

Upland Informer

Volume 28 Issue 3

Official Newsletter of the Bartramian Audubon Society

Winter Spring 2010

Editor- Nancy Baker

Check us out online at www.bartramianaudubon.org



Upcoming BAS Membership Meetings

....Kathie Goodblood, acting program chair

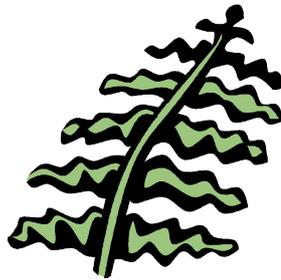
Our membership meetings are held the second Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Jennings Environmental Education Center, 2961 Prospect Road, Slippery Rock, PA. The Education Center is located on Rt. 528 just west of its junction with Rt. 8- about five miles south of Slippery Rock. The meetings are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

March 8, 2010-Monday-Visit the Galapagos Islands

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

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

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



May 10, 2010-Monday-BAS Annual Awards Night

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



Upcoming Field Trips/Activities

June 6, 2010-Sunday-BAS Annual Picnic-4:00-7:00 P.M.

Our hosts for this year's picnic are BAS sanctuary owners Dan and Pat Call at 117 Katie Way, Chicora/Butler. BAS will provide hot dogs and soft drinks, please bring a dish to share and your own place setting. Bring a folding chair if you have one. We will eat at 5:00, but come early so you can go for a walk. Directions from 422: take the PA-68/Jefferson St. exit. Turn left onto PA-68. Turn left onto PA-38/Oneida Valley Road. Proceed to 1201 Oneida Valley Road/Ball's Beer Distributing. Right after this is Katie Way and a mail box marked 117. Look for the BAS Picnic signs. For more information contact Kathie Goodblood at 814-432-4496 or larkwren@hughes.net.



Field of View

....Kathie Goodblood, President

Believe it or not spring is just around the corner. It is time to set aside some time to get your bird nest boxes ready for the cavity nesting birds in your yard. First you will want to check the condition of your boxes. Make any needed repairs or even replace ones that will not provide proper shelter. Second remove any debris or old nests. Some people put a little sawdust or wood shavings in the bottom of the box, to give the birds a head start. Third check the post to be sure it is sturdy.

The fourth and very important thing is to check that your baffle predator guard is in good shape and secure. If you don't have a baffle type predator guard on your bird box post, then this a good time to install one. I have monitored nest boxes for 25 years and have found that this type of predator guard is the only one that protects the nest 100% of the time from raccoons, snakes and chipmunks. These can be purchased at just about any bird feeding store. They can also be made with flashing or stove pipe and wire. Also, Bartramian Audubon will be selling these predator guards at our members meeting this spring. Remember we want our bird friends to have a safe and dry home to raise their young. Finally, sit back with your binoculars and wait for the birds to come and inspect your boxes. Bluebirds will be investigating nest boxes by the time you receive this newsletter. Happy bird watching.



Activities in Review

November 9, 2009 Membership Meeting Butterfly Gardening with Jodi Hopper



....Nancy Baker

Jodi Hopper, owner-operator of Wish Upon a Butterfly, presented the program at our November meeting. She covered the do's and don'ts of butterfly gardening, as well as bringing along some delightful visitors!

December 14, 2009 Holiday Potluck

....Nancy Baker



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

Butler CBC Report - December 19, 2009

...Suzanne Butcher, compiler Butler CBC

The Butler CBC covering a 15 mile diameter circle and including parts of Butler, Lawrence, and Mercer Counties was held on December 19, 2009 under cold and snowy conditions. The overnight snow produced a ground cover of 2-4 inches and back road driving was treacherous. For the old timers, the birding was reminiscent of the counts in the 1980's and early

1990's when each added bird was a struggle against the elements. The temperatures remained in the low twenties and still water was only partly open but with perseverance and determination, the 30 observers in the 12 field parties and the 19 feeder watchers totaled a count of 60 species and 7168 individuals. Both of these relatively low numbers also reflect the counts of previous cold and wintery decades. However, count week observations-**cw** by Marcia Brown, Debbie Darney, and Mark Vass added 10 additional species bringing the list to a more average number of birds.

The Birds:

Canada Goose-440, Tundra Swan- **cw**, American Black Duck-5, Mallard-45, Northern Pintail-2, Ring-necked Duck- **cw**, Hooded Merganser- **cw**, Ruddy Duck- **cw**, Wild Turkey-124, Horned Grebe- **cw**, Great Blue Heron-3, Bald Eagle-2, Northern Harrier-1, Sharp-shinned Hawk-4, Cooper's Hawk-7, Northern Goshawk-1, Red-shouldered Hawk-4, Red-tailed Hawk-21, Rough-legged Hawk-1, American Kestrel-12, American Coot-39, Ring-billed Gull-27, Herring Gull-1, Rock Pigeon-478, Mourning Dove-441, Eastern Screech-Owl-1, Great Horned Owl-1, Barred Owl-2, Belted Kingfisher-3, Red-bellied Woodpecker-53, Downy Woodpecker-79, Hairy Woodpecker-28, Northern Flicker-5, Pileated Woodpecker-5, Blue Jay-184, American Crow-117, Horned Lark-157, Black-capped Chickadee-195, Tufted Titmouse -110, Red-breasted Nuthatch-2, White-breasted Nuthatch-75, Brown Creeper-5, Carolina Wren-8, Winter Wren-2, Golden-crowned Kinglet-16, Eastern Bluebird-67, Hermit Thrush- **cw**, American Robin-1061, Northern Mockingbird-2, European Starling-903, Cedar Waxwing-104, Yellow-rumped Warbler-**cw**, Eastern Towhee-1, American Tree Sparrow-336, Fox Sparrow- **cw**, Song Sparrow-48, Swamp Sparrow-3, White-throated Sparrow-66, Dark-eyed Junco-837, Northern Cardinal-296, Red-winged Blackbird- **cw**, Rusty Blackbird-10, Purple Finch-8, House Finch-64, Pine Siskin-1, American Goldfinch-205, House Sparrow-427.

Total Species: 50 and Total individuals: 7168

Observers:

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

Total Party Hours: 61 and Total Party Miles: 406

We are most grateful to the many dedicated volunteers who faithfully reserve the date, year after year, to offer their services in a most cooperative way to cover the circle and make the count a resounding success. While long time individual volunteers are the heart and soul of the CBC's, we are also gladened to now have the participation of John Stehle and his members of the Butler Outdoor Club (BOC), Cathy Setzer and her employees of the Birdwatchers Store (BWS), and Becky Lubold, staff member of Jennings Environmental Education Center and the welcomed new counters - Larry and Marcia Brown, Al Cooper, Bill Klobetanz, George Moser, Christy Tichy, and Joe Young. Our deepest thanks go out to all of you for your years of participation and to Larry and Marcia Brown, Suzanne Butcher, and Judy and Robert Pietz for their financial support as well.



....Ruth Crawford, counting for 27 years

The 49 Counters with their years () of participation:

Nancy Baker (8) Beverly Barnett (2), Tom Baungardner (2) (B0C), Steve Bickel (4) (B0C), Jim Blain (4), Nancy Blain (4), Larry Brown(1), Marcia Brown(1), Gene Butcher (18), Suzanne Butcher (25), Al Cooper (1), Linda Cooper (3), Ruth Crawford (27), Dave Darney (14), Debra Darney (15), Barbara Davis (11), Charles Davis (9), Sharon Davis (9), Barb Dean (14), George Dean (12), Margaret Higbee (5), Roger Higbee (5), Robert Jamison (4), Sally Jamison (10), Bill Klobetanz (1) (B0C), Linda Lenz (2), Henry Lenz (2), Becky Lubold of Jennings Environmental Education Center (2), Robert Madjaric(7), Berenice Madjaric (5), Reenie Merlino(1)(BWS), George Moser(1) (B0C), Bob Pietz (5), Judy Pietz (5), Arthur Richards (7), Cathy Setzer of the Birdwatchers Store (3), Dawn Smith (1)(BWS), John Stehle of the Butler Outdoor Club (9), Mark Swansiger (13) Sandee Swansiger (13), Christy Tichy(1), Gary Uber (2), Linda Wagner (9), Robert Walczak (14), Dorothy Weisberg (2) (B0C), Gene Wilhelm (29), Joanne Wilhelm (17), Joan Wilver (25), Joe Young(1).

Pleasantville CBC Report, January 3, 2010

...Russ States, compiler

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

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

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

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

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



Odds And Ends

Discovery Trunk



Don’t forget about our Discovery Trunk! With grant money from the National Audubon Society and Audubon PA we have developed a Discovery Trunk called Our Feathered Friend Field Kit. This trunk includes a wide variety of hands-on materials that the classroom educator can use to teach students about birds and the environment in our area. This trunk is appropriate for grade levels 3 through 6, and can also be used by home school groups, 4H groups, and Scouts. For more information about this fun learning tool contact our education chair Elizabeth Wilson at 724-924-2045 or ewtracker@zoominternet.net.

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

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Paper-Free Newsletter

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

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

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



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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., Slippery Rock, PA 16057-1145.

Bartramian Audubon Society Associate and Newsletter Application

Please check below

_____ \$15.00 BAS associate fee- includes newsletter

_____ \$5.00 newsletter only

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

**Bartramian Audubon Society
PO Box 315
Slippery 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

Name

Address

City

State

Zip

Please send this form with payment to

**National Audubon Society
P.O. Box 422250
Palm Coast, FL 32142-2250**

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

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