



# Upland Informer

Volume 34 Issue 1 Official Newsletter of the Bartramian Audubon Society

Fall 2015

Editor- Nancy Baker

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## 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.*

**September 14, 2015-Monday-Insect Threats to our Native Trees** Hemlocks, ashes, and some other of our native trees are under siege by invasive insects. Pennsylvania DCNR Forester David Cole will tell us the most up-to-date report on the status of these threats. His research and work in our local forests have given him first-hand experience in battling these problems. He can provide us with both general information about the status of our woodlands and advice about what we can do as individuals.

### **October 12, 2015-Monday-River of Raptors Veracruz**

Each autumn, many of the hawks that have spent the summer in the US and Canada migrate south. An astonishing number of them stream over Veracruz, Mexico, so many that the phenomenon has been called the "River of Raptors." Expert naturalists Laura and Mike Jackson of Juniata Audubon Society have witnessed this spectacle and will share their adventure with us. They will also tell us about the tropical birds, butterflies, and other wonders of the area surrounding this city on the shore of the Gulf of Mexico.

### **November 9, 2015-Monday-Ecology of Bats**

Bats are fascinating animals, an important member of our ecosystem, but some of them face a new threat. A disease called "white-nose syndrome" has caused die-offs of many hibernating bats in Pennsylvania and throughout the East. What is being done to combat this problem? Collin Shephard, Forest Ecologist with the Allegheny National Forest, is responsible for coordinating many aspects of wildlife, botany, air, water, soil, and other programs in the Forest, but she has taken a particular interest in bats. She will share her expertise with us in an entertaining and informative program.

### **December 14, 2015-Monday- Annual Holiday Potluck and Hog Island Presentation**

Come enjoy good food and good company while hearing about Denise Chybrzynski's and Brendyn Baptiste's trips to Audubon Camp at Hog Island, Maine. Bring a dish to share and your holiday spirit.



## Upcoming Activities

### **September 19, 2015 – Saturday – Bird & Nature Walk**

The Planning Division of Lawrence County graciously has invited BAS members and friends to participate in this special late summer bird and nature walk celebration in beautiful West Park, one of BAS' Wildlife Sanctuaries, located across from the New Castle Airport two blocks west of U.S. 422. The date should be at the peak of land bird migration. Time: 8:30 to 10:00 a.m. Please contact Gene Wilhelm at 724-794-2434 or email [genewilhelm@aol.com](mailto:genewilhelm@aol.com) promptly for directions and other information.

### **October 17, 2015 – Saturday – Avian and Nature Stroll**

Lake Wilhelm in Maurice K. Goddard State Park and State Game Land 130 are the goals of this outing at the peak of autumn colors. Join us in exploring the Multi-use, Falling Run, and State Game Land trails for birds, fall wildflowers, and other wildlife in this very bio-diverse public landscape. We will meet at the Lake Wilhelm dam at the eastern entrance of the park about 1 mile north of Sandy Lake off PA Route 173 at 8:30 a.m. Please email Gene Wilhelm at [genewilhelm@aol.com](mailto:genewilhelm@aol.com) for directions and what items you should bring for the morning.

### **November 14, 2015 – Saturday – Water Birds of All Types and Sizes**

Pymatuning State Park is located near the Crawford-Mercer County line about 1.5 miles north of Jamestown, Pennsylvania and is noted for its diverse species of water birds anytime of the year but especially during autumn migration. Join us, won't you, for this full day of identifying mostly water birds. Rarities have visited this site over the decades, and who knows what and when the next unusual bird will appear. We will meet in Hartstown at the junction of U.S. 322 and PA 18 at 9:00 a.m. Bring lunch and dress for the weather. Please email Gene Wilhelm at [genewilhelm@aol.com](mailto:genewilhelm@aol.com) for details.

### December 19, 2015-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 Mary Alice Koeneke and Glenn Koppel at [macatilly@icloud.com](mailto:macatilly@icloud.com).

### January 3, 2016-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](mailto:pabirder@verizon.net).



### Activities in Review

#### July 11, 2015-BAS Sponsored NABA 4<sup>th</sup> of July Butterfly Count

The Sandy Creek Count was started in July 2003 and has been conducted every year until last year when it was not held due to unforeseen circumstances. This year we are happy that Neil Troyer along with 4 of his young children, all past participants, were able to conduct the count. Counters were Neil Troyer, Samuel Troyer, Rachel Troyer, Harvey Troyer, and Ruthann Troyer with Suzanne Butcher acting as compiler for the NABA. The Sandy Creek Count is listed in Region 18 of the NABA and comprises the 15 mile diameter count circle which 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. The Troyers started their count at Rt 965 walking along Reed Furnace Road and then taking the old railroad grade along Sandy Creek to Triple Link Rd. During their walk, the most butterflies were seen east of the area where in past years they have been most plentiful, and this year were found from about a mile east of the swamp back to Reed Furnace Road. Of note, no Broad-winged Skippers were found, as the water level at the swamp was very high and almost no butterflies were seen from the first parking lot to beyond the swamp. One of the Harvesters was found at the end of the first parking area at the edge of Triple Link Road. **Species:** Black Swallowtail (2), Eastern Tiger Swallowtail (4), Cabbage White (7), Clouded Sulphur (10), Orange Sulphur (6), Harvester (2), Bronze Copper (1), Eastern-Tailed Blue (27), Summer Azure (1), Great Spangled Fritillary (75), Aphrodite Fritillary (1), Meadow Fritillary (3), Pearl Crescent (46), Baltimore Checkerspot (1), Question Mark (11), Eastern Comma (10), Red Admiral (10), Common Wood Nymph (29),

Monarch (1), Silver-spotted Skipper (17), Wild Indigo Duskywing (7), Common Sootywing (1), Least Skipper (1), Peck's Skipper (1), Little Glassywing (23), Delaware Skipper (4), Hobomok Skipper (1), Dun Skipper (20). **28 Total species, 322 individuals.** A bird list was also kept for a total of 76 species with the most notable being a Common Raven, lots of Dark-eyed Juncos, breeding Alder Flycatchers, and 10 species of warblers.



### Education News

#### Hog Island Scholarship Opportunities for Teens

Chapter members Gene and Joanne Wilhelm generously fund two scholarships for teens living in Butler, Lawrence, Mercer or Venango counties to attend programs at Hog Island Audubon Camp. The first is offered to students ages 14-17 who have an avid interest in birds. The award covers the cost of attendance at the "Coastal Maine Bird Studies for Teens" session in June, which allows young birders to work with some of the country's best-known birders and ornithologists on field identification, bird ecology and conservation. The second, for ages 18-19, is for attending the "Arts and Birding" session in July, which includes birding adventures, as well as in-depth study in an art specialty of choice. The application period for these scholarships for 2016 is now open, and will close on October 31, 2015. A form is available on the chapter's website, or by contacting Gene Wilhelm at [724-704-2434](tel:724-704-2434) or [genewilhelm@aol.com](mailto:genewilhelm@aol.com). Teens and parents can learn more about what these experiences are like at <http://hogisland.audubon.org/hog-island-programs> or by attending a presentation by Brendyn Baptiste, last year's teen scholarship recipient, at our December 14th meeting.

#### BAS Offers Resources and Opportunities for Teachers

##### Audubon Adventures Available for Classroom Use

Bartramian Audubon sponsors and funds *Audubon Adventures* curriculum materials for students in grades 3-6 in schools in Butler, Lawrence, Mercer and Venango Counties. *Audubon Adventures* is available in digital subscription format, where teachers can access downloadable and interactive content for students, plus teacher resources, a large, printed poster and e-newsletter. Printed sets of student magazines also are available, as an alternative to the online subscription.

*Audubon Adventures* materials include standards-based content related to birds, wildlife and their habitats, and can be integrated across multiple subject areas. The theme for 2015-16 is "Action for Planet Earth," with a focus on protecting Earth's natural resources. Topics relate to habitats, water resources and energy sources and challenges.

Learn more about *Audubon Adventures* at: (<http://www.audubonadventures.org/>). Then contact Becky Lubold, the chapter's Education Chair, at 814-330-2550 or [watersinger2@yahoo.com](mailto:watersinger2@yahoo.com) to arrange to receive the materials. A limited number of subscriptions and kits will be sponsored on a first-come, first-served basis. We would like to place the orders early in the school year, so act quickly.

#### Hog Island Audubon Camp Scholarship 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. This session aims to inspire and empower science and non-

science teachers with practical approaches 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, and are instructed by some of the most respected naturalists and environmental educators in the country. 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.

The application period for the Hog Island scholarship for July, 2016 is now open, and will close on February 28, 2016. The application form is available on the chapter's website or by contacting our Education Chair at 814-330-2550 or [watersinger2@yahoo.com](mailto:watersinger2@yahoo.com). Teachers who would like to learn more about what this experience can be like, will want to attend the presentation by Denise Chybryznski, last year's awardee, at our December 14<sup>th</sup> meeting or see <http://hogisland.audubon.org/hog-island-programs>

**“Our Feathered Friends” Teaching Kit**

Bartramian Audubon Society will loan this kit, which was developed with funding assistance from the National Audubon Society and Audubon Pennsylvania. The kit includes a variety of informational resources, materials and equipment that educators can use to teach students about regional birds and their environment. The trunk is designed for grade levels 3 through 6, and also can be used by home school groups, 4H groups, and scouts. For more information about this learning tool, or other assistance with your educational efforts, contact the chapter's Education Chair.

**Join Bartramian Audubon and Jennings for Citizen Science and Learning**

Bartramian Audubon Society and Jennings Environmental Education Center collaborate in offering opportunities for learning how individuals can help researchers gather important data about bird population and migration trends, as well as increasing their own birding skills. These will include the annual Butler County Christmas Bird Count on December 19 and the Great Backyard Bird Count February 12-15, 2016. Additional details and registration for these events will be available later this fall on DCNR's Calendar of Events at <http://events.dcnr.pa.gov/>, by e-mailing [jenningssp@pa.gov](mailto:jenningssp@pa.gov), or calling 724-794-6011.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR RESPONSE TO  
OUR 2014 LETTER OF APPEAL**

**EAGLE**

*Merab Drennen  
Kathie Goodblood & Jerry Stanley  
Jeffrey & Dianne Hall  
Carolyn & Paul Rizza  
Mary Ellen Walter*

**KESTREL**

*John Birckbichler  
Thomas Black*

**SANDPIPER**

*Michael & Nancy Baker  
Carl & Roxanne Bleakney  
Carol Couvrette  
Mary Ann Depolo  
Ken & Nancy Harris  
James Hathaway & Laura Quinn  
Tom & Betty Sopher*

**CHICKADEE**

*Michael & Jennifer Antal  
Michael Baptiste  
Marcia & Larry Brown  
Mary Jane Egger  
Jay & Renee Hewitt  
Ray & Kay Hoffmann  
Mary Alice Koenek & Glenn Koppel  
Hugh McCright  
Kenneth McGallis  
Ronald Micheltree  
Oscar Miller III  
Joyce Myers  
Janice Osten  
Karen Peterson  
William & Bonita Renick  
Mr. and Mrs. W. Schall, Sr.  
Dave & Cindy Suber  
Sandra Swansiger & Karen Roberts  
Gary Uber  
Barbara Walwik  
Joan Wilver  
Patricia Zimmerman*

**AUDUBON ADVENTURES**

*Helen Ferguson  
Jay & Renee Hewitt  
Henry & Linda Lenz*

**SCHOLARSHIP**

*Ruth Crawford  
Monica Ondrusko*

**BAS SANCTUARIES**

*Thomas Black  
Barbara Dean*

**IN MEMORY OF.....**

*Rebecca Burdick given by John Burdick  
Thad A. Bukowski given by Elizabeth Bukowski  
Regina Andres given by John & Evelyn Kolojehchick & Jessie Andres  
Sharon Midzie given by Mike Midzie  
Larry Upton given by Ellie and Family  
Tracie's Mother given by Mary Miller*

**BARTRAMIAN AUDUBON SOCIETY  
P.O. BOX 315  
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](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 BAS Sanctuary Chair Kathie Goodblood 170 Keith Lane, Franklin, PA 16323**

**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 \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Renewing members should use the coupon mailed to them by NAS** COZU180Z  
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