

Upland Informer

Volume 34 Issue 1 Official Newsletter of the Bartramian Audubon Society

Fall 2015

Editor- Nancy Baker

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www.facebook.com/Bartramian



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, 2015-Monday-Insect Threats to our Native Trees Hemlocks, ashes, and some other of our native trees are under siege by invasive insects. Pennsylvania DCNR Forester David Cole will tell us the most up-to-date report on the status of these threats. His research and work in our local forests have given him first-hand experience in battling these problems. He can provide us with both general information about the status of our woodlands and advice about what we can do as individuals.

October 12, 2015-Monday-River of Raptors Veracruz

Each autumn, many of the hawks that have spent the summer in the US and Canada migrate south. An astonishing number of them stream over Veracruz, Mexico, so many that the phenomenon has been called the "River of Raptors." Expert naturalists Laura and Mike Jackson of Juniata Audubon Society have witnessed this spectacle and will share their adventure with us. They will also tell us about the tropical birds, butterflies, and other wonders of the area surrounding this city on the shore of the Gulf of Mexico.

November 9, 2015-Monday-Ecology of Bats

Bats are fascinating animals, an important member of our ecosystem, but some of them face a new threat. A disease called "white-nose syndrome" has caused die-offs of many hibernating bats in Pennsylvania and throughout the East. What is being done to combat this problem? Collin Shephard, Forest Ecologist with the Allegheny National Forest, is responsible for coordinating many aspects of wildlife, botany, air, water, soil, and other programs in the Forest, but she has taken a particular interest in bats. She will share her expertise with us in an entertaining and informative program.

December 14, 2015-Monday- Annual Holiday Potluck and Hog Island Presentation

Come enjoy good food and good company while hearing about Denise Chybrzynski's and Brendyn Baptiste's trips to Audubon Camp at Hog Island, Maine. Bring a dish to share and your holiday spirit.



Upcoming Activities

September 19, 2015 – Saturday – Bird & Nature Walk

The Planning Division of Lawrence County graciously has invited BAS members and friends to participate in this special late summer bird and nature walk celebration in beautiful West Park, one of BAS' Wildlife Sanctuaries, located across from the New Castle Airport two blocks west of U.S. 422. The date should be at the peak of land bird migration. Time: 8:30 to 10:00 a.m. Please contact Gene Wilhelm at 724-794-2434 or email genewilhelm@aol.com promptly for directions and other information.

October 17, 2015 – Saturday – Avian and Nature Stroll

Lake Wilhelm in Maurice K. Goddard State Park and State Game Land 130 are the goals of this outing at the peak of autumn colors. Join us in exploring the Multi-use, Falling Run, and State Game Land trails for birds, fall wildflowers, and other wildlife in this very bio-diverse public landscape. We will meet at the Lake Wilhelm dam at the eastern entrance of the park about 1 mile north of Sandy Lake off PA Route 173 at 8:30 a.m. Please email Gene Wilhelm at genewilhelm@aol.com for directions and what items you should bring for the morning.

November 14, 2015 – Saturday – Water Birds of All Types and Sizes

Pymatuning State Park is located near the Crawford-Mercer County line about 1.5 miles north of Jamestown, Pennsylvania and is noted for its diverse species of water birds anytime of the year but especially during autumn migration. Join us, won't you, for this full day of identifying mostly water birds. Rarities have visited this site over the decades, and who knows what and when the next unusual bird will appear. We will meet in Hartstown at the junction of U.S. 322 and PA 18 at 9:00 a.m. Bring lunch and dress for the weather. Please email Gene Wilhelm at genewilhelm@aol.com for details.

December 19, 2015-Saturday-Butler CBC

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 Mary Alice Koenke and Glenn Koppel at macatilly@icloud.com.

January 3, 2016-Sunday-Pleasantville CBC

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, contact Russ States at 814-676-6320 (please talk to the machine), or pabirder@verizon.net.



Activities in Review

July 11, 2015-BAS Sponsored NABA 4th of July Butterfly Count

The Sandy Creek Count was started in July 2003 and has been conducted every year until last year when it was not held due to unforeseen circumstances. This year we are happy that Neil Troyer along with 4 of his young children, all past participants, were able to conduct the count. Counters were Neil Troyer, Samuel Troyer, Rachel Troyer, Harvey Troyer, and Ruthann Troyer with Suzanne Butcher acting as compiler for the NABA. The Sandy Creek Count is listed in Region 18 of the NABA and comprises the 15 mile diameter count circle which includes the Troyer gardens in Mercer County on one side, SGL 130 in the middle range, and the Polk Wetlands in Venango County on the opposite side. The Troyers started their count at Rt 965 walking along Reed Furnace Road and then taking the old railroad grade along Sandy Creek to Triple Link Rd. During their walk, the most butterflies were seen east of the area where in past years they have been most plentiful, and this year were found from about a mile east of the swamp back to Reed Furnace Road. Of note, no Broad-winged Skippers were found, as the water level at the swamp was very high and almost no butterflies were seen from the first parking lot to beyond the swamp. One of the Harvesters was found at the end of the first parking area at the edge of Triple Link Road. **Species:** Black Swallowtail (2), Eastern Tiger Swallowtail (4), Cabbage White (7), Clouded Sulphur (10), Orange Sulphur (6), Harvester (2), Bronze Copper (1), Eastern-Tailed Blue (27), Summer Azure (1), Great Spangled Fritillary (75), Aphrodite Fritillary (1), Meadow Fritillary (3), Pearl Crescent (46), Baltimore Checkerspot (1), Question Mark (11), Eastern Comma (10), Red Admiral (10), Common Wood Nymph (29),

Monarch (1), Silver-spotted Skipper (17), Wild Indigo Duskywing (7), Common Sootywing (1), Least Skipper (1), Peck's Skipper (1), Little Glassywing (23), Delaware Skipper (4), Hobomok Skipper (1), Dun Skipper (20). **28 Total species, 322 individuals.** A bird list was also kept for a total of 76 species with the most notable being a Common Raven, lots of Dark-eyed Juncos, breeding Alder Flycatchers, and 10 species of warblers.



Education News

Hog Island Scholarship Opportunities for Teens

Chapter members Gene and Joanne Wilhelm generously fund two scholarships for teens living in Butler, Lawrence, Mercer or Venango counties to attend programs at Hog Island Audubon Camp. The first is offered to students ages 14-17 who have an avid interest in birds. The award covers the cost of attendance at the "Coastal Maine Bird Studies for Teens" session in June, which allows young birders to work with some of the country's best-known birders and ornithologists on field identification, bird ecology and conservation. The second, for ages 18-19, is for attending the "Arts and Birding" session in July, which includes birding adventures, as well as in-depth study in an art specialty of choice. The application period for these scholarships for 2016 is now open, and will close on October 31, 2015. A form is available on the chapter's website, or by contacting Gene Wilhelm at [724-704-2434](tel:724-704-2434) or genewilhelm@aol.com. Teens and parents can learn more about what these experiences are like at <http://hogisland.audubon.org/hog-island-programs> or by attending a presentation by Brendyn Baptiste, last year's teen scholarship recipient, at our December 14th meeting.

BAS Offers Resources and Opportunities for Teachers

Audubon Adventures Available for Classroom Use

Bartramian Audubon sponsors and funds *Audubon Adventures* curriculum materials for students in grades 3-6 in schools in Butler, Lawrence, Mercer and Venango Counties. *Audubon Adventures* is available in digital subscription format, where teachers can access downloadable and interactive content for students, plus teacher resources, a large, printed poster and e-newsletter. Printed sets of student magazines also are available, as an alternative to the online subscription.

Audubon Adventures materials include standards-based content related to birds, wildlife and their habitats, and can be integrated across multiple subject areas. The theme for 2015-16 is "Action for Planet Earth," with a focus on protecting Earth's natural resources. Topics relate to habitats, water resources and energy sources and challenges.

Learn more about *Audubon Adventures* at: (<http://www.audubonadventures.org/>). Then contact Becky Lubold, the chapter's Education Chair, at 814-330-2550 or watersinger2@yahoo.com to arrange to receive the materials. A limited number of subscriptions and kits will be sponsored on a first-come, first-served basis. We would like to place the orders early in the school year, so act quickly.

Hog Island Audubon Camp Scholarship for Educators

Each year Bartramian Audubon awards one scholarship for a local teacher to attend the "Sharing Nature: An Educator's Week" session of Audubon Camp in Maine on Hog Island. This session aims to inspire and empower science and non-

science teachers with practical approaches for engaging both children and adults with nature. Those who attend the camp become part of a legacy of Audubon education that began in 1936, and are instructed by some of the most respected naturalists and environmental educators in the country. They participate in interdisciplinary workshops and field trips that teach inquiry-based science in the context of the forest, intertidal and ocean ecosystems of the scenic Maine coast. Participants also find time to share ideas with fellow educators, enjoy the camp's delicious home cooking and explore the environs of historic Hog Island during this extraordinary learning adventure.

The application period for the Hog Island scholarship for July, 2016 is now open, and will close on February 28, 2016. The application form is available on the chapter's website or by contacting our Education Chair at 814-330-2550 or watersinger2@yahoo.com. Teachers who would like to learn more about what this experience can be like, will want to attend the presentation by Denise Chybrynski, last year's awardee, at our December 14th meeting or see <http://hogisland.audubon.org/hog-island-programs>

"Our Feathered Friends" Teaching Kit

Bartramian Audubon Society will loan this kit, which was developed with funding assistance from the National Audubon Society and Audubon Pennsylvania. The kit includes a variety of informational resources, materials and equipment that educators can use to teach students about regional birds and their environment. The trunk is designed for grade levels 3 through 6, and also can be used by home school groups, 4H groups, and scouts. For more information about this learning tool, or other assistance with your educational efforts, contact the chapter's Education Chair.

Join Bartramian Audubon and Jennings for Citizen Science and Learning

Bartramian Audubon Society and Jennings Environmental Education Center collaborate in offering opportunities for learning how individuals can help researchers gather important data about bird population and migration trends, as well as increasing their own birding skills. These will include the annual Butler County Christmas Bird Count on December 19 and the Great Backyard Bird Count February 12-15, 2016. Additional details and registration for these events will be available later this fall on DCNR's Calendar of Events at <http://events.dcnr.pa.gov/>, by e-mailing jenningsssp@pa.gov, or calling 724-794-6011.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR RESPONSE TO OUR 2014 LETTER OF APPEAL

EAGLE

*Merab Drennen
Kathie Goodblood & Jerry Stanley
Jeffrey & Dianne Hall
Carolyn & Paul Rizza
Mary Ellen Walter*

KESTREL

*John Birckbichler
Thomas Black*

SANDPIPER

*Michael & Nancy Baker
Carl & Roxanne Bleakney
Carol Couvrette
Mary Ann Depolo
Ken & Nancy Harris
James Hathaway & Laura Quinn
Tom & Betty Sopher*

CHICKADEE

*Michael & Jennifer Antal
Michael Baptiste
Marcia & Larry Brown
Mary Jane Egger
Jay & Renee Hewitt
Ray & Kay Hoffmann
Mary Alice Koenek & Glenn Koppel
Hugh McCright
Kenneth McGallis
Ronald Micheltree
Oscar Miller III
Joyce Myers
Janice Osten
Karen Peterson
William & Bonita Renick
Mr. and Mrs. W. Schall, Sr.
Dave & Cindy Suber
Sandra Swansiger & Karen Roberts
Gary Uber
Barbara Walwik
Joan Wilver
Patricia Zimmerman*

AUDUBON ADVENTURES

*Helen Ferguson
Jay & Renee Hewitt
Henry & Linda Lenz*

SCHOLARSHIP

*Ruth Crawford
Monica Ondrusko*

BAS SANCTUARIES

*Thomas Black
Barbara Dean*

IN MEMORY OF.....

*Rebecca Burdick given by John Burdick
Thad A. Bukowski given by Elizabeth Bukowski
Regina Andres given by John & Evelyn Kolojejchick & Jessie Andres
Sharon Midzie given by Mike Midzie
Larry Upton given by Ellie and Family
Tracie's Mother given by Mary Miller*

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

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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 are handled by the sanctuary chair in June each year. The \$15.00 or more per sanctuary checks should be made payable to BAS and mailed to BAS Sanctuary Chair Kathie Goodblood 170 Keith Lane, Franklin, PA 16323

Bartramian Audubon Society Associate and Newsletter Application

Please check below

_____ \$15.00 BAS Membership fee- includes newsletter

_____ \$10.00 Electronic Student Membership

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

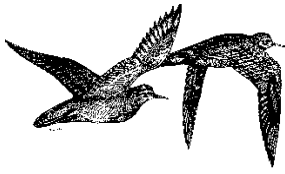
Name _____

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
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Spring 2016

Editor- Nancy Baker

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Upcoming BAS Membership Meetings

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March 14, 2016-Monday-Hummingbird Myths Explained
Can hummingbirds fly backwards? Do they 'hitch' a ride on the backs of other birds? Hummingbirds are remarkable animals that can do many astonishing things, but not every hummingbird 'fact' you've heard is true. Learn more about what these tiny winged creatures can and cannot do from Audubon Pennsylvania's Judith Acker at the March Bartramian Audubon Society meeting. Judith will also introduce a fun new monitoring program called "Hummingbirds at Home" which utilizes an app on your smart phone to report hummingbird sightings and nectar sources. In addition, her talk will include tips for attracting hummingbirds to your yard—including what native plants they prefer—as well as information about feeders, food and ways to ensure your yard is a safe and nutritious haven for hummingbirds. Judith Acker's work as Audubon Pennsylvania's Outreach Project Coordinator includes in-school programming for children as well as adults and public education. She is the author of *Pennsylvania Native Plants of the French Creek Watershed: Culture and Use Guide*, and works with western Pennsylvania nurseries, greenhouses, and landscapers to locate sources for those native species.

April 11, 2016-Monday-Forestry For the Birds-How to Help the Birds of our Forests

Pennsylvania is home to significant proportions of the global populations of Wood Thrushes and Scarlet Tanagers. Our forests are the core of their breeding range. Because these birds are still common in our region, we have the opportunity to protect and enhance their breeding habitat now before they become threatened or endangered. Many other birds, from warblers and vireos to woodpeckers and grouse, also rely on our woodlands as part of the territory in which they raise their young and sustain their species. Sarah Sargent of Audubon Pennsylvania will explain what can be done to help improve forest habitat for all the wonderful variety of birds that are found in "Penns Woods." Land managers, woodlot owners, foresters, and anyone who appreciates the sights and sounds of birds in the woods all have ways to contribute. Sarah Sargent is Program Manager for Bird Conservation at Audubon Penn-

sylvania, based out of their Meadville office. She earned her doctorate in Ecology and Evolutionary Biology from Cornell.

May 9, 2016-Monday-Annual Membership Meeting and Awards Night

The Bartramian Audubon Society will be honoring our new Sanctuary members, awarding scholarships, and electing officers at our annual membership meeting and awards night. Join us for an evening of recognition and refreshments.



Upcoming Activities

May 7, 2016 – Saturday – Bird Walk at Buttermilk Hill Nature Sanctuary

Join us at 8:00 a.m. to look for early spring migrants in Venango County. Dress in layers and wear sturdy shoes. Beginners are welcome. Everyone is welcome to bring a bag lunch and stay to eat, while watching birds from the deck. For directions contact Kathie at larkwren@hotmail.com or 814-432-4496.

June, 2016 – Annual Picnic-Date To Be Announced

Lake Wilhelm in Maurice K. Goddard State Park will be the site of this year's annual picnic. Bring a dish to share and your own place setting. We will provide the hot dogs and drinks. Check our website in the future for details.



Activities in Review

December 19, 2015-Butler Christmas Bird Count (CBC)

Mary Alice Koeneké and Glenn Koppel, Compilers

The 2015 Butler CBC was held on one of the few cold, breezy days of December in our El Nino-influenced winter. Despite the cold, wind, and lightly falling snow, participants managed to find 79 species (plus Gull sp.); four higher than the 2014 count and much higher than the 50-year average of 67 species. The total number of individuals tallied was 8,129 and 7 unidentified gulls (Gull sp.). Temperatures recorded by compilers ranged between 23F and 34F. Lake Arthur within Moraine State Park and other local streams, creeks, and ponds were open; however, the mild winter weather seemed to keep most waterfowl species from the region and numbers of individuals were lower than average. Of the 11 species of waterfowl observed, only Canada Goose (712) and Gadwall (92) were found in higher than average numbers. Diving ducks in particular were conspicuously absent (Bufflehead) or found in low numbers (Ruddy Duck 21; 50-year average is 113). Mute Swans (2) were found for only the second time in the 50-year history of the Butler CBC. Two species were found in all-time high numbers: Wild Turkey (181, 50-year avg. 37; 143 in 2014) and Bald Eagle (13; 6 in 2014). The previous high count for Bald Eagles was 8 in 2008. An average representation by owls: Eastern Screech (5), Great Horned (3) and

Barred (2) owls and one Northern Saw-whet Owl were found during owling efforts by two teams and during regular field counts. Only one Red-breasted Nuthatch was found for the entire count by a lucky field team (5 is the 50-yr. avg.). Undoubtedly the most exciting find of the count was a **Blue-winged Warbler** located on the Sunken Garden Trail at Moraine State Park by the new compilers of the Butler CBC! A Blue-winged Warbler was observed on the same trail on November 22, 2015 by another birdwatcher. The warbler, which was the only warbler species found on the count, foraged constantly in the leaf litter and detritus and it is hoped that it continues to find food to make it through the winter! Nine sparrow species were identified during the 2015 CBC. Field Sparrow 3, (50-year avg. 3) were average in number of individuals; the remaining species were all found in lower numbers than



their respective 50-year average for the count. Red-winged Blackbirds (279), Common Grackles (333) were found in numbers reasonably consistent with their 50-year averages: 281 and 324, respectively. Pine Siskins represented the only irruptive

northern finch species during the 2015 Butler CBC.

The Birds: Canada Goose-712, Mute Swan-2, Gadwall-92, Mallard-143, American Wigeon-3, Ring-necked Duck-7, Greater Scaup-1, Lesser Scaup-5, Hooded Merganser-9, Red-breasted Merganser-1, Ruddy Duck-21, Wild Turkey-181, Pied-billed Grebe-9, Horned Grebe-3, Double-crested Cormorant-6, Great Blue Heron-1, Bald Eagle-13, Northern Harrier-4, Sharp-shinned Hawk-4, Cooper's Hawk-5, Red-shouldered Hawk-4, Red-tailed Hawk-27, American Coot-350, American Kestrel-16, Gull sp.-7, Bonaparte's Gull-19, Ring-billed Gull-294, Herring Gull-1, Rock Pigeon-379, Mourning Dove-315, Eastern Screech Owl-5, Great Horned Owl-3, Barred Owl-2, Northern Saw-whet Owl-1, Belted Kingfisher-3, Red-headed Woodpecker-5, Red-bellied Woodpecker-45, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker-5, Downy Woodpecker-84, Hairy Woodpecker-47, Northern Flicker-2, Pileated Woodpecker-14, Blue Jay-149, American Crow-365, Common Raven-1, Horned Lark-74, Black-capped Chickadee-241, Tufted Titmouse-124, White-breasted Nuthatch-80, Red-breasted Nuthatch-1, Brown Creeper-9, Carolina Wren-6, Winter Wren-2, Golden-crowned Kinglet-46, Eastern Bluebird-72, Hermit Thrush-1, American Robin-677, Gray Catbird-1, Northern Mockingbird-6, European Starling-1417, Cedar Waxwing-141, Blue-winged Warbler-1, American Tree Sparrow-83, Chipping Sparrow-1, Field Sparrow-3, Fox Sparrow-3, Song Sparrow-16, Swamp Sparrow-1, White-throated Sparrow-29, White-crowned Sparrow-1, Dark-eyed Junco-367, Northern Cardinal-156, Red-winged Blackbird-279, Common Grackle-333, Brown-headed Cowbird-31, Purple Finch-1, House Finch-97, Pine Siskin-10, American Goldfinch-127, and House Sparrow-334. Count Week birds (species found between 16-22 December within the 15-mile diameter circle of the Butler CBC included: Tundra Swan-36, Red-throated Loon-1, Black Scoter-1, all report-

ed from Lake Arthur, Moraine State Park. *Total Species:* 79+3 *Count Week;* *Total Individuals:* 8,129 plus 7 Gull sp.

Participation Summary: 42 in 14 parties totaling 17 hours and 15 miles on foot; 48 hours and 413 miles by car; 4 hours and 3 miles owling; and 16 observers at feeders and 46 hours.

The Observers-Including their years () of participation: Dave Adams(6), Rayanne Aiken (2), Betty Antal (6), Jonathan Avril (1), Nancy Baker (14), Brendyn Baptiste (2), Beverly Barnett (8), Kenneth Bennett (1), Grace Bickert (4), Steve Bickel (10), Adeline and Jennifer Birkes (1), Marcia and Larry Brown (6), Suzanne Butcher (31), Gene Butcher (22), Ruth Crawford (33), Dave Darney (20), Debra Darney (21), Charles and Sharon Davis (17), Barb Dean (20), Kathie Goodblood (5), James Gray (1), Margaret and Roger Higbee (11), Debbie Kalbfleisch (3), Mary Alice Koenke (2), Glenn Koppel (2), Robert, Dixie, and Bob Lipnichan (1), Becky Lubold (4), Robert Madjaric (13), Daniel and Joshua McCoy (1), Oscar Miller (1), David Neely (1), Richard Nugent (10), Cathy Setzer (9), Mark Smith (1), Terry Steele (1), John Stehle (15), Mark Swansiger (18), Sandee Swansiger (17), Stephanie Taylor (1), Christy Tichy (7), Linda Wagner (15), Robert Walczak (1), Barb Wiles (2), Joanne Wilhelm (22), Gene Wilhelm (34), Dave Zell (2). We would like to thank ALL of the participants for giving their time during a busy holiday season to make the Butler CBC a success especially the Butler Outdoor Club (John Stehle); The Bird Watchers Store in Slippery Rock (Cathy Setzer), and the Jennings Environmental Center (Becky Lubold) who promote the Butler CBC as an activity within their venues. Suzanne Butcher has been an outstanding mentor and teacher since early 2015 helping to prepare us for completing our first compilation for the Butler CBC. Without Suzanne's willingness to provide the history, context, and knowledge of the Butler CBC and answering myriads of questions by phone, e-mail, and in person, we would have had a very difficult job. We hope you are all looking forward to the Butler CBC in 2016-stay tuned!

January 3, 2016-Sunday-50th Pleasantville CBC

The Birds:

Canada Goose-270, Tundra Swan-60, American Black Duck-63, Mallard-78, Common Merganser-54, Ruffed Grouse-6, Wild Turkey-19, **Common Loon-1**, Great Blue Heron-1, Sharp-shinned Hawk-3, Cooper's Hawk-3, Bald Eagle-21, **Red-shouldered Hawk-2**, Red-tailed Hawk-42, Rock Pigeon-4, Mourning Dove-244, Eastern Screech Owl-5, Barred Owl-3, Belted Kingfisher-6, Red-bellied Woodpecker-33, Downy Woodpecker-50, Hairy Woodpecker-17, Pileated Woodpecker-15, **American Kestrel-1**, Blue Jay-183, American Crow-145, Common Raven-14, Black-capped Chickadee-316, Tufted Titmouse-90, White-breasted Nuthatch-111, Brown Creeper-11, Winter Wren-2, Carolina Wren-4, Golden-crowned Kinglet-86, Eastern Bluebird-7, American Robin-12, European Starling-577, Cedar Waxwing-36, **Yellow-rumped Warbler-1**, American Tree Sparrow-101, Song Sparrow-4, White-

throated Sparrow-20, Dark-eyed Junco-502, Northern Cardinal-104, **Red-winged Blackbird-1**, House Finch-21, Purple Finch-2, Pine Siskin-293, American Goldfinch-124, House Sparrow-293.

Total 50 Species 3990 Individuals (highest ever)
Bold number indicates High count for that species. Bold species indicated new or unusual species for the count.
Notable species –Common Loon, Red-Shouldered Hawk, American Kestrel, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Red-Winged Blackbird. Highest number ever for: Mallard, Bald Eagle, Red-tailed Hawk, Mourning Dove, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Common Raven (ties), Golden-crowned Kinglet, European Starling, House Sparrow. 2nd highest numbers for ; Tundra Swan, Sharp-shinned Hawk (ties), Cooper's Hawk (ties), Barred Owl (ties), Hairy Woodpecker (ties), Brown Creeper, Pine Siskin. Statistics: Eight species have been seen all fifty years, eight species have been seen forty-nine of fifty years, and sixteen species have only been seen on one count (none of which we had this year). Jan 3, 2016: 3:15 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Temp. 29-32F; snow cover-dusting. Still and moving waters open; wind 0-10m.p.h; clear skies until 5:00 a.m, then overcast with drizzle/sleet starting at 4:00 p.m. Observers: 23 in field in 10 parties (the most we have ever had in the field). Time/distance: 67.25 total party hours; 409.5 total party miles; including 23 hours and 38.5 miles on foot and 44.25 hours and 371 miles by car. Plus 5 hours and 7.25 miles owling. **Thanks to all who participated in the count this year. Hope to see you again next year.** Russ States, Compiler



Education News

Scholarship Winners Offer Presentations at December Meeting

At Bartramian Audubon's December meeting, presentations were given by two scholarship awardees who attended Audubon Camp on Hog Island in Maine during the summer of 2015. Brendyn Baptiste, a Moniteau High School student, attended the "Coastal Maine Bird Studies for Teens" session through a scholarship funded by Gene and Joanne Wilhelm. He enthusiastically related his experiences, bird sightings and stories, and even created a "Match That Habitat" game based on what he had learned. Denise Chybrzynski, a fourth grade teacher at South Butler Intermediate Elementary School attended "Sharing Nature: An Educator's Week" via a chapter – funded scholarship. In her presentation, she noted various ways she has benefitted from her experience and shared it with her students.

Hog Island Teacher Scholarship Deadline February 29. Apply NOW!

Although the application for teen scholarships for 2016 has ended, teachers in Butler, Lawrence, Mercer and Venango Counties can still apply for a scholarship to attend the "Sharing Nature: An Educator's Week" session of Audubon Camp on Hog Island. Scheduled for July 17-22, 2016, this session aims to inspire and empower both science and non-science teachers with practical approaches for integrating environmental education into their classes, and for engaging both children and adults with nature. See [http://hogisland.audubon.org/hog-](http://hogisland.audubon.org/hog-island-programs)

[island-programs](http://hogisland.audubon.org/hog-island-programs) for more information about the camp. Applications for this scholarship will be accepted until February 29, 2016. The application form is available on our website www.bartramianaudubon.org or by contacting the chapter's Education Chair at 814-330-2550 or watersinger2@yahoo.com.

College/University Scholarships: Each year the chapter also awards two scholarships to deserving local college students in the field of Environmental Studies. The **Mike Alan Starker Environmental Studies Scholarship** is awarded to an undergraduate student at Slippery Rock University. Students apply in the spring of the year through the Department of Geography, Geology, and the Environment. The **Helen R. Ferguson Fund Scholarship for Environmental Studies** is awarded to an undergraduate student majoring in environmental science at Westminster College who has demonstrated excellence in the areas of environmental science and education. The awardee is selected by a faculty committee who oversees the environmental science major. For more information contact the appropriate university departments.

Audubon Adventures Available for Classroom Use

Bartramian Audubon sponsors and funds *Audubon Adventures* curriculum materials for students in grades 3-6 in schools in Butler, Lawrence, Mercer and Venango Counties. *Audubon Adventures* is available in digital subscription format, where teachers can access downloadable and interactive content for students, plus teacher resources, a large, printed poster and e-newsletter. Printed sets of student magazines also are available, as an alternative to the online subscription.

Audubon Adventures materials include standards-based content related to birds, wildlife and their habitats, and can be integrated across multiple subject areas. The theme for 2015-16 is "Action for Planet Earth," with a focus on protecting Earth's natural resources. Topics relate to habitats, water resources and energy sources and challenges.

Learn more about *Audubon Adventures* at: [\(http://www.audubonadventures.org/\)](http://www.audubonadventures.org/). Then contact Becky Lubold, the chapter's Education Chair, at 814-330-2550 or watersinger2@yahoo.com to arrange to receive the materials.

Upcoming Bird-related Programs at Jennings

Bartramian Audubon Society and Jennings Environmental Education Center collaborate in offering opportunities for learning how individuals can help researchers gather important data about bird population and migration trends, as well as increasing their own birding skills. Coming up on February 13th 9:00 a.m.-noon is a public program that will introduce the Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC). The session will provide instructions and practice in bird identification, counting at feeders, and entering data. Details and registration at <http://events.dcnr.pa.gov/>, by e-mailing jenningssp@pa.gov, or calling 724-794-6011.

Mark your calendars for Sunday, May 1st, when Jennings and BAS will offer a program focused on warblers and migration, commemorating the year of the centennial of the Migratory Bird Treaty. This program is in the planning stages, with details to be announced.

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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

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Please check below

_____ \$15.00 BAS Membership fee- includes newsletter

_____ \$10.00 Electronic Student Membership

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 _____

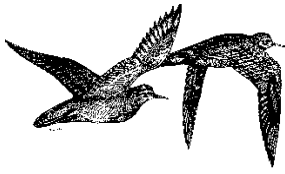
Please send this form with payment to
**National Audubon Society
Membership Data Center
PO Box 422250
Palm Coast, FL32142-2250**

Renewing members should use the coupon mailed to them by NAS

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Upland Informer

Volume 34 Issue 3

Official Newsletter of the Bartramian Audubon Society

Summer 2016

Editor- Nancy Baker

Check us out online at www.bartramianaudubon.org
www.facebook.com/Bartramian



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 12, 2016-Monday-Happy, Hearty Honeybees: The Pennsylvania Queen Bee Improvement Program

Honeybees are vitally important pollinators for many commercial crops as well as wildflowers, but they have been threatened by a number of conditions over the last few years. The Pennsylvania Queen Bee Improvement Program seeks to use natural techniques to develop and breed bees that are resistant to mites and brood disease without treatment, winter-hardy, gentle, and good honey producers. This important effort will be explained by one of its chief practitioners, Jeff Berta. He will have samples of the honey from his bees available for purchase at the meeting.



Upcoming Activities

June 12, 2016 – Sunday-Annual Picnic

Lake Wilhelm in Maurice K. Goddard State Park will be the site of this year's annual picnic. Arrive at 4:00 p.m. for a walk on the trails (or earlier to explore on your own). We plan on grilling at 5:30 p.m. Bring a dish to share and your own place setting. We will provide the hot dogs and drinks. Picnic tables are on site, but a folding chair might come in handy. Our picnic will take place in the covered pavilion at launch site 2 on the south side of the lake (the same side as the marina). Launch Site 2 is on Creek Road and includes a large parking lot. The picnic pavilion is about 50 yards down the bike trail to the right (east) of the parking lot entrance.



Upcoming Field Trips

As part of our 2016 "Know Your PA Game Lands and Parks by their Birdlife" series of field trips, we are continuing to explore interesting areas in our region. Two trips will take place over the summer: **August 13, 2016-Saturday-Shenango River Reservoir-** meet at 8:00 a.m. at Clark Recreation Area off PA Route 18, and **September 10, 2016-Saturday-Lake Arthur and Moraine State Park-** meet at 8:00 a.m. at the parking area under the bridge on Route 528.

Please call Dr. Gene Wilhelm at 724-794-2434 or contact him at genewilhelm@aol.com for more information and to register for either trip. There is no fee, but the number of participants is limited. As well as adults, families with children age 10 or older are particularly welcome.



Activities in Review

May 9, 2016-Annual Membership Meeting and Awards Night

President Jeffrey Hall conducted a short business meeting before the awards ceremony in which upcoming events were announced and the officers for 2016-2018 were elected. President: Jeffrey Hall, Vice-president: Russ States, Treasurer: Michael Baptiste, Secretary: David Neely.

THE HELEN R. FERGUSON FUND SCHOLARSHIP IN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES AT WESTMINSTER COLLEGE PRESENTED TO ERIN HASSETT



Helen Ferguson, Erin Hassett, and Dr. Helen Boylan

This year's recipient, Erin Hassett, is finishing her junior year as an Environmental Science major at Westminster College, where she is actively engaged in the campus community, especially on environmental issues. Erin has been employed by the College's Field Station for the past year and a half (full time in the summers, part time during the academic year). She is also a gifted artist. Her artistic talents are on display in murals at the college Field Station and as caricatures of the biology faculty members. Erin will be doing a summer internship this year with the Missouri Department of Conservation collecting stream and habitat data. After graduation, Erin plans to get more experience through additional internships and then attend graduate school for environmental research.

THE MIKE ALLEN STARKER ECOLOGY SCHOLARSHIP
IN ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES AT SLIPPERY ROCK
UNIVERSITY PRESENTED TO NICOLE KLIMOWICZ



Dr. Heike Hartmann and Nicole Klimowicz

Nicole Klimowicz is from Buffalo, New York. She just finished her sophomore year as an Environmental Science major at SRU. This summer, Nicole has an internship with Hawk Creek Wildlife Center southeast of Buffalo. Nicole hopes to work with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation in the future, focusing on wildlife management and bird conservation.

GENE AND JOANNE WILHELM SCHOLARSHIP TO
ATTEND THE "COASTAL MAINE AVIAN STUDIES
PROGRAM FOR TEENS" PRESENTED TO ADELINE
BIRKES AND MATTHEW MOWRY



Robin Mowry, Matthew Mowry, Joanne and Gene Wilhelm, Adeline Birkes, Dennis Birkes

From his childhood curiosity about how sandpipers on the beach at Chincoteague always knew to fly just before the oncoming wave hit them to his experience hiking and seeing birds in the Sawtooth Mountains of Idaho, Matthew Mowry's interest in the avian world is virtually lifelong. Matt is a ninth grade honor student at Hickory High School and is currently enrolled in advanced biology. He is a star-ranked Boy Scout whose troop meetings and summer scout camp regularly focus on environmental science; Matt has already earned his Environmental Science merit badge and is working toward other badges leading to Eagle Scout status. Matt is a regular visitor to the National Aviary in Pittsburgh, and is looking forward to Audubon Camp for the opportunity to taking part in bird-banding and learning about puffins in their natural breeding habitat.

Adeline Birkes, a tenth grader at Slippery Rock Area High School, was recently accepted into the National Honor Society. She is involved in the entire range of activities at her school, from playing piano and flute in the music program, to

lettering in cross-country and track, and participating in the speech and debate clubs. A long-time player in the youth soccer association, she qualified as a referee for under-eight players last year and will be coaching them this year. Her fascination with birds, nature, and the environment goes back to her earliest years in grade school and will allow her to take full advantage of the Audubon camp in Maine.

HOG ISLAND AUDUBON CAMP "SHARING NATURE:
AN EDUCATOR'S WEEK" SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTED
TO BRANDI MILLER-PARRISH



Brandi Miller-Parrish and Becky Lubold

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. Brandi Miller-Parrish has received the scholarship for 2016. Brandi is an Environmental Education Specialist at Jennings Environmental Education Center. She is very excited about attending the camp, networking with other educators, getting fresh ideas for use in future programs and adding puffins to her birding life list! We congratulate Brandi and wish her well in her travels to the Maine coast.

AWARD FOR SUSTAINABLE CONSERVATION BY AN
ORGANIZATION PRESENTED TO PENNSYLVANIA
GAME COMMISSION NORTHWEST REGIONAL HEAD-
QUARTERS



Richard Kramer, Jeffrey Hall and Jeff Kendall

The mission of the Pennsylvania Game Commission (PGC) is to manage Pennsylvania's wild birds, wild mammals, and their habitats for current and future generations. This dovetails with Bartramian Audubon Society's own mission of preserving native plant and animal communities in our region with special emphasis upon monitoring and protecting rare birdlife.

The Northwest Regional Office of PGC, located in Franklin, manages nearly 45,000 acres of State Game Lands in our area, preserving much critical habitat. Their management practices include protection and enhancement of wetlands and provision of early successional habitat—these are both vitally important for breeding and migrating birds, and uncommon in our area.

AWARD FOR SUSTAINABLE CONSERVATION BY A BUSINESS PRESENTED TO NORTH COUNTRY BREWING COMPANY

ROBERT AND JODI MCCAFFERTY, OWNERS

North Country Brewing Company of Slippery Rock is a shining example of sustainable business practices and conservation awareness. The very building in which the Brewery is housed was renovated using trees timbered from archaeology sites (that otherwise would have simply been burned) along with complete reuse of materials from the building itself. The restaurant's menu is locally sourced and dedicated to a 'farm to fork' concept, including many items grown on their own farm. Kitchen prep waste is used for animal feed, spent grain from brewing is repurposed into cattle feed, their beers are distributed in reusable growlers, and even the to-go containers are biodegradable. The next project is enhancement of energy conservation, another part of the underlying environmental concept and long-term commitment to conservation that characterizes North Country Brewing Company.

AWARD FOR SUSTAINABLE CONSERVATION BY INDIVIDUALS PRESENTED TO ROBERT AND JODI MCCAFFERTY



Jeffrey Hall, Robert and Jodi McCafferty

Their North Country Brewing Company received the Conservation Award for a Business, but Robert and Jodi McCafferty's commitment to the environment doesn't stop there. They are the recipients of our Conservation Award for Individuals for their involvement in Slippery Rock University's Sustainable Enterprise Accelerator (SEA). The McCaffertys have established a scholarship fund that provides financial assistance to five students involved in the SEA program. The SEA provides guidance and learning experiences for the transformation of ideas into business startups, with a focus on the combination of environmental consciousness and ethical economic policy. In addition, the McCaffertys were the driving force behind the annual community cleanup day, "Polish the Rock."

NEW SANCTUARIES

Sanctuary Chair Kathie Goodblood presented the new Sanctuary owners. Wildlife Sanctuary: Westminster College (2) Professor Kerri Duerr and the "Tweak Speak Cluster Class," New Wilmington, Pennsylvania, and Always Summer Herbs, Jeff Berta, owner, Slippery Rock Pennsylvania. Bird and Butterfly Sanctuaries: Westminster College, New Wilmington, Pennsylvania; Brendyn Baptiste, Elk County, Pennsylvania; David and Sheryl Neely, Butler County, Pennsylvania; and Nancy Barta-Smith, Pine Township, Pennsylvania.



Jeff Berta



Brendyn Baptiste and Jeffrey Hall



Nancy Barta-Smith and David Neely



Kathie Goodblood and The "Tweak Speak Cluster Class"
Left to Right;(rear)Matt Younger, Dan Swank, Tim Romecki, Bobby Noble, Jordan Barley, and Justin Wilson
(front) Kathie Goodblood, Ty Ferlin, Rachel Lasecki, Emily Valentine, Macaya Yo, and Baylee Felger

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Student/Senior (62 and above) membership \$15.00

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City

State

Zip

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**Renewing members should use the coupon mailed to them
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