozen during the initial influx, but one was found on the March 22nd BAS Field Trip to Lake Arthur - see picture below.

The appearance of the Red-necked Grebes will be the topic for many birding articles. Watch for one in an upcoming issue of Pennsylvania Birds.

Red-necked Grebe watching at Lake Arthur on the March 22 BAS Field Trip.

BAS Logo T-shirt and Hat Sale

The BAS logo short-sleeved T-shirts and caps are now on sale. The BAS flying Uplands logo is printed on cotton t-shirts in tan, blue, and green available in sizes S, M, L, XL, and XXL. Prices are $11.00 for the S, M, L, and XL, and $12.00 for the XXL. The caps are tan and have the Upland Logo printed on the back rim. Cost is $12.00. Both may be purchased at the regular membership meetings.
Membership Reminder

........Sandeep Swansiger, Membership Chair

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August BAS Board Meeting

Kathie Goodblood, pres.
There will be a BAS board meeting in late August. Board members will be individually notified of the time and place.

Upcoming BAS Membership Meetings

September 8-Monday. Come join us for our first meeting of the 2003-04 season and listen to Scott Weidensaul, nationally known naturalist, ornithologist, and noted Pulitzer Prize-nominated author speak on his most recent book, "The Ghost with Trembling Wings: The Search for Lost Species". Watch for more details in the next newsletter. A full program listing and field trip schedule will also be announced at that time.

Our membership meetings are held the second Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m. at the Preston Environmental Center at Camp Bucco located on Rt. 8, close to Slippery Rock. The meetings are free and open to the public.

Field Trip Revisited

The eighteen people who attended the April 26 Woodcock Walk at "An Bonman Bui" were not disappointed. The remarkable aerial display of the male woodcock was enjoyed on a beautiful clear night. Those who braved the chill were also rewarded with a look at the dance he performed on the ground while "peeting".

Other birds of interest were a Great Horned Owl (spotted in a tree at the edge of the field), a flock of at least one hundred Rusty Blackbirds, Chimney Swifts, Palm Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, and American Pipit. The final list also included Great Blue Heron, Canada Goose, Wood Duck, (so many that the host was asked if the name of the field trip should be changed to Woodie Walk), Mallard, Blue-winged Teal, Hooded Merganser, Mourning Dove, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Blue Jay, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Song Sparrow, and Red-winged Blackbird. The wetlands adjacent to the field supplied a background chorus of amphibians as well as identification challenges. Many thanks to the Barcaskeys for sharing their BAS Wildlife Sanctuary.

Awards Night- May 12, 2003

The Bartramian Audubon Society held its annual Awards Night at its May membership meeting. The Mike Allen Starker Scholarship was awarded to Kate Maynard. The Individual Award in Conservation was presented to Dean Kildoo for his work with Purple Martins. Organization Awards in Conservation and Environmental Education were presented to the Laurel School District's Environmental Stewardship Model, and to Slippery Rock Area Elementary School's Butterfly Garden Project. The Giant Eagle, Inc. Summer Ecology Scholarships were awarded to Elizabeth Jane Wilson and Stacey Widenhofer. Bird and Butterfly Sanctuary Signs were presented to new participants, George Casselberry, Jr. and Bonita Renick, and to new Wildlife Sanctuary participants, George and Bonnie Casselberry, Mitchell and Jim Barcaskey, and to Camp Elliot- Girl Scouts of Beaver and Lawrence Counties.

Mike Allen Starker Scholarship Award
Kate Patricia Maynard

The Bartramian Audubon Society was pleased to announce that Kate Maynard was selected as the 2003 recipient of the Mike Alan Starker Scholarship at Slippery Rock University. The scholarship was established in 2000 in memory of Mike who was a student at Slippery Rock when he cofounded the society in 1982.

Kate who is from Erie, is majoring in environmental studies and has minors in geographic information technology and dance. Kate's major research has focused on the roosting behavior of the Purple Martin. The project originated during an internship she had at Presque Isle State Park in the summer of 2002. Kate has been trying to determine why Purple Martins gather in the fall to roost in only about forty known locations in the United States and to see what affect any detriment to the environment at these locations would have on the species. Kate has presented her research at both the Association of American Geographers Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana and at the Slippery Rock University Research Symposium held on campus. Kate hopes to continue this research while taking on new projects covering different subject matters.
This summer she will be doing geologic research in the Badlands, South Dakota before returning to intern once again at Presque Isle State Park. Kate will spend her fall semester at the University of Limerick in Limerick, Ireland and will graduate from Slippery Rock University with a Bachelor of Science degree in May 2004. Congratulations Kate!

Individual Award in Conservation
Dean Kildoo
The Bartramian Audubon Society presented its 2003 Individual Award in Conservation and the title of "Benefactor of the Purple Martin" for 34 years to Dean Kildoo. Dean who lives a few miles north of Slippery Rock decided in the spring of 1970 to try and attract Purple Martins by erecting one house of 10 apartments in his side yard. The captivating Purple Martin, our largest Swallow, nests colonially in human-made houses and gourds in Western Pennsylvania but it isn't easy persuading these beautiful birds to establish a new breeding colony. However, four martin pairs accepted Dean's hospitality this first year. Over the years, Dean has added more martin dwellings and now provides his martins with a combination of 4 houses and gourds totaling 104 dwelling units. Dean's most productive year was 2001 when 83 martin pairs called the Kildoo apartments home. Last year 75 martin pairs produced a record 298 banded fledging and the number could have been higher if not for the deep freeze in May. Dean protects his colony from dwelling competitors and road kills. He erected a sign reading "Purple Martin Sanctuary" but indeed his entire property is a wild bird sanctuary.

While Dean may attribute his success with his Purple Martins to a good location between two lakes and an open area with utility lines for perching, in reality, it is all the personal attention that Dean gives to his birds. Our congratulations go to Dean and his Purple Martins!

Organization Awards in Conservation and Environmental Education
The BAS presented its organizational awards in conservation and environmental education to Laurel School District's Environmental Stewardship Model and to Slippery Rock Area Elementary School's Butterfly Garden Project.

The Laurel School District
The Laurel School District has made a commitment to utilize its outdoor setting of thirty-eight acres to educate the students it serves, and for the past three years the faculty and administration have found numerous ways to incorporate this hands-on environmental concept into the school curriculum. This project referred to as the Laurel Environmental Stewardship Model has involved the students in grades K-12. Educators from all academic areas have found creative ways to use the outdoor arena to meet the academic standards that are required by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Many students have selected individual environmental themes to serve as graduation projects with topics covering such areas as regeneration plots, seedling plantings, and identifying bird vocalizations. Other activities of the school include a Fall Festivities Day where the high school students and faculty provide outdoor programs for elementary students. In April of this year, the students recognized EARTH DAY with several activities with several maintenance and improvement projects. New mulch was applied to the trail, Eastern Bluebirds boxes were erected, and docks were placed at the five acre lake. Invasive plants were removed from the lake's edge and a secondary trail highlighting various tree species and wetlands areas was mapped. The math students prepared a flower garden that will spell L.H.S. with 10 feet letters. Shrubs were trimmed to improve growth and brush piles for wildlife were created.

The Laurel School District has initiated the "ABC's of Learning" to promote environmental education. As illustrated by the Environmental Stewardship Model, and enhanced by the curriculum for all students through outdoor learning laboratories that are enriched by multi-cross discipline experiences, education at Laurel extends far beyond the typical indoor classroom. Our congratulations go to the Laurel School District for their commitment to environmental education.

Robert Miles and Representatives of the Laurel School District receiving their recognition
Slippery Rock Area Elementary School's Butterfly Garden Project

The project started in 1997 with a vision to develop an outdoor area that could be used as a setting for environmental education purposes. Four years later at the beginning of the 2001-2002 school year, after receiving funds through the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, Safari International, the Pennsylvania Partner in the Arts, and the ALTER Project, the vision was realized.

The Robert A. Macoskey Center for Sustainable Systems Education and Research at Slippery Rock University facilitated the development of this project. Teachers, administrators and students from the Slippery Rock Area Elementary School along with staff and students from Slippery Rock University and members of the community came together and determined that a garden/outdoor classroom would be a welcomed addition to the learning environment of the elementary school. During the fall of 2001 this diverse group worked cooperatively to prepare garden beds for planting in the spring.

Christine McHenry Glenn and Jill Tackach of Slippery Rock Area Elementary's Butterfly Garden Project

Twenty-five fourth graders were given the task of designing the garden beds utilizing a curriculum entitled “Ecological Design: designing an outdoor classroom/butterfly garden”. Through a series of eight lessons, the students studied the needs of butterflies, growing conditions within the school courtyard, and growing requirements of native and naturalized plants known to attract butterflies. The students created large maps of the garden space and indicated where each type of butterfly attracting plant would be located. A garden club of eight fourth and fifth graders participated in starting seedlings, building butterfly hibernation boxes, and setting up a composting bin.

The first year of the project culminated with a planting day at the end of the school year. The fourth and fifth graders spent time outdoors cooperatively planting flowers and seeds. On their return for the start of the 2002-3 school year, they were greeted with a lush array of colors and fragrances and felt pride from contributing to the beauty of their school. The success of this project is clear; visible for those involved and the next step is to expand the project to the entire school with the use of the garden as an outdoor classroom for all teachers at the elementary school and to develop a school wide sense of ownership and care for the garden. As a representative of the Macoskey Center, Christine McHenry Glenn will teach five class periods to each student, using the garden as a focus. The lessons will be conducted as staff development and will cover the newly adopted Pennsylvania Academic Standards for the Environment and Ecology. Teachers will observe the sessions and be given plans which they can use for future classes.

Students will be given additional duties, and will be encouraged to develop a sense of ownership and care for the garden and a garden maintenance club will be formed and trained in gardening skills so that both students and parents are involved with the long-term care of the garden beds.

The next phase of the project is critical in ensuring the long term use and maintenance of the garden by the school. By involving the students, staff, and parents from the very start, a sense of caring for the garden is already felt and by deliberately expanding the involvement and use to the entire school, the garden space will be an educational environment as valuable to the school as the classroom.

Our congratulations go to the Slippery Rock Elementary School’s Butterfly Garden Project on their commitment to environmental education.

Giant Eagle, Inc. Ecology Scholarship Winners

Elizabeth Jane Wilson and Stacey Widenhofer

The BAS presented the Giant Eagle, Inc Summer Ecology Scholarships to Elizabeth Jane Wilson and Stacey Widenhofer. Elizabeth will be attending the Audubon Camp of the North Woods in Minnesota and Stacey will be attending the Hog Island Audubon Camp in Maine. We will be awaiting a future article on our awardees and are anticipating their presentations this fall on their camp experiences.

Sanctuary Sign Presentations for 2003

Bonnie Renick and George Casselberry, Jr., new BAS Bird and Butterfly Sanctuary participants for 2003 were presented their beautiful B&B Sanctuary signs featuring a Monarch Butterfly and an Eastern Bluebird. New 2003 Wildlife Sanctuary participants Mitchell and Jim Barcaskey, George and Bonnie Casselberry and Camp Elliot-Girl Scouts of Beaver and Lawrence Counties were presented their Wildlife Sanctuary Signs.
Beginning Birder, age 2

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