



Upland Informer

Volume 32 Issue 1

Official Newsletter of the Bartramian Audubon Society

Fall 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.

October 14, 2013-Monday-As the Crow Flies

For centuries folklore has often portrayed the crow as an omen of bad tidings. Only recently, however, scientists have discovered there are many traits shared by both humans and crows. Join Jennings staff for this 90 minute indoor presentation that will explore the fascinating yet often misunderstood life of the common crow. Being social birds, crows mate for life, live in family units, and mourn the deaths of fellow crows. Modern science has proven that crows are able to think, plan and reconsider their actions. These intelligent animals use tools to access food, recognize individual humans, even years after an encounter, and mimic noises of other animals including human voices. Truly exceptional animals, crows are some of the smartest birds on earth.

November 11, 2013-Monday-Down the Shore -Winter Birdlife in Coastal New Jersey

When New Jerseyans head to the Atlantic Ocean beaches to swim, sunbathe, and walk on the boardwalk, they say they are going "down the shore." When winter comes, the summertime throngs are replaced by cold winds and solitude. But the beach is not abandoned-the nature lover who ventures "down the shore" in this season finds it given over to Harlequin Ducks, Purple Sandpipers, Snowy Owls, and other avian visitors. BAS vice president Jeff Hall, who has made over 100 presentations over the last twenty years, will share this digital program.

December 9, 2013-Monday-Bartramian Audubon Society's Annual Holiday Potluck and Hog Island Presentation

Come enjoy good food and good company while hearing about Shayne Garcia-Bish's trip to Audubon Camp at Hog Island, Maine. Bring a dish to share and your holiday spirit.



Upcoming Field Trips/Activities

Learn about your BAS wildlife sanctuaries this fall, explore their dynamic natural habitats, and discover their rich vegetation and wildlife with a knowledgeable guide.

October 5, 2013-Saturday-West Park

New Castle, PA across from the local airport. Highlight: Wetland, forest, and field habitats present diversified wild plants and birds.

November 9, 2013-Saturday-Old Stone House Forest

At the junction of Routes 8-173-258. Highlight: Explore an old deciduous forest and learn about a stream reclamation process.

December 21, 2013-Saturday-Annual Christmas Bird Count centered at Lake Arthur

This count is a part of the Butler Christmas Bird Count. Highlight: All birders, from neophyte to expert, are welcome to try breaking the 2012 record of avian species. Spend at least two hours with birding experts for an unforgettable experience of a lifetime.

The above trips start at 8:30 A.M., dress for the weather, and bring enthusiasm. Contact Gene Wilhelm at genewilhelm@aol.com or phone 724-794-2434 for directions and other details. Bring family and friends and get immersed in birds.

December 21, 2013-Saturday-Butler CBC

The center of the fifteen mile diameter of the count circle is located approximately 1.5 miles east of the junction of Lindy Road and Rt. 528. Lake Arthur, Moraine State Park, McConnell's Mill, Wolf Creek Narrows and the campus of Slippery Rock University are within the circle. If you are interested in participating, either by being a feeder watcher or field observer, contact Suzanne Butcher at 330-759-1945 (leave messages) or sarbird@hotmail.com.

BAS and Jennings will have a feeder watching station for the Butler CBC at Jennings Environmental Center from 10:00 A.M. until 12:00 Noon. Anyone who is interested is welcome to attend this free, informal birding session.

December 29, 2013-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.

February 2014 GBBC

Jennings will offer two events during the Great Backyard Bird Count. In its 17th year, the GBBC is hosted by the National Audubon Society and Cornell Lab of Ornithology in partnership with Bird Studies Canada (<http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/>). Participants in these events will learn from Jennings' staff the basics of bird identification, observe and count birds at the feeders, and be introduced to the use of the GBBC website for submitting data and obtaining information. They will be encouraged to use their new skills to observe birds and submit their own data at home. Representatives of the Bartramian Audubon Society will be on hand to provide assistance.

February 14, 2014-Friday

A program for homeschooling families will feature hands-on discovery centers and allow parents and their children to work together to learn about, observe, and count birds for the GBBC. The program is designed for ages 5 and older, with a registration fee and limited enrollment.

February 15, 2014-Saturday

A workshop and observation session will be offered for any individuals, ages 12 and older, who share an interest in birds. This event is particularly recommended for teachers and youth leaders who want to involve their students in citizen science projects. Pre-registration will be required.

Additional details and registration for these events will be available later through DCNR's Calendar of Events at <http://www.apps.dcnr.state.pa.us/Calendar/list.asp>. For more information call 724-794-6011 or e-mail jenningsp@pa.gov.



Activities in Review

July 6, 2013-11th BAS Sponsored NABA 4th of July Butterfly Count

.....*Suzanne Butcher, Compiler*
Known as the Sandy Creek Count listed in Region 18, this count circle includes the Troyer gardens in Mercer County on one side, SGL 130 in the middle range, and the Polk Wetlands in Venango County on the opposite side. Past participants who joined us again this year included Nancy Baker, Gene Butcher, Suzanne Butcher (compiler), Curt Lehman, Bob and Dianne Machesney, and Neil Troyer with his young sons Samuel and Harvey Troyer. New participants included Todd Eiben and his son Sam Eiben, both experienced butterfly counters from the Cleveland, Ohio area. We began the day

with overcast skies and a temperature of 72 degrees, but by noon the sun was intermittently shining between scattered clouds providing an afternoon high of 84 degrees. We began as usual on Triple Link Road abandoned RR bed of SGL 130 along Sandy Creek at 9 A.M. and stayed there until about noon. At first it was overcast and only a few butterflies were on the wing. However, by noon as the sun appeared, a nice variety had been found, including 2 Coral Hairstreaks, 1 Striped Hairstreak, and a high count of 4 Harvesters. Although milkweed and other flowers were in bloom, notably absent were Monarchs and indeed only one Monarch was seen on the entire count, reflecting the effects of last summer's drought and the low overwintering numbers in Mexico. The walk along the abandoned railroad bed provided additional excitement when Nancy and I encountered a bear on our way back to the parking lot. We ended our stay here with a total of 34 species. The group then drove to the Polk Wetlands of SGL 39. One of the target species, the Baltimore Checkerspot, was easily found in new high numbers but another target species, the Bronze Copper, was not found. On the plus side, a Broad-winged Skipper was netted by Sam, providing a new Venango County record and bringing our day's total of this sought after skipper to 4. Todd documented another Venango County record, a Common Sootywing. Heading back we drove Reed Furnace Rd. and Todd found a Gray Hairstreak which provided a new hairstreak for our count. A few additional butterflies were added at our customary stop at the Jackson Center Dairy Queen. We ended the day with a new count high of 45 species totaling 673 individuals and including 1 new count species, 2 new Venango County additions, and several high count totals **H**.

Species: Black Swallowtail (10), Eastern Tiger Swallowtail (29), Spicebush Swallowtail (3), Cabbage White (37), Clouded Sulphur (80 **H**), Orange Sulphur (34), Harvester (4 **H**), Coral Hairstreak (2), Banded Hairstreak (2), Striped Hairstreak (1), Gray Hairstreak (1 *new for count*), Eastern Tailed Blue (64 **H**), Summer Azure (15), Great Spangled Fritillary (64), Aphrodite Fritillary (3), Meadow Fritillary (37), Pearl Crescent (37), Baltimore Checkerspot (43 **H**), Question Mark (1), Eastern Comma (2), Gray Comma (1), Mourning Cloak (7), American Lady (1), Red Admiral (2), Common Buckeye (1), Red-spotted Purple (6), Viceroy (1), Northern Pearly-eye (1), Eyed Brown (6 **H**), Appalachian Brown (10 **H**), Little Wood Satyr (1), Common Wood Nymph (38), Monarch (1), Silver-spotted Skipper (22), Wild Indigo Duskywing (21), Common Sootywing (1 *new for Venango County*), Least Skipper (4), European Skipper (9), Peck's Skipper (1), Northern Broken Dash (7), Little Glassywing (24), Hobomok Skipper (2), Broad-winged Skipper (4 *one new for Venango County*), Black Dash (4), Dun Skipper (29).

Totals: 45 Species (new high count), 673 individuals.

Special thanks have to be given to Curt Lehman and Bob and Dianne Machesney who have faithfully made the trip from the Pittsburgh area to provide their expertise for several years now and to Todd and Sam Eiben, Ohio experts who journeyed from the Cleveland area to add their knowledge. And of course I have to thank Nancy Baker and the Troyers for their continued loyalty and my husband Gene who celebrated his birthday by participating in the count.



Kathie and Jeff at "Celebrate the Bloom"

July 20, 2013 "Celebrate The Bloom"

Bartramian Audubon Society was an active participant in the "Celebrate the Bloom" festival at Jennings Environmental Center. We were proud to be one of the sponsors of the event, the first of what promises to be an annual occurrence. Dr. Gene Wilhelm of our Board led a bird walk through the unique prairie habitat at Jennings. Kathie Goodblood and Jeffrey Hall, president and vice president of BAS, staffed an exhibit table and had many conversations with Festival-goers about the numerous activities of our chapter. "Celebrate the Bloom" is scheduled to take place on the third Saturday of July, so look for us there again next year!



Odds and Ends

Audubon Adventures Available to Teachers

During the 2013-2014 school year Bartramian Audubon again 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 in schools in Butler, Lawrence, Mercer and Venango Counties. Each kit contains four sets of 32 student magazine issues, plus lesson plans and teacher resource materials designed to help bring the natural world into the classroom and to connect kids to the environment. A one year National Audubon Society membership for the teacher is included. The kits can be used across the curriculum and are correlated to national language arts and science standards. This year's theme is "Sharing Our World with Birds!" Unit titles include: "Raptors: The Birds of Prey;" "Hooray for Hummingbirds;" "Seabirds: Feathered Ocean Travelers;" and "Caring for Our Planet: Kids are Taking Action!" Learn more about *Audubon Adventures* at <http://education.audubon.org/audubon-adventures>. Then contact Becky Lubold, the chapter's Education Chair, at 814-330-2550 or watersinger2@yahoo.com to arrange to receive classroom kits.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR RESPONSE TO OUR 2012
LETTER OF APPEAL**

I would like to thank the Bartramian Audubon Society's members and friends who so generously gave during our annual appeal. It takes many volunteer hours and funds to help BAS provide the scholarships and services we provide to the community. Without your help we would not exist.

Kathie Goodblood, President

Eagle

- Thomas Black
- Merab R. Drennan
- Jeffrey and Diane Hall
- Timothy Hartle Funeral Home
- David and Victoria Knopp
- Reimold/Freeze Family
- Carolyn and Paul Rizza
- Terry and Mary Shaffer
- Jerry Stanley and Kathie Goodblood
- Vernon G. Uber
- Judith and Robert Waddington

Kestrel

- Merab and Eric Drennan
- Dave and Jody Johnston
- Mary Ellen Walter

Sandpiper

- Michael and Nancy Baker
- Carl and Roxanne Bleakney
- Ruth Crawford
- Barbara and George Dean
- Robert and Ellen Gilkey

Paula and Richard Haehnel (in memory of Margaret Gwin)

Jay and Renee Hewitt

John and Evelyn Kolojechick

Oscar Miller and Marge Fichter

Frank Richardson

Claire Schmieler

Charles H. Shultz

David and Cindy Suber

Barbara Walwik

Audubon Adventures Classroom Supporters

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Mary Ellen Walter

Chickadee

Hazel W. Allen

Elizabeth and Eleanor Bukowski (in Memory of Thad A. Bukowski)

Gary and Kay Dannels

Linda and James Dunn

Kenneth and Nancy Harris

Timothy Hartle

Sandy Isacco

Rebecca Lubold

Barbara Massey

Joyce Myers

William and Bonnie Renick

Marie and William Schall

Kristopher Schmitt

Russ States

Mark and Sandee Swansiger (in Memory of Jim McDowell)

Susan Tenace

Lawrence Upton

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Paper-Free Newsletter

The Upland Informer is now available online. It can be viewed at our website www.bartramianaudubon.org by clicking on the newsletter link and then clicking on the issue you wish to view. The newsletter is in the PDF format, so you must have a PDF program on your computer. Read only programs are available free at Adobe.com and other sites. Bartramian Audubon Society would like to encourage its members to begin to receive the Upland Informer online. As each newsletter is published, members who have elected to do this will receive an email informing them that the next issue is now available online, and they can then view it at their leisure. For the Bartramian Audubon Society, this will mean a savings both in paper costs and postage costs. For our environment it will mean less paper and less fuel usage in delivery. To enroll in this program, please email our Membership Chair, Russ States at pabirder@verizon.net.



Membership Reminder

.....*Russ States, Membership Chair*

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

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

B&B and Wildlife Sanctuary renewals are handled by the sanctuary chair in June each year. The \$15.00 or more per sanctuary checks should be made payable to BAS but mailed to Becky Sheeler, 125 Crolls Mill Road, Slippery Rock, PA 16057-4611.

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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