

Upland Informer

Volume 31 Issue 1

Official Newsletter of the Bartramian Audubon Society

Fall 2012

Editor- Nancy Baker

Check us out online at www.bartramianaudubon.org



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 10, 2012-Monday-The Foundation for Sustainable Forests

PA forests are under a huge threat. And if our forests are in trouble, then too are many species. John Bartlett will share information about the foundation and its role in PA. Learn what you can do to help conserve the beauty of Penn's Woods.

October 8, 2012-Monday-A Night at the Movies

Join us for an evening of fun while we watch the movie "The Big Year". This movie takes a look at taking bird watching to an extreme, while having fun. If you missed it at the theaters and you like birds, then this is a "must see".

November 12, 2012- Monday-Pueblos and Pinyons

Nature and wildlife, archaeology and ancient cultures, scenery and geology all come together to justify New Mexico's claim to be a "Land of Enchantment". Our presenter will be Jeff Hall. As we view Jeff's photographs, we will feel as if we have taken a trip to this special place in our country.

December 10, 2012-Monday-Annual Holiday Potluck and Hog Island Presentation

Come enjoy good food and good company while hearing about Becky Lubold's trip to Audubon Camp at Hog Island, Maine. Bring a dish to share and your holiday spirit.



Upcoming Field Trips/Activities

September 9, 2012-Sunday-Bird Walk at Pennsy Swamp State Game Land #284 (IBA) Meet at the parking lot on Number 2 Mine Road at 8:30 A.M. We will bird for two to three hours along the old rail line that goes through the wetlands. The walking will be easy. Beginners are welcome. Bring your binoculars and field guide. Contact Kathie Goodblood for details at larkwren@hotmail.com or phone 814-432-4496.

October 7, 2012-Sunday-East Sandy Creek Recreational Trail at Belmar Village

Join us for a morning bird walk to look for some of the fall migrants along the Allegheny River. Meet at the parking area at 8:30 A.M. for two to three hours of birding along a paved bike trail. Beginners are welcome. Directions- from Franklin/Oil City area take Route 8 south until you come to a traffic light at the intersection of Pone Lane. Turn left onto Pone Lane and drive until you come to a T intersection with a sign directing you to the Sandy Creek Trail. Turn right. The parking area is on the right. From the Grove City -Slippery Rock area travel north on new Route 8 until you come to a traffic light at the intersection with Pone Lane. Turn right onto Pone Lane and drive until you come to the T intersection and a sign directing you to the Sandy Creek Trail. Turn right and proceed to the parking area on the right. Contact Kathie Goodblood at larkwren@hotmail.com or 814-432-4496 for more details.

December 15, 2012- Saturday-Butler CBC

December 30, 2012-Sunday-Pleasantville CBC



Activities in Review

Annual Awards Night May 14, 2012

President Cathy Setzer led a short business meeting before the awards presentations. The slate of officers was elected for 2012-14. President- Kathie Goodblood, Vice-President-Jeffrey Hall, Treasurer- Russ States, Secretary- Nancy Baker.

SCHOLARSHIPS

The Mike Alan Starker Ecology Scholarship for Environmental Studies at Slippery Rock University was presented to Ms. Elizabeth D. Smith. She was introduced by Dr. Heike Hartmann. Elizabeth is pursuing an Environmental Studies degree and plans to apply to a graduate program in conservation biology. Her goal is to protect the fractured habitat of tigers living in the Indo-China region, as well as the Siberian tigers farther north. She intends to aid in the protection of species globally as well as locally, through lobbying and research.

The Helen R. Ferguson Fund Scholarship for Environmental Studies at Westminster College was presented to Ms. Hilary Stenger. She was introduced by Helen Boylan Funari. Hilary plans to move to the western U.S. and pursue a career with the National Park Service. She is involved in Beta Beta Beta biological honors society, S.A.D.D., Pi Sigma Pi academic honors society, and works in set construction for the theater department at Westminster.



Elizabeth and Dr.Hartmann Dr.Boylan and Hilary



Ken Bennett, Arthur Richards, and Val Means

BARTRAMIAN AUDUBON SOCIETY 2012 WORKSHOP FOR EDUCATORS SCHOLARSHIP

The BAS 2012 Workshop for Educators at Audubon Camp in Hog Island, Maine was presented to Ms.Becky Lubold. Becky is an environmental educator at Jennings Environmental Center. Her enthusiasm and skills are an inspiration to all of us. Becky will be sharing her experiences at the camp with us at our annual holiday potluck.



Cathy Setzer and Becky Lubold

PRESENTATION OF NEW SANCTUARIES
by Gene Wilhelm, Ph.D., Sanctuary Chair
BIRD AND BUTTERFLY SANCTUARIES



Sonya Lenz, John Burdick, Becky Burdick, Marcia Brown, Larry Brown, and David Uber

New Bird and Butterfly Sanctuary owners were announced and presented with their Sanctuary signs. The new owners are Becky and John Burdick of Allegheny County, Marcia and Larry Brown of Butler County, Sonya Lenz and Vipin Kohli of Butler County, Val Means of Jefferson County, Dr. Arthur and Carol Richards of Butler County, Kenneth E. Bennett, Jr. of Butler County, and David and Virginia Uber of Mercer County. These sanctuaries total 17.71 acres.

WILDLIFE SANCTUARIES

New Wildlife Sanctuary owners were presented with their signs. The new owners are Gordon and Elaine Taylor of Butler County; Russell and Marianne Bleakney of Venango County; McConnell's Mill State Park in Lawrence County presented to Daniel K. Bickel, Park Manager; Kenneth E. Bennett, Jr. of Butler County; Main Campus, Slippery Rock University in Butler County presented to Herb Carlson, Assistant Vice President and Jerry Chmielewski, Professor and Chair of the Biology Department; and Jennings Environmental Education Center in Butler County, presented to Wil Taylor, Center Manager. These Sanctuaries total 2867.4 acres.



Ken Bennett, Daniel Bickel, Elaine and Gordon Taylor Wil Taylor, Jerry Chmielewski, Herb Carlson

GENE WILHELM RECEIVES GREAT EGRET AWARD



The National Audubon Society and Bartramian Audubon Society surprised Dr. Gene Wilhelm by presenting him with the Great Egret Award. This award is given to individuals who

have made significant long-term contributions to Audubon and conservation in pursuit of the Audubon mission. The award states: Rarely will you meet a person more dedicated to preserving life on this planet than Gene Wilhelm. He began his lifelong affiliation with Audubon as a boy, helping stuff envelopes for the St. Louis Audubon Society. Years later, he would be chosen as Vice President of Education at our national headquarters in New York City. Along the way, his career as an environmental educator took him to Pennsylvania, where he became a member and volunteer for the Audubon Society of Western Pennsylvania. While teaching at Slippery Rock University, Gene was very active with Audubon, offering quality educational programs throughout the area. While with Audubon in New York City, he helped former students in Western Pennsylvania inaugurate the Bartramian Audubon Society chapter. He has served BAS in many capacities from President, to newsletter editor, to his current role as Sanctuary Chair (overseeing two exemplary sanctuary programs that he created). His accomplishments and contributions are immeasurable. He continues to be a strong advocate and dedicated spokesman for the environment at local, state, and national levels. Gene has certainly become one of our valuable resources.



**Sandy Creek Count
10th BAS Sponsored
NABA 4th of July Butterfly
Count, July 7, 2012**

The tenth BAS sponsored North America Butterfly Association 4th of July Butterfly count was held on July 7th. 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. Count participants included Nancy Baker, Gene Butcher, Suzanne Butcher (compiler), Joseph Hochstetler, Curt Lehman, Bob Machesney and Dianne Machesney of the Wissahickon Nature Club, James Monroe, Richard Nugent of the Wissahickon Nature Club, Harvey Troyer, Neil Troyer and his young sons Samuel Troyer and Harvey Troyer and daughter Rachel Troyer. Although it was a beautiful if not somewhat hot sunny day with temperatures ranging from a morning 80° to 90° at noon and 98° by midafternoon, a breeze made the heat and sun somewhat more bearable. The first stop began at the Triple Link Road abandoned RR bed of SGL 130 along Sandy Creek and lasted until about 11:30am. Highlights here included the finding of two Broad-winged Skippers a species that has somewhat defined our count and two **Common Buckeyes** and two **Fiery Skippers**, both new additions to the count. A Harvester was also a welcomed addition. We ended our stay here with a total of 29 species. The group then drove to Polk Wetlands of SGL 39. One of the target species, the Baltimore Checkerspot was easily found and a Bronze Copper was also added. Here again a Common Buckeye was seen. After our customary stop at the Jackson Center Dairy Queen most of the group made a stop at Neil's place where young Rachel Troyer had located a **Common Checkered Skipper**, also a new addition for our count. We ended the day with 39 species totaling 279 individuals and

including 3 new count species The count includes: Black Swallowtail (3), Eastern Tiger Swallowtail (19), Spicebush Swallowtail (5), Cabbage White (20), Clouded Sulphur (6), Orange Sulphur (10), Harvester (1), American Copper (1), Bronze Copper (1), Eastern-Tailed Blue (3), Summer Azure (4), Great Spangled Fritillary (17), Aphrodite Fritillary (1), Variegated Fritillary (1), Meadow Fritillary (3), Pearl Crescent (80), Baltimore Checkerspot (9), Common Buckeye (3), Question Mark (5), Eastern Comma (4), Mourning Cloak (1), American Lady (1), Red Admiral (5), Red-spotted Purple (9), Northern Pearly Eye (1), Appalachian Brown (1), Common Wood-Nymph (5), Monarch (8+ 1 cat), Silver-spotted Skipper (10), Wild Indigo Duskywing (15), Common Checkered Skipper (1), Least Skipper (1), European Skipper (1), Fiery Skipper (2), Peck's Skipper (1), Northern Broken Dash (4), Little Glasswing (5), Broad-winged Skipper (2), Dun Skipper (10). **Totals: 39 Species, 279 individuals.** One of the purposes of the 4th of July Butterfly counts is similar to the NAS Christmas Counts in that species can be tracked and followed over the years to see trends and changes. The habitat in our butterfly count area has remained fairly stable over the past 10 years although the Polk Wetlands is managed with fluctuation of plowing and plantings. Last year's rather low count was attributed to the cooler and wetter spring – what a difference a year makes! With the hot dry weather we have been experiencing, vegetation and butterflies appear ahead of schedule and migrants are showing up earlier than expected.Suzanne Butcher, Compiler



**THANK YOU FOR RESPONDING TO OUR
LETTER OF APPEAL**

EAGLE: Anonymous, Thomas Black, Central Electric Cooperative, Kathie Goodblood and Jerry Stanley, Clayton and Sandra Homer, David and Victoria Knopp, Carolyn and Paul Rizza, Terry and Mary Shaffer, Scrubgrass Generating, Gary Uber

SANDPIPER: Carl and Roxanne Bleakney, Marianne and Russ Bleakney, Rebecca Popovich Burdick, George Casselberry and Family, Barbara Dean, Jeffrey and Diane Hall, James Hathaway, Sonya Lenz and Vipin Kohli, John and Evelyn Kolojechick, Joyce Myers, Dr. and Mrs. Arthur Richards Jr., Timothy and Roberta Tritch, Mary Ellen Walter

AUDUBON ADVENTURES CLASSROOM: Thomas Black, Merab Drennen, Jay and Renee Hewitt, Claire Schmeiler

CHICKADEE: Hazel Allen, Beth, Larry, and Marcia Brown, Elizabeth and Eleanor Bukowski, Gay and Kay Dannels, Linda Dunn, Mary Jane Egger, Barbara Eshelman, Anne Griffiths, Kenneth and Nancy Harris, Bruce Hazen, Roy D. Hoffman, S. Isacco, Pat and Sharon Lynch, George and Laura Mihalik, Mary Frances Miller, Oscar Miller III, Robert and Karen Peterson, William and Bonnie Renick, F. Duane Rose, Russ States, Terry and Stacy Steele, Mary E. Williams, Patricia Zimmerman

BARTRAMIAN AUDUBON SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 315
SLIPPERY ROCK, PA 16057

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

PRSR. STD.
US POSTAGE

PAID

OIL CITY, PA
PERMIT # 145

Paper-Free Newsletter

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.



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 by the sanctuary chair in June each year. The \$15.00 or more per sanctuary checks should be made payable to BAS but 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, address, and e-mail** with payment to the:

Bartramian Audubon Society
PO Box 315
Slippery Rock, PA 16057

National Audubon Society Membership Application

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

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

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

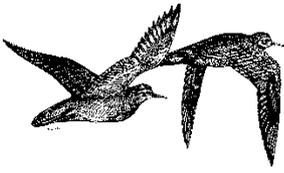
Please send this form with payment to

**National Audubon Society
Membership Data Center
PO Box 422250
Palm Coast, FL32142-2250**

**Renewing members should use the coupon mailed to them
by NAS**

rev 1/10

COZU180Z
7XCH



Upland Informer

Volume 31 Issue 2

Official Newsletter of the Bartramian Audubon Society

Spring 2013

Editor- Nancy Baker

Check us out online at www.bartramianaudubon.org



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.

March 11, 2013-Monday-All About Bluebirds

Harry Schmeider, known as "Ambassador for the Bluebirds," will share ideas about attracting bluebirds to your garden and discuss firsthand the problems and solutions with house sparrows, starlings, blow flies, and cats. Gain a greater understanding and compassion for these beautiful cavity nesting birds and become an ambassador too for the Eastern Bluebird.

April 8, 2013-Monday-Endangered Hawai'i-Film Discussion

This film explores the ongoing environmental crisis in Hawai'i that has led to the extinction of approximately 70% of the archipelago's endemic avian species, earning it the title of "bird extinction capital of the world." With beautiful footage of many of Hawai'i's stunning birds and their habitats, the film showcases the unique biodiversity of our 50th state and highlights current conservation efforts that are making a difference for species on the brink. Discussion will be moderated by Dr. Gene Wilhelm, Sanctuary Chair, BAS Board of Directors.

May 13, 2013-Bartramian Audubon Society's Annual Awards Night

The Bartramian Audubon Society will be honoring our new Bird and Butterfly and Wildlife Sanctuary owners. We will also be awarding scholarships to two local college students and present a Hog Island scholarship to a local educator. Join us for an evening of recognition and refreshments.



Upcoming Field Trips/Activities

May 11, 2013-Saturday-The Pennsylvania Migration Count

The Pennsylvania Migration Count(PAMC) was established to gather annual data on migratory bird populations, and to help

answer some fundamental questions regarding their distribution throughout Pennsylvania. PAMC is an annual one-day snapshot of bird populations within our state attempting to answer which species are present, where are they and how many there are. The PAMC takes place each spring on the second Saturday in May, in conjunction with International Migratory Bird Day. PAMC is similar to the Christmas Bird Count(CBC). The difference is that PAMC takes place on a countywide basis, rather than within the confines of a CBC circle. The rules are simple: spend some time in the field counting all birds encountered in a specified area, and keep track of miles traveled and time spent counting. Participants are free to roam their favorite county birding locales at any time during the 24 hour period, starting at 12:01am, counting every bird that they find. Totals are passed along to the county compilers, who, in turn, report to the state compiler. The state compiler maintains the PAMC data, and an annual report is published in Pennsylvania Birds, the journal of the Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology(PSO). Forms and information for PAMC participation are available from your county compiler, or go online at www.pabirds.org/PAMC/Index.html. If participating or for more information, please contact the county compiler first, to avoid duplicate submissions from the same area. If no compiler, contact PSO@PABIRDS.ORG for submission or assistance.

May 18, 2013-Saturday-Birds and Wildflowers of Wolf Creek Narrows

BAS and the Western Pennsylvania Conservancy are inviting members and friends of both organizations to explore and discover the rich avifauna and plant life at the peak of spring in this spectacular site. Contact Gene Wilhelm for details; genewilhelm@aol.com or phone 724-794-2434 before May 1 because spaces are limited.

June 2, 2013-Sunday-BAS Annual Picnic

This year's annual picnic will be held at McKeever Environmental Learning Center at Sandy Lake. There will be a hike of the beautiful grounds at 3:00 p.m. followed by the picnic at 5:30 p.m. BAS will provide hot dogs, buns, and condiments. Please bring a dish to share and your own drink, place setting, and folding chair. Contact Gene Wilhelm at genewilhelm@aol.com or phone 724-794-2434 if you are attending this traditional event.



Activities in Review

December 30, 2012 - 47th Pleasantville CBC

Great Blue Heron – 1	Blue Jay - 392
Tundra Swan – 27	Am. Crow - 189
Canada Goose – 1363	Common Raven – 3
Am. Black Duck – 28	Horned Lark – 32
Mallard – 26	Black-capped Chickadee – 241
Hooded Merganser – 4	Tufted Titmouse – 105
Common Merganser – 152	Red-breasted Nuthatch - 5
Bald Eagle – 7	White-breasted Nuthatch – 88
Sharp-shinned Hawk – 1	Brown Creeper – 1
Cooper's Hawk – 3	Carolina Wren – 7
Red-tailed Hawk – 19	Golden-crowned Kinglet – 8
Rough-legged Hawk - 1	E. Bluebird – 5
Ruffed Grouse – 2	N. Mockingbird - 1
Wild Turkey – 4	Eur. Starling – 140
Ring-billed Gull – 30	N. Cardinal – 78
Rock Pigeon – 77	Am. Tree Sparrow – 54
Mourning Dove – 97	Song Sparrow – 7
E. Screech Owl – 10	Swamp Sparrow – 2
Great Horned Owl – 2	White-throated Sparrow – 6
Barred Owl – 2	Dark-eyed Junco – 323
N. Saw-whet Owl – 1	Brown-headed Cowbird - 4
Belted Kingfisher – 2	House Finch – 34
Downy Woodpecker – 50	Pine Siskin - 1
Hairy Woodpecker – 11	Am. Goldfinch – 78
Pileated Woodpecker – 10	Evening Grosbeak - 108
Red-bellied Woodpecker – 29	House Sparrow – 124

Total 52 Species

3982 Individuals

Bold number indicates High count for that species.

Bold Species indicates new or unusual species for the count.

Notable species – Ring-billed Gull, N. Saw-whet Owl, Horned Lark, N. Mockingbird, Evening Grosbeak

Highest number ever for: Canada Goose, Common Merganser, Red-bellied Woodpecker

2nd highest numbers for: Cooper's Hawk (ties), Ring-billed Gull, Blue Jay, Am. Crow

3rd highest numbers for: Hooded Merganser, Rock Pigeon, Tufted Titmouse (ties)

1st time on count for Horned Lark

4th time on count for N. Saw-whet Owl, N. Mockingbird

Unusual Species – Evening Grosbeak (last seen in 1999), Swamp Sparrow, Brown-headed Cowbird

Statistics: 7 species have been seen all 47 years, 8 species have been seen 46 of 47 years, 14 species have only been seen once.

Dec. 30, 2012: 3:15am to 5:00pm. Temp. 26-30F; Snow cover – up to 15", Still waters partly frozen, moving waters open; wind 0-10mph; overcast all day.

Observers: 17 in field in 7 parties, plus 3 casual observers.

Time/distance: 51.75 total party hours; 465 total party miles; including 6 hours & 7 miles on foot and 45.75 hours & 458 miles by car. Plus 3.25 hrs and 5 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

Butler CBC Report - December 15, 2012

..Suzanne Butcher, compiler Butler CBC



White-winged Crossbill- Photo by Danielle Murphy

It is not surprising that this year's Butler CBC having the most participants since the count first began in 1965 has also tallied the highest species count of birds. Of

course, other factors also played a role in the high number and diversity of the birds reported. The poor food crop/cone conditions across Canada had driven more irruptive species southward and ones such as Red-breasted Nuthatches, redpolls, crossbills, and Evening Grosbeaks had been reported in our area for some time. In addition the open water of Lake Arthur was conducive to a high count of waterfowl and species of gulls and the warmer weather pattern with essentially no snow also kept some birds past their normal departure dates. That said- owlers were out early and the morning began with a gorgeous and almost blinding sunrise but quickly the clouds came in creating an ever increasing overcast sky for most of the day. Temperatures ranged from 23° to 54° degrees and precipitation held off until most of the counters had headed for home.

The Birds:

Canada Goose-493, Wood Duck-1, Gadwall-171h, American Wigeon-1, Black Duck-7, Mallard-112, Northern Shoveler-17, Northern Pintail-2, Green-winged Teal-5, Redhead-3, Ring-necked Duck-193h, Greater Scaup-1, Lesser Scaup-7, Black Scoter-13h, Surf Scoter-1n, Bufflehead-88, Hooded Merganser-78, Common Merganser-4, Red-breasted Merganser-11, Ruddy Duck- 495, Ring-necked Pheasant-1, Wild Turkey-151h, Red-throated Loon-1, Common Loon-7, Pied-billed Grebe-9, Horned Grebe-5, Great Blue Heron-15h, Osprey-1**, Bald Eagle-4 (ad-3), Northern Harrier-2, Sharp-shinned Hawk-4, Cooper's Hawk-9, Red-shouldered Hawk-2, Red-

tailed Hawk-40, Rough-legged Hawk-1, American Kestrel-10, American Coot- 310, Sandhill Crane-29**n, Killdeer-15, Wilson's Snipe-1, Black-headed Gull-1, Bonaparte's Gull-9, Ring-billed Gull-207, Herring Gull- 2, Great Black-backed Gull-1**n, Rock Pigeon-523, Mourning Dove-355, Eastern Screech Owl-5h, Great Horned Owl-4, Barred Owl-4, Northern Saw-whet Owl-3h, Belted Kingfisher-12, Red-headed Woodpecker-10h, Red-bellied Woodpecker-47, Downy Woodpecker-60, Hairy Woodpecker-29, Northern Flicker-3, Pileated Woodpecker-14, Eastern Phoebe-1, Blue Jay-166, American Crow-213, Common Raven-1, Horned Lark-153, Black-capped Chickadee-207, Tufted Titmouse-121, Red-breasted Nuthatch-24, White-breasted Nuthatch-70, Brown Creeper-4, Winter Wren-1, Carolina Wren-11, Golden-crowned Kinglet-11, Ruby-crowned Kinglet-2, Eastern Bluebird-53, Hermit Thrush-2, American Robin-137, Gray Catbird-1, Northern Mockingbird-7h, Brown Thrasher-1, European Starling-1259, American Pipit-10, Bohemian Waxing-3**n, Cedar Waxwing-76, Eastern Towhee-1, American Tree Sparrow-96, Field Sparrow-5, Song Sparrow-26, Swamp Sparrow-11, White-throated Sparrow-3, Dark-eyed Junco (includes 2 Oregon)-225, Northern Cardinal- 193, Red-winged Blackbird-3, Common Grackle-502, Purple Finch-3, House Finch-131, Red Crossbill-2, White-winged Crossbill-32h, American Goldfinch- 137, Evening Grosbeak-3, House Sparrow-173. **n-undocumented, n-new for count, h-high

Total Species: 99 and Total Individuals: 7689

The Observers:

33 in 11 field parties totaling 16.0 hours and 18.5 miles on foot and 46.5 hours and 383.5 miles by car plus 4.0 hours and 20 miles owling; 38 watchers at feeders for 79 hours.

Total Party Hours: 62.5 and Total Party Miles: 402.

We are most grateful to the those 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. When I took over as compiler in 1996 we had only 10 participants and I am so happy that with this count we set a new high of 71 counters. Thanks to each and every one but special recognition goes to our long time volunteers with twenty plus years- Ruth Crawford, Helen Ferguson, Gene and Joanne Wilhelm, and Joan Wilver. We also extend a hearty welcome to all the new participants and especially the youth participants, Zane Scott and Lily Link. We also greatly appreciate the help offered by John Stehle and the members of the Butler Outdoor Club (BOC), Becky Lubold, and her watchers at Jennings Environmental Ed. Center (JEEC), and Cathy Setzer of the Birdwatchers Store (BWS).

The Counters -71- with their years() of participation:

Dave Adams (4- BOC), Rayanne Aiken (1- BOC), Betty Antal (3), Nancy Baker (11), Jim Barcaskey (9), Beverly Barnett (5), Tom Baumgardner (4-BOC), Steve Bickel (7- BOC), Grace Bickert (1), Larry and Marcia Brown (3), Suzanne Butcher (28), Bob and Deanna Clouse (2), Lauren Collier (1), Ruth Crawford (30), Dave(17) and Debbie(18) Darney, Barbara Davis(14), Charles and Sharon Davis (12), Cindy (3)and Jay (2) Dayen, Barb(17)and George(13)Dean, Helen Ferguson (34-JEEC), Ellen Flickner (1-JEEC), Margaret and Roger Higbee (8), Robert Jamison (7)and Sally(13) Jamison , Rob Jernigan(1), Leslie Kapsar(1-JEEC), Cathy and Jim Kerr (1-JEEC), Henry and Linda Lenz (5), Laura, Lily and Tim Link (1- JEEC), Becky Lubold (2- JEEC), Robert Madjaric(10), Dennis Martsof (1), Danielle Murphy (1), Nancy Nelepa(1-JEEC), Richard Nugent (7), Judy Pietz (9), Ken Roosa(1 BOC), Patty Ruffing (1), Lee Ann Scarpino(1-JEEC), John and Zane Scott (1), Cathy Setzer (6 - BWS), Becky Sheeler(7), Chuck Smith (3), Dawn Smith (3- BWS), Mark Smith (1-BOC), John Stehle (12-BOC), Mark and Sandee Swansiger with *Charlie and Bernie* (15) Christy Tichy(4), Gary Uber(3), Linda

Wagner (12), Bob Walczak (17), Dorothy Weisberg (5-BOC), Lori Wertz(1-JEEC), Lori Whalen(1-JEEC), Gene(32)and Joanne(20) Wilhelm, and Joan Wilver (27).



Danielle Murphy, Rob Jernigan, Gene Wilhelm, Bob Walczak, Gary Uber, Jim Barcaskey, George Dean

Photo by Barb Dean



Odds and Ends

Audubon Adventures

The Bartramian Audubon Society is offering an opportunity for teachers in Butler, Lawrence, Mercer and Venango Counties. The chapter will sponsor and fund, on a first-come, first served basis, a limited number of *Audubon Adventures* classroom kits for individual classes in grades 3-5. Each kit contains four sets of 32 student magazines plus lesson plans and teacher resource materials designed to help bring the natural world into the classroom and to connect kids to the environment. The kits can be used across the curriculum and correlate to national language arts and science standards. This year's theme, "Sharing Our Earth!" introduces students to forest, grassland and shoreline habitats, as well as to ways to "be a friend to birds". To arrange for *Audubon Adventures* for a classroom, contact the Education Chair, Becky Lubold, at 814-330-2550.

ABC Bird Tape

Next to habitat loss, collisions with human made objects are the largest threat to birds in the U.S.A., claiming nearly 1 billion bird deaths each year. Glass is a primary culprit. With support from the Rusinow Family Foundation, the American Bird Conservancy has developed a new, translucent adhesive tape that tests show can significantly reduce bird collisions with glass windows and doors. ABC Bird Tape lets birds see the glass and allows light to pass through into the room. You can find more information and order ABC Bird Tape on the Web at www.abcbirdtape.org. Let's all go for it and save our birds.

**BARTRAMIAN AUDUBON SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 315
SLIPPERY ROCK, PA 16057**

**PRSR. STD.
US POSTAGE**

PAID

**OIL CITY, PA
PERMIT # 145**

Paper-Free Newsletter

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.



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 by the sanctuary chair in June each year. The \$15.00 or more per sanctuary checks should be made payable to BAS but 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, address, and e-mail** with payment to the:

Bartramian Audubon Society
PO Box 315
Slippery Rock, PA 16057

**National Audubon Society
Membership Application**

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

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

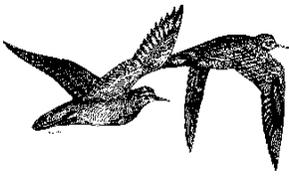
Name

Address

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please send this form with payment to
**National Audubon Society
Membership Data Center
PO Box 422250
Palm Coast, FL32142-2250**

**Renewing members should use the coupon mailed to them
by NAS** COZU180Z
rev 1/10 7XCH



Upland Informer

Volume 31 Issue 3

Official Newsletter of the Bartramian Audubon Society

Summer 2013

Editor- Nancy Baker

Check us out online at www.bartramianaudubon.org



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 9, 2013-Monday-Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in Pennsylvania

Dan Brauning will summarize highlights from the recently published Second Atlas of Breeding Birds in Pennsylvania, of which he, Andy Wilson, and Bob Mulvihill were editors. This presentation will address significant changes observed since the first Pennsylvania breeding bird atlas (which he edited), including species gained and lost, other notable changes in distribution, and the conservation value of this work. He will also describe and provide examples of Pennsylvania's innovative point count survey to obtain population density for over half of the species. This will include a discussion of how Bird Atlas projects compliment the annual Breeding Bird Survey for population monitoring, and some analytical methods employed to obtain these results. This is a richly illustrated presentation with many maps and bird photos. Books will be available.



Activities in Review

Annual Awards Night May 13, 2013

President Kathie Goodblood led a short business meeting before the award presentations.

THE HELEN R. FERGUSON FUND SCHOLARSHIP IN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES AT WESTMINSTER COLLEGE



Kerri Duerr, Ph.D., Erin Sullivan and Helen Ferguson

The Helen R. Ferguson Fund Scholarship was presented to Erin Sullivan. Erin is a junior Environmental Science major at Westminster College and a graduate of Aurora High School in Aurora, OH. She is actively engaged in environmental issues on campus through her involvement in Westminster's Sustainability Committee and as a member of the campus's Green AV Team. Erin spearheaded an initiative to get double-sided printing as the default print mode on campus and helped organize new recycling initiatives on campus. In addition to environmental activities, Erin is a Resident Assistant, the Assistant Equipment Circulation Manager at Audio Visual Services, and a member of the cross country and track teams. Erin's career plans involve the conservation of animals and their environment by means of animal care facilities, wildlife conservation areas, public education, and technology. She will be going to Australia in June 2014 where she will work as an overseas volunteer at The Koala Hospital in Port Macquarie.

THE MIKE ALAN STARKER ECOLOGY SCHOLARSHIP IN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES AT SLIPPERY ROCK UNIVERSITY



Caleb Sykora-Bodie

The Mike Alan Starker Ecology Scholarship In Environmental Studies at Slippery Rock University was presented to Caleb Sykora-Bodie. Caleb is majoring in Geography-Environmental Studies and Environmental Geosciences-Geology. Political Science was his original major, but after a class in Physical Geology with Dr. Michael Zieg and independent study, he switched to Environmental Geosciences-Geology. Then he added a major in Environmental Studies to better understand the ethical questions of the human use of the earth's natural resources. He plans to attend graduate school and further the connection between his personal enjoyment of the natural world and his interest in hard science.

HOG ISLAND AUDUBON CAMP FOR EDUCATORS SCHOLARSHIP



Shayne Garcia-Bish and Becky Lubold

The 2013 Hog Island Audubon Camp Scholarship was presented to Shayne Garcia-Bish. Each year Bartramian Audubon awards a scholarship to a local teacher to attend “Sharing Nature: An Educator’s Week” at Audubon Camp in Maine on Hog Island. Shayne Garcia-Bish was awarded the scholarship for 2013. Shayne is a science lab teacher in grades K-8 at St. Luke Lutheran School in Cabot, PA. In applying for the scholarship, she explained that, “...one of the great joys of my career is leading children to learn more about the dynamic world around them. In particular, it is rewarding to introduce children to the biomes and habitats that are so incredibly different from the fields and deciduous forests that they have grown up seeing.” Shayne plans to share her Hog Island experience and knowledge with students at her school through integration with the science curriculum, as well as by hosting a presentation for their families. She will also make a presentation to the Bartramian Audubon chapter at a future meeting. We congratulate Shayne and wish her well in her travels to the Maine coast.

AWARD FOR SUSTAINABLE CONSERVATION BY AN INSTITUTION



Dr. Gene Wilhelm and Dr. Cheryl Norton

In 2009, SRU became the first Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education University to sign the American College and University Presidents’ Climate Commitment. In 2012, under the leadership of President Cheryl Norton, SRU submitted its first Climate Action Plan that sets forth a goal of achieving carbon neutrality by the year 2037. To continue focusing on this goal, SRU will work to conserve energy through improving its physical facilities, promoting a sustainable culture on campus, and protecting its natural resources with a number of initiatives including: 1) appointing a senior level, full-time Campus Sustainability Coordinator to harmonize all university leaders engaged in sustainability initiatives and to synergize cam-

pus/community efforts that are undertaken to protect the environment; 2) creating a Land Use Project review process as a proactive approach to land use planning that will promote sustainable development, preserve environmentally sensitive areas, and maximize conservation of natural and educational relevant resources; and 3) initiating a campus grounds GIS mapping project that will document existing natural resources and environmental areas such as Audubon wildlife sanctuaries, streams, wetlands, “no-mow” riparian buffer zones, old growth forests, and sustainable educational trails; among others. Since 2005, SRU has reduced net greenhouse emissions by 25% or 12,600 metric tons CO₂. That’s equivalent to preserving 97 acres of U.S. forests from conversion to other uses. Seven Audubon sanctuaries managed by SRU protect 471.96 acres – 151.20 acres on the main campus – ranking it number one in the four-county chapter sanctuary system. A native of Cleveland, Ohio, Dr. Cheryl J. Norton was selected by the Board of Governors of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education April 5, 2012 to serve as the first woman and 16th President of Slippery Rock University. An accomplished scholar and educator, she earned a Bachelor’s Degree with Honors in Physical Education and Recreation from Denison University in Granville, Ohio and holds three higher degrees from Teachers College, Columbia University, New York: a Master of Arts in Applied Physiology and both a Master of Education and a Doctor of Education in Applied Physiology. Dr. Norton was named President of Southern Connecticut University in 2004 and served in that position for six years. There too she was the first woman president in the university’s 115-year history.

AWARD FOR SUSTAINABLE CONSERVATION BY A BUSINESS



Todd LaCross and Dr. Gene Wilhelm

The award for sustainable Conservation by a business was presented to Todd LaCross, plant manager of the Scrubgrass Generating Plant. The Scrubgrass Generating Plant, located on a 650-acre site in Scrubgrass Township, Venango County, Pennsylvania, produces and sells approximately 85 megawatts of electricity, enough for about 80,000 homes. The facility is designated as a cogeneration plant capable of providing low-pressure steam to other tenants in the area. The plant is fueled by abundant supplies of bituminous waste coal. This once unusable mining by-product was left in huge piles because the technology did not yet exist to burn it cleanly. Today, thanks to advanced generating and environmental control technology, Scrubgrass uses circulating fluidized-bed combustion boilers, an advanced technology for burning waste coal by mixing coal and limestone suspended in a flow of hot air. The limestone combines with sulfur in the waste coal to form calcium sulfate

(gypsum), an inert compound. The process produces an alkaline ash that is used in active and abandoned mine reclamation. The waste coal sites that litter the landscape of western Pennsylvania pose serious threats to water quality and public safety. When rain or snow combines with sulfur in the waste coal it forms acid mine drainage that runs off into nearby streams threatening aquatic life downstream. By removing these waste coal dumps, Scrubgrass is eliminating the source of AMD at the site. The alkaline ash from the power plant is returned to the site to neutralize other acid-bearing materials that could not be used as fuel and to supplement native soils to promote site re-vegetation. Scrubgrass has undertaken a variety of other conservation efforts for which it has received wide recognition from sponsoring the reintroduction of otter to the Allegheny River, funding for educational kiosks along the Allegheny River, designating 350 acres as an Audubon wildlife sanctuary, to receiving the 2000 Three Rivers Environmental Stewardship Award, a the 2000 Governors Award for Environmental Excellence for the Reclamation of the former Leechburg Mine site in Armstrong County, and the 2005 Governors Award for reclamation of the Benjamin Mine site in Clearfield County, among many other conservation actions. Todd LaCross is the current Plant Manager of the Scrubgrass Generating Plant. He was born in Portsmouth, Virginia, married his high school sweetheart, Carol, and has two daughters Valorie and Sarah. Todd served in the U.S. Navy 1982-1993 as a nuclear power plant reactor operator/technician and later became instructor in the Naval Nuclear Power School. While in the Navy, he attended night school, graduating from Columbia College of Missouri in 1991 with a B.S. degree in Business Administration. After starting a waste wood power plant in Cadillac, Michigan, he worked for PG&E Generating waste wood plant in Florida, then moved to Scrubgrass Generating in 1999 where he became Instrumentation and Controls Technician. Since then, Todd has progressed in management from Maintenance Supervisor, to Operations and Maintenance Manager, to Plant Manager. Scrubgrass became the sixth BAS wildlife sanctuary in 1998 and has graciously supported Audubon annually since then.

AWARD FOR SUSTAINABLE CONSERVATION BY AN INDIVIDUAL



Todd Stephenson

Melanie Stephenson Petridis and Todd Stephenson are a sister and brother artistic team that has helped Audubon by constructing and painting nearly 185 wooden sanctuary signs for more than 10 consecutive years. Melanie has pursued artistic expressions since early childhood and is widely known for her realistic semi-impressionistic style with the rich diversity of life forms in nature being her subjects. A mother of two grown boys, she is the current

author of a book titled *Destiny of an Artist*. Todd has not only helped Audubon with his woodwork expertise but also has devoted his adult life to scouting. Since 1974, when he joined the organization as a scout, Todd gradually became more involved with scouting “because it was oriented to the outdoors where I love to be.” He diligently earned the Eagle Badge in 1979, then later was elected to the prestigious scout honor society – Order of the Arrow – to eventually become the current Scoutmaster of Troop #380 that is located in Harrisville, Pennsylvania. Audubon is indeed fortunate to have these two talented individuals in our chapter who have contributed such outstanding workmanship that has been praised by both chapter members and the public alike as the hallmark logos of the Bartramian Audubon Society.

2013 SANCTUARIES



*Lower Row: Ken Bennett, Joseph Normand, Jennifer Normand, Tom Pierotti, Lynn Pierotti, Cindi Dillon, Judy Hughes
Upper Row: Jen Smith (Brittanie’s Mom), Lou Ropperti, Ruth Ropperti, Dennis Martsolf, Carol Chmielewski, George Force, James Hughes*

Vice President Jeff Hall presented our new sanctuary owners with their signs and certificates. Wildlife Sanctuary owners Joseph and Jennifer Norman and Sara and Mike Kramer (accepted by Sara’s father, Ken Bennett) were recognized. Bird and Butterfly Sanctuary owners recognized were James and Judy Hughes, Carol Chmielewski, Tom and Lynn Pierotti, Ruth and Lou Ropperti, Sara and Mike Kramer (Ken Bennett accepting), Jennifer and Anthony Kaper (not present), Brittanie Smith (accepted by her mother, Jen Smith), Dennis Martsolf, and Cindi Dillon and George Force.

BARTRAMIAN AUDUBON SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 315
SLIPPERY ROCK, PA 16057

PRSRT. STD.
US POSTAGE

PAID

OIL CITY, PA
PERMIT # 145

Paper-Free Newsletter

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.



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 by the sanctuary chair in June each year. The \$15.00 or more per sanctuary checks should be made payable to BAS but 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, address, and e-mail** with payment to the:

Bartramian Audubon Society
PO Box 315
Slippery Rock, PA 16057

National Audubon Society
Membership Application

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

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

Name

Address

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please send this form with payment to

National Audubon Society
Membership Data Center
PO Box 422250
Palm Coast, FL32142-2250

Renewing members should use the coupon mailed to them by NAS

rev 1/10

COZU180Z
7XCH