



Upland Informer

Volume 31 Issue 2

Official Newsletter of the Bartramian Audubon Society

Spring 2013

Editor- Nancy Baker

Check us out online at www.bartramianaudubon.org



Upcoming BAS Membership Meetings

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

March 11, 2013-Monday-All About Bluebirds

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

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

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

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

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



Upcoming Field Trips/Activities

May 11, 2013-Saturday-The Pennsylvania Migration Count

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

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

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

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

June 2, 2013-Sunday-BAS Annual Picnic

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



Activities in Review

December 30, 2012 - 47th Pleasantville CBC

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

Total 52 Species

3982 Individuals

Bold number indicates High count for that species.

Bold Species indicates new or unusual species for the count.

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

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

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

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

1st time on count for Horned Lark

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

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

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

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

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

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

Compiler: Russ States

111 East Fourth Street 814-676-6320

Oil City, PA 16301 pabirder@verizon.net

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

*** Thanks to all who participated in the count this year. Hope to see you again next year***

russ

Butler CBC Report - December 15, 2012

..Suzanne Butcher, compiler Butler CBC



White-winged Crossbill- Photo by Danielle Murphy

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

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

The Birds:

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

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

Total Species: 99 and Total Individuals: 7689

The Observers:

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

Photo by Barb Dean



Odds and Ends

Audubon Adventures

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

ABC Bird Tape

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

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

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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 by the sanctuary chair in June each year. The \$15.00 or more per sanctuary checks should be made payable to BAS but mailed to Gene Wilhelm, 513 Kelly Blvd., Slippery Rock, PA 16057-1145.

**Bartramian Audubon Society
Associate and Newsletter Application**

Please check below

_____ \$15.00 BAS associate fee- includes newsletter

_____ \$5.00 newsletter only

Please send this form along with your **name, address, and e-mail** with payment to the:

Bartramian Audubon Society
PO Box 315
Slippery Rock, PA 16057

**National Audubon Society
Membership Application**

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

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

Name

Address

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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

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