



# Upland Informer

Volume 33 Issue 2 Official Newsletter of the Bartramian Audubon Society

Spring 2015

Editor- Nancy Baker

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[www.facebook.com/Bartramian](https://www.facebook.com/Bartramian)



## Upcoming Activities



### 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 9, 2015-Monday-“The Realities and Opportunities of Using Native Plants”**

Mark Brownlee, principal and head propagator of ArcheWild Consulting, Design and Native Nurseries, will present. Gardening with native plants to promote ecological health turns out to be much more complex than switching from mums to asters. Our local birds, butterflies, beetles and pollinators of all sorts have close relationships with the 3,000 plus native plants growing in Pennsylvania. Yet fewer than five percent of Pennsylvania native plants are in cultivation. We'll talk about the unique opportunities for us to help change this and the realities of using native plants.

#### **April 13, 2015-Monday-“Climate Change 2015: The Science, the Impacts, and the Projections”**

Dr. Julie A. Snow will present an overview of the science of climate change, go through current impacts, and offer projections for the future. She will provide a special focus on threatened birds and their habitats. Dr. Snow is an Associate Professor in the Department of Geography, Geology, and the Environment at Slippery Rock University, where she has been teaching for eleven years. She earned her B.S. in Chemistry from Wittenberg University and her M.S. and Ph.D. in Oceanography from the Graduate School of Oceanography at the University of Rhode Island. Dr. Snow's current research focuses on trends in mercury deposition levels and their relationships to atmospheric transport over the last fifteen years in the United States.

#### **May 11, 2015-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. Join us for an evening of recognition and refreshments.

#### **June 20, 2015-Saturday-Annual Picnic**

This year's picnic will be held at the Jennings Environmental Education Center, one of our foremost Wildlife Sanctuaries. Arrive at 4:00 p.m. for a walk on the trails (or earlier to explore on your own). We plan on grilling at 5:30 p.m. Bring a dish to share and your place setting. We provide the hot dogs and drinks. Picnic tables are on site, but a folding chair might come in handy. Our picnic will take place in the pavilion near the prairie, across the road from the Center building in which we have our evening program meetings. A parking lot is on site, and additional parking is available at the Center, a very short walk away.

#### **Spring Yard Sale/ Fundraiser**

The Bartramian Audubon Society will be hosting a late spring yard sale at The Bird Watcher's Store on Route 108, Slippery Rock. Keep us in mind as you are doing your spring cleaning. If you have items for donation or are a local crafter/ artist interested in participating, contact Kathie Goodblood at 814-432-4496 or at [larkwren@hotmail.com](mailto:larkwren@hotmail.com). For the yard sale date check our website [www.bartramianaudubon.org](http://www.bartramianaudubon.org).



## Activities in Review

#### **December 20, 2014 –Butler CBC**

*...Suzanne Butcher, Compiler*

After the amazingly high count of species in 2012 and the underwhelming low count in 2013, this year's count of 75 species was well – fairly average. Count day with temperatures recorded by compilers as between 25° and 32° was nestled between the first freeze of winter and the deep freeze of early January. The day was generally overcast with no appreciable snow cover and with Lake Arthur still providing some open water waterfowl were tallied albeit not in the greatest of numbers. Food was still present for some of the field observers attracting collections of feeding birds but northern species such as siskins and redpolls had not yet put in an appearance in our area. Owls were fairly represented including this one Gene, Nancy, and I discovered while driving down a country road.



.....photo by Suzanne Butcher

**The Birds:**

Canada Goose-394, Cackling Goose-1, Tundra Swan-3, Gadwall-11, American Black Duck-2, Mallard-76, Redhead-8, Ring-necked Duck-55, Lesser Scaup-4, Bufflehead-38, Common Goldeneye-1, Hooded Merganser-18, Common Merganser-14, Red-breasted Merganser-4, Ruddy Duck-75, Ring-necked Pheasant-2, Wild Turkey-143, Common Loon-1, Pied-billed Grebe-1, Horned Grebe-2, Great Blue Heron-2, Bald Eagle-6 (4adults, 2 immature), Northern Harrier-5, Sharp-shinned Hawk-3, Cooper’s Hawk-8, Red-shouldered Hawk-5, Red-tailed Hawk-39, Rough-legged Hawk-1, American Coot-134, Black-headed Gull cw, Bonaparte’s Gull-8, Ring-billed Gull-356, Herring Gull-5, Rock Pigeon-107, Mourning Dove-248, Great-horned Owl-2, Barred Owl-1, Eastern Screech-Owl-5, Northern Saw whet Owl-1, Belted Kingfisher-4, Red-headed Woodpecker-3, Red-bellied Woodpecker-46, Downy Woodpecker-74, Hairy Woodpecker-27, Northern Flicker-5, Pileated Woodpecker-18, American Kestrel-8, Blue Jay-263, American Crow-174, Common Raven-1, Horned Lark-120, Black-capped Chickadee-215, Tufted Titmouse-113, Red-breasted Nuthatch-1, White-breasted Nuthatch-82, Brown Creeper-11, Carolina Wren-16, Golden-crowned Kinglet-4, Eastern Bluebird-46, American Robin-34, Gray Catbird-1, Northern Mockingbird-3, European Starling-871, Cedar Waxwing-145, American Tree Sparrow-104, Chipping Sparrow-1, Fox Sparrow-cw, Song Sparrow-36, Swamp Sparrow-2, White-throated Sparrow-24, Dark-eyed Junco 314, Northern Cardinal-184, Brown-headed Cowbird-1, Purple Finch-4, House Finch-49, American Goldfinch-152, House Sparrow-151.

**Total Species: 75 + 2cw and Total Individuals: 5096**

**The Observers:**

36 in 11 field parties totaling 17 hours and 21.5 miles on foot and 45 hours and 377.5 miles by car plus 5.5 hours and 8 miles owling; 23 watchers at feeders for 60.5 hours.

**Total Party Hours: 62 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 to thirty plus years- Ruth Crawford, Debra Darney, 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 Eric Best and the watchers at Jennings Environmental Education Center (JEEC) and Cathy Setzer and workers of the Birdwatchers Store (BWS). We also extend a hearty welcome to all the new participants and especially young birder-

Brendyn Baptiste. Thanks also is to be given to Joanne Wilhelm for her financial support.

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

Dave Adams (5-BOC), Jean Adams (1-BOC ), Rayanne Aiken (1-BOC ), Betty Antal (5), Nancy Baker (13), Brendyn Baptiste (1), Beverly Barnett (7), Tom Baumgardner (8-BOC), Eric Best 1-JEEC), Steve Bickel (9- BOC), Grace Bickert (3), Larry and Marcia Brown (5), Gene (21) and Suzanne (30) Butcher, Lauren Collier (1), Mike Conlon (1-JEEC), Bob and Deanna Clouse (4), Don Cratty (1), Ruth Crawford (32), Dave(19) and Debra (20) Darney, Sheree Daugherty (1), Barbara Davis (16), Charles and Sharon Davis (13), Barb Dean (19), Helen Ferguson (39-JEEC), Candy Gonzales (9 ), Kathie Goodblood (4), Jeff Hall (1), Margaret and Roger Higbee (10), Debbie Kalbfleisch (2), Mary Alice Koeneke (1), Glenn Koppel (1), Becky Lubold (3-JEEC), Robert Madjarec (12),Reenie Merlino (3-BWS), Richard Nugent (9), Dan Roenisk (1-JEEC), Frederick Schwartz (1-BOC), Paula Sekeras (1-JEEC), Cathy Setzer (8-BWS), Becky Sheeler (9), Ann Souzar (1-JEEC), John Stehle (14-BOC), Theresa Stouffer (1), Mark (17)and Sandee (16) Swansiger with Bernie, Christy Tichy (6), Bob VanNewkirk (6), Tammy Veloski (1-BOC), Linda Wagner (14), Barb Wiles (1), Gene (33) and Joanne (21) Wilhelm and Dave Zell (1).

On a more personal note- My first introduction to a CBC was here in Trumbull County, OH but in 1982 I joined my sister Ruth Crawford in doing the Butler Count. Thank you all for your help over the many years since 1996 when Ruth and I first became your compilers and for the continued help when I began as solo compiler. You have been a dedicated group attested by the fact of the many years so many of you have devoted to our count. While I still plan to be counting next year, primary compiler duties will be taken over by Mary Alice Koeneke and Glenn Koppel. We welcome them and with your help look forward to the continued success of the Butler CBC.



CBC participants at Moraine

...photo by Jeff Hall

**Many Thanks to Suzanne Butcher for serving as the Butler Christmas Bird Count Compiler for nineteen years!**

## December 28, 2014-49th Pleasantville CBC

Canada Goose – 148	Tufted Titmouse - 131
Am. Black Duck – 3	Red-breasted Nuthatch – 2
Mallard – 13	White-breasted Nuthatch – 129
Common Merganser - 90	Brown Creeper – 7
Ruffed Grouse - 13	Winter Wren 4
Wild Turkey – 52	Carolina Wren - <b>31</b>
Pied-billed Grebe - 2	Golden-crowned Kinglet – 12
Cooper’s Hawk - 1	E. Bluebird – 15
Bald Eagle – 15	Hermit Thrush– 1
Red-tailed Hawk – 11	Am. Robin - 7
Rock Pigeon – 79	Eur. Starling – 216
Mourning Dove – 50	Cedar Waxwing - 10
E. Screech Owl – 3	<b>E. Towhee - 1</b>
Barred Owl – 1	Am. Tree Sparrow – 46
Belted Kingfisher – 6	Song Sparrow – 10
Red-bellied Woodpecker – 20	White-throated Sparrow– 23
Downy Woodpecker - 56	Dark-eyed Junco – 366
Hairy Woodpecker – <b>24</b>	N. Cardinal – 113
Pileated Woodpecker – 6	<b>Red-winged Blackbird – 2</b>
Blue Jay – 150	House Finch – 1
Am. Crow – 119	Pine Siskin - 32
Common Raven – <b>14</b>	Am. Goldfinch – 111
Black-capped Chickadee – 436	House Sparrow – 138

Total 46 Species

2741 Individuals

Bold number indicates High count for that species.

Bold Species indicates new or unusual species for the count.

Notable species – E. Towhee, Red-winged Blackbird

Highest number ever for: Hairy Woodpecker, Common Raven, Winter Wren (ties), Carolina Wren

2<sup>nd</sup> highest numbers for: Bald Eagle, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch (ties)

3<sup>rd</sup> highest numbers for: Black-capped Chickadee

Unusual Species – E. Towhee, Red-winged Blackbird

Statistics: 8 species have been seen all 49 years, 8 species have been seen 48 of 49 years, 16 species have only been seen once.

Dec. 28, 2014: 7:15am to 5:15pm. Temp. 36-38F; Snow cover – up to 6”, Still waters open, moving waters open; wind 0-5mph; rain a.m., overcast p.m.

Observers: 21 in field in 10 parties (the most we have ever had in the field).

Time/distance: 76.25 total party hours; 429 total party miles; including 23.25 hours & 25.75 miles on foot and 53 hours & 403.25 miles by car. Plus 1hrs and 2 miles owling.

Compiler: Russ States

111 East Fourth Street 814-676-6320

Oil City, PA 16301 [pabirder@verizon.net](mailto: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



## Education News

### Teachers: Apply NOW for Hog Island Audubon Camp Scholarship!

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 19-24, 2015, 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, 2015. The scholarship application is available on our website [bartramianaudubon.org](http://bartramianaudubon.org) or by contacting the chapter’s Education Chair at 814-330-2550 or [watersinger2@yahoo.com](mailto:watersinger2@yahoo.com).

**College/University Scholarships:** Each year the chapter also awards two scholarships to deserving local college students in the field of Environmental Studies.

- The **Mike Alan Starker Environmental Studies Scholarship** is awarded to an undergraduate student at Slippery Rock University. Students apply in the spring of the year through the Department of Geography, Geology and the Environment. For more information click here: Mike A Starker Scholarship
- The **Helen R. Ferguson Fund Scholarship for Environmental Studies** is awarded to an undergraduate student majoring in environmental science at Westminster College, who has demonstrated excellence in the areas of environmental science and education. The awardee is selected by a faculty committee who oversees the environmental science major.

For more information about either of these scholarships contact the appropriate university departments.



**BARTRAMIAN AUDUBON SOCIETY  
P.O. BOX 315  
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**Paper-Free Newsletter**

The Upland Informer is now available online. It can be viewed at our website [www.bartramianaudubon.org](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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** and mailed to **The Bartramian Audubon Society, Sanctuary Program, P.O. Box 315, Slippery Rock, PA 16057****

**Bartramian Audubon Society  
Associate and Newsletter Application**

Please check below

- \_\_\_\_\_ \$15.00 BAS Membership fee- includes newsletter
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$10.00 Electronic Student Membership

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
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Please send this form with payment to  
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