Upcoming BAS Membership Meetings

Our membership meetings are held the second Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Jennings Environmental Education Center, 2961 Prospect Road, Slippery Rock, PA. The Education Center is located on Rt. 528 just west of its junction with Rt. 8—about five miles south of Slippery Rock. The meetings are free and open to the public.

September 14, 2009—Monday: Vernal Pools. Join Will Taylor, Program Coordinator for Jennings Environmental Education Center, as he gives a presentation on the benefits of vernal pools. What is a vernal pool? Come find out. Weather permitting, we will go outside to see one up close. This is a must for anyone creating a backyard habitat for wildlife.

October 12, 2009—Monday: Owls and Owl Prowl with Gary Edwards. Avid birder Gary Edwards will give a power point presentation on the owls in our region. Learn field marks and calls. We will take the program outside to see if Gary can “call in” an owl or two. Bring binoculars if you have them.

November 9, 2009—Monday: Butterfly Gardening with Jodi Hopper. Jodi Hopper is the owner operator of Wish Upon a Butterfly, located near New Castle, PA. She has been raising and selling butterflies for release for nine years. She is one of the founders and president of Association for Butterflies. Jodi will cover the do’s and don’ts of butterfly gardening, what plants attract which species, and more.

December 14, 2009—Monday: Holiday Potluck. Join us for our annual holiday get together. Bring a dish to share. As a special treat, Cathy Setzer of The Birdwatcher’s Store will give us some pointers on feeding birds and what type of feeders work best. This is a good time to ask Cathy for some gift ideas for those people on your gift list that feed the birds.

Sanctuary News

An article written by Sandra Steingraber in Orion Magazine, and reprinted with permission in Hemlock Pathways (spring 2009) of the McKeever Environmental Learning Center, is titled “3 Bets on Ecology, Economy, and Human Health.” It is shocking and should be read by all Audubon members and friends. Thirty years ago, Sandra was diagnosed with bladder cancer, technically called transitional cell carcinoma. It is a quintessential environmental disease, meaning that science has more evidence for a link between toxic chemical exposure and this particular kind of cancer than any other type with data going back a hundred years. She also discovered that the identification of bladder carcinogens does not preclude their ongoing use in commerce. Just because through careful scientific study, we learn that a chemical causes cancer doesn’t mean that we ban it from the marketplace. Sandra’s diagnosis, she suspects, had something to do with her environment as a child, specifically drinking water wells along the Illinois River bottomlands. These were in proximity to heavy industrial and agricultural chemical uses, including many with demonstrable toxicity.
links to bladder cancer. Which brings up the questions: Do you know what’s in your drinking water? What about the many chemicals used in keeping your lawn green? Are they safe for your children, grandchildren and pets to play on? Start NOW by getting answers from the sources. Ask for a chemical analysis and proof that they are safe in writing. Join me Monday 28 September and Wednesday 30 September 09 between 8:30-10:30 AM at the Storm Harbor Equestrian Center at Slippery Rock University to discuss these issues by calling 724-738-1604 for reservations. Also visit www.orionmagazine.org for more information.

**Annual Awards Night, May 2009**

......Nancy Baker

**Helen R. Ferguson Fund Scholarship in Environmental Sciences at Westminster College**

**William “Fred” Romeo and Doug Armstead**

William “Fred” Romeo, a junior Environmental Science major at Westminster College, received the Helen R. Ferguson Scholarship. A graduate of Poland Seminary High School, Fred has excelled in his course work at Westminster. He has always been interested in issues related to energy and pursued a successful internship with First Energy Corporation working on alternative energy projects. Fred hopes to continue work in this field upon graduation.

**Mike Alan Starker Ecology Scholarship at Slippery Rock University**

**Julie Snow and Danielle Cessna**

Danielle “Dani” Cessna, a junior Environmental Studies major at Slippery Rock University, received the Mike Alan Starker Scholarship. Although her QPA ranks her among the highest in the department, she really stands out for the out-of-class opportunities she has discovered and pursued each summer. During the summer of 2008, Dani was awarded an internship at Great Smoky Mountains National Park, where she worked with wildlife, including trapping and tagging black bears and elk. After graduating from SRU, Dani plans to enter a graduate program where she can pursue her interests in wildlife management.

**Presentation of Sanctuary Signs**

New sanctuary members were introduced and received their sanctuary signs. Twelve new sanctuaries protecting 260.431 acres were added in 2008-2009.

**Robert Walczak, Janice McGlone, Allen Dale**

**Dixie Reimold, Becky Burdick, Claire Schmieler, and Richard Eakin**

**BAS Receives Awards**

The Bartramian Audubon Society was recognized for its conservation efforts by two separate Pennsylvania organizations this year. On May 16, we received the 2009 Conservation Award from the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology. PSO is a membership based state organization dedicated to bird preservation and distribution records. We received the award for our work in establishing wildlife sanctuaries in our area. PSO Awards Committee Chairperson Tom Kuehl poses with BAS president Kathie Goodblood and board member Nancy Baker following the awards ceremony at PSO’s twentieth annual meeting in Morgantown, Pa.

On May 27, 2009, we received an award from the Pennsylvania Environmental Council and Dominion. We were selected as a winner in the 2009 Western Pennsylvania Environmental Awards Program for our dedication to conservation and education in our community.

**Sally Wiggin and Kathie Goodblood**

**Speaking of Awards**

You may have noticed that at our annual awards night this year no individuals, businesses or organizations were honored. The board needs your help! We need nominations for next year. Please contact any board member if you have suggestions.
BAS Picnic June 28

Thirty-nine people enjoyed great food, company, and birds at our annual picnic. Slippery Rock Park was the setting and the rain stopped just in time for the festivities. We tallied thirty species of birds, with Veda DePaape leading the effort. The birds: Turkey Vulture, Red-tailed Hawk, Killdeer, Mourning Dove, Chimney Swift, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Least Flycatcher, Barn Swallow, Cedar Waxwing, Carolina Wren, House Wren, Gray Catbird, American Robin, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Blue Jay, American Crow, European Starling, Scarlet Tanager, Eastern Towhee, Chipping Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Rose-breasted Grosbeak, Common Grackle, Baltimore Oriole, House Finch, and American Goldfinch.

Yard Sale

The June 14th yard sale was a success, bringing in more than $500.00. Many thanks to all who participated, especially Cathy Setzer for allowing us to use the parking lot of her business, The Birdwatcher’s Store in Slippery Rock. By the way, Audubon members get a 10% discount on most items by showing a membership card or a newsletter with your name on it.

7th BAS Sponsored NABA 4th of July Butterfly Count, July 11, 2009

Suzanne Butcher, compiler

The seventh BAS sponsored North America Butterfly Association 4th of July Butterfly Count was held on July 11th. Known as the Sandy Creek Count, the count center is at the intersection of Griffin and Rowitsch Roads in Mercer County. The area encompassed by the 15 mile diameter circle includes the Troyer property in Mercer County on one side and the Polk Wetlands of SGL 39 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. Count participants in field party #1 - Suzanne Butcher, Curt Lehman, Bob Machesney, James Monroe, Walt and Dana Shaffer, Steve Todor, Harvey, Jerry, Neil and Samuel Troyer started their day at 9:00am at the Triple Link Road parking lot of SGL 130 in Mercer County, and walked the abandoned RR bed along tree lined Sandy Creek until about noon. The skies were mostly overcast but by midday, thunderstorms were approaching. Butterfly numbers were down probably because of both the overcast conditions of the day and the cooler and wetter summer weather of late June and early July. For the second year in a row, the sought after Broad-winged Skipper was not located. The group joined to eat lunch and once again thanks must be given to Dana Shaffer for providing the makings of great sandwiches, chips, and drinks. When the heavy downpour began, some left for home while Suzanne, Curt, Walt, and Dana went back to the Troyer’s to get in out of the rain. With the darkened skies in the west continuing, soon the others also called it a day and headed for home. However, as the sun re-appeared, Suzanne now with Gene Butcher went back to the Troyer’s to once again pick up Jerry, Neil, and Samuel Troyer and as field party #2 under warm and sunny conditions drove to the Polk Wetlands to complete the count. Being managed by the game commission, one never knows what vegetation might be here. Buckwheat in flower and sunflowers not yet in bloom, were planted in plots and once again this summer there was a mowed path from the road down to the ponds making walking much easier. Luckily uncut groups of thistles remained along the way and the group immediately was able to find the sought after Baltimore Checkerspot. Other targets here, the Black Dash and the Bronzed Copper were not however found. After driving along the wooded part of Reed Furnace Road in SGL 130 and making several stops along the way Suzanne and Gene again headed for home while Neil and Samuel, field party #3, continued to count on the Troyer property. The total count of 23 species (not counting catterpilars or the single pupa), ties the low number of the 2003 count and the individual number of 182 is barely above the 170 total from this same count. The complete list includes the following- Black Swallowtail-(1 cat), Eastern Tiger Swallowtail-6, Spicebush Swallowtail-2, Cabbage White-20, Clouded Sulphur-5, Orange Sulphur-1, Striped Hairstreak-2, Eastern-tailed Blue-9, Summer Azure-2, Great Spangled Fritillary-19, Meadow Fritillary-13, Pearl Crescent-31, Baltimore Checkerspot-11, Eastern Comma-1, Painted Lady-2, Red Admiral-3, Red-spotted Purple-(1 pupa), Viceroy-(1 cat), Appalachian Brown-5, Common Wood Nymph-20, Monarch-2 (4 cats), Silver-spotted Skipper-1, European Skipper-13, Peck’s Skipper-1, Little Glassywing-4, Dun Skipper-9: Total 23 Species, 182 individuals.

July 25 Field Trip

Twelve people enjoyed the tour of the organic gardens at Buttermilk Hill Nature Sanctuary. Owners Kathie Goodblood and Jerry Stanley explained the methods they use to grow a wide variety of vegetables without using pesticides. Jerry explained the difference between hybrids and heirloom varieties, and the benefits of growing open pollinated plants.
Paper-Free Newsletter

Starting with September 2008 the Upland Informer will be available online. It can be viewed at our website www.bartramianaudubon.org by clicking on the newsletter link and then clicking on the issue you wish to view. The newsletter is in the PDF format, so you must have a PDF program on your computer. Read only programs are available free at Adobe.com and other sites.

Bartramian Audubon Society would like to encourage its members to begin to receive the Upland Informer online. As each newsletter is published, members who have elected to do this will receive an email informing them that the next issue is now available online, and they can then view it at their leisure. For the Bartramian Audubon Society, this will mean a savings both in paper costs and postage costs. For our environment it will mean less paper and less fuel usage in delivery.

To enroll in this program, please email our Membership Chair, Russ States at pabirder@verizon.net.

Printed on Recycled Paper

Membership Reminder

......Russ States, 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, Russ States - pabirder@verizon.net.

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.

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
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.

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
PO Box 315
Slippery Rock, PA 16057

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Upcoming BAS Membership Meetings

....Kathie Goodblood, acting program chair

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December 14, 2009-Monday-Holiday Pot Luck
Join us for our annual holiday get together. Bring a dish to share. As a special treat, Cathy Setzer of The Bird Watcher’s Store will give us some pointers on feeding birds and what type of feeders work best.

March 8, 2010-Monday-To Be Announced

April 12, 2010-The Ferns and Fern Allies of PA with Thomas R. Lord
Have you ever walked through the woods and seen several types of ferns, and wondered what species they were? Here is your chance to learn about these beautiful plants that cover the ground. Thomas Lord is the co-author of “The Ferns and Fern Allies of PA.” He will give a power point presentation on the fern species in Pennsylvania.

Upcoming Field Trips/Activities

December 19, 2009-Butler CBC, Suzanne Butcher, compiler. See additional info inside.

January 3, 2010-Pleasantville CBC, Russ States, compiler. See additional info inside.

Field of View

....Kathie Goodblood, President

Like many non-profit organizations, the Bartramian Audubon Society has always struggled with the ability to draw volunteers to our projects. I did a little research on why people volunteer, in hopes that I would better understand how to attract people to our cause. Many have more than one reason, but here are the top five. Achievement, opportunity for personal growth, to give something back, to bring about social change, and for friendship, support, bonding, and a feeling of belonging. All of these are good reasons. I feel I have experienced each one of them at many times in my volunteer career. Think about these reasons and consider volunteering in your community, in particular for your local Audubon chapter. I know it has made a positive impact on my life. Contact me to talk about how you can help Bartramian Audubon Society achieve its goal to educate and conserve.

Sanctuary News

....Gene Wilhelm

I confess, I am a Leo, and because of it, I love cats of all kinds. There was a time when several wildcat species dwelled in the United States: jaguar, mountain lion, jaguarundi, bobcat and ocelot. Living in Pennsylvania makes it rough to experience even one of these: the bobcat. But in my daily walks in Slippery Rock Borough, I am quite conscious of the number of feral and released cats there are even active in early daylight hours. For owners of our BAS sanctuaries and other members, you should know that domestic cats even well fed, vaccinated cats, kill birds. Lots of them. The American Bird Conservancy estimates millions of birds are killed each and every year by free-roaming cats in the United States. Susan Schaffel, of Austin, Texas, is trying to do something about the problem. “There’s a real double standard between dogs and cats,” she says. “It’s no longer acceptable for dogs to wander freely, and we have laws designed to prevent it. We’re still not at that point with cats. People don’t see the problem. We have to change public consciousness about free-roaming cats...People still think that cats killing birds is a part of ‘nature.’ People need to stop thinking that this is acceptable—that it’s OK for domestic cats in the U.S. to kill birds. I call it the ‘slow drip effect.’ It’s a people problem—not a cat problem” (Bird Conservation, Fall 2009, pp.20-21). So Please Keep Your Cat Indoors or if you release your cat outside, how about using an enclosure that allows your cat to play safely? For up to date information about another problem called TNR (Trap, Neuter and Release) cat colonies, go to the website www.youtube.com/abcbirds and for more information on the problems with feral and free-roaming cats see www.abcbirds.org/cats. Let’s all start a “Cats Indoors Campaign” and in so doing enjoy both domestic cats and wild birds in our homes, yards, gardens and woods.
Activities in Review

BAS Receives Earth Friend Award

On September 9, the Bartramian Audubon Society received its third 2009 conservation award for its unique and excellent sanctuary program from Sony, the Pennsylvania Environmental Council, and WTAE-TV, Channel 4, in Pittsburgh. Earlier in March, the Western Pennsylvania Environmental Council and in May, The Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology, presented awards for the chapter’s unique ecoscape approach to preserving natural habitats and rich biodiversity through direct land owner involvement. Thank you, Bird&Butterfly and Wildlife Sanctuary members, for making this nearly fifteen-year old program such a huge success.

September Field Trip at Buttermilk Hill Nature Sanctuary

Birding began at 8:00 with migrating warblers from the deck. We then took a walk in hopes of finding more. The weather was good for the birdwatchers but not so good for the migrants. We did manage to tally 20 species for the morning. We finished with a close Cooper’s Hawk circling overhead.

September Program- Vernal Pools

Will Taylor, Program Coordinator for Jennings Environmental Education Center explained some of the indicators of a vernal/seasonal pool to our group. We started out with a short walk to see one of these microhabitats up close. Seasonal pools are breeding grounds for many amphibians and invertebrates, in particular the spotted salamander. We learned that Pennsylvania has a citizen science project called PA Seasonal pools, resulting from flooding and changes in the Wolf Creek course, still harbored vocal spring peepers and American toads. Belted Kingfisher, Eastern Phoebe, Pileated (heard drumming at a distance) and other species of woodpeckers were recorded as were large suckers, small mouth bass and schools of minnows in the clear creek water. The inviting water was too much of a temptation for three young boys who waded into the creek seeking aquatic life under the watchful eyes of their parents. Another father was attentive in helping his budding photographer young daughter adjust her digital camera to the many colorful wildflowers. At the end of our visit, we quickly surveyed the northeastern side of the Wolf Creek Narrows bottomland, owned by the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy. We agreed to return in the future to complete our thorough reconnaissance of this wonderful place when we had more time. Why is it that the human loses all sense of time when enjoying the varied pleasures of nature?

October Program- Owls and Owl Prowl

Gary Edwards gave us an overview of the owls in our area, explaining how to identify them by their field marks and calls. Screech owls are the most common in our area. They come in two colors, or phases. Seventy-five percent in our area are red, the rest are gray. Other species commonly encountered are the Great Horned Owl and Barred Owl. He also described the less often seen Barn, Long-eared, Short-eared, Snowy, and Northern Saw-whet Owls. Did you know that a group of owls is called a parliament? After the program we went out-side to see if we could attract some local owls by playing their calls. We had no luck. Disappointed, we went back in for refreshments. Young Colin Campbell was more disappointed than most. He and his family had come to our program to get a first ever look at an owl in the wild. This was their second owl prowl with no owls. Colin didn’t give up hope. While stragglers were finishing up inside, he went back out with his own portable bird call device. The “Who cooks for you” call of the Barred Owl rang out. His Mother looked at him and said, “Was that you?” It wasn’t. The remaining group rushed out to join them and get a great look at the cooperative Barred Owl. Colin and family, needless to say, were thrilled. Thanks to Colin for his persistence, and congratulations on his first wild owl! Sharing his excitement was the highlight of the evening for me.
October Field Trip to Polk Wetlands

Five birders attended the BAS field trip at the Polk Wetlands led by Kathie Goodblood. Habitat was looking good, with plantings of sunflower and sorghum. The water level at the main pond was low. Though target birds for the trip were sparrows, they mostly proved elusive. Possibly some of this was due to a Sharp-shinned Hawk that was strafing the sparrows and goldfinches as we assembled in the parking lot. Sparrows seen included Song, Swamp, Lincoln’s, and White-throated. Raptors seen included Sharp-shinned Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, American Kestrel, Bald Eagle, and Turkey Vulture. The only shorebird at the pond was a single Solitary Sandpiper. Several Wood Ducks were seen swimming at the west end of the pond. Other highlights were Yellow-rumped Warblers and Ruby-crowned Kinglets. Species numbers were not high, but an enjoyable day nonetheless.

Christmas Bird Counts

Butler CBC December 19, 2009

The center of the fifteen mile diameter of the count circle is located approximately 1.5 miles east of the junction of Lindy Road and Rt. 528. Lake Arthur, Moraine State Park, McConnell’s 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.

Pleasantville CBC January 3, 2010

The circle for this count encompasses the area approximately from Titusville in the northwest to Pleasantville to Tionesta in the northeast south to President east to Oleopolis and Rouseville and then north along the western edge of Oil Creek State Park. The count is centered on the historic ghost town of Pithole. Please feel welcome to participate in this count. Assignments can be made for an area easy to get to 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 at 814-676-6320 (please talk to the machine), or pabirder@verizon.net.

Odds and Ends

Nominations Needed

You may have noticed that at our annual awards night this year no individuals, businesses or organizations were honored. The board needs your help! We need nominations for conservation awards for next year. Please contact any board member if you have suggestions.
Paper-Free Newsletter

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Bartramian Audubon Society
PO Box 315
Slippery Rock, PA 16057

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

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March 8, 2010-Monday-Visit the Galapagos Islands

Dr. Chuck Shultz, geologist and BAS Sanctuary owner, has visited the Galapagos and returned with beautiful photographs. He will talk about these islands that time has forgotten from a geologist’s perspective. Bird lovers need not worry, there will be looks at birds too.

April 12, 2010-Monday-The Ferns and Fern Allies of PA with Thomas R. Lord

Have you ever walked through the woods and seen several types of ferns, and wondered what species they were? Here is your chance to learn about these beautiful plants that cover the ground. Thomas Lord is the co-author of “The Ferns and Fern Allies of PA.” He will give a power point presentation on the fern species in Pennsylvania.

May 10, 2010-Monday-BAS Annual Awards Night

Join us for our annual awards night. The Bartramian Audubon Society will be honoring individuals, organizations, or businesses that have made a significant contribution to the local cause. Scholarships will be presented and new members of the BAS Bird and Butterfly and Wildlife Sanctuary programs will receive their sanctuary signs.

Field of View

....Kathie Goodblood, President

Believe it or not spring is just around the corner. It is time to set aside some time to get your bird nest boxes ready for the cavity nesting birds in your yard. First you will want to check the condition of your boxes. Make any needed repairs or even replace ones that will not provide proper shelter. Second remove any debris or old nests. Some people put a little sawdust or wood shavings in the bottom of the box, to give the birds a head start. The fourth and very important thing is to check that your baffle predator guard is in good shape and secure. If you don't have a baffle type predator guard on your bird box post, then this a good time to install one. I have monitored nest boxes for 25 years and have found that this type of predator guard is the only one that protects the nest 100% of the time from raccoons, snakes and chipmunks. These can be purchased at just about any bird feeding store. They can also be made with flashing or stove pipe and wire. Also, Bartramian Audubon will be selling these predator guards at our members meeting this spring. Remember we want our bird friends to have a safe and dry home to raise their young. Finally, sit back with your binoculars and wait for the birds to come and inspect your boxes. Bluebirds will be investigating nest boxes by the time you receive this newsletter. Happy bird watching.
Jodi Hopper, owner-operator of Wish Upon a Butterfly, presented the program at our November meeting. She covered the do’s and don’ts of butterfly gardening, as well as bringing along some delightful visitors!

December 14, 2009 Holiday Potluck

Cathy Setzer of The Birdwatcher’s Store entertained us as we enjoyed the delicious food at our annual Christmas potluck. She was trying to tell us about the best food and feeders for the birds, but kept getting phone calls from some annoying guy called Santa. Evidently he needed advice for the birds on his list. In spite of the many interruptions, Cathy managed to explain the various feeders and foods that specific birds prefer.

Butler CBC Report - December 19, 2009

The Butler CBC covering a 15 mile diameter circle and including parts of Butler, Lawrence, and Mercer Counties was held on December 19, 2009 under cold and snowy conditions. The overnight snow produced a ground cover of 2-4 inches and back road driving was treacherous. For the old timers, the birding was reminiscent of the counts in the 1980’s and early 1990’s when each added bird was a struggle against the elements. The temperatures remained in the low twenties and still water was only partly open but with perseverance and determination, the 30 observers in the 12 field parties and the 19 feeder watchers totaled a count of 60 species and 7168 individuals. Both of these relatively low numbers also reflect the counts of previous cold and wintery decades. However, count week observations* by Marcia Brown, Debbie Darney, and Mark Vass added 10 additional species bringing the list to a more average number of birds.

The Birds:

Total Species: 50 and Total individuals: 7168

Observers:
30 in 12 field parties totaling 18.0 hours and 19.25 miles on foot and 43 hours and 386.75 miles by car plus 6.0 hours and 16 miles owling:19 watchers at feeders for 51.5 hours.

Total Party Hours: 61 and Total Party Miles: 406

We are most grateful to the many dedicated volunteers who faithfully reserve the date, year after year, to offer their services in a most cooperative way to cover the circle and make the count a resounding success. While long time individual volunteers are the heart and soul of the CBC’s, we are also gladened to now have the participation of John Stehle and his members of the Butler Outdoor Club (BOC), Cathy Setzer and her employees of the Birdwatchers Store (BWS), and Becky Lubold, staff member of Jennings Environmental Education Center and the welcomed new counters – Larry and Marcia Brown, Al Cooper, Bill Klobenzan, George Moser, Christy Tichy, and Joe Young. Our deepest thanks go out to all of you for your years of participation and to Larry and Marcia Brown, Suzanne Butcher, and Judy and Robert Pietz for their financial support as well.
The 49 Counters with their years () of participation:
Nancy Baker (8) Beverly Barnett (2), Tom Baumgardner (2) (BOC), Steve Bickel (4) (BOC), Jim Blain (4), Nancy Blain (4), Larry Brown(1), Marcia Brown(1), Gene Butcher (18), Suzanne Butcher (25), Al Cooper (1), Linda Cooper (3), Ruth Crawford (27), Dave Darney (14), Debra Darney (15), Barbara Davis (11), Charles Davis (9), Sharon Davis (9), Barb Dean (14), George Dean (12), Margaret Higbee (5), Roger Higbee (5), Robert Jamison (4), Sally Jamison (10), Bill Kobetanz (1) (BOC), Linda Lenz (2), Henry Lenz (2), Becky Lubold of Jennings Environmental Education Center (2), Robert Madjaric(7), Berenice Madjaric (5), Reenie Merlino(1) (BWS), George Moser(1) (BOC), Bob Pietz (5), Judy Pietz (5), Arthur Richards (7), Cathy Setzer of the Birdwatchers Store (3), Dawn Smith (1) (BWS), John Stehle of the Butler Outdoor Club (9), Mark Swansiger (13) Sandee Swansiger (13), Christy Tichy(1), Gary Uber (2), Linda Wagner (9), Robert Walczak (14), Dorothy Weisberg (2) (BOC), Gene Wilhelm (29), Joanne Wilhelm (17), Joan Wilver (25), Joe Young(1).

Pleasantville CBC Report, January 3, 2010

Pied-billed Grebe – 1  
Mute Swan – 4  
Canada Goose – 552  
Am. Black Duck – 46  
Mallard – 26  
Hooded Merganser - 7  
Common Merganser – 37  
Bald Eagle – 16  
Cooper’s Hawk – 3  
Red-tailed Hawk – 10  
Rough-legged Hawk - 1  
Ruffed Grouse – 2  
Wild Turkey – 34  
Ring-billed Gull - 1  
Rock Pigeon – 24  
Mourning Dove – 50  
E. Screech Owl – 11  
Downy Woodpecker – 37  
Am. Crow - 240  
Common Raven – 4  
Black-Capped Chickadee -228  
Tufted Titmouse – 69  
White-breasted Nuthatch – 56  
Brown Creeper – 3  
Carolina Wren – 1  
Golden-crowned Kinglet – 22  
E. Bluebird – 4  
Hermits Thrush – 2  
Am. Robin – 4  
Cedar Waxwing - 82  
Eur. Starling – 62  
N. Cardinal – 63  
Am. Tree Sparrow – 67  
Song Sparrow – 2  
Swamp Sparrow - 1  
White-throated Sparrow – 47  

Hairy Woodpecker – 5  
N. Flicker –1  
Pileated Woodpecker – 7  
Red-bellied Woodpecker – 14  
Blue Jay - 233  
Dark-eyed Junco – 712  
Purple Finch – 1  
House Finch – 1  
Am. Goldfinch – 42  
House Sparrow – 65

Total 46 species
2904 Individuals
Bold number indicates High count for that species.
Bold Species indicates new or unusual species for the count.
2nd time on count for Mute Swan
Swamp Sparrow not seen since 1996.
Highest numbers for: Mute Swan, Canada Goose, Am. Black Duck, Hooded Merganser, Bald Eagle, Am. Crow, Dark-eyed Junco
2nd highest numbers for: Red-bellied Woodpecker, White-throated Sparrow

Jan. 3, 2010: 5:00am to 4:45pm.  Temp. 12-21F; Snow cover – 6+. Still waters frozen, moving waters open; wind 0-10mph; overcast in am; overcast in pm.
Observers: 15 in field in 8 parties, plus three feeder watchers.
Time/distance: 44.5 total party hours; 305.5 total party miles; including 9.25 hours & 8.5 miles on foot and 35.25 hours & 297 miles by car.  Plus 4.5 hrs and 37 miles owling.

Compiler: Russ States  
111 East Fourth Street 814-676-6320  
Oil City, PA 16301  
pabirder@verizon.net
Count Circle includes area within 15 mile diameter circle, center 4 miles SSE of Pleasantville. Count area boundary includes Enterprise to the north, Tionesta to the East, Eagle Rock to the south, and Pa. Route 8 to the west.
*** Thanks to all who participated in the count this year.  
Hope to see you again next year***
russ

Odds And Ends

Discovery Trunk

Don’t forget about our Discovery Trunk! With grant money from the National Audubon Society and Audubon PA we have developed a Discovery Trunk called Our Feathered Friend Field Kit. This trunk includes a wide variety of hands-on materials that the classroom educator can use to teach students about birds and the environment in our area. This trunk is appropriate for grade levels 3 through 6, and can also be used by home school groups, 4H groups, and Scouts. For more information about this fun learning tool contact our education chair Elizabeth Wilson at 724-924-2045 or ewtracker@zoominternet.net.
Starting with September 2008 the Upland Informer will be available online. It can be viewed at our website www.bartramianaudubon.org by clicking on the newsletter link and then clicking on the issue you wish to view. The newsletter is in the PDF format, so you must have a PDF program on your computer. Read only programs are available free at Adobe.com and other sites.

Bartramian Audubon Society would like to encourage its members to begin to receive the Upland Informer online. As each newsletter is published, members who have elected to do this will receive an email informing them that the next issue is now available online, and they can then view it at their leisure.

For the Bartramian Audubon Society, this will mean a savings both in paper costs and postage costs. For our environment it will mean less paper and less fuel usage in delivery.

To enroll in this program, please email our Membership Chair, Russ States at pabirder@verizon.net.

Membership Reminder

-----Russ States, 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, Russ States - pabirder@verizon.net.

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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
PO Box 315
Slippery Rock, PA 16057

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**Upcoming BAS Membership Meetings**

...Kathie Goodblood, acting program chair

Our membership meetings are held the second Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Jennings Environmental Education Center, 2961 Prospect Road, Slippery Rock, PA. The Education Center is located on Rt. 528 just west of its junction with Rt. 8, about five miles south of Slippery Rock. The meetings are free and open to the public.

**Upcoming Field Trips/Activities**

**May 8, 2010-Saturday—Bird Walk at Buttermilk Hill Nature Sanctuary**

Join Kathie Goodblood and Jerry Stanley at 7:30 A.M. to look for spring migrants at their BAS Wildlife Sanctuary. We will be looking for warblers, thrushes, and others. Cerulean Warbler is usually seen at BHNS at this time of year. Wear sturdy shoes and as always, be prepared for rain. For directions go to our website or contact Kathie at 814-432-4496 or larkwren@hughes.net.

**May 14-16, 2010—Annual Meeting of The Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology at Presque Isle in Erie County**

This year’s PSO meeting will be held near Presque Isle State Park, one of Pennsylvania’s best birding destinations. There will be the usual Friday night social and business meeting and the silent auction of donated items that runs through most of Saturday. Registration will begin at 6:00 P.M. Friday at the Bel-Aire Clarion Hotel and Conference Center, 2800 West 8th St., Erie, PA. Because Presque Isle is such a great place to bird, there will be no Saturday afternoon speakers. There will be field trips to multiple locations on Saturday and also on Sunday morning. The social hour, compilation of species seen, and banquet on Saturday night will be followed by banquet speaker Jerry McWilliams’ presentation. Jerry’s name is synonymous with Erie County and should be recognized by everyone in the state. Among other things he’s the co-author with Dan Brauning of *The Birds of Pennsylvania*. Jerry will tell us about the many bird projects he’s involved with at Presque Isle State Park; these include teaching birding classes, the waterbird count, the International Shorebird Survey, and the new Presque Isle Hawk Watch. He will also lead one of the Sunday morning field trips. The field trips will visit various spots at Presque Isle. One of the best known is Gull Point, first established as a bird sanctuary in 1927. It’s famous as a viewing area for migrant waterbirds and shorebirds and a nesting area for Piping Plovers. Other places include Lily Pond, Leo’s with its view of the lagoon and cattail marsh, the Sidewalk Trail where Red-headed Woodpeckers nest, Fry’s Landing, Thompson Circle, Pine Tree Trail, Sunset Point, the Coast Guard jetty, and Beach 11. On Friday evening a sign-up sheet will be available for each of the field trips. The registration deadline is April 30, 2010. If you want to stay at the Bel-Aire Clarion, the base of operations, reservations must be made by 5:00 P.M. April 14, 2010. For more information, check out the PSO website at [www.pabirds.org](http://www.pabirds.org).

**May 22, 2010—Saturday—Volunteer Work at Oil Creek State Park Headquarters Building, Venango County**

**WANTED!!** Gardeners and others. Help us install new sustainable landscaping. We will be replacing lawn with a beautiful native wildflower garden at Oil Creek State Park. This is a great way to learn more about native wildflower gardening while helping make one of our state parks more beautiful. Work will begin at 9:00 A.M. For more information contact Kathie at 814-432-4496 or [larkwren@hughes.net](mailto:larkwren@hughes.net).
Activities in Review

March 8, 2010 Membership Meeting
Geology of the Galapagos Islands

Dr. Chuck Shultz and Cathy Setzer

...Nancy Baker

Dr. Chuck Shultz, geologist and BAS Sanctuary owner, presented the program at our March membership meeting. We enjoyed his account of his trip to the Galapagos. He shared pictures of the native culture, plants, animals, birds, and of course, geologic formations. Do you know the difference between a crater and a caldera? You do if you attended this meeting! Thanks to Chuck for an entertaining and educational evening. And thanks to Gary Uber for providing refreshments.

Odds And Ends

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Thank You for Your Response to our 2009 Letter of Appeal

I would like to thank the Bartramian Audubon Society’s members and friends who so generously gave during our annual appeal. It takes many volunteer hours and funds to help BAS provide the scholarships and services we offer to the community. Without your help we would not exist.

Kathie Goodblood, President

**Chickadee**
Thomas Altman
Gail Baker
Harriet Bower
Juanita Birckbichler (in memory of Marion Zotter from Juanita and Linda Dunn)
Carl and Roxanne Bleakney
Elizabeth Bukowski (in memory of Thad A. Bukowski)
Doloras Davison
George and Barb Dean
Ruth Crawford
Barbara Eshelman
James Hathaway and Laura Quinn
Bruce Hazen
Jay and Renee Hewitt
Jacalyn Wolf Heinl (in memory of Lillian B. Wolf)
Ray Hoffman
George and Laura Milalik (in memory of Pat Lanich)
Richard Olacz
Bonita Renick
Dr. and Mrs. Arthur Richards, Jr.
William and Marie Schall
Lawrence and Eleanor Upton
Mary Elizabeth Williams

**Sandpiper**
Becky and John Burdick
Mary Campbell
Kenneth and Nancy Harris
Evelyn Kolojeschick
William Morrison
Timothy and Roberta Tritch
Joan Wilver (in memory of Edward Wilver)
Charles Shultz

**Kestrel**
Barbara and Robert Michalowski
Dixie Reimold
Mary Ellen Walter

**Eagle**
Thomas Black
The Casselberry Family (BAS Scholarship Fund and AA Classrooms)
Pam and Carolyn Rizzi
Cogentrix US Operating Service
Jerry Stanley and Kathie Goodblood
Terry and Mary Shaffer
Gary Uber
The Upland Informer is now available online. It can be viewed at our website www.bartramianaudubon.org by clicking on the newsletter link and then clicking on the issue you wish to view. The newsletter is in the PDF format, so you must have a PDF program on your computer. Read only programs are available free at Adobe.com and other sites. Bartramian Audubon Society would like to encourage its members to begin to receive the Upland Informer online. As each newsletter is published, members who have elected to do this will receive an email informing them that the next issue is now available online, and they can then view it at their leisure. For the Bartramian Audubon Society, this will mean a savings both in paper costs and postage costs. For our environment it will mean less paper and less fuel usage in delivery. To enroll in this program, please email our Membership Chair, Russ States at pabirder@verizon.net.

**Paper-Free Newsletter**

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

Please send this form along with your name, address, and e-mail with payment to:

**Bartramian Audubon Society**

PO Box 315
Slippery Rock, PA 16057

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

Please send this form with payment to National Audubon Society

**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.

Please send this form along with payment to National Audubon Society

P.O. Box 422250
Palm Coast, FL 32142-2250

Renewing members should use the coupon mailed to them by NAS

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