



THE DRUMMER



www.senecarocksaudubon.org

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Mourning Warbler - FM

April 12 Program

The Wonderful World of Warblers

Gary Edwards has a Power Point presentation on over 30 species of warblers found in Western Pennsylvania. Unfortunately, he'll be birding in Oregon during our April Meeting. As a primer for the May Warbler Walk, his program will be presented as a group discussion. The pictures have been provided by the Powdermill Nature Sanctuary banding station, so they're up close and personal. Join us and hone your warbler identification and song skills.

SRAS meetings are held on the second Monday of each month
Room 123, Science Technology Center
Social – 6:30 p.m. Program – 7:00 p.m.

SRAS Awards Educational Scholarship

This year Seneca Rocks Audubon awarded a scholarship to Audubon's legendary Hog Island in mid-coast Maine. The selected ornithology program, Joy of Birding, is scheduled for mid-June to take advantage of the nesting season and the more than 200 species of New England birds, from warblers and thrushes to puffins and guillemots. The faculty includes famed author Pete Dunne and ornithologists Steve Kress and Peter Vickery.

The scholarship announcement was sent to all schools in four counties; Venango, Forest, Jefferson and Clarion. The application was offered on our web site and provided an easy on-line response. The scholarship committee reviewed the applications and selected Cara Cherico as our scholarship recipient.

Cara is a high school science teacher at Jeff Tech in Reynoldsville. She earned a Masters in Science Education and uses her training in Field Ornithology to teach a spring unit in ornithology. She has been an active environmentalist for over 20 years. Some of the programs she initiated and obtained grant funding for at Jeff Tech includes: 1. planting a riparian buffer of over 6000 trees and bushes on the campus, 2. recycling program for paper products, and 3. building vermacomposting bins that house worms in making the compost used on the school's raised bed gardens. Cara and her students are active in litter

removal along streams in the Reynoldsville area, stocking trout and caring for the trout beds.

Cara's goal is to increase her understanding of ornithology and ecology in ways that will enhance her teaching methods and excite her students. She wants her students to be life-long advocates for the environment. The Hog Island experience will undoubtedly spread to many area students through Cara's dedication and commitment to environmental education. We congratulate Cara.

~ Deb Freed

Birdathon

The Birdathon, on the calendar for May 8 to 15, 2010, is our largest source of funding and supports our programs, educational activities, and membership events. The chapter needs you to participate by spending a day (and night) sighting birds and getting people to make pledges or donations for your efforts. If you aren't able to spend time finding species, then you can help by donating to one of the people who will be going out. Every "Birdathoner" is anxious to get more pledgers.

The dates selected include two birding events. The Migratory Bird Count is on Saturday, May 8th, and our Warbler Walk outing is on Saturday, the 15th. On the 8th you can go birding with two objectives; count species for the Birdathon and individuals for the Migratory Bird Count. On the 15th you can get special instructions on identifying warblers and looking for other species at the same time. There will still be opportunities to bird elsewhere earlier and later in the day.

If you plan to participate let me know; I will supply you with pledge forms. Also, if you have any questions please contact me. This project provides funds for so much that we do.

~ Janice Horn

The *Drummer* is the bi-monthly newsletter of Seneca Rocks Audubon Society (SRAS), PO Box 148, Clarion, PA 16214. SRAS is a chapter of the National Audubon Society.

More Thank You's

Students appreciate the nature books. The following excerpts are from thank you letters sent to SRAS for the nature books we contributed to area school libraries. We will be sharing the letters with the Clarion County Garden Club whose members contribute to educational programs like this one sponsored by Seneca Rocks Audubon.

Cranberry Elementary students . . . "Thank you so much for the beautiful bird books. They are a welcome addition to our collection. Animal books are always a favorite with the students."

Union Elementary Horticulture Club Advisor . . . "The students really have enjoyed the bright and informative books. They have been especially useful during our cold winter season."

Union Elementary students say, "I learned a lot of things about nature." "Thank you for the wonderful book, Eagles." "My favorite book was the book about eagles. It tells you all about eagles and eaglets." "I like the fact that eagles are such brilliant hunters. The book has very nice photographs inside." "My favorite book is the United Tweets of America Bird Book. I like it because of the funny pictures about all of the states." "The book Beaks is my favorite! My favorite bird is the Tucan." "I like all of them, but my favorite book is United Tweets of America. I love how it lists all the state birds of the USA. My favorite bird is the Ruffed Grouse which is the state bird of Pennsylvania." "Thank you for the books. I like Who's at the Seashore? It has lots of types of animals. I haven't heard of all of them." "Our school's horticulture club really enjoyed the books you gave us. I especially like the book, A New Duck by Pamela Hickman. It shows lots of animals in the outdoors. We have been working outside in our gardens. I enjoy everything about nature."

~ Deb Freed

NOTICE

To eliminate waste, the board has decided to eliminate the formatted *Drummer* and replace it with a 1-page (front and back) printout of our home page. This will include pertinent information about our upcoming meetings and events and will be printed and mailed to anyone who wishes to receive it. We still welcome articles and photos - these will be available on our website.

Christmas Bird Count

This was the 23rd year that Seneca Rocks held our Christmas Bird Count in the Clarion Count Circle. It was held on Saturday, December 19th.

The Feederwatch Report from Ruth Schurr:

We had eleven sites for feeder watchers this year and they contributed a total of 650 birds. The champion watcher was Bill Kodrich, who had 14 wild turkeys and a pileated woodpecker among his diners. Margaret had her usual brown creeper and Hendricka had one also.

Participants were Margaret Buckwalter, Mary Emerick, Hendricka Bohlen, Dorothy Flick, Edith Hayes, Harry Hackenson, Rheba Klinger, Bill and Henrietta Kodrich, Joann Magistrella, Jerry McCall, Charles Marlin, Evelyn Myers, Carol Riffer, Gil Twiest, and Lorna Vowinkle. Their observations are much appreciated.

Fran Williams tallied the reports from the 9 field teams. We had 49 total species, for a total 6010 birds.

(Italicized comments are comparing tallies for a species over all the years of the Clarion CBC.)

Birds seen were: Canada Goose, 119 (*considerably lower than our average, 440*); Mallard, 12; Ruffed Grouse, 1 (*this was our lowest count for grouse – our average is 12.3*); Wild Turkey, 89; Bald Eagle, 1 (*tied for high count – this was only the fourth time we have recorded a Bald Eagle*); Northern Harrier, 1; Sharp-shinned Hawk, 1; Cooper's Hawk, 4; Red-tailed Hawk, 14 (*this was the third lowest tally for red-tails – we hadn't had less than 20 on a CBC since 1991*); Rough-legged Hawk, 1; American Kestrel, 7; Rock Pigeon, 244; Mourning Dove, 350; Eastern Screech-owl, 3; Short-eared Owl, 4; Red-bellied Woodpecker, 25 (*these numbers have been rising since the year 2000 – our average is 14.6*); Downy Woodpecker, 53; Hairy Woodpecker, 16; Northern Flicker, 3; Pileated Woodpecker, 5; Northern Shrike, 1; Blue Jay, 265; American Crow, 528; Black-capped Chickadee, 287; Tufted Titmouse, 86; Red-breasted

Nuthatch, 12 (*this was a good number, our third-highest since 1999*); White-breasted Nuthatch, 64; Brown Creeper, 3; Carolina Wren, 3; Golden-crowned Kinglet, 3 (*our second-lowest tally – our average is 27.2*); Ruby-crowned Kinglet, 1; Eastern Bluebird, 4 (*where are all the bluebirds? – our average is 36.9*); Hermit Thrush, 4 (*this was our second-highest count*); American Robin, 13; Northern Mockingbird, 1; European Starling, 1547; Cedar Waxwing, 121; American Tree Sparrow, 180; Field Sparrow, 1; Song Sparrow, 1; White-throated Sparrow, 5; Dark-eyed Junco, 1266; Northern Cardinal, 123; Red-winged Blackbird, 2; Common Grackle, 1; Purple Finch, 8 (*tied for low count*); House Finch, 28; American Goldfinch, 167; House Sparrow, 332.

Sightings of a single bird included: Ruffed Grouse – Jim and Flo; Bald Eagle – Pete and Ernie; Northern Harrier – Deb's team; Sharp-shinned Hawk – Carl's team; Rough-legged Hawk – Jim and Flo; Northern Shrike – Ron and Gary; Ruby-crowned Kinglet – Deb's team; Northern Mockingbird – Jack's team; Common Grackle – Pete and Ernie. Ron and Gary had the only Hermit Thrushes and the only Golden-crowned Kinglets, and Deb's team had the only Red-winged Blackbirds. Mike Leahy had a nice sighting when he found 121 Cedar Waxwings.

There were 22 field participants in 9 teams: Jack Williams, Fran Williams, Ruth Schurr, Gretchen Lugthart, and John Lugthart; Mike Leahy, Paulette Colantonio and Gary Edwards; Carl Rowe, Joan Rowe, and Wayne Meier; Janice Horn and Ray McGunigle; Deb Freed, Ann Hunt, Pat Conway, and Ron Montgomery; Flo and Jim McGuire; Ernie Aharrah and Pete Dalby; Gil Twiest (a team of one!); also, Ron and Gary teamed up together in the afternoon as a new team.

Our total number of species has varied from a low of 44 in 1987 to a high of 72 in 2001, averaging 53. Our hours of effort has varied from 36 in 1988 to 120 in 1994, with an average of 83. Hours of effort this year totaled 50, which could explain some of the low numbers.



There were about 25 CBCers at the post-count dinner at BJ's Eatery, including Ruth Schurr and her daughter's family, who had driven 14 hours to participate in our CBC! Many thanks to all who contributed to our CBC, especially to our compilers, Ruth and Fran.

Conneaut Marsh Field Trip

Saturday, April 10, 2010
Trip Leader – Jim Wilson

We begin this outing at the spillway bridge at Custards, off Route 285 at 9:00 a.m. Follow Route 322 west from Clarion, through Franklin, to Route 173 near Cochranon. Turn left and follow Route 173 south about 1 mile, through Cochranon and across French Creek, to Route 285. Follow Route 285 about 6 miles to Custards and turn right on Mercer Pike Road. Follow Mercer Pike Road about a half mile to the bridge. The drive from the Clarion area takes about 1 hour and 20 minutes.



Oil Creek State Park Warbler Walk

Saturday, May 15, 2010 at 8:30 A.M.

We meet inside Oil Creek Park. Go north on Route 8 out of Oil City, through Rouseville. The park entrance is on the right about a mile north of Rouseville, immediately after you cross Oil Creek. The park entrance sign is about thirty-two miles or fifty minutes from Clarion. We meet in the Blood Farm day use area parking lot, on the right less than a mile into the park. Restrooms are available.

SRAS Board Members

Vice-president - Pete Dalby	782-3227
Treasurer, Birdseed, Birdathon - Janice Horn	226-7367
Website, Drummer Editor - Flo McGuire	755-3672
Field Trips, Events - Jim Wilson	676-5455
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Community Programs - Ron Montgomery	764-6088
Education - Paulette Colantonio	797-2031
History - Pat Conway	849-6315
Beaver Creek - Walter Fye	797-1019

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Seneca Rocks Audubon Society