



Upland Informer

Volume 32 Issue 2

Official Newsletter of the Bartramian Audubon Society

Spring 2014

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 10, 2014-Monday-Tanzania Adventure

Becky Sheeler will present a photo safari of her trip to Tanzania.

April 14, 2014-Monday-Wild About Art

Sheree Daugherty's program will cover the painting process from start to finish: beginning with inspiration, explaining materials and technique all the way to the completed artwork. Sheree will take you to some of her favorite birding spots and discuss how these experiences spark the creative process. Through her acrylic paintings, she hopes to share her love of nature and hopefully inspire others.

May 12, 2014-Monday-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

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, Cornell Lab of Ornithology, and 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 8:30 a.m.-12:00 noon

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 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon

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.

May 3, 2014-Saturday-Bird Walk at Buttermilk Hill Nature Sanctuary

Join us at 8:00 a.m. to look for early spring migrants in Venango County. Contact Kathie at larkwren@hotmail.com or 814-432-4496 for directions. Beginners are welcome. Dress in layers and wear sturdy shoes.

May 10, 2014-Saturday-PAMC

The 23rd Pennsylvania Annual Migration Count (PAMC) is similar to the Christmas Bird Count except it is done on a county basis, rather than a 15-mile diameter circle. Participants go out and identify all of the birds they can find on that day. For more information, visit www.pabirds.org/PAMC.

June 22, 2014-Sunday-BAS Annual Picnic

This year's annual picnic will be held at one of our largest and long time wildlife sanctuaries, Buttermilk Hill Nature Sanctuary. Arrive at 4:00 p.m. for some bird and butterfly watching or a quick tour of the organic garden. We plan on grilling the hot dogs at 5:30 p.m. Bring a dish to share, your place setting, and a folding chair. We provide the hot dogs and drinks. For directions go to our website or contact Kathie at larkwren@hotmail.com or 814-432-4496.



Activities in Review

December 9, 2013-BAS Holiday Potluck

Hog Island Scholarship winner Shayne Garcia-Bish entertained us at our annual December potluck. Her lively presentation even included a sing-a-long! A good time was had by all. Thank you, Shayne.



Shayne Garcia-Bish

photo by Jeff Hall

December 21, 2013 Butler CBC

....*Suzanne Butcher, Compiler*

What a difference a year makes. After last year's amazing count with both the high numbers and diversity of species of birds, this year's totals were well – underwhelming. In fact, the number of species was the lowest since the Bartramian Audubon Society took over the sponsorship of the count in the early 1980's. In spite of temperatures ranging between 50-57° on count day, the severe cold weather preceding the count led to Lake Arthur being essentially 100% frozen. The total of 50 species was more in line to when the Butler Nature Club first sponsored the count and this makes sense as back then prior to 1970, Lake Arthur was not in existence and thus this year's lack of water birds dropped our count back to the pre-lake days. In addition, there was no significant southward movement of irruptive species as seen last year, and the expected winter and local birds were hard to come by in the constant rain. The one major irruptive species of this winter, the Snowy Owl, was diligently searched for but even though one had been seen within the count circle prior to the count, none was located on count day. However, it was nice to see that once again northern Robins are spending the winter with us.

The Birds:

Canada Goose-36, Mallard-4, Ring-necked Pheasant-1, Wild Turkey-120, Great Blue Heron-2, Bald Eagle-3, Northern Harrier-1, Sharp-shinned Hawk-4, Cooper's Hawk-6, Red-tailed Hawk-17, Rough-legged Hawk-1, Ring-billed Gull-34, Rock Pigeon-241, Mourning Dove-267, Eastern Screech-Owl-3, Belted Kingfisher-4, Red-bellied Woodpecker-36, Downy Woodpecker-51, Hairy Woodpecker-20, Northern Flicker-3, Pileated Woodpecker-8, American Kestrel-8, Blue Jay-203, American Crow-249, Black-capped Chickadee-178, Tufted Titmouse-122, Red-breasted Nuthatch-cw, White-breasted Nuthatch-56, Brown Creeper-1, Carolina Wren-20, Golden-crowned Kinglet-30, Eastern Bluebird-60, American Robin-1384, Northern Mockingbird-6, European Starling-1389, Cedar Waxwing-113, Yellow-rumped Warbler-9, Eastern Towhee-1, American Tree Sparrow-54, Field Sparrow-2, Song Sparrow-25, Swamp Sparrow-3, White-throated Sparrow-6, White-crowned Sparrow-2, Dark-eyed Junco 215, Northern Cardinal-167, Red-winged Blackbird-3, Purple Finch-4, House Finch-57, American Goldfinch-110, House Sparrow-192.

Total Species: 50 and Total Individuals: 5531

The Observers:

26 in 10 field parties totaling 16.0 hours and 14 miles on foot and 45.5 hours and 385 miles by car plus 3.5 hours and 16 miles owling; 34 watchers at feeders for 71 hours.

Total Party Hours: 61.5 and Total Party Miles: 399

We are most grateful to the those dedicated volunteers who faithfully reserve the date, year after year, to offer their services in a most co-operative way to cover the circle and make the count a resounding success. 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 Gene and Suzanne Butcher. We also greatly appreciate the help offered by John Stehle and the members of the Butler Outdoor Club (BOC) and Becky Lubold, and her watchers at Jennings Environmental Education Center (JEEC) including this year Mary Karavias with 8 Daisy Scouts, Grades K-1 and their accompanying adults, and Cathy Setzer and workers of the Birdwatchers Store (BWS). We also extend a hearty welcome to all the new participants and especially the youth participants- the Daisy Scouts and Zane Scott. Thanks also is to be given to Joanne Wilhelm for her financial support.

The Counters -60- with their years() of participation:

Betty Antal (4), Nancy Baker (12), Beverly Barnett (6), Rick Beck (1-BOC), Steve Bickel (8- BOC), Grace Bickert (2), Larry and Marcia Brown (4), Gene (20) and Suzanne (29) Butcher, Mike Ciccone (1 BOC), Bob and Deanna Clouse (3), Ruth Crawford (31), Dave(18) and Debbie(19) Darney, Barbara Davis (15), Barb Dean (18), Helen Ferguson (38-JEEC), Stephanie Hamilla (1-JEEC), Margaret and Roger Higbee (9), Robert Jamison (8)and Sally(14) Jamison, Debbie Kalbfleisch (1), Joanne Kapp (1-JEEC), Mary Karavias (1-JEEC), Nicole Kennedy (1-JEEC), Becky Lubold (3-JEEC with 8 Daisy Scouts grades K-1), Robert Madjaric (11), Dennis Martsof (2), Lynn Merlino (1-BWS), Richard Nugent (8), John and Rachel Pitzer (1), Nancy Rodgers (1-JEEC), John and Zane Scott (2), Cathy Setzer (7 - BWS), Becky Sheeler(8), Dawn Smith (4-BWS), Mark Smith (2-BOC), John Stehle (13-BOC), Mark (17)and Sandee (16) Swansiger with *Charlie and Bernie*, Christy Tichy(5), Kim Tindall (1-JEEC), Bob VanNewkirk (5), Linda Wagner (13), Bob Walczak (18), and Gene (33) and Joanne (21) Wilhelm.

December 29, 2013 48th Pleasantville CBC

Great Blue Heron – 3

Canada Goose – 237

Am. Black Duck – 19

Mallard – 39

Ring-necked Duck - 3

Bufflehead – 1

Common Merganser – 83

Bald Eagle – 13

Red-tailed Hawk – 8

Ruffed Grouse – 1

Wild Turkey – 37

Rock Pigeon – 86

Mourning Dove – 77

E. Screech Owl – 10

Great Horned Owl – 2

Am. Crow - 45

Common Raven – 3

Black-Capped Chickadee - 259

Tufted Titmouse – 569

Red-breasted Nuthatch - 2

White-breasted Nuthatch – 72

Brown Creeper – 3

Carolina Wren – 11

Golden-crowned Kinglet – 31

Hermit Thrush - 1

Am. Robin - 20

N. Mockingbird - 1

Brown Thrasher - 1

Eur. Starling – 221

Am. Tree Sparrow – 39

Barred Owl – 2
N. Saw-whet Owl – 1
Snowy Owl - 1
Belted Kingfisher – 6

Song Sparrow – 3
White-throated Sparrow–
8
Dark-eyed Junco-204
N. Cardinal – 68
Common Grackle- 1
House Finch – 1
Am. Goldfinch – 96
House Sparrow – 118

Downy Woodpecker – 31
Hairy Woodpecker – 1
Pileated Woodpecker – 2
Red-bellied Woodpecker – 10
Blue Jay – 133

Total 47 Species
2064 Individuals

Bold number indicates High count for that species.
Bold Species indicates new or unusual species for the count.

Notable species – Ring-necked Duck, Bufflehead, N. Saw-whet Owl, Snowy Owl, Brown Thrasher

Highest number ever for: Ring-necked Duck

2nd highest numbers for: Bald Eagle, Rock Pigeon

3rd highest numbers for: Common Merganser

1st time on count for Snowy Owl, Brown Thrasher

Unusual Species – N. Mockingbird, Common Grackle

Statistics: 7 species have been seen all 48 years, 8 species have been seen 47 of 48 years, 16 species have only been seen once.

Dec. 29, 2013: 3:15am to 5:00pm. Temp. 32-37F; Snow cover – up to 4”, Still waters frozen, moving waters open; wind 0-5mph; rain all day.

Observers: 11 in field in 5 parties, plus 3 casual observers.

Time/distance: 39.75 total party hours; 313.5 total party miles; including 7 hours & 6 miles on foot and 32.75 hours & 307.5 miles by car. Plus 3.75 hrs and 6 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



Snowy Owl

photo by Jeff Hall



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.

Hog Island Audubon Camp 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. Scheduled for July 20-25, 2014, this session aims to inspire and empower both science and non-science teachers who seek practical approaches for integrating environmental education into their classes, and for engaging both children and adults with nature. Those who attend the camp become part of a legacy of Audubon education that began in 1936. Instructed by some of the most respected naturalists and environmental educators in the nation, they 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. Applications for the Hog Island scholarship will be accepted until February 28, 2014. The scholarship application is available on our website www.bartramianaudubon.org or by contacting the BAS Education Chair at 814-330-2550 or watersinger2@yahoo.com.

**BARTRAMIAN AUDUBON SOCIETY
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SLIPPERY ROCK, PA 16057**

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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, Slipperv Rock, PA 16057-4611. beckvsheeler@gmail.com

**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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