Upland Informer

Volume 24 Issue 1 Official Newsletter of the Bartramian Audubon Society Sept. 05

Upcoming BAS Board Meeting

September 19 - Monday - The BAS Board will meet at 6:00 p.m. at Luigi’s in Slippery Rock. Please notify Kathie at 814-432-4496 or bhns@esonline.net if you are unable to attend.

Upcoming BAS Membership Meetings

September 12 - Monday - The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge: America’s Serengeti. Come join is in viewing a DVD on the ecology of this last intact terrestrial ecosystem in the USA and its central focal mammal, the caribou. Gene Wilhelm, Facilitator. The fight over the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is heating up – YOUR HELP IS NEEDED IN SEPTEMBER!

Audubon is making a big push to save the pristine wilderness in Alaska from destructive oil drilling, and you can help! After 25 years of fighting, our last best chance to protect the refuge will be in the House of Representatives on a vote quickly approaching in late September. All Audubon chapters and Audubon members around the country will be using this opportunity to weigh in with their members of Congress and fight at this critical time for one of the most pristine places left in America.

October 10 - Monday - An Ocean of Birds, Paul Hess, speaker. Take a Trip for Seabirds - We will open 2005 with a photographic trip on the high seas. Paul Hess, editor of The Peregrine and an enthusiastic sea birder, will present a slide show titled "An Ocean of Birds". Paul will show us bird species found on the Atlantic Ocean but almost never seen from the shore, such as tropicbirds, petrels, shearwaters, storm-petrels, jaegers, and skuas. Rather than a detailed guide to seabird identification, the show is meant to capture the excitement of birding 30 to 90 miles offshore. Our speaker has taken many pelagic trips off eastern Florida, the Bahamas, the Florida Keys, North Carolina, Delaware, New Jersey, Long Island, and Massachusetts on organized tours and with his son Eric, who is an ocean captain.

Upcoming Field Trips

September 17 - Saturday - Fall Trip to Shenango River Lake for Fall Warblers and Lingerer Shorebirds, leaders Russ States and Kathie Goodblood. We will meet at 8 am at the only parking lot on the left on the Golden Run Access Rd. This is after you turn off Rt. 258 at the Golden Run Access Area sign, and before you come to the T in the road. Bring boots for muddy walking. If questions, please contact Kathie at 814-432-4496 or bhns@esonline.net.

October 15 - Saturday - Tree Identification Walk with Scott Seibert. Join us for a walk to identify our Pennsylvania trees. Consulting Forester and Certified Forester, Scott Seibert will lead this walk at the Grove City Community Park. What better time of year to be outside among the trees. Knowing tree species can help you manage your property for wildlife and it can help bird watchers find birds; more quickly. We will meet at the County Market parking lot in Grove City at 9:00 a.m. For more information contact Kathie at 814-432-4496 or bhns@esonline.net.

NABA 4th of July Butterfly Count

Suzanne Butcher, compiler

The third BAS sponsored NABA 4th of July Butterfly count was held on July 22. Known as the Sandy Creek Count, the area covered by the 15 mile diameter circle includes the Troyer gardens in Mercer County on one side and the Polk Wetlands in Venango County on the opposite side. Sandy Creek flows through the upper aspect of the circle which also contains parts of Goddard State Park and the lower aspect of Lake Wilhelm, and State Game Lands 130 and 39. Last year's species total of 29 was eclipsed with a total of 32 this year, and individual numbers were way up from 434 to 859, helped by the hordes of Pearl Crescents. The abandoned railroad bed along the creek netted the Western PA rarity, the Broad-winged Skipper, located once again by Harvey Troyer and the Buttonbush at the Venango wetlands were in bloom attracting scores of butterflies. New for the count were the elusive Black Dash, an uncommon wetland skipper, the Aphrodite Fritillary, the Horace’s Duskywing, and the White Admiral, found by Nancy and Kathie. Thanks have to be given to Walt and Dana Shaffer who provided much expertise to the group. The complete
count includes: Black Swallowtail (6), Eastern Tiger Swallowtail (25), Spicebush Swallowtail (21), and Cabbage White (51); Clouded Sulphur (2), Orange Sulphur (39), Bronze Copper (15), Eastern-Tailed Blue (19), Spring Azure, summer form (46), Great Spangled Fritillary (26), Aphrodite Fritillary (7), Pearl Crescent (402), Baltimore Checkerspot (8); Eastern Comma (5); American Lady (1); Red-spotted Purple (49), White Admiral (2), Viceroy (10), Appalachian Brown (2), Common Wood-Nymph (13), Monarch (31), Silver-spotted Skipper (7), Horace’s Duskywing (1), Wild Indigo Duskywing (5); Least Skipper (13), Northern Broken Dash (8), Little Glassywing (14), Broad-Winged Skipper (1); Black Dash (1); Dun Skipper (24); Participants included Nancy Baker, Suzanne Butler, compiler, Kathie Goodblood, Eli Troyer, Harvey Troyer, Neil Troyer, Dana Shaffer, and Walt Shaffer. The May 2005 count was conducted in May of 1983. This fundraiser, now evolved into our current Naturathon, is the primary function to raise monies each year for projects of our local Bartramian Audubon Chapter with the majority of the funds being designated for our school programs and scholarship awards. We appreciate all of your efforts in this endeavor and thank all of you who participated in our event. We would like to give our deepest thanks to our many valued individual contributors. We would also like to give special thanks to our Corporate Sponsors and encourage each and every one to give them your support. This year close to $3,000.00 was raised for Audubon causes.

May 2005 Naturathon Results – 22 years and still counting!

Tom Wescott, Naturathon chair

The first Birdathon of the BAS was conducted in May of 1983. This fundraiser, now evolved into our current Naturathon, is the primary function to raise monies each year for projects of our local Bartramian Audubon Chapter with the majority of the funds being designated for our school programs and scholarship awards. We appreciate all of your efforts in this endeavor and thank all of you who participated in our event. We would like to give our deepest thanks to our many valued individual contributors. We would also like to give special thanks to our Corporate Sponsors and encourage each and every one to give them your support. This year close to $3,000.00 was raised for Audubon causes.

2005 Naturathon Supporters

The Scaly-Throated Leaf Tossers
Nancy Baker, Kathie Goodblood, Jerry Stanley, Tom Wescott

Upland Patrons
Harriet Bauer, Helen Ferguson, Margie Kirk

Individuals Counting Birds and Raising Monies
Suzanne Butler, Dave Darney, Debbie Darney, Chris Glenn, Leo Glenn, Clark Trautman, Gene Wilhelm, Joanne Wilhelm

Birds Seen by Team Members 2005


Wildflowers Identified

The following wildflowers (common names) were submitted - , Common Blue Violet, Common Dandelion, Fiddle-head Fern, Garlic Mustard, Large-flowered Trillium, May Apple, Northern White Violet, Skunk Cabbage, Spring Beauty, Wild Geranium, Wild Mustard, and Wild Phlox.

Individual Supporters 2005

Many thanks to our individual sponsors - Mitzi Aiden, Beverly Antis, Kathy Beith, Don Bender, Susie Biddle, Candy Blackhurst, Nancy and David Bliewett, Cecelia Buechele, Barbara Carson, Charlotte, Rich and Evelyn Clark, Ruth Crawford, Fred and Marian Curran, Les and Enid Dunnine, Helen Ferguson, Art Forbes, Fred Foster, Marilyn Frederick, Mary Anita Gamberone, Kathie Goodblood, Pearl Grossman, David Headrick, Dorothy Hitchcock, Nancy Hitchcock, Mary Hogg, Jim Hoemme, Louise Keeler, Lorraine Kesterson,
Tim has been traveling throughout the state visiting local Audubon chapters— as Tim explains it— clean air, clean water, and preserving habitat are nonpartisan quality of life issues and habitat conservation is important to people even if they are not birders. Engaging local Audubon chapters in the land use decision making process is a key way to achieve conservation goals. He commended BAS's local Sanctuary Program. Dr. Schaeffer holds a Ph.D. from the State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry, a J.D. from Syracuse University, an M.S. from Carnegie Mellon University, and a B.A. from Gettysburg College. He and his wife Kristin have twin sons, Erik and Kurt. It was a pleasure meeting with Tim and the BAS board expresses its thanks to him for attending our meeting.

June Picnic Thanks to Sandee and Mark

Many thanks to Sandee and Mark Swansiger for hosting our June picnic. Members and guests enjoyed an evening of great food and great company. We had been looking forward to seeing the water feature (complete with waterfall) that Sandee and Mark constructed themselves, and it did not disappoint. A good time was had by all.

ANNOUNCEMENT

What makes a bird unique? How can I identify a bird or butterfly in my yard or garden? How can I make my yard and garden more bird and butterfly friendly? If you have these and many more questions about birds and butterflies, then we've got answers. BAS members and friends are cordially invited to join two mini-courses every Tuesday and Thursday morning at Slippery Rock University beginning September 6 and ending September 22. The mini-courses are titled 'The A-B-Cs of Birding' and 'Bird and Butterfly Gardens: How to Create Your Own.' The former class focuses on avian identification at home using six keys as well as learning about birding materials, equipment and when, where and how to go birding. In the latter class you learn why and how to provide the basic necessities that birds and butterflies need to survive. The mini-courses were developed and are taught by Dr. Gene Wilhelm, former Vice President of Education, National Audubon Society, New York City.

If interested, please contact the Institute for Learning in Retirement, Slippery Rock University, at 724-738-1604 for details. Space is limited for both classes so prompt queries are advised.
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.

B&B and Wildlife Sanctuary renewals should be handled through the sanctuary chair in June or July each year. The $15.00 dollar checks should be made payable to BAS and mailed to Gene Wilhelm, 513 Kelly Blvd., Slippery Rock, PA 16057-1145

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:

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

Bartramian 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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November 20 - Sunday- Late migrants at Presque Isle, leader Russ States, meet at first parking lot at 9am. See the next UI for more details.

December 17- Saturday- Butler CBC, Suzanne Butcher, compiler.

January 1, 2005 - Sunday- Pleasantville CBC, Russ States, compiler.
September 12th Membership Meeting

...Nancy Baker

Members and guests shared five months on foot with the endangered Caribou at our September meeting. Gene Wilhelm introduced the DVD, “Being Caribou,” a documentary chronicling the Porcupine Caribou herd on their epic life journey. On April 8, 2003 Karsten Heuer and Leanne Allison left Old Crow, Yukon, and migrated with the herd from wintering to calving grounds in Alaska’s Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and back again—1500 km across snow and tundra. They completed their journey on September 8, 2003 and headed straight to Washington D.C. to tell politicians and activists what they found.

The 2006 U.S. budget contains language to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to exploration. Contact your representatives to express your feelings concerning drilling in the ANWR. For more information visit www.alaskawild.org.

Refreshments were enjoyed after the meeting. Thanks to Nancy Baker and Kathie Goodblood for providing them.

September Field Trip Revisited

...Nancy Baker

Our September field trip to Shenango River Lake felt more like mid-October. It was overcast with a few rain drops. The birds were not active early, so we used this time to identify some of the late season plants and their fruit. We did scare up a few resident birds and migrants by walking the field trails. It was great to have some young people along. Ruth Anne Lachendorf’s nephews Eric and Jack really enjoyed the apples and seeing their first Brown Thrasher!

Twenty-six species of birds were identified. The highlights were Osprey, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Brown Thrasher, White-eyed Vireo, Warbling Vireo, etc. Palm Warbler.

Audubon Adventures 21st Season

...Elizabeth Wilson, education chair

For its 21st season, Audubon Adventures will release an all-new resource kit, Sharing the Earth, Volume 2. This kit is a complete teaching resource for teachers and youth leaders working with school children ages 8 to 11, Grades 3-6, while spotlighting various nature themes: The Nature of Spiders, The Watery World of Water birds, Turtles – Armored Reptiles, and Real-life Dragons and Damsels (dragonflies and damselflies). The accompanying Audubon Adventures 64 page resource manual is a guide for making the most of Audubon Adventures in and out of the classroom, scout den or community center. Features include detailed lesson plans; hands-on activities; duplicating masters; assessment questions; answer keys; and much more. New this year, and free upon request to Audubon Adventures Classrooms are: 1) a booklet entitled Using Audubon Adventures in After School Programs (suitable for youth organizations, scouts, boys/girls clubs, etc., 2) a Great Backyard Bird Count Classroom Activity CD-ROM, and 3) a poster brochure titled Attracting Birds, Bats, and Butterflies to Schoolyards.

This year BAS salutes the following schools with their classroom teachers (Gkits) for enrolling in the AUDUBON ADVENTURES program the 2005-2006 academic year—

- Broad Street Elementary School - Butler, Maria Fair (2);
- Clearfield Elementary School - Fenelton, Rob Tackas (2);
- Laurel Elementary School - New Castle, Shelly Bowden (20) for Kathy Atwell, Paula Kaldy, Gina Santini, Cathy Staph, Christina Thakar, Debbie Haney, Amanda Wade; Riverside Primary Center - New Castle, Ruth Roperiti (2); Slippery Rock Area Middle School - Slippery Rock, Linda Croll (10);
- Slippery Rock Area Elementary School - Slippery Rock, Pat North (4), Donna Glenn (2), Debbie Bell (3) Jill Takach (3);
- St. Mary’s Catholic School - Hermin, Carrie Persiekini (4);
- St. Wendelin School, Butler, Rose Kostelnik, Pat Harmon (2);
- Summit Township Elementary School - Butler, Liz Jackson (2);
- Wilmington Area Middle School, New Wilmington, Michael Janovic (4); Western PA Christian Homeschoolers Assoc., New Castle, Faith Palmer (1); New Castle Christian Academy, New Castle, Judith Smith (2).

If any school, teacher, or organization is interested in receiving these excellent materials, please contact Elizabeth Wilson at ewtracker@zoominternet.com or 724-924-2045

Two Looks at Fall Migration

Broad-Winged Hawk Migration

...Nancy Baker

In September of 2004, several of us were privileged to watch the spectacle of thousands of Broad-winged Hawks migrating over southeast Michigan.

We were at Southeast Michigan Raptor Research’s hawk watch at Lake Erie Metropark in Brownstown, Michigan. On September 18th, 130,126 Broad-winged Hawks were counted! Broad-winged Hawks are one of the few North American raptors that flock during migration, and geography funnels them directly over Lake Erie Metropark. The sight of hundreds of birds “kettling” was simply amazing. Scott Weidensaul in his book “Living on the Wind” describes kettling as soaring in tight circles to stay within a thermal air current which carries the birds effortlessly upwards. He says the irony is that in relation to the air mass the hawks are going down, but doing so inside a column of heated air that is rising faster than the birds are descending. The result is that the hawks gain altitude without moving a muscle.

Buteo plathypterus, according to “The Birds of North America,” No.218, was first described in 1812 and named Falco pennsylvanicus, Penn’s Woods Falcon. They are common breeders in large deciduous or mixed deciduous forests throughout northeastern and north central North America, and winter from southern Mexico south through Brazil and Bolivia. Small numbers of mostly immature birds winter in south
Florida and the Florida Keys. The species is secretive while nesting, but conspicuous in migration.

In eastern North America, fall migration occurs from mid-August to early October with peak flights (mid-Atlantic) from September 10-20. This year BAS member Jerry Stanley visited Lake Erie Metropark. Although the raptor flights were not huge for the site (27,578 and 15,689 Broad-winged Hawks on 9/17 and 9/18 respectively), there was excitement. Two first state records for Michigan were spotted. A Gull-Billed Tern was sighted on 9/18, and on 9/19 our own Jerry found a male Anhinga. It remained in view for perhaps a half hour circling high on thermals before gliding off to the south. Way to go Jerry!

Monarch Butterfly Migration


As I was working on this issue of the newsletter, I happened to glance up from the computer and look out the window at the backyard to see a Monarch Butterfly gracefully nectaring on the Mexican Sunflower (Tithonia) planted beside our newly carved tree spirit. Such a photo opportunity could not be missed, so I quickly got my camera and took a few pictures of this more than willing subject.

Here in Youngstown, at approximately latitude 41°05'57"N, the peak Monarch migration is between 8-20 September. This fall all looks good for an excellent migration and the many Monarchs that you have been seeing are a testament to the overall good health of the population, now appearing to be recovering well from the low over wintering numbers from a few months back. However, a word of caution must be expressed as no one knows what the effects might be of Katrina and Rita as they devastated the Gulf States and one wonders what 'my' Monarch and the Ruby-throated Hummingbird sharing his sunflower fare will face on their journeys south.

Because Monarch butterflies cannot survive a cold winter, those west of the Rocky Mountains move to Southern California, while those east of the mountains travel to the Mexico, a distance for some of up to 3,000 miles. The 14 Monarchs tagged by Melanie Petridis of Slippery Rock, and the 5 Monarchs tagged by Harvey Troyer of Jackson Center as a part of Monarch Watch (see http://www.monarchwatch.org/) sponsored by the Univ. of Kansas traveled between an estimated 1896 to 1919 miles before being recovered in Mexico. The butterfly in my backyard and those others emerging in late summer are biologically and behaviorally different than the ones of summer as the shorter days and cooler fall air trigger them in the migration mode. These Monarch will not mate or lay eggs until the following spring. The fat stored in their abdomen is critical, and it must last not only for their long journey south, but also over the winter, and until next spring as they begin the flight back north. The migration of the Monarch still has many unanswered questions, for one - just how do they find their way back to Mexico as they are at least the great-great-great grandchildren of the ones who had journeyed north the previous spring?

BAS Board 2005-06

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</tbody>
</table>

ATTENTION ALL SHUTTERBUGS!  BAS is putting together a calendar for 2006 and we would love to use your local nature photos. Please send digital photos to Mark Swansiger via e-mail at swanster@ccla.com with the header 'calendar pics' or to 40 Bowen Rd. New Wilmington, PA 16142 by floppy disk. There is no remuneration for the photos; just the chance to see them in print and no guarantee can be made regarding their return.
Safety First
Hunters Wear
Orange
Birders
Should Too!

Printed on Recycled Paper

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Current introductory membership offer $20.00
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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

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Kathie Goodblood, acting program chair
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November 14- Monday- Allegheny Waterway and Wetland Splendors, John M. Karian, speaker. John is a nature photographer and native of western Pennsylvania. He is a dedicated naturalist and conservationist whose prints and images have been both displayed, published, and made available on website, WetlandSplendors.com. He is a member of the Western PA Conservancy, the Seneca Rocks chapter of the Audubon Society, and also the North American Nature Photographer’s Association. He will give a slide show presentation “Allegheny Waterway and Wetland Splendors”. Come see the haunting beauty of the Allegheny River through the eyes of a photographer.

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Upcoming Field Trips
Russ States, fieldtrip chair
November 20- Sunday- Late Migrants and Winter Birds at Presque Isle- This has always been a rewarding trip as in past years in addition to the ducks and scoters, we have had rarities like Snowy Owls, Northern Shrikes, Redpolls, Lapland Longspurs, a Bohemian Waxwing, and a California Gull. We will meet at 9 am at the first parking lot on the right as you enter the park. – Co-leaders Russ States and Jerry Stanley.

December 17- Saturday- Butler CBC, Suzanne Butcher, compiler. See additional info inside.
January 1, 2006 - Sunday- Pleasantville CBC, Russ States, compiler. See additional info inside.

Upcoming Field Trips/Activities in 2006
January February– Impromptu Winter Birding– we will go where the birds are- Perhaps this will be a year for an invasion of Redpolls and Crossbills, or another Townsend’s Solitaire might spend some time in PA. Co-leaders Russ States and Jerry Stanley.

March - Saturday- Waterfowl Trip to Lake Arthur –Russ States and Jerry Stanley co-leaders, time/date to be determined based on lake ice.
April – Saturday- Spring Sanctuary Visit, time/place to be determined.

You are invited to participate in the 9th Annual Great Backyard Bird Count February 17-20, 2006
http://www.audubon.org/gbbc/index.shtml
A joint project of National Audubon and Cornell Lab of Ornithology
Join with thousand of others to find out how many birds are being seen in your area and across the continent this winter. By participating in the Great Backyard Bird Count, you help document where birds are, and track changes in their numbers compared to previous years, helping scientists paint a picture of the state of birds this winter.

May 13- Saturday-BAS Naturthun, Tom Wescott, chair.
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June - Monday – Annual Picnic, time/place to be determined.
July- Butterfly Count, date to be announced.
October Membership Meeting

Paul Hess introduced us to the world of seabirds at our October meeting. He shared not only pictures of the birds, but many fascinating facts about their lives. These pelagic birds—the albatrosses, petrels, shearwaters; storm-petrels, skuaas, and jaegers, spend almost their entire lives over water. They may wander thousands of miles from shore, spending years at a stretch at sea. To see these birds, pelagic birders go to where the food is. The diets of these birds vary, but the chain begins with plankton, a complex community of minute, floating organisms. Plankton blooms are not distributed evenly, but occur where currents collide and create upwelling which drag nutrients from the ocean bottom to the surface. Plankton blooms attract small fish, which draw bigger predators, including birds, to feed upon them. And what do these birds drink? Many seabirds have specialized glands located above each eye, which enable them to expel excess salt from the bloodstream, expelling it down the nostrils. Thus they can drink ocean water without dying from dehydration.

Paul recommended a book called “Eye of the Albatross” by Carl Safina to learn more about these amazing birds. Delicious pie and ice-cream following the meeting were provided and attractively presented by Sandee and Mark Swansiger. Thanks to Paul for a great program, and Sandee and Mark for the great food!

October Field Trip Revisited

Saturday, October 15, was a beautiful day for our tree identification walk at Grove City Community Park. Certified Forester Scott Seibert did a great job teaching us the basics of not only tree identification, but also forest ecology. With the aid of helpful handouts, he led us through the steps to take to figure out what kind of trees we were seeing. We not only keyed out many species, we also learned of their importance to wildlife and their place in forest succession. It was so interesting and fun that we decided we wanted to do it again next year, but in a different habitat. Scott agreed. So thanks to Scott for a great day today and we’re looking forward to the next time. Make sure to join us if you want to have fun learning about trees!

Audubon Invites You to Participate in the 106th Annual CBC

The data from the past 105 years of Christmas Bird Counts continues to be analyzed. Last year the focus on the status of boreal birds was completed. Each year more is learned. The National Audubon Society has conducted its original citizen-science project, the Christmas Bird Count since 1900. What began as an effort to mobilize the early conservation movement now culminates in a vast dataset that sheds light on how human activity has impacted the environment over the entire 20th Century. This year nearly 2000 individual counts will take place in the Americas from December 14, 2005 through January 5, 2006. Volunteers 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 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 log on the internet and check http://www.audubon.org/bird/cbc/index.html at the Audubon site for updated information. See the following Local Christmas Bird Counts to learn how to participate in the local BAS sponsored counts.
Our Local Christmas Bird Counts

The Butler County CBC will be held on Saturday, December 17, 2005. 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 330-759-1945 (leave messages) or sarbird@hotmail.com as soon as possible so count assignments can be made.

The Pleasantville CBC will be held on Sunday, January 1, 2006 from dawn to dusk (or earlier or later if you are so inclined). The circle for this count encompasses the area approximately from Titusville in the northeast 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 point 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 call and ask. This is a more northern count than the Butler count, so more northern species. If you are interested in helping, please contact: Russ States 814-676-6320 (please talk to the machine) or russ@esonline.net.

Bald Eagle Now Listed As Threatened in PA

Suzanne Butcher

Final approval was recently given by the Commissioners of the PGC on Oct. 3rd to downgrade the current status of the Bald Eagle from listed as Endangered to Threatened in PA based on its recovery in the state. Back in the early 1980's there were only 2 or 3 nesting pairs in the state, and now there are about 95 breeding pairs in Pennsylvania. Bald Eagles were first seen on the 1997 Butler Christmas Bird Count and have been recorded on every count but one since then. And even though they are now expected on every day of birding that includes Lake Arthur, Shenango Lake, or the Glades, it is still a breathtaking sight to see one of these majestic birds. While this is good news for the eagles, other birds including the Dickcissel, Sedge Wren, and Yellow-bellied Flycatcher, were upgraded from Threatened to Endangered in PA. Formerly not listed in the state, the Blackpoll Warbler, and the Black-crowned Night Heron are now listed as Endangered joining the endangered King Rail, Short-eared Owl, Black Tern, Common Tern, Least Bittern, American Bittern, Loggerhead Shrike and Peregrine Falcon. The Upland Sandpiper and the Osprey remain as Threatened. The endangered species changes advanced by the Commissioners were recommended by the Pennsylvania Biological Survey's Ornithological Technical Committee.

BARTRAMIAN AUDUBON SOCIETY SEEKS SCHOLARSHIP APPLICANTS

Elizabeth Wilson

The Bartramian Audubon Society is looking for applicants for the 2006 Workshop for Educators (Hog Island, Maine) and Take PART (High Pond Audubon Camp, Vermont) Camp Scholarships.

2006 Workshop for Educators (July 17-23)

Something extraordinary happens when you step onto Hog Island... Why don't you find out what that adventure is! This week long session is intended for both science and non-science educators who are incorporating environmental education into their lesson plans, or would like to.

Take PART: Program of Audubon Research for Teens (ages 14-18) (July 28-August 7)

Join professional researchers and a group of teen citizen scientists to learn about conservation, natural history and conduct research to make a difference! Each participant will apply for one of the two teams, assisting a scientist in an ongoing conservation project that includes valuable research on rare species or natural communities. The camp programs to choose from are Herpetology Research or Wildlife of the Northern Forest.

The scholarship covers the cost of the camp excluding the registration fee. This fee will be reimbursed to the scholarship winners 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 winner. These scholarships are open to any adult or student in Butler, Lawrence, Mercer, and Venango Counties of Western Pennsylvania.

For More Information Contact: Elizabeth Wilson, Education Committee Chairperson, Bartramian Audubon Society, (724) 924-2045 or email: ewiracker@zoominternet.net.

Application deadline is December 15, 2005.

ATTENTION ALL SHUTTERBUGS!

BAS is putting together a calendar for 2006 and we would love to use your local nature photos. Please send digital photos to Mark Swansiger via e-mail at swanster@ccia.com with the header 'calendar pics' or to 40 Bowen Rd. New Wilmington, PA 16142 by floppy disk. There is no remuneration for the photos; just the chance to see them in print and no guarantee can be made regarding their return.
BARTRAMIAN AUDUBON SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 315
SLIPPERY ROCK, PA 16057
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Safety First
Hunters Wear Orange
Birders Must Too!

Printed on Recycled Paper

Membership Reminder

Sandeep 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 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 Swansiger.

B&B and Wildlife Sanctuary renewals should be handled through the sanctuary chair in June or July each year. The $15.00 dollar checks should be made payable to BAS and mailed to Gene Wilhelm, 513 Kelly Blvd., Slippery Rock, PA 16057-1145.

FVI- Subscribers to National Audubon Magazine will note some changes: The magazine will be published bimonthly starting in 2005 - Jan./Feb. March/April etc. There is also a new format in which the expiration date will be given as the last bimonthly issue and use J/F or M/A 2005. All membership expiration dates have been adjusted to insure that you get your full subscription. THIS DOES NOT affect those who only have Sanctuary, BAS Associate, AA School or Upland Informer subscriptions.

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
rev 9/02

U18

7XCH
Upcoming BAS Board Meeting

Kathie Goodblood, president.

March 20 - Monday - The BAS Board will meet at 6:00 p.m. at Luigi's in Slippery Rock. Please notify Kathie if you are unable to attend.

Upcoming BAS Membership Meetings

Membership Meetings

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

March 13 - Monday - Common Butterflies of Western PA - Walter Shaffer, speaker. Walt's presentation will focus on identification of the commonly encountered butterflies of western PA. It will begin with a detailed review of butterfly topography as it relates to field identification. Most butterflies will be demonstrated with slides. Some of the more common problems in field identification will be discussed.

The major butterfly families and their defining characteristics will be presented. This program is geared toward beginners.

April 10 - Monday - Propagating Native Plants - Darrel Frey and Christine McHenry-Glenn, speakers. Darrel and Christine of Three Sisters Farm and Nursery will discuss the benefits of native plants. They will explain various propagation techniques and tell us how to create habitat areas utilizing native plants. They will also guide us through the steps of planning our own native plant garden. Darrel is co-owner and manager of Three Sisters Farm, a certified organic market garden farm and nursery. He is a sustainable design consultant and has a BA in Sustainable Community Development. Christine is a graduate of the Sustainable Systems Program at Slippery Rock University. Chris and Darrell have been working cooperatively to design native plant gardens, co-teach sustainable design workshops, and establish their native plant nursery.

May 8 - Monday - Annual Awards Night

Upcoming Field Trips

Russ States, field trip chair

March 18th - Saturday - Waterfowl Trip to Lake Arthur - Kathie Goodblood - leader. Meet at 8:30 am at the park office. Hopefully the weather will cooperate and we will be able to witness the duck migration. Usually a great variety of waterfowl are seen on this popular trip.

April 22 - Saturday - Spring Sanctuary Visit at McKeever Environmental Learning Center. McKeever is located in Mercer County near Sandy Lake, PA. We will meet at the center at 8:00 am and hike some of the trails meandering through the beauty of the 205 acres of the McKeever's property, enjoying spring warblers on "Earth Day". Kathie Goodblood, leader.

May 13 - Nataurthon - Think about getting your team together for a great day of birding, butterfly, and wildflower identification while helping raise money for BAS. This is our primary fundraiser and every bit helps. Contact Tom Wescott at 724-376-7380, tomwarbler@altel.net.

May 13 - Saturday - North American Migration Counts for Butler, Lawrence, Mercer, and Venango Counties.


July - Butterfly Count in conjunction with the NABA 4th of July count, date to be announced. Contact person, Suzanne Butcher, sarbird@hotmail.com, 330-759-1945.

November 2005 Membership Meeting

Photographer John M. Karian presented "Allegheny Waterway and Wetland Splendors" at our November meeting. The slides of his images of local wetlands and waterways were not just pictures of scenery, they were works of art. John explained that sunrise is his favorite time of day to be out, and that many of his photos are taken then. He looks at everything with an artist's eye, and something as simple as a leaf in a pool can be the subject of a beautiful photograph. He said that he doesn't have many images of mammals because he makes too much noise with all of his equipment. He uses a kayak to sneak up on waterbirds, and we all laughed when he said he tweaks his
hair to attract the attention of the insects he photographs. If you missed the meeting, or just want to see more of his work, his website is wetlandsplendors.com.

John Karian discussing his photography with BAS members

Thanks to Judy Pietz and Marjorie Kirk for the delicious pumpkin dessert and nut bread we enjoyed after the meeting.

December 12, 2004 Membership Meeting
Suzanne Butcher started off our annual potluck with a quiz about owls. It was fun trying to identify the various owls and answer questions about owls in our culture. Afterwards all enjoyed the delicious potluck buffet and social. Thanks to Suzanne for providing the entertainment.

BAS outing at Presque Isle

Presque Isle Field Trip, November 20, 2004

Sunday November 20 was a beautiful day for a walk on Presque Isle. It was warm for November, and the sun was shining. Jerry Stanley and Russ States led Nancy Baker, Kathie Goodblood, Janet and Tom Kuehl, and Mark Swansiger in the search for birds. Forty-seven species were tallied for the day, including all three scoters at Beach 11. Pine Tree Trail yielded Red-breasted Nuthatches and Golden-crowned Kinglets.

Fry’s Landing produced a Yellow-rumped Warbler, and a Bald Eagle was spotted over the Channel.

Species seen: Common Loon, Pied-billed Grebe, Horned Grebe, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Canada Goose, Gadwall, American Wigeon, American Black Duck, Redhead, Greater Scaup, Lesser Scaup, Surf Scoter, White-winged Scoter, Black Scoter, Bufflehead, Common Goldeneye, Hooded Mergeranser, Red-breasted Mergeranser, Ruddy Duck, Bald Eagle, American Coot, Bonaparte’s Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Mourning Dove, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Blue Jay, American Crow, Black-capped Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Red-breasted Nuthatch, Golden-crowned Kinglet, American Robin, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Song Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, American Goldfinch, House Sparrow, and an adult Black Swan. This bird had been at the Park since at least September 17, and is unquestionably an escapee, since it is a resident of Australia.

40th Pleasantville, Pa. Christmas Bird Count

1 January 2006

Russ States, compiler

Jan. 1, 2006: 3:15am to 5:30pm. Temp. 33-37°F; Snow cover 1", Still waters frozen; moving waters open; wind 2-5 mph; overcast in am; overcast in pm.

Observers: 18 in field in 7 parties, one feeder watcher.

Time/distance: 50.25 total party hours; 296.25 total party miles; including 13 hours & 10.5 miles on foot and 37.25 hours & 285.75 miles by car. Plus 4 hrs and 5 miles owling.

BIRDS:

Pied-billed Grebe 1, Great Blue Heron 4, Canada Goose 294, Mallard 8, American Black Duck 7, Greater Scaup 1, Common Merganser 55, Red-breasted Merganser 9, Bald Eagle 6, Northern Harrier 1, Sharp-shinned Hawk 1, Cooper’s Hawk 1, Red-tailed Hawk 8, Rough-legged Hawk 1, American Kestrel 2, Ruffed Grouse 10, Wild Turkey 35, Rock Dove 5, Mourning Dove 58, Eastern Screech Owl 8, Great Horned Owl 2, Barred Owl 1, Belted Kingfisher 5, Red-bellied Woodpecker 24, Downy Woodpecker 52, Hairy Woodpecker 22, Northern Flicker 7, Pileated Woodpecker 18, Northern Shrike 1, Blue Jay 269, American Crow 124, Common Raven 2, Black-capped Chickadee 581, Tufted Titmouse 105, Red-breasted Nuthatch 116, White-breasted Nuthatch 116, Brown Creeper 10, Carolina Wren 8, Winter Wren 4, Golden-crowned Kinglet 40, Eastern Bluebird 58, Hermit Thrush 6, American Robin 1, European Starling 357, Cedar Waxwing 259, American Tree Sparrow 55, Field Sparrow 6, Song Sparrow 11, White-throated Sparrow 49, Dark-eyed Junco 239, Northern Cardinal 117, Brown-headed Cowbird 8, Purple Finch 14, House Finch 35, Pine Siskin 40, American Goldfinch 182, House Sparrow 119

TOTAL SPECIES – 57, highest number of species ever.
TOTAL INDIVIDUALS – 3469, second highest number of individuals ever.

Count Circle includes area within 15 mile diameter circle, center 4 miles SSE of Pleasantville. Count area boundary includes Enterprise to the north, Tienosta to the East, Eagle Rock to the south, and Pa. Route 8 to the west.

*** Thanks to all who participated in the count this year. Hope to see you again next year***

**Butler Christmas Bird Count Report, C #106, the year of the Robin**

--- Suzanne Butcher, compiler

The Butler CBC, celebrating forty years of counting for the National Audubon Society, was held Saturday, December 17th on a cold but beautiful sunny winter day. From 5am-6pm, it was a good time to be out in the field. Although the ground was covered with 4-8 inches of snow, everyone commented on the abundant food supply with frozen grapes, crabapples, poison ivy berries, bittersweet and other fruits easily found. Along with the fruit came the birds with good reports of White-throated and Tree Sparrows, and counts of hundreds and yes even thousands of American Robins. On the down side, any sort of open water was scarce, with all small ponds totally frozen and even flowing creeks mostly covered with ice. At Lake Arthur only a single tiny spot of open water remained. The list of species ended at 70, just about an average number for count day. However while water birds were down in both species and numbers, new high counts (HC) were set for 8 species.


Observations: 23 in 10 field parties; 24.75 hours and 20.5 miles on foot; 46 hours and 399.5 miles by car plus 10 at feeders for 32.5 hours, and 7 hours and 45 miles owling.

**TOTAL PARTY HOURS: 70.75; PARTY MILES: 420**

Volunteers are the heart and soul of the CBC’s and we give our thanks to the dedicated people who faithfully reserve the date, year after year, to offer their services to make the Butler count a resounding success. Folks like Suzanne Butcher, Ruth Crawford, and Gene Wilhelm who have counted for over twenty years and those counting for the first time, Kathie Goodblood, Judy and Bob Pietz, and Kyler Griffith who counted with his Grandmother, Becky Sheeler, returning to participate once again. The age of the counters from Kyler, age 11 to Ruby, age 95, reflects that a love of birds spans the generations. The complete list is as follows and once again, thank you very much for all your years of participation.

COUNTERS: Nancy Baker (4), Jim Barcaskey (3), Kate Brydon (14), Gene Butcher (14), Suzanne Butcher (21), Ruth Crawford (23), Dave Darney (10), Debbie Darney (11), Bobbie Davis (7), Charles Davis (5), Sharon Davis (5), Barb Dean (10), George Dean (8), Veda DePaepe (5), Candy Gonzalez (8), Kathy Goodblood (1) Kyler Griffith (1) Sally Jamison (6), Berenice Madjaric (3), Robert Madjaric (4), Bob Pietz (1), Judy Pietz (1), Ruby Ralston (3), Arthur Richards (4), Becky Sheeler (2), Russ States (9), Mark Swansiger (9), Sandee Swansiger (9), Terry Steele (2), Linda Wagner (5), Robert Walsczak (10), Gene Wilhelm (25), Joanne Wilhelm (13).

(*18/under)

*k Get Well Wishes for Helen k*

We at BAS missed Helen Ferguson on this year’s CBC count and are thinking about her and wishing her well.
Help Still Needed!!
Anyone can help with the 2nd PA Breeding Bird Atlas Project by identifying the breeding birds in their yard, on their property or in an entire block. They can also give permission for a volunteer to atlas their property. For more information on the PA Breeding Bird Atlas 5 year project or to learn how to register and help with this ongoing endeavor, you can visit the very informative Carnegie Melon 2nd PA Breeding Bird Atlas internet home page at http://www.carnegiemnh.org/atlas/index.htm or contact Linda Wagner (lwagner342@msn.com, 3080 Eldogor Ln., New Castle, PA 16105, 724-657-0867 or Suzanne Butcher, 301 Raislon Rd Slippery Rock, PA 16057, 330-759-1945, sarbird@hotmail.com, for region 42, (Lawrence-Mercer Counties), or Russ States, 111 E. 4th St, Oil City, PA 16301, 814-676-6320, russs@csoline.net for region 43 (Venango-Butler Counties), or speak to any BAS Board member.

Membership Reminder
Sandeep 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 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 Swansiger.

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Bartramian Audubon SocietyAssociate 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:
Bartramian Audubon Society
PO Box 315
Slippery Rock, PA 16057

FYI- Subscribers to National Audubon Magazine will note some changes: The magazine will be published bimonthly starting in 2005 - Jan./Feb. March/April etc. There is also a new format in which the expiration date will be given as the last bimonthly issue and use J/F or M/A 200_. All membership expiration dates have been adjusted to insure that you get your full subscription. THIS DOES NOT affect those who only have Sanctuary, BAS Associate, AA School or Upland Informer subscriptions.

National Audubon Society
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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
rev 9/02 U18 7XCH
Upcoming BAS Board Meeting

Kathie Goodblood, president

April 17- Monday- The BAS Board will meet at 6:00 p.m. at Luigi’s in Slippery Rock. Please notify Kathie if you are unable to attend.

Upcoming BAS Membership Meetings

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

April 10- Monday- Propagating Native Plants- Darrel Frey and Christine McHenry-Glenn, speakers. Darrel and Christine of Three Sisters Farm and Nursery will discuss the benefits of native plants. They will explain various propagation techniques and tell us how to create habitat areas utilizing native plants. They will also guide us through the steps of planning our own native plant garden.

Darrel is co-owner and manager of Three Sisters Farm, a certified organic market garden farm and nursery. He is a sustainable design consultant and has a BA in Sustainable Community Development. Christine is a graduate of the Sustainable Systems Program at Slippery Rock University. Chris and Darrell have been working cooperatively to design native plant gardens, co-teach sustainable design workshops, and establish their native plant nursery.

May 8 - Monday- Annual Awards Night. Please join us for our Annual Awards night when the BAS will recognize individuals, organizations, or businesses who have made a significant contribution to the local Audubon cause. We will also be presenting the sixth Mike Allen Starker Scholarship to a deserving Slippery Rock University student majoring in environmental studies and the second Helen R. Ferguson Fund of the BAS Scholarship in Environmental Sciences to a student at Westminster College. The scholarship winners to the Hogg Island Audubon camp in Maine will be introduced and new members of the BAS Bird and Butterfly and Wildlife Sanctuary Programs will be receiving their beautiful sanctuary signs.

Upcoming Field Trips

Russ States, field trip chair

April 22 – Saturday- Spring Sanctuary Visit at McKeever Environmental Learning Center. McKeever is located in Mercer County near Sandy Lake, PA. We will meet at the center at 8:00 am and hike some of the trails meandering through the beauty of the 205 acres of the McKeever’s property, enjoying spring warblers on “Earth Day”. Kathie Goodblood, leader.

May 13- Naturthon- The day for our 2006 Naturthon 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 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. 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!

You can also support a team, individual, or the BAS by making monetary pledges. Spend as much or as little time on May 13th as you can to help our cause.

Contact Tom Wescott for more information on forming a team, making pledges, or donations to help BAS at 724-376-7380, tomwarbler@alltel.net.

May 13- Saturday-Pennsylvania Migration Counts for Butler, Lawrence, Mercer, and Venango Counties.

The Pennsylvania Migration Count (formerly the NAMC), the day set aside to count the returning Neotropical migrants as a way to track population trends, is scheduled for May 13th. The rules are simple and remain the same: spend a day in the field counting birds in a specified area, and keep track of hours and 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 sepa-
rate 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 dawn-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. Contact Russ States 814-676-6320 (talk to the machine) rsss@csonline.net to find out how to reach the county compiler of your area- Russ for Venango County, Gene Wilhelm for Butler Country, Linda Wagner for Lawrence County and Neil Troyer for Mercer County or contact them directly. The Naturthon and PA count can be done together in tandem with your day’s counts being included in the results of both activities.

**June 12- Monday - Annual Picnic at the beautiful B&B-Wildlife Sanctuary of David McBride, 843 Lakewood-Neshannock Falls Road, New Castle, PA.** We will provide the hot dogs and drinks; you bring your own table service and a dish to share. The picnic starts at 5:00 p.m. and we eat at 6:00. All are welcome!

David’s home reflects his many interests with John James Audubon natural history prints, waterfowl decoys, antiques and art with nature and sporting subjects. As the author of The Federal Duck Stamps: A Complete Guide, he also displays many related items. David, an educator for more than 30 years, now retired, pursues his interests in nature, especially wildlife and habitat conservation, archaeology, and anthropology. A map with directions can be obtained at the Awards Night membership meeting or you can contact Kathie Goodblood at bhns@csonline.net, 814-432-4496 for directions. Car pooling is suggested as parking is limited.

**Orange Sulphur on Yarrow**

**July- Butterfly Count** for the Sandy Creek Circle in Mercer and Venango Counties in conjunction with the NABA 4th of July Butterfly Count, date to be announced. Contact person, Suzanne Butcher, sarbird@hotmail.com, 330-759-1945.

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**March Membership Meeting Revisited**

**Walt Shaffer** introduced us to his system of butterfly identification at our March membership meeting. First we covered butterfly topography. If you want to identify butterflies, learn the terminology. Read and study the first chapter of your field guide. Walt’s unique method focuses on a portion of the but-

**Walt Schaffer discussing butterflies**

terfly wing called the cell, and after viewing numerous slides of our local butterflies, we could understand why. Everyone enjoyed his excellent lesson and the beautiful butterfly slides. Now we can’t wait to go looking for butterflies! The field guide he recommended was “Butterflies Through Binoculars A Field Guide to Butterflies in the Boston-New York-Washington Region” by Jeffrey Glassberg. (Be careful not to get the guide for the whole Eastern Region, as you will have to search through butterflies that we’re not likely to see here.) Refreshments and discussion were enjoyed after the meeting. Thanks to Kathie Goodblood for providing the refreshments.

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**Moraine State Park Field Trip, March 18, 2006**

**Nancy Baker**

A cold wind welcomed fourteen members and guests on our annual Lake Arthur field trip Saturday. We started at the park office, where a Red-breasted Nuthatch was spotted. Then we convoyed to various observation points around the lake, looking for waterfowl. Most of the water was open, and most of the birds were far away. We did get great looks at a group of Tundra Swans, and a few Horned Grebes were close to shore. At least one Eastern Towhee was heard along the route, but not spotted. Two Bald Eagles flew over, and a pair of Red-tailed Hawks. One lonely Tree Swallow and an Eastern
Phoebe reminded us that spring really is coming. We shivered our way to a total of forty-one species for the trip.


**BAS Announces New 2005-2006 Members of its Sanctuary Programs**

The Bartramian Audubon Society believes that ecology should begin at home. Through its *Wildlife Sanctuary Program* with private and public landowners, the BAS is seeking to preserve natural habitats, ecosystems, and a diversity of life in our ecoregion for generations to come. With its *Bird and Butterfly Sanctuary Program*, the BAS aims to develop a system of mini-sanctuaries to promote a better understanding of wildlife in general, and to introduce a natural way to invite birds and butterflies to the home, schoolyard, business, or municipality.

If you are interested in obtaining more information on becoming a BAS Sanctuary member, please contact the Bartramian Audubon Society, attention Sanctuary Chair, Gene Wilhelm, 513 Kelly Blvd, Slippery Rock, PA 16057. The new sanctuary members who will be introduced at our Award’s Night membership meeting on May 8th and presented with their beautiful sanctuary signs are:

**Bird and Butterfly Sanctuary Program**

*Thomas G Black, New Bedford, PA*

*Carl and Roxanne Bleakney, Slippery Rock, PA*

*Lisa L. Vaughan and Robert Boleky, Utica, PA*

*Robert and Deanna Clouse, Slippery Rock, PA*

*Robert and Barbara Davis, Slippery Rock, PA*

*George and Barb Dean, New Castle, PA*

*Ronald and Suzanne Fodor, Slippery Rock, PA*

*Carla L. and Timothy A. Mitchell, Hadley, PA*

*David P. McBride, New Castle, PA*

*James Hathaway and Laura Quinn, Mercer, PA*

**Wildlife Sanctuary Program**

*David P. McBride, New Castle, PA*

*Poplar Forest Drive, Slippery Rock, PA*

*Charles H. Shultz, Boyers, PA*

*Slippery Rock University, Miller Woods, Slippery Rock, PA*

**JOIN THE BAS BOARD**

Do you have good ideas? Enjoy fieldtrips? Like reading the *Upland Informer*? Would you like to see BAS doing something new? Different? Better? Here is your chance! We’re looking for a few good people who are willing to serve on our board. You would attend membership meetings and board meetings, serve on a committee (there are plenty of choices) get to know your fellow members better and have some FUN! This entails ~ 6 hours a month from August-Dec. and Feb.-May. We need you to e-mail (please write ‘board’ in the subject line) or call Mark Swansiger, swanster@cs.com, 724-533-5291 or Kathie Goodblood bhms@cs.com, 814-432-4496 if interested.
Help Still Needed!!

Anyone can help with the 2nd PA Breeding Bird Atlas Project by identifying the breeding birds in their yard, on their property or in an entire block. They can also give permission for a volunteer to atlas their property. For more information on the PA Breeding Bird Atlas 5 year project or to learn how to register and help with this ongoing endeavor, you can visit the very informative Carnegie Melon 2nd PA Breeding Bird Atlas internet home page at http://www.carnegiemnh.org/atlas/index.htm or contact Linda Wagner (LWagner342@msn.com, 3080 Eldogor Ln., New Castle, PA 16105, 724-657-0667 or Suzanne Butcher, 301 Ralston Rd Slippery Rock, PA 16057, 330-759-1945, sarbird@hotmail.com, for region 42, (Lawrence-Mercer Counties), or Russ States, 111 E. 4th St, Oil City, PA 16301, 814-676-6320, russes@comcast.net for region 43 (Venango-Butler Counties), or speak to any BAS Board member.

Membership Reminder

....Sandee 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 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 Swansiger.

B&B and Wildlife Sanctuary renewals should be handled through the sanctuary chair in June or July each year. The $15.00 dollar checks should be made payable to BAS and mailed to Gene Wilhelm, 513 Kelly Blvd., Slippery Rock, PA 16057-1145.

Bartramian Audubon Society
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Please check below

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

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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 52829
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
August 21 - Monday- The BAS Board will meet at 6:00 p.m. at the Buttermilk Hill Sanctuary, home of Kathie Goodblood and Jerry Stanley in Franklin. Please notify Kathie if you are unable to attend.

Upcoming BAS Membership Meetings
September 11 - Monday- Come join us for our first membership meeting of the 2005-06 season. 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 on 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.

Awards Night- May 8, 2006
The Bartramian Audubon Society held its annual Awards Night at its May membership meeting. The following awards were presented:

The Mike Alan Starker Ecology Scholarship in Environmental Studies at Slippery Rock University

Presented to
Jessica Sherlock

The Bartramian Audubon Society is pleased to announce that Jessica Sherlock has been selected as the 2006 recipient of the Mike A. Starker '82 Scholarship at Slippery Rock University. Jessica is an Environmental Studies major from Scottsdale in Westmoreland County. She began at Slippery Rock University in Fall 2000, but in Fall 2003 began a two-year stint in Iraq as a Mobile Support Equipment operator. She is a Signal Sergeant with the Company B 28th Signal Battalion of Beaver Falls, PA. Upon returning to SRU she has studied hard, and has attained a 3.35 grade point average in her major. She enjoys studying the environment because it helps her see the connections between things. Jessica sees the environment as a common ground for everybody. Jessica has participated in field trips to such places as Sudbury, Ontario and the Gerace Research Center in San Salvador, Bahamas. She intends to do community service work this summer in the Youghiogheny watershed at Ohio Pyle State Park. Jessica enjoys kayaking, climbing, skiing, hiking, and her three dogs.

The Helen R. Ferguson Fund of the Bartramian Audubon Society Bestows A Scholarship in Environmental Sciences at Westminster College
Presented to
Colby King
Helen R. Ferguson has gifted the monies for the Helen R. Ferguson Fund of the Bartramian Audubon Society.

Dr. Ann Throckmorton, Colby King, Dr. Shahroukh Mistry
The Bartramian Audubon Society is pleased to announce that Colby King has been awarded a scholarship in Environmental Sciences with the monies coming from the Helen R. Ferguson Fund of the BAS. Colby, a graduate of Slippery Rock High School is currently pursuing course studies in Environmental Science, Economics, and Political Science at Westminster College in New Wilmington. Colby has previously served on the BAS board.
Conservation Awards for Organizations
Presented to
Shenango River Watchers
Jennifer Barborak, President

The Shenango Rivers Watcher is a not for profit organization established in 2001. Their mission is to clean up, preserve, and protect the environmental, scenic, and recreational attributes of the Shenango River watershed. A few of the ways they meet their goal is by having clean up days, tire recycling days, canoe trips, educational displays and by stenciling the storm drains alerting people that what we drop or pour onto the ground goes into the river. Jennifer Barborak, President of the Shenango River Watchers was present to accept the award.

The Robert A. Macoskey Center for Sustainable Systems, Education & Research, Slippery Rock University
Thomas J. Reynolds, Director

The Robert A. Macoskey Center for Sustainable Systems, Education and Research at Slippery Rock University was created in 1990 to promote a shift at SRU and in the local community towards a regenerative partnership with ecological systems. The Center is located on 83 acres of the university campus and enacts its mission in three ways: Education about sustainability through events, workshops and programs; Physical demonstrations of sustainable technologies and systems; and Supporting sustainability-focused academic initiatives and research. BAS is anticipating even stronger cooperative ties with the Center in the years to come and appreciates the Center’s ecological focus on the whole Slippery Rock community.

Conservation Award for Individual
Presented to
Timothy R. Drennen

Timothy R. Drennen was born on August 13, 1948. Although travel has taken him to most of the USA, several Canadian provinces, above the Arctic Circle, and to several Caribbean Islands, Slippery Rock, Pennsylvania, always has been his home. He graduated from Slippery Rock High School, attended Butler County Community College, graduated from Slippery Rock State College with a B.S. degree in elementary education. After college graduation, he worked in heavy construction in order to pay back his education loans and did substitute teaching before securing a permanent teaching position at Har-Mer Elementary School in Harrisville, Pennsylvania. In 1982 he was fortunate enough to buy a house near the banks of Wolf Creek in Slippery Rock Township. Over the next five years he married his wife, Debbie, had a son, Kalin, and a daughter, Kelsey. All three have been the center of his life and share mutual appreciation of the natural beauty that surrounds them. The entire family enjoys fishing, camping, and hiking. And they especially enjoy watching and feeding the many species of wild birds that make their home alongside their own the year round.

2006 Workshop for Educators Scholarships
Presented to
Lisa Ann Hulihan
Nancy Lunnie

The Bartramian Audubon Society is pleased to announce that Lisa Ann Hulihan and Nancy Lunnie have been awarded the 2006 Workshop for Educators Scholarship to Hog Island, Maine. Lisa Ann Hulihan is an Adventure Specialist for Vision Quest/Camp Charles Young in Franklin, Pennsylvania. Nancy Lunnie is a teacher for the Franklin Area School District in Franklin, Pennsylvania.
The year 2005-2006 represents the second highest number of sanctuaries (14) coming online after the 16 approved in the 2003-2004 year. It is noted that the 10 new Bird and Butterfly Sanctuaries represent 38.81% of protected acres and the 4 wildlife sanctuaries constitute 119.76 acres for a combined total of 158.57 acres added to our sanctuary program.

The following sanctuaries list the owners, county and size in chronological order. B&B Sanctuaries: Carla & Timothy Mitchell, Mercer Co., 2.25 ac; Lisa Vaughan & Robert Boley, Venango Co., 10.81 ac; David P. McBride, Lawrence Co., 15 ac; James Hathaway & Laura Quinn, Mercer Co., 10 ac; Barbara & George Dean, Lawrence Co., 95' x 130'; Ronald & Suzanne Fodor, Butler Co., 1 ac; Carl & Roxanne Bleakney, Butler Co., 3.75 ac; Deanna & Robert Clouse, Butler Co., 1 ac; Thomas G. Black, Lawrence Co., 120' x 360'; Robert & Barbara Davis, Butler Co., 13 ac. Wildlife Sanctuaries: David P. McBride, Lawrence Co., 15 ac; Charles H. Shultz, Butler Co., 26 ac; Slippery Rock University, Miller Woods, Butler Co., 42.11 ac; Poplar Forest Drive, Butler Co., 36.65 ac.

Presentation of the 2005-06 ‘Wildlife’ and ‘Bird and Butterfly’ Sanctuary Signs
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