



Upland Informer

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Official Newsletter of the Bartramian Audubon Society

Dec08JanFebMar09

Editors... Suzanne Butcher and Nancy Baker

Check us out online at <http://bartramianaudubon.org/>



Upcoming BAS Membership Meetings

.....Kathie Goodblood, acting program chair

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

March 9, 2009- Monday: Dragonflies and Damselflies- Larry Rosche. Co-author of "Dragonflies and Damselflies of Northeastern Ohio" Larry Rosche will give a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the lives of some of the dragonflies and damselflies found in our region. Come learn about these beautiful insect- eating insects.

April 13, 2009- Monday: New Mexico: Birding Wonderland? Scott Stoleson, Ph.D.-Research Wildlife Ecologist with the US Forest Service's Northern Research Station in Warren, PA. When most hard-core birders think of great states to tally a long list, they think California, Arizona, Texas, or maybe Florida. In this talk, Scott will try to convince you that land-locked New Mexico deserves equal or higher standing as a first-class birding destination. He will give an ecologically-based tour of New Mexico's diverse avifauna, along with some personal anecdotes and experiences that may help to explain how a formerly hard-core New Englander fell in love with the "Land of Enchantment".

May 11, 2009-Monday: Annual Awards Night- Please join us for our annual awards night. The Bartramian Audubon Society will be honoring individuals, organizations, or businesses that have made a significant contribution to the local Audubon cause. Scholarships will be presented and new members of the BAS Bird and Butterfly and Wildlife Sanctuary Programs will receive their sanctuary signs.



Upcoming Field Trips/Activities

May 1, 2, & 3, 2009 – 3rd Annual Oil Region Birding and Nature Festival – Register now – See accompanying information.

Saturday, May 9, 2009 The second Saturday of every May is the annual **Pennsylvania Migration Count**. Count within the bounds of any county in the US. Just keep track of species and numbers of each. You are out in the field on that day anyway, so keep counting. Contact Russ States pabirder@verizon.net for more information.

July 25, 2009, 10:00 a.m. – Garden Tour at a BAS Wildlife Sanctuary Buttermilk Hill Nature Sanctuary is a 462-acre privately owned sanctuary in Venango County. Tour and learn more about organic vegetable and fruit gardening. After viewing the vegetable garden we will turn our attention to the bird and butterfly garden. We will spend lunch time observing the birds & butterflies in the garden (please bring a bag lunch). Jerry and Kathie will share some of their methods of growing native plants for wildlife. For directions call Kathie at 814-432-4496 or email larkwren@hughes.net.

Birding Festival

May 1-3, Friday-Sunday -Third Annual Oil Region Bird & Nature Festival. Friday outdoor events will include "The Birds and the Trees" with Kathie Goodblood and Ty Ryan and a "Program on Owls with an Owl Prowl" with Gary Edwards. Saturday morning outdoor events include a "Guided Bird Walk at Two Mile Run County Park" with Gary Edwards or a "Guided Bird Walk at Oil Creek State Park" with Kathie Goodblood. Afternoon workshops include "Developing and Improving Your Birding Skills" with Kathie Goodblood or "Bats of Pennsylvania" with Tim Hoppe; "The Wonderful World of Warblers with Gary Edwards, or "Alien or Native Species" with Ty Ryan; "An Introduction to Pennsylvania's Amphibians and Reptiles" with Dr. Kurt Register or "Butterflies" with Chuck Teague. After a "Flock and Mingle" reception there will be a "Birder's Banquet" with special guest Don Riepe, Retired Manager of the Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge who will present the program, "The Jamaica Bay Wildlife Refuge, an Urban Oasis for Wildlife and People". Grand prize winners of the art contest for area students will then be announced. Sunday outdoor programs include a choice of a "Guided Bird walk at Buttermilk Hill Nature Sanctuary" with Jerry Stanley, "Birding Basics- a Guided Walk at BHNS for Beginners" with Kathie Goodblood, , or a "Guided Bird Walk at Two Mile Run Park" with Gary Edwards and Don Riepe. You may register for one or all of the programs but space is limited and preference will be given to first registrants. Events/Activities range from \$15 to \$25 dollars with the total package costing \$119.00. Please visit www.oilregion.org or call the Oil Region Alliance for more information at 800 483-6264.



BAS Activities in Review

....Nancy Baker

November 2008 Membership Meeting

Joanne and Gene Wilhelm presented the program at our November meeting. Joanne described her work with the Junior Duck stamp competition at the Santa Ana Wildlife Refuge. Gene shared slides of the special birds and wildlife of the re-

fuge. PA Audubon Director Phil Wallis and Director of Development Bob Wallis joined us for the evening. Refreshments were provided by Cathy Setzer, Gary Uber, and Elizabeth Wilson.



Joanne Wilhelm, Phil Wallis, and November meeting attendees

December 2008 Potluck

Scholarship winners Brittainie Smith, Nancy Lendyak, and Amanda Seibel presented the program at our December meeting. All enjoyed hearing of their experiences and the delicious food afterwards.

43rd Pleasantville CBC, Jan. 4, 2009

.....Russ States, compiler

Jan. 4, 2009: 3:00am to 5:00pm. Temp. 15-39F; Snow cover – 1+”, Still waters frozen, moving waters open; wind 0-2mph; clear in am; overcast/light rain in pm.

Observers: 20 in field in 10 parties, plus one feeder watcher.

Time/distance: 58 total party hours; 388.5 total party miles; including 10 hours & 12 miles on foot and 48 hours & 376.5 miles by car. Plus 4 hrs and 7 miles owling.

The Birds: Pied-billed Grebe-1, Great Blue Heron – 1, Canada Goose – 511, Tundra Swan-1, Am Black Duck-24, Mallard-27, **Ring-necked Duck-1**, Common Merganser – 77, Bald Eagle – 6, Sharp-shinned Hawk-3, Cooper’s Hawk –3, Red-shouldered Hawk-4, Red-tailed Hawk –29, Ruffed Grouse – 11, Wild Turkey-48, Rock Pigeon – 21, Mourning Dove –179, E. Screech Owl –7, Great Horned Owl – 1, Barred Owl –2, **N. Saw-whet Owl- 1**, Belted Kingfisher –4, Red-bellied Woodpecker – 14, Downy Woodpecker – 37, Hairy Woodpecker – 16, N. Flicker –1, Pileated Woodpecker – 15, **N. Shrike-1**, Blue Jay – 210, Am. Crow – 142, Common Raven –6, Black-capped Chickadee – 386, Tufted Titmouse – 98, Red-breasted Nuthatch -13, White-breasted Nuthatch – 124, Brown Creeper –10, Carolina Wren –9, Winter Wren-2, Golden-crowned Kinglet –20, E. Bluebird –11, Hermit Thrush – 6, Am. Robin –6, **N. Mockingbird-1**, Eur. Starling – 349, Am. Tree Sparrow – 87, Song Sparrow –11, **Fox Sparrow-1**, White-throated Sparrow – 34, Dark-eyed Junco –514, N. Cardinal – 106, Purple Finch-14, House Finch –37, **White-winged Crossbill-38**, Pine Siskin-406, Am. Goldfinch – 379, House Sparrow –47.

Total – 52 species. 3524 individuals.

Total 56 species (2nd highest) + 1 count week sp. (Cedar Waxwing), 4163 Individuals (Highest ever), Bold number indicates High count for that species. Bold Species indicates new

or unusual species for the count. 1st time on count for Fox Sparrow. 2nd time on count for N. Saw-whet Owl & Ring-necked Duck. 3rd time on count for N. Mockingbird & White-winged Crossbill. Last time N. Saw-whet Owl was on count was the 1966 CBC (the first count for Pleasantville). Highest numbers for: Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, Common Raven (ties), White-winged Crossbill, Pine Siskin & Am. Goldfinch 2nd highest numbers for: Common Merganser, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper’s Hawk, Wild Turkey, Mourning Dove, Hairy Woodpecker (ties). Hermit Thrush (ties), N. Cardinal, & Dark-eyed Junco, 3rd highest numbers for: Canada Goose, Red-breasted Nuthatch, & Eur. Starling.

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

Thanks to all who participated and hope to see you next year

Butler CBC Report - December 20 2008

.....Suzanne Butcher

The Butler CBC, celebrating forty-three years of counting for the National Audubon Society, was held Saturday, December 20th from 5am to 4pm. As the December 20th date of the Butler CBC was approaching, I was only hoping for two things- first that the weather would cooperate and second that we would be able to add White-winged Crossbills - certainly this year’s most celebrated irruptive winter visitor - to our count list. Friday’s weather with snow, freezing rain and generally icy conditions was foreboding but as the temperature rose by evening, the roads had cleared by Saturday morning for one of the group of early owlers - Ruth Crawford, Mary Beth Edwards, and Veda DePaepe – to begin their day at 5:30 am. And while the daylight hours of count day were overcast and cold with recorded temperatures by participants ranging from a low of 18° to a high of 29°, the arctic blast of blustery weather, plummeting temperatures, incredible low wind chill factors,



Mary Beth Edwards, Ruth Crawford, and Veda DePaepe

and snow obligingly held off until Sunday. The 12 field parties offered various opinions as to abundance of both birds and food but most agreed with the much discussed paucity of the nut crops

this winter while noting the widespread availability of crabapples still on the trees and berries still numerous on poison ivy vines. Dogwood fruit was mostly gone but rose hips were still

available. Some said the birds were hunkering down and hard to find, but sizable mixed feeding flocks as noted by Barb and George Dean were also located. Water was mostly open and this gave the Lake Arthur/Moraine State Park field groups an advantage in totaling numbers of species and greatly benefited the total number recorded for the day. Gene Wilhelm reported from this location that the water birds seemed to be on the move – perhaps in response to the approaching wintery blast- and even many of us away from the benefits of the lake were able to add Tundra Swans to our individual party count. Nancy Baker and I were certainly happy to see the V formation overhead from our location. The total species tally of 88 was the fourth highest for the count and well above the last twenty-five year average of 70 species. Now for the birds- The Common Raven initially found by independent birders Shirley Mutts and Bob Hudson and reported to members of the CBC group, was upgraded from a former count week species in 1982 to a new count day species this year. Gene Wilhelm's unexpected Blue-headed Vireo at Wolf Creek Narrows was also a new count species. And yes- we did have White-winged Crossbills when Linda Wagner, and Margaret and Roger Higbee found a roving group of 28 crossbills along Frew Mill Road in Lawrence County close to Camp Agawam. Their only previous appearance on the count was in 1981. Mark Vass's report of Mute Swan and a Long-tailed Duck and Debra Darney's sightings of Ruby-crowned Kinglet and Rough-legged Hawk reserved their places as count week birds. Now here is the complete list- the 2 birds new to the count are designated **NC**, new highs counts(and ties) totaling seventeen, are designated **HC**, and the four count week birds not included in the totals are designated **cw**.



The Birds: Snow Goose-23, Canada Goose-869 ("Lesser" subspecies-2), Mute Swan-**cw**, Tundra Swan- 1482 **HC**, Gadwall-124 **HC** C, American Wigeon-2, American Black Duck-110 **HC**, Mallard-118, Northern Pintail-2, Green-winged Teal-3 **HC**, Canvasback-55, Redhead-29 **HC**, Ring-necked Duck-13, Greater Scaup-3, Lesser Scaup-27, Long-tailed Duck- **cw**, Bufflehead-49, Common Goldeneye-5, Hooded Merganser-77, Red-breasted Merganser-1, Ruddy Duck-339, Ring-necked Pheasant-4, Ruffed Grouse-1, Wild Turkey-66, Common Loon-69 **HC**, Horned Grebe-1, Great Blue Heron-5, Bald Eagle-8 (7-ad.,1-im.) **HC**, Northern Harrier-4, Sharpshinned Hawk-3, Cooper's Hawk-4, Red-shouldered Hawk-4, Red-tailed Hawk-46, Rough-legged Hawk- **cw**, American Kestrel-12, American Coot-191, Bonaparte's Gull-11, Ring-billed Gull-312, Herring Gull-39 **HC**, Rock Pigeon-691, Mourning Dove-702, Eastern Screech-Owl-9 - **HC** Great Horned Owl-6, Barred Owl-2, Belted Kingfisher-7, Red-headed Woodpecker-1, Red-bellied Woodpecker-82 **HC**, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker-3, Downy Woodpecker-111, Hairy Woodpecker-38, Northern Flicker-14, Pileated Woodpecker-25 **HC**, Blue-headed Vireo-1 **NC**, Blue Jay-258, American Crow -200, Common Raven-1**NC**, Horned Lark -117, Black-capped Chickadee-421, Tufted Titmouse -167, Red-breasted Nuthatch-11, White-breasted Nuthatch-102, Brown Creeper-12, Carolina Wren-31, Winter Wren-2, Golden-

crowned Kinglet-25, Ruby-crowned Kinglet- **cw**, Eastern Bluebird-230 **HC**, Hermit Thrush-1, American Robin-101, Northern Mockingbird-5 **HC**, European Starling-1274, Cedar Waxwing-44, Yellow-rumped Warbler-4, Eastern Towhee-1, American Tree Sparrow-243, Field Sparrow-2, Song Sparrow-67, Swamp Sparrow-4, White-throated Sparrow-118, Dark-eyed Junco-678 (1 Oregon), Lapland Longspur-7, Northern Cardinal-319 **HC**, Red-winged Blackbird-21, Eastern Meadowlark-9 **HC tie**, Common Grackle-27, Brown-headed Cowbird-44, Purple Finch-84 **HC**, House Finch-162, White-winged Crossbill-28 **HC**, Pine Siskin-68, American Goldfinch-260, House Sparrow-498.

Total Species: 88 and Total individuals: 11,449

Observers: 38 in 12 field parties; 27.5 hours and 21.75 miles on foot; 47.5 hours and 491.75 miles by car plus 19 watchers at feeders for 59 hours; 6.0 hours and 26.5 miles owling.

Total Party Hours: 75 and Total Party Miles: 513.5.

We are most grateful to the many dedicated volunteers who faithfully reserve the date, year after year, to offer their services in a most cooperative way to cover the circle and make the count a resounding success. While individual volunteers like Helen Ferguson, counting for the 36th time are the heart and soul of the CBC's, we are also gladdened to now have the participation of John Stehle and his members of the Butler Outdoor Club, Cathy Setzer of the Birdwatchers Store, and this year Becky Lubold, staff member of Jennings Environmental Education Center with her group of feeder watchers. We also welcome the new counters Jonathan Barcaskey age 7-counting with his grandfather Jim, and Beverly Barnett, Tom Baungardner, Hugh Blackburn, Donna Collett, Jim Gray, Cindy Hockenberry, Dale Hockenberry, Melissa Little, Becky Lubold, Oscar Miller, Melissa Smith, Gary Uber, and Dorothy Weisberg, all counting for the first time. Our deepest thanks go out to all of you for your years () of participation and to those designated count supporter, **CS**, for their monetary support as well.

The 57 Counters: Dave Adams (2), Nancy Baker (7), Jim Barcaskey (6 **CS**), Jonathan Barcaskey (1)*, Beverly Barnett (1), Tom Baungardner (1), Carol Bickel (2), Steve Bickel (3), Hugh Blackburn (1), Jim Blain (3), Nancy Blain (3), Kate Brydon (17), Gene Butcher (17 **CS**), Suzanne Butcher (24 **CS**), Donna Collett (1), Ruth Crawford (26), Dave Darney (13), Debra Darney (14), Barbara Davis (10), Charles Davis (8 **CS**), Sharon Davis (8 **CS**), Barb Dean (13), George Dean (11), Veda DePaepe (8), Mary Beth Edwards (8), Helen Ferguson (36), Jim Gray (1 **CS**), Margaret Higbee (4), Roger Higbee (4), Cindy Hockenberry (1 **CS**), Dale Hockenberry (1 **CS**), Robert Jamison (3), Sally Jamison (9), Melissa Little (1), Becky Lubold of Jennings Environmental Education Center (1), Barbara Michalowski (3), Oscar Miller (1 **CS**), Richard Nugent (4 **CS**), Melanie Petridis (7), Bob Pietz (4), Judy Pietz (4), Janet Powell (1), Arthur Richards (6), Cathy Setzer of the Birdwatchers Store (2), Becky Sheeler (5), Melissa Smith (1), John Stehle of the Butler Outdoor Club (8), Mark Swansiger (12) Sandee Swansiger (12), Gary Uber (1 **CS**), Bob VanNewkirk (3 **CS**), Linda Wagner (8), Robert Walczak (13 **CS**), Dorothy Weisberg (1), Gene Wilhelm (28 **CS**), Joanne Wilhelm (16 **CS**), and Joan Wilver (24) *age 7.

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

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

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



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Membership Reminder

.....Russ States, Membership Chair

We welcome the many of you who have recently joined Bartramian Audubon Society.

As a reminder, the expiration date of your membership with the BAS should be on your address label. Please renew in a timely fashion as to not miss future newsletters. If you have any questions about your membership status, feel free to contact the membership chair, Russ States - pabirder@verizon.net.

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

Bartramian Audubon Society Associate and Newsletter Application

Please check below

_____ \$15.00 BAS associate fee- includes newsletter

_____ \$5.00 newsletter only

Please send this form along with your **name and address** with payment to the:

Bartramian Audubon Society
PO Box 315
Slippy Rock, PA 16057

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

National Audubon Society 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

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