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.

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October 10, 2016-Monday- The Raptor Connection; the Atlantic Flyway and South Texas. The yearly migration of birds is one of the most amazing of natural phenomena, and one of the most dramatic instances is the movement of hawks between their breeding and wintering grounds. Dr. Gene Wilhelm, who has studied migration in the eastern US and in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas, is uniquely qualified to describe how migrating birds of prey tie these two distant areas together. Professor Emeritus at Slippery Rock University, Gene is one of the founders and original members of Bartramian Audubon Society. Dr. Gene Wilhelm has been involved with researching raptors for decades: first as Assistant Ecologist with the University of Missouri studying the Snowy Owl and Gyrfalcon, major predators in the Brown Lemming Ecology Project for four months at Point Barrow, Alaska; to taking many groups in the 1980s and 1990s to historic Hawk Mountain, Pennsylvania and East Africa for identifying raptor ecological niches; to most recently (1998-2010) being International Hawk Watch Master for the Fish & Wildlife Service, U.S .Department of the Interior, at Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge, Alamo, Texas, researching raptor population trends between the Americas.

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Larry Downey, Mathematics Professor at Edinboro University, is a talented photographer of landscapes, birds, and other wildlife. The methods he uses to capture, process, and present his images transform them from photographic records to compelling works of art. Larry will share some of his most beautiful photos with us along with the stories behind them.

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December 12, 2016-Monday- Annual Holiday Potluck and Hog Island Presentation
Come enjoy good food and good company while hearing Adeline Birkes, Brandi Miller-Parrish, and Matthew Mowry describe their trips to Audubon Camp at Hog Island, Maine. Bring a dish to share and your holiday spirit.

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Upcoming Activities

October 8, 2016 – Saturday-Benezette Field Trip
We will be meeting at 8:30 am at the Benezette Hotel (address 95 Winslow Hill Rd Benezette, PA 15821) in the town of Benezette. From there, we will head up to Winslow Hill at SGL 311 about a half a mile away, and we may stop along the way if we see Elk or birds. After stopping at Winslow Hill, we will head down the valley to walk a trail at Porcupine Hollow. The trail is about 1.8 miles long round trip, but we can just see how far we make it, since some people may not want to walk that far. The trail will take us up to a field which is a reliable spot to see Elk. After our walk at Porcupine Hollow, and depending on the time, we can either head to the Benezette Hotel for lunch or to the Elk Country Visitor Center to look at the exhibits there. The visitor center is also a reliable place to see Elk. The trip takes about 2 hours from Slippery Rock. Take I-80 east to exit 101 for PA 255 DuBois/Penfield. Turn left onto PA 255 north toward Penfield. Continue for about 16 miles, then keep right onto PA 555 east toward Weedville. Continue on PA 555 for about 10 miles, then turn left onto Winslow Hill Rd (just after you cross a bridge as soon as you get into town. Follow signs for Winslow Hill.) Continue on Winslow Hill Rd for about 1/10 of a mile, and the Benezette Hotel will be on the left. Meet in the parking lot behind the Benezette Hotel. Field trip should last until about 12pm. We may have lunch at the restaurant at Benezette Hotel depending on interest. Contact Brendyn Baptiste for more information or questions. Phone (724)496-4856 or e-mail brendynbaptiste@yahoo.com.
November 12, 2016-Saturday-Pymatuning State Park
For the Pymatuning field trip, we will meet at the Spillway along Hartstown Rd at 8 am. From there, we will head to the education center and walk a little bit there. After the walk, we will head to the Fish Hatchery and conclude our trip there. Contact Gene Wilhelm at genewilhelm@aol.com for details.

December 17, 2016-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, please contact the Butler CBC compilers Mary Alice Koeneke or Glenn Koppel by e-mail: koenekema@gmail.com; kestral22@hotmail.com; or phone: 703-203-6337 or 703-203-3362 (please leave messages).

January 1, 2017-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

The Sandy Creek Butterfly Count was held July 2. Mostly sunny skies and afternoon highs in the mid 80’s produced a nice variety of butterflies. Participants this year were Glenn Koppel, Mary Alice Koeneke, Harvey, Naomi, Neil, Rachel, Ruth Ann and Samuel Troyer, with Steve Sanford also helping for a period of time at SGL 130. Though the water levels at the swamp were lower than last year very few butterflies were found from the parking area at Triple Link Rd to beyond the wetlands. No Broad-winged Skippers were found, the second consecutive year they were missed. Noteworthy species here included a Northern Pearly Eye, several Eyed Browns and Northern Broken Dash. From here we headed to Reed Furnace, another area at SGL130, where a Harvester was netted by Harvey at the bottom of the hill close to Sandy Creek. Other species of note here included a Gray Comma, Appalachian Brown, and several Mourning Cloaks. At Polk wetlands in Venango County the water levels were very low making walking around the impoundment easy. Baltimore Checkerspots can often be seen here and before we left we had found 5. We also found 15 of the increasingly rare Monarch caterpillars on the abundant milkweed plants in the fields and an Aphrodite Fritillary at this location. The complete list of butterflies is as follows: Eastern Tiger Swallowtail (6), Cabbage White (31), Clouded Sulphur (23), Orange Sulphur (3), Harvester (1), Eastern-Tailed Blue (28), Summer Azure (3), Monarch 17 (includes 1 adult, 15cats, and 1egg), Great Spangled Fritillary (73), Aphrodite Fritillary (1), Meadow Fritillary (3), Pearl Crescent (11), Baltimore Checkerspot (5), Question Mark (3), Eastern Comma (3), Gray Comma (1), Mourning Cloak (2), Red Admiral (5), Viceroy (3), Northern Pearly Eye (1), Eyed Brown (3), Appalachian Brown (1), Common Wood Nymph (6), Silver-spotted Skipper (16), Least Skipper (1), European Skipper (1), Peck’s Skipper (1), Northern Broken Dash (8), Little Glassywing (6), Delaware Skipper (18), Hobomok Skipper (2), Dun Skipper (3).

Totals: 32 Species, 289 individuals. Birds were also listed and a total of 87 species were recorded for the day. Though singing had dropped off considerably we still found Blue-headed Vireo, Winter Wren, Brown Creeper, Blackburnian Warbler, Dark-eyed Junco and more in the hemlocks at Triple Link Rd. A Virginia Rail and Sora were heard in the wetlands, thanks to Steve. At Reed’s Furnace a pair of Chestnut-sided Warblers fed their recently fledged young. Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers were heard from within the forest that surrounded the large clear cut area, and White-eyed Vireos called from the dense brush. Several Broad-winged Hawks called as they circled in the sky above the valley A Magnolia Warbler was a nice find in the hemlocks along Sandy Creek.

Education

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 for use in classrooms in grades 3-6 and includes two- to four-week long projects in the following subject areas:

- **Language Arts:** Audubon Adventures includes writing, reading and speaking activities, using the projects as starting points for work in these subject areas.
- **Mathematics:** Audubon Adventures enlists students in the measurement of objects and events, and the use of mathematics in solving problems.
- **Science:** Audubon Adventures provides hands-on opportunities to explore the natural world and to make observations, formulate hypotheses, and conduct experiments.
- **Social Studies:** Audubon Adventures enables students to understand the natural world in the context of human and natural events.
- **Art:** Audubon Adventures encourages students to represent and interpret their observations of the natural world through art and drawing.
- **Music:** Audubon Adventures can include musical activities using natural soundscapes as inspiration.
- **Visual Learning:** Audubon Adventures includes materials and activities that are easy to learn and use, and that can be adapted to any classroom environment.
Adventures classroom resource kits include printed student resources and online content, as well as teacher access to helpful information and ideas for science-based investigations and other activities. The standards-based content and materials can be integrated across multiple subject areas.

The theme for 2016-17 is “Wild About Birds.” Three learning modules relate to the theme:

- “Owl Prowl,” which introduces the mysterious world of owls and their adaptations.
- “The Watery World of Wading Birds,” which describes waterbirds, the characteristics that help them survive in water habitats, and their role in and dependence on healthy ecosystems.
- “Wild About Birds,” which explores the amazing diversity of birds, and introduces John James Audubon, his art and scientific work.

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. A limited number of sponsored subscriptions will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. Act quickly, so that orders can be placed and materials received early in the school year.

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. Instructors are among the most respected naturalists and environmental educators in the country. Attendees 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, 2017 is now open, and will close on February 28, 2017. 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 presentations by last year’s awardees at our December 12th meeting or see [http://hogisland.audubon.org/programs](http://hogisland.audubon.org/programs)

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. Jennings will offer “Citizen Science is for the Birds,” a public program, on November 6th and “Homeschool CSI: Project FeederWatch and Bird Sleuth” on November 8th for homeschoolers. The center will partner with the chapter in the annual Butler County Christmas Bird Count on December 17 and the Great Backyard Bird Count February 17-20, 2017. 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/](http://events.dcnr.pa.gov/), by e-mailing jenningssp@pa.gov, or calling 724-794-6011.

Odds and Ends

SEPTEMBER

Hours of darkness and light are once again balanced in September, night equals day. Light will slowly retreat after the autumn equinox. September means harvesting, storing, and celebrating the precious gifts of Earth. It is the beginning of the season of completion and contentment. And September is change, change in the atmosphere, the kind of change that leads to first frost, colorful woodlands, and fallen leaves. Colder arctic air masses gradually will dominate the air this month, pushing farther south the hot and dry weather pattern that prevailed during the summer. Watch the sky in September, especially on days after northwesterly winds clear and cool the temperature. These are the favorite times when hawks and eagles of every size and description form “kettles” over the mountains and valleys and glide southwest in their autumn migration to Latin America. Change is also occurring on land. Blue jays convene daily council meetings in the local woodlands and let everybody know it by uttering their boisterous calls. Perhaps these vocal gestures have something to do with determining who among the species will migrate south in a few weeks from those hardy individuals who will remain behind and endure the rigors of winter. On the other hand, chipmunks grow more silent as September wears on, for the reason that most of their energy is devoted to gathering seeds and nuts for their winter food bins. Even the local woodchuck or groundhog munches for longer periods each day on the rich variety of natural and exotic plant foods. First frost will be the final signal for older and fatter woodchucks to prepare for hibernation. Asters, joe-pye-weed, and ironweed still bloom along the country roadsides and the month’s last brood of bees is busy in the nectaries. Male American goldfinches, still bright as yellow swallow-tailed butterflies, scatter ripe thistle down as they harvest the tiny seed. By the end of the month most males will have molted into their drab olive winter plumage. Chickadees and titmice are the first birds to come to twitter in the dooryard, certainly a gentle reminder that soon it will be time for operating the feeding trays. Finally September is a reminder that autumn’s cool shadows already are beginning to reach across the landscape, tentative, wispy as morning mist. It is a reminder that Earth’s grand celebration – unity in diversity of color – will soon involve everything, everywhere in this glorious event.

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 by NAS COZU180Z rev 1/10
7XCH
Upward Informer

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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.

March 13, 2017-Monday- Close To Home
People travel all over the world to enjoy nature and observe birds and other wildlife, but Northwestern Pennsylvanians have many wonderful opportunities to do so right here in our own area—close to home. ’Bartramian Audubon Society President Jeffrey Hall moved to Venango County in 2011. Since then, he’s enjoyed exploring the variety of habitats that NWPA has to offer, learning where and when to look for birds, wildflowers, and butterflies, and discovering new and different things about his new region. He’ll share photos and tales about his experiences. Some of the places, like Jennings Prairie and Presque Isle State Park, may be familiar to almost everyone; others, such as the Sandy Creek Bike Trail, might be less well-known as locations for birding. But all share the advantages of being places where we can enjoy and appreciate nature “close to home.” In addition, Matthew Mowry, a tenth grade honor student at Hickory High School, will briefly tell us about his experiences at the Audubon Camp for Teens in Maine. He is a star-ranked Boy Scout whose troop meetings and summer scout camp activities regularly focus on environmental science. This meeting has been designated “donor’s night” to honor those who contributed to our annual appeal, and special refreshments will be served.

April 10, 2017-Monday- Putting People, Planet, and Plumage First -Dr. Julie Snow, Slippery Rock University Department of Geography, Geology and the Environment.
In 2014, in order to create a project that would have direct impacts on environmental problems, Dr. Julie Snow developed a non-profit coffee company, in partnership with the Smithsonian Migratory Bird Center and Golden Valley Coffee Roasters. Being further developed and run by undergraduate students advised by Dr. Snow, the company sells only triple-certified (bird-friendly, organic, fair trade) products. The project is self-funded, with the proceeds from sales going directly back to a coffee collaborative in Nicaragua to support research, conservation efforts, and education. Current research focuses on rainforest regrowth at coffee farms as a path for carbon sequestration, biodiversity protection, habitat growth for migratory birds, and improved wellness of the Nicaraguan farmers. Dr. Snow will describe the business, show how it supports research, and review the projects that are underway. She also will bring some coffee for tasting and enjoyment.

May 8, 2017-Monday- Monday-Annual Membership Meeting and Awards Night
The Bartramian Audubon Society will be honoring our new Sanctuary members and awarding scholarships at our annual membership meeting and awards night. Join us for an evening of recognition and refreshments.

Upcoming Activities

July 16, 2017-Sunday-Annual Picnic
Two Mile Run County Park in Venango County is the site of this year’s annual picnic. We’ll start grilling between 5:00 and 5:30 pm; arrive around 4:00 for a walk on the trails, or earlier to explore the park on your own. Bring a dish to share and your own place setting. We will provide hot dogs and drinks. The covered Hilltop Pavilion has picnic tables and an outhouse is on site. From the light in downtown Franklin at the intersection of US Route 322 and 13th street, turn north to stay on 322 and proceed across the bridge. Move right to turn onto Route 417 toward Rocky Grove. Drive 6.2 miles on 417, then turn right onto Baker Road (there is a sign for Two Mile Run County Park.) After 1 mile, bear left as Baker Road merges onto Cherrytree Road. Proceed .5 miles on Cherrytree Road (passing by the boat launch) and turn right onto Beach Road. The short dirt road to Hilltop Pavilion is on the left after .2 miles and is marked by a sign.

2017 Field Trips
Contact Brendyn Baptiste for attendance purposes and more details at brendynbaptiste@yahoo.com

Sat. April 22 – Westminster College @ 8am
Sat. April 29 – Wolf Creek Narrows @ 8:30am (Gene Wilhelm)

Sun. May 7 – Buttermilk Hill Nature Sanctuary in Franklin @ 8am
Sat. May 13 – PA Annual Migration Count
Sat. June 10 – Picnic @ McCafferty’s Farm in Saxonburg (BAS members only, pre-registration required. Register by email at bartramianaudubon@gmail.com)
Sat. July 8 – Heart’s Content Recreation Area—Allegheny NF @ 7:30am
Fri. August 18 – Presque Isle SP @ 8am
Activities in Review

Butler CBC, December 17, 2016

.... Mary Alice Koenke and Glenn Koppel, Compilers

The 2016 Butler CBC was held on one of the nastiest weather days that one could choose to watch and count birds. Weather conditions resulted in lower than average counts for most species. The night before the CBC periods of falling snow, and ice created hazardous driving and walking conditions. Morning temperatures began cold and rose throughout the day with rain, drizzle and fog. Many field participants delayed their surveys until 10 AM. Feeder watchers were lucky to be indoors and feeders were active. Despite the terrible weather, participants managed to find 57 species (plus Buteo sp.); 23 fewer species than in 2015 and much lower than the 50-year average of 70 species. The total number of individuals tallied was 5,122 and 1 unidentified hawk (Buteo sp.). Temperatures recorded by compilers ranged between 28°F and 50°F. Consistent cold weather during the days prior to the Butler CBC resulted in very little open water; Lake Arthur within Moraine State Park and local ponds were ice-covered. Most waterfowl species were absent on Count Day and numbers of individuals were lower than average. Only three species were found on the day of the count: Canada Goose (160), Tundra Swan (29) and Mallard (18). However, during the Butler CBC Count Week (14-20 December), eight additional waterfowl species were found at Lake Arthur, Moraine State Park: American Black Duck, Northern Shoveler, Gadwall, Common Goldeneye, Bufflehead, Ruddy Duck, Redhead, and Canvasback. Wild Turkey (129, 50-year avg. 55; 181 in 2015), Bald Eagle (4; 50-year avg. 1.4, 13 in 2015) although low for 2016, are still above their respective 50-year averages. A Golden Eagle, the first in the history of the Butler CBC, a Merlin and a Rough-legged Hawk (1) were also observed during Count Week. The number of owls found during the CBC were average for the count: Eastern Screech Owl (2), Great Horned Owl (3) and Barred Owl (1) and two teams each found a Northern Saw-whet Owl. Red-breasted Nuthatches (8) were found in above average numbers (6 is the 50-yr. avg.) and 2016 was considered to be an irruptive year for this species. Four Sandhill Cranes; 50-year average 0.8, were a nice find. They were last found on the Butler CBC in 2012. Only four sparrow species made the CBC tally. Dark-eyed Juncos (468) were slightly above the 50-year avg. 441; the other three species were all found in lower than average numbers: American Tree Sparrow (108) 50-yr. avg. 525; Song Sparrow (21) 50-year avg. 39; and White-throated Sparrow (25), 50-yr. avg. 62. Only 29 Red-winged Blackbirds were tallied for 2016 and Common Grackles were not found at all. Brown-headed Cowbirds (200) were found in above average numbers (72, 50-yr. avg.). Pine Siskins (6) represented the only irruptive northern finch species during the 2016 Butler CBC and were found in average numbers.

The Birds:

Participation Summary:
23 field individuals in 12 parties totaling 51.25 hours and 21.6 miles on foot; 24.5 hours and 215 miles by car; 4.75 hours and 15 miles owlving; and 12 observers at feeders and 54.25 hours.

The Observers - including their years of participation:
Betty Antal (7), Brendyn Baptiste (3), Beverley Barnett (9), Marcia and Larry Brown (7), Suzanne Butler (33), Gene Butler (23), Martin Carlin (1), Ruth Crawford (34), Dave Darney (21), Debra Darney (22), Charles and Sharon Davis (15), Barbara Davis (2), Barb Dean (21), George Dean (1), Margaret and Roger Higbee (12), Debbie Kalbfleisch (4), Mary Alice Koenke (3), Glenn Koppel (3), Becky Lubold (5), Oscar Miller (2), David Neely (2), Richard Nugent (11), Karen Peterson (1), Cathy Setzer (10), Becky Sheeler (10), Mark Smith (2), Matt Stefanak (1), John Stehle (16), Mark Swansiger (19), Sandee Swansiger (18), Linda Wagner (16), Robert Walczak (2), Joanne Wilhelm (23), Gene Wilhelm (35).

We would like to thank ALL of the participants for giving their time during a busy holiday season and such difficult weather conditions especially the Butler Outdoor Club (John Stehle); The Bird Watchers Store in Slippery Rock (Cathy Setzer) and the Jennings Environmental Education Center (Becky Lubold) who promote the Butler CBC as an activity ...within their venues. We hope you are all looking forward to the Butler CBC on 16 December 2017 - mark your calendars!

Grove City CBC, December 31, 2016

The first annual Grove City Christmas Bird Count was held on cloudy and occasionally snowy New Year’s Eve, 2016 with a nice total of 58 species plus one count week species. This count covers areas from Black, Celery, and Pennsy Swamps in the south to Jackson Center and Lake Latonka in the north. The temperatures ranged from 25 degrees in the early morning hours to a high of 40 degrees in the afternoon. Due to sub-zero
temperatures just two weeks prior to the count, nearly all of
the ponds were frozen, but many of the streams were open
leading to small numbers of waterfowl. This count was es-
specially unique since it was one of the few counts in Pennsyl-
via to host birds like Sandhill Crane, Short-eared Owl, North-
ern Shrike, American Pipit, Lapland Longspur, and Snow
Bunting. Probably the most exciting part of the count would
be the astounding number of 1625 American Tree Sparrows
with about 400 seen at once at the Volant Strips. This count
holds the record number of American Tree Sparrows for North
America and likely a record for the state as well. Another no-
table group of birds was the flock of 200 Horned Larks, 12
American Pipits, 20 Lapland Longspurs, and 100 Snow
Buntings in a field that was being manured along Lake Rd.
Other notable species were 2 Rough-legged Hawks at Lake
Rd, a Red-headed Woodpecker, a Red-breasted Nuthatch, and
19 White-crowned Sparrows all southwest of Mercer, and 2
Pine Siskins at Pennsy Swamp. Overall, this was a great count,
and new participants are welcome to attend this December.

Participants: Brendyn Baptiste, Barbra Dean, George Dean,
Jim Hubenthal, Leslie Hubenthal, Mary Alice Koeneke, Glenn
Koppel, David Neely, Matthew Stefanak, Randy Stringer, Neil
Troyer, Samuel Troyer, Robert Walczak, and Gene Wilhelm.

Species Seen: Canada Goose - 722, Mute Swan - 5, Tundra
Swan - 7, Gadwall - 7, Mallard - 106, Wild Turkey - 82, Great
Blue Heron - 3, Northern Harrier - 3, Sharp-shinned Hawk - 5,
Cooper’s Hawk - 6, Bald Eagle - 4, Red-shouldered Hawk - 5,
Red-tailed Hawk - 73, Rough-legged Hawk - 2, American
Coot - 1, Sandhill Crane - 83, Rock Pigeon - 196, Mourning
Dove - 336, Great Horned Owl - 4, Short-eared Owl - 1, Belt-
ed Kingfisher - CW, Red-headed Woodpecker - 1, Red-bellied
Woodpecker - 26, Downy Woodpecker - 36, Hairy Wood-
pecker - 10, Pileated Woodpecker - 2, American Kestrel - 11,
Merlin - 1, Northern Shrike - 1, Blue Jay - 131, American
Crow - 309, Horned Lark - 426, Black-capped Chickadee -
117, Tufted Titmouse - 65, Red-breasted Nuthatch - 1, White-
breasted Nuthatch - 33, Brown Creeper - 2, Carolina Wren - 2,
Golden-crowned Kinglet - 8, Eastern Bluebird - 52, American
Robin - 12, Northern Mockingbird - 10, European Starling -
162, American Pipit - 12, Cedar Waxwing - 1, Lapland Long-
spur - 20, Snow Bunting - 148, American Tree Sparrow -
1625, Dark-eyed Junco - 598, White-crowned Sparrow - 19,
White-throated Sparrow - 18, Song Sparrow - 27, Swamp
Sparrow - 10, Northern Cardinal - 239, Redbird - 27, House
Finch - 72, Pine Siskin - 2, American Goldfinch - 72, House
Sparrow – 369 ….. Brendyn Baptiste, Compiler

Pleasantville CBC, January 1, 2017

Species Seen: Canada Goose-674, Tundra Swan-2, Wood
Duck-1, Am. Black Duck-83, Mallard-85, Green-winged
Teal-1, Ring-necked Duck-1, Hooded Merganser-8, Common
Merganser-95, Ruffed Grouse-4, Ring-necked Pheasant-1,
Wild Turkey-4, Pied-billed Grebe-1, Great Blue Heron-1,
Sharp-shinned Hawk-1, Cooper’s Hawk-3, Bald Eagle-11,
Red-shouldered Hawk-3, Red-tailed Hawk-37, Rock Pi-
geon-182, Mourning Dove-111, E. Screech Owl-3, Barred
Owl-1, Belted Kingfisher-7, Red-headed Woodpecker-2,
Red-bellied Woodpecker-24, Downy Woodpecker-28, Hairy
Woodpecker-11, Pileated Woodpecker-12, American Kestrel-
1, Blue Jay-608, American Crow-177, Common Raven-3,
Black-capped Chickadee-318, Tufted Titmouse-101, Red-
breasted Nuthatch-6, White-breasted Nuthatch-98, Brown
Creeper-7, Winter Wren-1, Carolina Wren-7, Golden-crowned
Kinglet-16, E. Bluebird-26, Hermit Thrush-2, Am. Robin-56,
Eur. Starling-406, Cedar Waxwing-74, Am. Tree Sparrow-90,
Song Sparrow-5, White-throated Sparrow-25, Dark-eyed Jun-
co-299, N. Cardinal-91, Brown-headed Cowbird-11, Purple
Finch-1, House Finch-35, Pine Siskin-2, Am. Goldfinch-131,
Evening Grosbeak-3, House Sparrow-200.

Total 58 Species

4177 Individuals (highest ever)
1st time on count – Green-winged Teal, Red-headed Wood-
pecker
1st Wood Duck since 1987
Bold number indicates High count for that species.
Bold Species indicates new or unusual species for the count.
Notable species – Red-shouldered Hawk, Am. Kestrel,
Brown-headed Cowbird
Highest number ever for: Am. Black Duck, Mallard, Rock
Pigeon, Blue Jay
2nd highest numbers for: Canada Goose, Belted Kingfisher
(ties), European Starling, House Sparrow
Statistics: 8 species have been seen all 51 years, 8 species
have been seen 50 of 51 years, 18 species have only been seen
on one count (two of which we had this year).
Jan. 1, 2017: 3:15am to 5:00pm. Temp. 25-33F; Snow cover – 3 – 6
in., Still waters frozen, moving waters open; wind 0-10mph; Overcast
until dawn then clear sky & sunshine the rest of the day.
Observers: 18 in field in 8 parties.
Time/distance: 56.5 total party hours; 356 total party miles;
including 14.5 hours & 19 miles on foot and 42 hours & 337
miles by car. Plus 4 hrs and 5.5 miles owling.

Compiler: Russ States
111 East Fourth Street 814-676-6320
Oil City, PA 16301 pabirdr@verizon.net

BAS Field Trip, February 4, 2017

The first BAS avian field trip of the 2017 season was a flying
success on a cold (20 degrees F.), clear, blue sky morning.
Four participants (Brendyn Baptiste, Jim Hubenthal, Leslie
Hubenthal, Gene Wilhelm) braved the challenging tempera-
tures to record 38 species in just two hours. Highlight species
included a Greater White-fronted Goose among 125 Canada
Geese, 34 Sandhill Cranes, and a beautiful dark form of the
Rough-legged Hawk in company with an adult Red-tailed
hawk forcing about 150 Horned Larks in a winter wheat field
to disperse in all directions of the compass. A lone unidenti-
fied falcon probably was an adult male Merlin (too far away)
that has been in the area all winter. Gene Wilhelm, compiler.
Paper-Free Newsletter
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.....Russ States, Membership Chair

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$15.00 BAS Membership fee- includes newsletter
$10.00 Electronic Student Membership

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Bartramian Audubon Society
PO Box 315
Slippery Rock, PA 16057

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

________________________
Name

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Address

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City

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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

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7XCH
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 11, 2017-Monday-Shorebird Identification-Mary Birdsong
Is that a least or semipalmated sandpiper? A greater or lesser yellowlegs? A piping or snowy plover? Help is here! Learn some basic concepts of shorebird anatomy and behavior, what to look and listen for and ways to watch shorebirds to increase your skills and perhaps reduce your frustration. Mary Birdsong is a freelance writer, artist, birder and seasonal shorebird monitor at Presque Isle State Park in Erie, PA. She is active in our sister chapter, Presque Isle Audubon Society. Mary thinks shorebirds are the best birds, hands down. Yes, that is her real name.

October 9, 2017-Monday-Nature in Southern California-Mike Fialkovich
From 234 ft. below sea level at the Salton Sea to just over 8000 ft. above sea level in the San Bernardino Mountains, the Channel Islands and deserts, Southern California has a remarkable variety of habitats and creatures that occupy them. Mike Fialkovich is President of Pennsylvania Society for Ornithology and Bird Reporting Officer for Three Rivers Bird Club in Pittsburgh.

Upcoming Field Trips

2017 Field Trips
Contact Brendyn Baptiste for attendance purposes and more details at brendynbaptiste@yahoo.com

Friday, August 18 – Presque Isle SP at 8am. Meet at the Park office.

Saturday, September 16- Moraine State Park at 8am. Meet under the PA 528 bridge.

Saturday, October 7-State Game Lands #39 Polk Wetlands at 8am. Meet at the parking lot along Polk Cutoff.

Saturday, November 18- Shenango River Reservoir at 8am. Meet at the marina parking lot along PA 528 just east of PA 18.

Activities in Review

May 8, 2017-Annual Membership Meeting and Awards Night
President Jeffrey Hall conducted a short business meeting in which upcoming events were announced before the awards ceremony. Awards were then presented.

THE HELEN R. FERGUSON FUND SCHOLARSHIP IN ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES AT WESTMINSTER COLLEGE PRESENTED TO ALEXA YOHO

Dr. Helen Boylan, Helen Ferguson, Alexa Yoho
Alexa (Lexie) Yoho is a 2014 graduate of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart High School (Coraopolis, PA) and a junior environmental science major at Westminster College. She is the daughter of Bonnie Lewis. Not only is Lexie a strong student from an academic perspective, she is involved in numerous activities: Varsity Volleyball Team, Tiny House Team Member, member of the ALLARM program, President of the Pre-Vet Society, President of the Green Party, President of the Sierra Student Coalition, Vice President of the Volleyball Club, and Student-Athlete Tutoring. Lexie is currently doing an internship with the Lawrence County Conservation District, which she will continue over the summer. She has been selected to participate in Westminster’s “Experience Alaska” mission and service trip this May. Although she is not certain of a career path, Lexie is interested in wildlife conservation.
Nicole Pollock is a postbaccalaureate student who graduated from SRU in 2009 with a B.A. in French and a minor in Art History. In 2016, Nicole returned to SRU to obtain a B.S. in Geography-Environment and Society, a minor in Business Administration and a Sustainability Certificate. In addition to that, she is working as an Assistant to the Secretary in the School of Business. Nicole’s idea for the future is to work with businesses to help them be more environmentally friendly.

Gene and Joanne Wilhelm Scholarship to Attend the “Coastal Maine Avian Studies Program for Teens” Presented to Joshua McCoy

BAS was pleased to announce last fall that Joshua McCoy, a Freeport Area High School sophomore, was chosen by the chapter for its scholarship to attend the Coastal Maine Bird Studies for Teens program at Hog Island Audubon Camp in Maine June 18-23, 2017. National notified the chapter October 20 that Joshua’s credentials were accepted and approved. Over fifty Audubon chapters and ten other teen organizations competed in this year’s prestigious program. Joshua is currently involved in a variety of school-based and other activities besides birds and birding. He has a keen interest in music, being a member of multiple bands at Freeport High School: symphonic, jazz, honors jazz, and marching bands, 2017 County Band, and 2017 Allegheny-Kiski Valley Honors Band. Additionally, he participates in Freeport’s track and cross country teams and enjoys camping, hiking, hunting, and other outdoor activities as a member of Trail Life USA, a scouting-like program that includes outdoor activities and community service projects. He also has been a member of the Civil Air Patrol Cadet program, an auxiliary of the United States Air Force, for nearly four years, participating in five search and rescue missions. Joshua currently holds the rank of Cadet First Lieutenant in the program. Yet, even with all these daily commitments, Joshua still squeezes in time for birds. As he stated in his scholarship application: “Ever since I was young, I’ve had a keen interest in birds. I enjoy even now reading about these fascinating creatures, studying them and photographing them in their natural habitats, then representing them in drawings and paintings (excellent images were attached to Joshua’s application). . . Ultimately, I would like to be a wildlife biologist . . . Like Audubon, I have an interest in mammals and birds, and would enjoy studying both types of animals. I would love teaching others about avian ecology and conservation. It is important to me not only to learn and gain ecological knowledge for myself, but also to pass it onto others, especially students, so that they can continue protecting the many species that still inhabit this biodiverse world.” An incredible, positive goal, Joshua. Good luck this summer in Maine. We look forward to hearing about your Audubon camp experiences in December.

Award for Sustainable Conservation by an Organization Presented to Glade Run Lake Conservancy

Glade Run Lake—in 1955, a dam was built and a small lake was created, primarily for the benefit of anglers. Over the years, the lake and its surroundings provided habitat for fish and other aquatic species, but birds and other animals that live in or near water were attracted to it as well. In 2011, the dam was in danger of failing and the lake had to be drained. Shortly after that, the Glade Run Lake Conservancy was formed with the mission of restoring the lake. After years of dedicated work, including fund-raising, lobbying, and much more, the dam was rebuilt and this year, the lake was fully restored and opened to the public. Improvements in habitat features of the lake itself and adjacent lands have already paid off—a native wildflower planting has replaced a lawn, an osprey nesting platform is going up, perhaps to the delight of the ospreys that have already been spotted over the lake, and canoeists and kayakers have been joined by hooded mergansers paddling in the water.
AWARD FOR SUSTAINABLE CONSERVATION BY A BUSINESS PRESENTED TO ALWAYS SUMMER HERBS
JEFF BERTA, OWNER

Always Summer Herbs was formed in 1997 to provide flowers and herbs to commercial garden centers. In 2002, they expanded to honey. Recognizing the threats to honeybees, owner Jeff Berta became involved in research and received a number of USDA sustainable agriculture research experiment grants for his work on the Queen Bee improvement project. He chairs the Pennsylvania project and works with many cooperative organizations as well as Purdue University to develop bees that are naturally resistant to mites and other threats to their wellbeing.

AWARD FOR SUSTAINABLE CONSERVATION BY INDIVIDUALS PRESENTED TO KERRI DUERR AND BRAD WEAVER

Jeffrey Hall, Kerri Duerr, and Brad Weaver

The award for Sustainable Conservation by Individuals was presented to Kerri Duerr and Brad Weaver of Westminster College for their interdisciplinary approach to teaching Ornithology and the Essentials of Digital Media. Their students became knowledgeable about birds and communicated what they had learned through blogging. They worked as citizen scientists (for example, the Great Backyard Bird Count) and contributed to online databases. In addition, there was a community service aspect to the course as the students successfully worked to establish the Westminster College campus as an Audubon Certified Wildlife Sanctuary.

Quotation from a student’s blog: “Leaving the legacy of an Audubon-certified Sanctuary at the school would be a point of pride for me. In 20 years when I come back for a reunion, I’ll be able to take my friends and family out to the College Woods and show off the work I did as an undergraduate. I will also be able to share the experience of birding that I had in the Tweetspeak cluster, and be able to call myself part of a massive community of environmentalists.”

NEW SANCTUARIES


Robert McCafferty

Dixie, Robert, and Bob Lipnichan
Paper-Free Newsletter
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